

CHICAGO ARCHITECT

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BIENNIAL ISSUE



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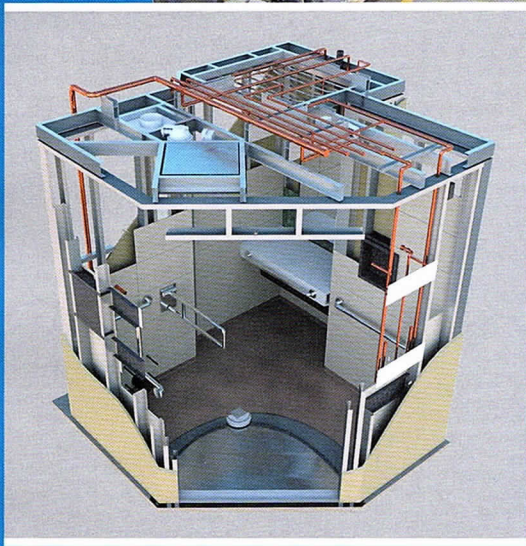
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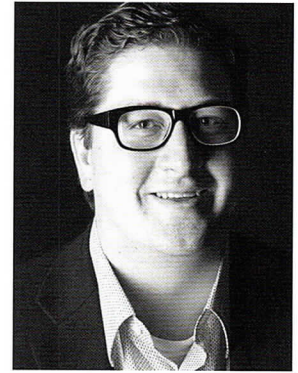
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MAKE NEW HISTORY

Chicago is a world architecture capital with a history of innovation in architecture, engineering and design education. We have long been a city of visionaries who shaped our city and inspired today's generations of architects who continue to innovate at home and in cities throughout the world. Our buildings define the image of the city and are the subject of daily conversation from cab drivers to school children. As Chicago architects, we are proud of our rich history and accept responsibility to advance this legacy.

With this spirit of design innovation in mind, we welcome back the Chicago Architecture Biennial, an international celebration of architecture in Chicago themed, "Make New History." The main venue will again be the Chicago Cultural Center with installations and events programmed throughout the fall. I am particularly excited that the Biennial is collaborating with cultural and community groups to spread out programming and tourism to a number of "anchor sites." Visitors will have the opportunity to experience our city fabric, beyond the Loop downtown, into neighborhoods throughout the city. One such venue is the Roundhouse at the DuSable Museum, a little known, raw space designed as

a horse stable by Burnham and Root in 1881. In partnership with EXPO Chicago, the Roundhouse will host a satellite exhibit of the Palais de Tokyo, showcasing emerging artists from Chicago and beyond.

AIA Chicago is a proud supporter of the Biennial, and we have created a series of programs and partnerships to highlight our members' work. I invite you to participate in the many event offerings this fall as the design world converges in our city. You can find more details on the upcoming programs on page 10. Join us in elevating a public dialogue about architecture, design excellence and innovation.

I would also like to announce that the AIA Chicago Annual Meeting and Holiday Party will take place at the Chicago Cultural Center, during the Biennial on Wednesday, December 6. Please save the date!

Cheers,

Matthew Dumich, FAIA



Chicago Architect, the primary outreach tool of AIA Chicago, is published six times a year as an authoritative resource for architects, the larger design community and the public about architecture and related issues of interest to Chicago architects. The magazine communicates industry trends, the value of high-quality design and the role of AIA Chicago and its members in the world of architecture.

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NECESSITY MEETS QUIET SPLendor

VOLUME GALLERY EXHIBITS KRUECK + SEXTON'S CHAIRS



PHOTO CREDIT: HEDRICH-BLESSING PHOTOGRAPHERS



THE CHICAGO CHAIR BY KRUECK + SEXTON

Necessity might be the mother of invention, but in the case of Krueck + Sexton's exercises in furniture design, it is also the mother of elegance. The firm's reputation for quiet splendor is especially prevalent in its residential practices, wherein stunning details and unusual volumes produce almost-fantastical environments.

With such careful attention to living spaces, the firm found lacking the types of furniture needed to complete the space — out of this necessity came several chairs that will be displayed in an exhibition at Volume Gallery. Entitled Krueck + Sexton, *Reflections*

— *From There to Here*, the show will open in conjunction with the Chicago Architecture Biennial.

Volume Gallery, the West Town-based group that mainly deals in contemporary design, initially approached the firm in 2016. According to the gallery's co-owner,

Sam Vinz, the gallery was looking to continue their biennial objectives of exhibiting the work of established firms. In 2015, Volume exhibited the drawings of Stanley Tigerman, FAIA, during the CAB. "Like that first exhibition, we were looking to engage a firm that has

been around a while," Vinz explained, "and we were very familiar with Krueck + Sexton's work. We also knew that it hasn't gotten its due; we want to introduce the world to them."

"We were interested in the ability of these works to endure

the test of time and to reflect their visual endurance as they were moved from their site-specific spaces," said Ron Krueck, FAIA, principal of Krueck + Sexton.

"The process we follow developing furniture is the same as any space or building we design where scale, proportion, material expression and connection are brought into a balanced visual harmony and completeness," described Mark Sexton, FAIA, firm principal.

The exhibit will display three chairs designed by the firm, all of which were originally completed for private residential projects in Chicago. The first, called the Chicago Chair, is a composition of polished stainless steel and machined metal plates that unfold into an inviting, plush velvet seat. The second, titled Olympian II, is a dining chair that, unlike many of their other projects, is an object that has been reduced to its most basic form. Though originally conceived in stainless steel, the Olympian II chair will be refabricated in bronze for the exhibit.

Originally designed for a commission for Joan Weinstein in 1985, central to the exhibit will be a lounge chair that will be realized for the first time. Fabricated by the same metal craftsmen who were responsible for the production of all of the furniture from the 1980s, the Lounge Chair echoes Krueck + Sexton's ongoing exploration of materiality through utility.

Although unique in form, the common polished metal/plush fabrics motif carries throughout. Stated the gallery: "Each piece of furniture in *Reflections* is an elegant expression of form, pro-



A PRIVATE RESIDENCE, DESIGNED BY KRUECK + SEXTON, INCLUDES CUSTOM FURNITURE.

PHOTO CREDIT: YOKIO FUTAGAWA/GA

portion and sensuous materials. The byproduct of reflectivity is that it absorbs and becomes part of the environment [in which] it is placed. It is an object at one moment and folds into space the next."

All three pieces will be available for "testing" by visitors.

Reflections also marks the release of the firm's second monograph, *Krueck + Sexton – From There to Here* (Images Publishing). CA

PHOTO CREDIT: HEDRICH BLESSING PHOTOGRAPHERS



OLYMPIAN II CHAIR BY KRUECK + SEXTON

THE EXHIBIT runs September 9-October 28, 2017, at Volume Gallery located at 1709 W. Chicago Avenue, 2nd floor.

A LEGACY IN INNOVATION

GERTRUDE LEMPP KERBIS' POSTHUMOUS GIFT WILL INSPIRE GENERATIONS OF ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS

GERTRUDE LEMPP KERBIS, FAIA, AT HER ROTUNDA BUILDING AT O'HARE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT



"THE GERTRUDE LEMPP KERBIS FELLOWSHIPS WILL PROVIDE THE MUCH-NEEDED VITAL SUPPORT FOR PROMISING STUDENTS DEDICATED TO TRANSFORMATIVE RESEARCH AND ADVANCING THE BODY OF KNOWLEDGE IN BUILDING STRUCTURES."

— DR. SUDARSHAN KRISHNAN

PHOTO CREDIT: CHRIS DEFORD

Even after her death in 2016, Gertrude Lempp Kerbis, FAIA, is still breaking barriers. Her passion to advance the field of architecture and her dedication to educate the next generation of architects lead her back to her alma mater, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (U of I). Before her passing, Lempp Kerbis reached out to the School of Architecture to make a \$3 million gift to support the advancement of architectural studies with a focus on structures and innovative materials.

At a small ceremony in June at the Cliff Dwellers Club in Chicago, her children and university officials completed the documents to establish the Gertrude Lempp Kerbis Fellowship in Architecture and the Gertrude Lempp Kerbis Endowed Chair in Architecture.

Lempp Kerbis attended Chicago public schools and, briefly, Wright Community College before enrolling at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. Since the University of Wisconsin did not offer an architectural degree at that time, Lempp Kerbis trans-

ferred to the U of I, graduating in 1948 with a degree in architectural engineering. "She pushed herself in school, doubling down and graduating on time, despite changing schools three times," said Kim Kerbis, Gertrude's daughter. Afterward, she attend-

ed the Harvard Graduate School of Design and finished her graduate degree at the Illinois Institute of Technology in 1950.

As a practitioner, Lempp Kerbis kept education at the core of her work. "She was over-educated in comparison to most men in the

PHOTO BY HEDRICH BLESSING PHOTOGRAPHERS



Dining Hall at the United States Air Force Academy was designed by Kerbis while at Skidmore, Owings, and Merrill LLP

“The location of the building columns created an open interior space and formed a cantilevered exterior overhang. This decision impacted the arrangement, shape and overall experience of this remarkable building. At the same time, the roof structure becomes more efficient due to a balancing of the distribution of forces with the cantilever reducing the demand on the long central members. The dining hall structure was groundbreaking in its design and construction.”

— Marci Uihlein, PE, associate professor, School of Architecture

field,” Kim said. “She was a teacher. She helped found Chicago Women in Architecture. It makes perfect sense to me that she would give back to the school.”

The scholarship and endowment go to support research, specifically in technology and structural innovations. “Gertrude was all about structure, form and technology

coming together,” Kim stated. “The family anticipates the university will be able to attract and retain high-quality students and faculty who are specifically interested/driven to push the boundaries of design through exploring and expanding the possibilities of design through structure, materials and engineering.”

“Intellectual dreams often come with a price tag that few can fully afford,” stated Dr. Sudarshan Krishnan, assistant professor at the School of Architecture. “The Gertrude Lempp Kerbis Fellowships will provide the much-needed vital support for promising students dedicated to transformative research and advancing

the body of knowledge in building structures. The doctoral fellowship would attract the brightest minds from around the world and help them optimize their learning experiences by enabling them to fully engage the intellectual resources available on the Urbana-Champaign campus.” CA

BIPARTISAN CLIMATE SOLUTIONS CAUCUS

A MODEL OF COLLABORATION IN POST-PARIS REALITY

BY TOM JACOBS, AIA



It is hard to imagine a more anachronistic action than the recent U.S. withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement. Never in history has it been more clear that what sets humanity apart is our ability to collaborate, and never has it been more urgent that we meet the global and complex challenges of our time by connecting and coordinating. Politically, we no longer collaborate because of the deep, seemingly irreconcilable partisan divide, the breeding ground for science denial. However, in this context, one political development stands out: the Climate Solutions Caucus of the U.S. House of Representatives.

The caucus was founded in February 2016 by South-Florida Reps. Carlos Curbelo (R) and Ted Deutch (D), not coincidentally two congressmen from a place that is experiencing a sharp increase in nuisance or “sunny day” flooding. The most innovative aspect of the caucus isn’t its content but its procedural rules for membership. Representatives must find a colleague across the aisle —

they can only join in pairs of one Democrat and one Republican. Today, the caucus consists of 42 members: 21 Republicans and 21 Democrats.

This model — organizing first in a bipartisan way, committing to reason and prudence second, and getting into the specifics of policy last — represents a beacon of hope in Washington, D.C., and is a powerful guide for urgently needed rethinking within our profession toward an embrace of responsible political engagement.

For too long, we have been confusing being political with being partisan. Partisanship, which puts party over issues, is a cancer we must rid ourselves of. Being political, on the other hand, is tied to our place in the world: I believe we are human beings first, citizens second and architects third. Engaging responsibly in politics is a citizenship duty required of all of us. We have forgotten that the roots of the word politics are city and community: the very heart of what architects are in the business to design and improve.

To its credit, and in recognition of the dangers of current national environmental policy, AIA National has issued a strong position statement on climate change and a dissenting press release immediately after the Paris withdrawal. It is in the process of expanding its online Advocacy Action Center; in case you don't know who represents you in D.C. and in your state, a few clicks will show you names, photos and contact details. In this way, AIA is playing the role it is best positioned to do, providing organizational brawn, resources and tools for the people it represents: us architects.

Dear reader, we urgently need you.

According to a recent survey in *Architectural Record*, 93 percent of you said action on climate change is urgent, and 74 percent of you said architects need to do more. AIA National, AIA components, COTE, 2030 Commitment, Architects Advocate and others are now coordinating more tightly than before how to empower you to be more effective in standing up and speaking out for healthier and more prosperous communities. In line with the survey, our goal is for three-quarters of the 90,000 AIA members to take action. Imagine if we had had a statement signed by 66,000 architects, stating the reasons to remain committed to Paris.

At Architects Advocate, the nonpartisan grassroots network that is run by a handful of people out of our firm in Chicago, we are focusing our efforts on support for the Climate Solutions Caucus by launching an open letter to all members of the U.S. House of Representatives. Please join the more than 670 individuals from 39 states who have signed already, and share with all members of your companies as well. Signing on means we are getting organized — we don't know of a better way to work on behalf of responsible and prudent progress.

Most importantly, there is always the next election. In our lifetime appointment roles of boss to the elected officials who represent us, we discharge our duty by voting. Let's hold politicians from all parties accountable for collaboration. **CA**

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Tom Jacobs is co-founder of Architects Advocate, a nonpartisan grassroots network for action on climate change, principal with Krueck + Sexton Architects in Chicago, and adjunct professor at the College of Architecture at Illinois Institute of Technology.

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Adam Zingrone, AIA, has been promoted to associate at CallisonRTKL in the Commercial Studio focusing on residential projects.



James Michaels, AIA, has joined Wight & Company's Chicago studio as design principal.

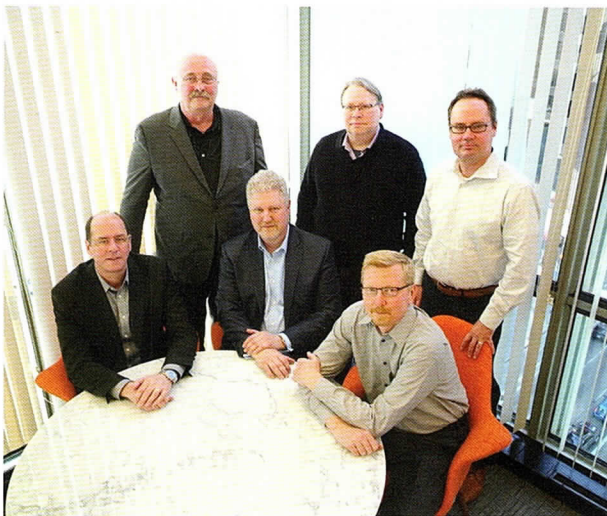


Scott Homan, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP, has been promoted to associate vice president at CallisonRTKL.

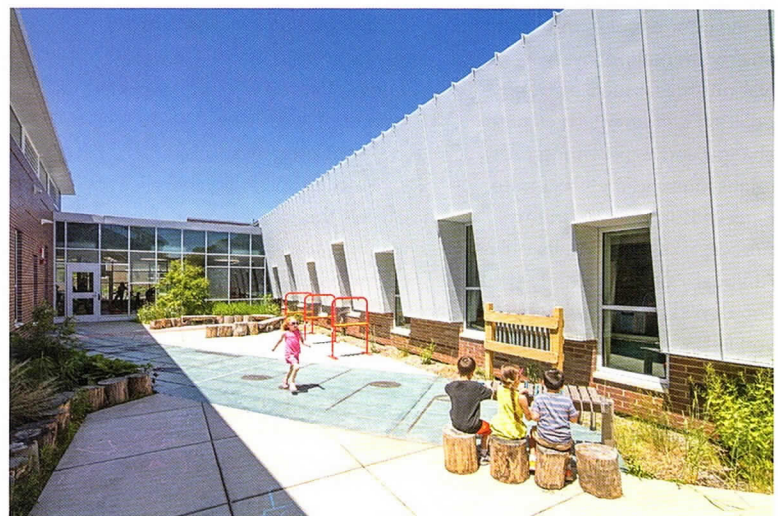


Skidmore, Owings, and Merrill LLP is leading the design of a 16-hectare development in the center of Bangkok and is also designing a number of the towers. When complete, 60,000 people will live and work in the new district.

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Nagle Hartray Architecture and **Sheehan Partners, Ltd. (SPARCH)** have merged and will be known as **Sheehan Nagle Hartray Architects**.



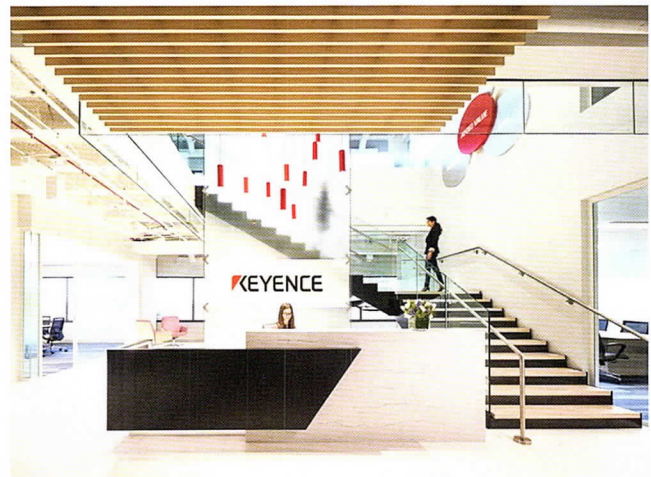
Legat Architects designed the **Community Consolidated School District 59 Early Learning Center** in Mount Prospect. The 57,000-square-foot facility offers a setting customized to early learners.



Woodhouse Tinucci Architects has completed a project that transforms 18,000 square feet on the A Level of the University of Chicago's Joseph Regenstein Library.



April Hughes, AIA, (third from the left) owner of HPZS, has successfully completed the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses program. This intensive leadership and business education program provides executive leadership training, access to capital and ongoing support as she creates jobs and increases her firm's revenue.



HED has recently completed Keyence's new headquarters. The design supports a collaborative structure and growing team.

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Julie Michaels, AIA, has been promoted to associate principal at Perkins+Will. Her promotion is accompanied by those of **Aimee Eckmann, AIA**, senior project architect, who has been named the K-12 Education Leader, and **Jeffery Saad, AIA**, senior project architect, as the Healthcare Leader of the Chicago office.



David L. Hoffman, FAIA, NCARB, has been elected to serve as first vice president/president-elect of the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) in the coming year.



MGLM Architects designed several bespoke architecture and artisanal details in a new Mormon temple project in Paris, France. Projects include stained and art glass windows, doors, and skylights; as well as bronze railings in the Grand Stair and Baptistry, the baptismal font and the exterior doors.



Burhani Design Architects' project, Al Jamea tus Saifiyah, Nairobi campus was inaugurated in April 2017. Spread over 12 acres, the 18 buildings of the campus totaling 1 million square feet were designed along with the firm's counterparts FXFowle, Frederic Schwartz Architects and a team of consultants involved since 2012.

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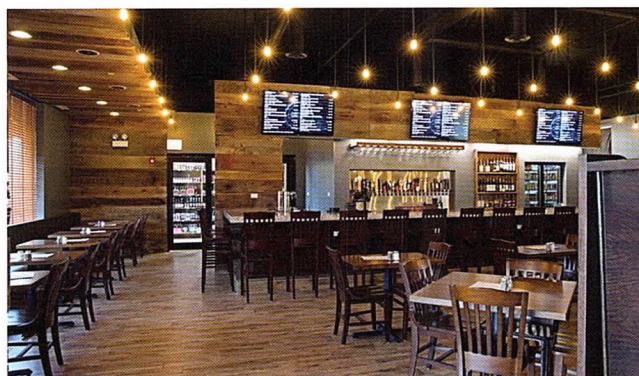
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Solomon Cordwell Buenz's "30 East," a brand-new, fully furnished apartment community designed for students and young professionals in Chicago's South Loop, recently opened. The 16-story, 148,000-square-foot building provides 254 beds within 134 apartment units.



DII Architecture has completed "Consume" a 3,000-square-foot design/build project in Lake Zurich that renovated and expanded a raw commercial space into a new restaurant, bar and bottle shop.

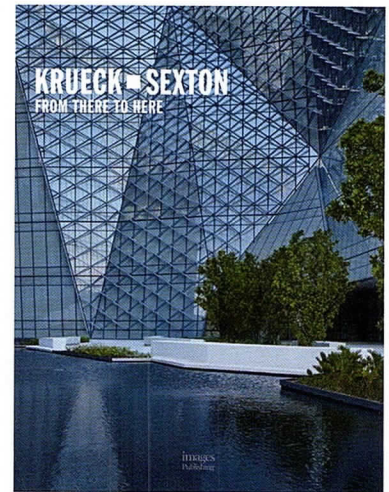
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Collective Office has completed a new corporate headquarters for Honor Credit Union in Berrien Springs, Michigan. The team also designed the building's interiors, combining four different corporate office locations into a single new facility.



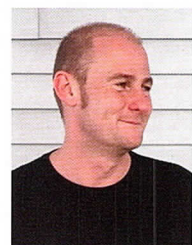
Krueck + Sexton Architects' second monograph — *Krueck + Sexton From There to Here* — will be released September 12, 2017, by Images Publishing.



Solomon Cordwell Buenz (SCB), along with Site Design Group, is developing the West Loop Design Guidelines for the city of Chicago and the Department of Planning. The team is addressing the district vision, planning goals, and impacts of policy associated with the expansion of the downtown zoning designation of DX into the district.



Huntsman Architectural Group has opened a new office in Chicago, appointing **Andrew Volckens, AIA**, and **Karie Vagedes, IIDA**, as firm directors.



William Emmick, AIA, has been named principal at Studio Gang.



Claire Weisz, FAIA, and planner Adam Lubinsky, PhD, AICP, of WXY architecture + urban design were cited among *Fast Company* magazine's "100 Most Creative People in Business" in the June 2017 issue.



The 65th Infantry Regiment Borinqueneers Veteran's Apartments by Pappageorge Haymes Partners and the Hispanic Housing Development Corporation has been recognized with the Vision Award by the Urban Land Institute Chicago.



Michael Townsend, AIA, has been promoted to design director at Gensler, along with Adrian McDermott and Neil Zuleta.



Paul Hagle, AIA is now technical director at Gensler.

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John Ronan: **Recent Works**

BY ED KEEGAN

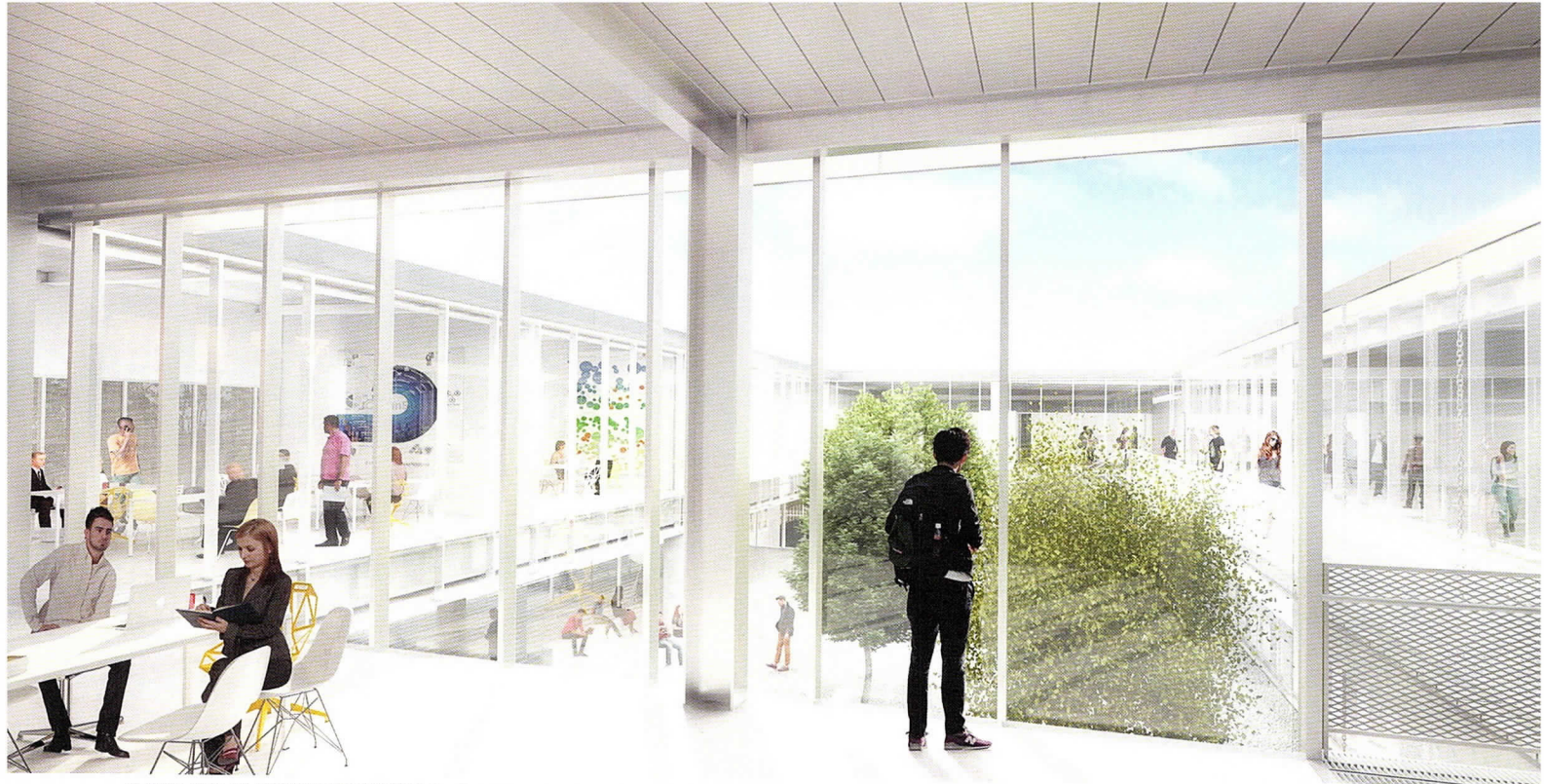
Throughout his career, John Ronan, FAIA, has shown an unyielding interest in making architecture through the thoughtful exploration of space and materials. In three of his most recent projects (proposed or under construction), one can see his current ideas in this progression.

Developed as part of the new program sponsored by the city of Chicago to develop mixed-income housing in conjunction with new branch libraries, the Independence Library and Apartments is a six-story, 65,000-square-foot structure planned for Elston Avenue, north of Irving Park Road. The lower two levels will house the library, with 44 units of affordable senior housing above.

Ronan developed the dual program as a composition of two interlocking volumes, with the two-story library clad in ground and polished concrete topped by the apartment building whose height signals the structure as a neighborhood anchor. Each unit has an outdoor balcony, neatly tucked within the overall mass of the streamlined apartment tower.

The library is denoted by a gray box, with large expanses of glass at the ground level. The apartments are more playfully expressed, with multi-colored hues for the balcony recesses. Ronan adds wit to the blank end wall of the double-loaded apartment block: "The owl logo is a wry tip of the hat to the owls on the main library building downtown," he said.

IMAGES COURTESY OF JOHN RONAN ARCHITECTS



THE ED KAPLAN FAMILY INSTITUTE FOR INNOVATION AND TECH ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Off-street parking is tucked behind the library and sits under a second-floor roof garden that will provide a green space for residents and an attractive viewing area with natural light for the upper level of the library. A broad interior stair connects the library's two floors while providing a gathering space that's on ready view from throughout the facility. A community multipurpose room within the library will provide an additional public amenity for the surrounding community during operating hours.

The Ed Kaplan Family Institute for Innovation and Tech Entrepreneurship is Ronan's first opportunity to build on the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) campus where he's taught for the last quarter century. Located north of Hermann Hall, the two-story structure follows the basic scale (as well as the 24-foot-by-24-foot planning module) established by Mies van der Rohe in the 1930s.

Two open-air courtyards provide entry and interaction points for the entire campus community. Classrooms promote interdisciplin-

ary collaboration, innovation and entrepreneurship through project-based undergraduate courses. The Institute of Design, which once had its facilities in the basement of Mies' Crown Hall, will be among the building's users. The second floor cantilevers over the first, providing sun shading for the glass walls that define its ground level.

Like Helmut Jahn and Rem Koolhaas before him, Ronan eschews Mies' dull and unyielding aesthetic of beige brick and glass, and he introduces a new material to the campus' palette — ETFE (ethylene tetrafluoroethylene). "Mies was developing an architecture of 'skin and bones' for IIT," Ronan said. "I tried to imagine what a skin and bones architecture of today might be, employing materials that were not available to Mies."

The second floor's thin floating volume will provide the primary architectural identity for the facility. Its cladding of dynamic ETFE foil cushions weigh just one percent of glass enclosing the same volume. Sophisticated pneumatics will allow the users to control the quantity of solar energy that

enters the building, while the varying inflation of the cushions will give the entire structure a "light, cloud-like appearance," according to Ronan. This is the first notable use of ETFE in Chicago, which is probably best known as the cladding for the Water Cube at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing.

While the innovation center will appear to float above IIT's campus, a house now under construction on the North Side will have a decidedly different relationship with mass.

Dubbed the Black and White House, it's been designed to display the monochromatic work of its photographer client. The 5,600-square-foot residence portrays its dual roles — as both house and gallery — through a formal expression of masonry and cast-glass volumes. Gray-tone brick masonry provides a neutral ground for the composition, as well as an implicit reference to the client's work. Configured as three discrete brick volumes connected by an L-shaped circulation spine, Ronan exploits the masonry's 16-inch-thick depth to maximum effect.

Unusual for a 21st-century

home, the spaces are defined as a series of discreet rooms, more typical of a 19th-century gallery or residence. "I'm moving away from the modernistic open plan and toward discrete rooms which have a deliberate relationship with each other and the building exterior," Ronan explained.

Ronan has maintained an intense interest in the material nature of architecture throughout his career. His solutions have always been based on the particulars of an individual project, and the resulting buildings have demonstrated a wide range of approaches. From his early essay in frugal construction at Hyde Park's Akiba Schechter Day School and the bright colors sheathing the modern palazzo of the James Comer Youth Center in Grand Crossing, Ronan's most recent projects display a sustained inquiry into the very nature of architecture. From the light and airy mass of the IIT innovation center to the heavy reality of masonry in the Black and White House, Ronan's interests continue to embrace design's complexities in compelling and convincing ways. **CA**

ARCHITECTURE INSIDE-OUT

ALL IMAGES BY TOM ROSSITER, FAIA



CHICAGO CULTURAL CENTER, CHICAGO

ARCHITECTURE INSIDE OUT, a new exhibition by Tom Rossiter, FAIA, will be on view at Primitive Gallery, 130 N Jefferson Street in Chicago. The exhibition runs September 8, 2017, through January 9, 2018.

AIA Chicago will host a talk with Rossiter on September 21 at the gallery. For more information, visit aiachicago.org.

"THE PROCESS
BRINGS ME
CLOSER TO THE
RICH HISTORIES
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PROTECT AND
DESTROY THEM.
IT IS ULTIMATELY
A VERY HUMAN
ENDEAVOR
PLAYED
OUT ACROSS
THE WORLD
THROUGH
THE AGES."

— TOM ROSSITER



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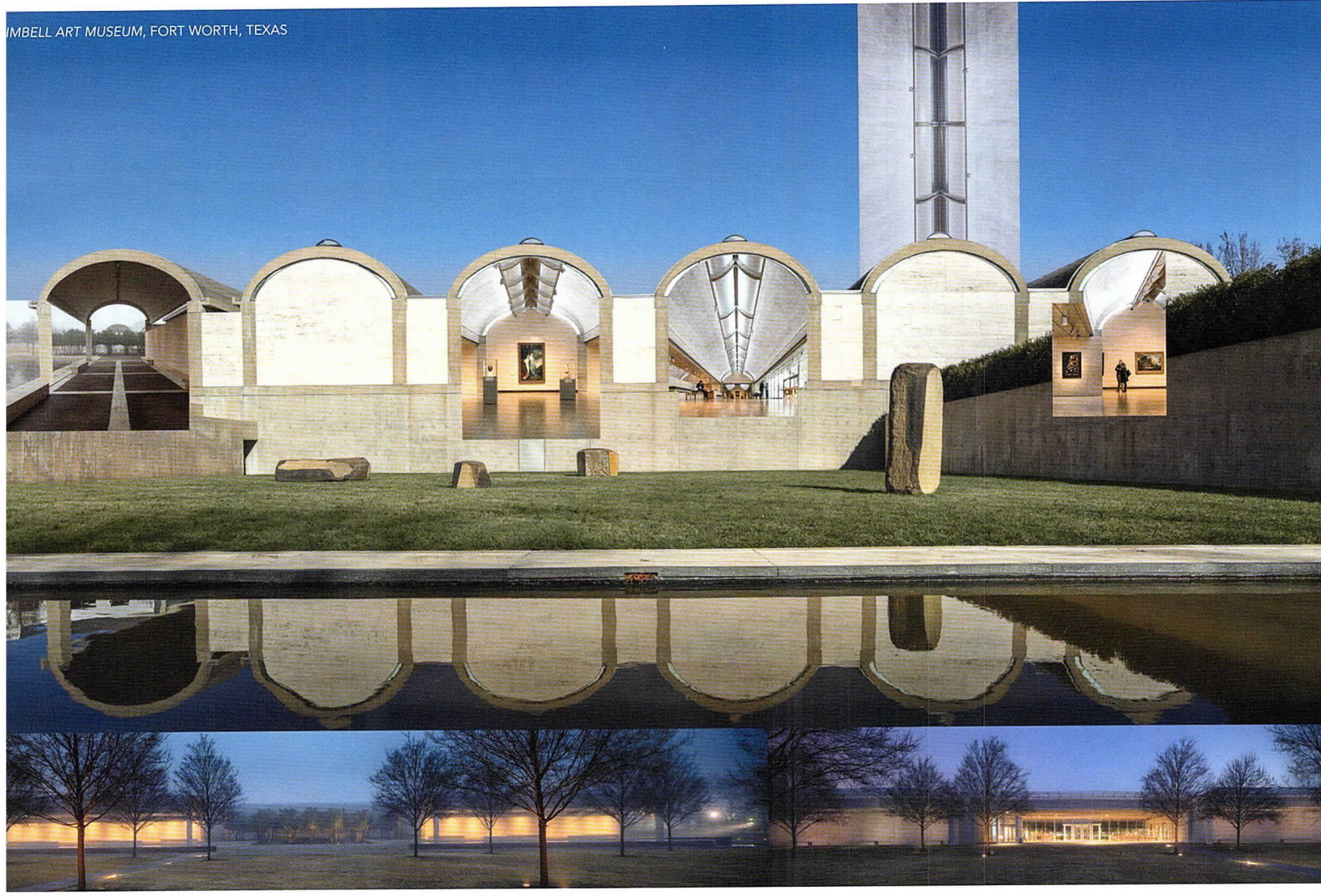
— TOM ROSSITER

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THIS IS NOT AN EXERCISE IN PURE REPRESENTATION. RATHER IT IS A RIFF ON MY EXPERIENCE OF BUILDINGS, THEIR HISTORY, THEIR PRESENCE, THEIR TECHNOLOGY, AND ULTIMATELY AN ATTEMPT TO MAKE AN IMAGE AS AN OFFERING TO THOSE WHO WISH TO EXPERIENCE BUILDINGS IN THIS WAY."

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