

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER / 2018

# CHICAGO ARCHITECT

2018 DESIGN  
EXCELLENCE AWARDS // 17





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## LOOKING FORWARD

As we close out another year at AIA Chicago, we reflect on all of the achievements and progress that have occurred during the year. This issue showcases the projects that received design awards — a real honor as Chicago is home to the best architecture firms. But AIA Chicago members have also been engaged in strengthening the profession. AIA Chicago members and staff established the first Equity Roundtable and LGBTQ Alliance, produced more than 100 Knowledge Community programs and produced another sold-out Designight. Our Architects in Schools program is bigger than ever and still growing, getting architecture education into CPS schools across the city. Our Bridge mentorship program, turning 10 years old, is more popular than ever, as is our TransFORM leadership program. And our membership base is stronger, larger and more involved than ever.

This year's design award winners reinforce our members' commitment to the profession and to the public. The 2018 Design Excellence Awards recognize dozens of firms that are moving the profession into the future — designing buildings, public spaces, infrastructure and more that continue Chicago's great history of architectural innovation.

A few projects that reflect this commitment to the public are the Legacy Charter School and the Chicago Transit Authority's Washington/Wabash CTA Station. Designed by Lothan Van Hook DeStefano, Legacy Charter School is an example of how architecture can help break down longstanding barriers in communities and establish trust with local residents. The Washington & Wabash station by exp — possibly one of the most anticipated public projects

in several years — elevates (literally) infrastructure design to meet rigorous accessibility needs and aesthetic desires. It created a new gateway to our downtown parks and added beauty to the simple act of waiting for the train.

We're also celebrating the winners of a new awards category, the Unbuilt Forward Award. The award asks for speculative design proposals that move the profession forward through social or design innovation. We're recognizing a plan to transform vacancy into inner-city agriculture, a plan to make the Blue Line more pedestrian-friendly, a new prototype for a suburban campus and more.

Perhaps the culmination of good design in the service of public good is Peter Landon's Lifetime Achievement Award. His work and his career exemplify the directive that good design is for everyone.

This year, I have had the honor to work beside a dedicated and tireless Board of Directors and AIA Chicago staff. I want to thank them all as we have made real strides in conversations surrounding equity and inclusion — a major priority when I stepped into this role. I look forward to continuing my service with AIA Chicago, and I'm excited to welcome Robert Forest, FAIA, into his 2019 presidency.

Thank you all for your hard work, contributions and enthusiasm. You make this chapter one of the best in the country, and I look forward to what's next.

Onward to 2019.

Catherine Baker, AIA



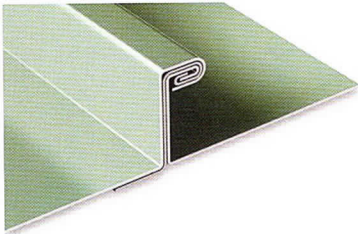
*Chicago Architect*, the primary outreach tool of AIA Chicago, is published six times a year as an authoritative resource for architects, the larger design community and the public about architecture and related issues of interest to Chicago architects. The magazine communicates industry trends, the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

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Metra Union Pacific/West Commuter Railroad Station - Lombard, IL  
 Architect: KMI Architects Engineers Roofing contractor: Progressive Dynamics  
 Profile: Tite-Loc Roofing Panels Color: Aged Copper



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-John Mehdi, Project Designer, KMI Architects Engineers

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AIA CHICAGO AWARDS PETER LONDON, FAIA, THE 2018 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



PHOTO CREDIT: LESLIE SCHWARTZ



PHOTO CREDIT: JAMES STEINKAMP PHOTOGRAPHY

ON THE COVER  
**Washington/Wabash CTA Station**  
 2018 Distinguished Building  
 Honor Award winner  
 Photo credit: Tim Klein Photography  
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OUR PREVIOUS ISSUE  
 is available to view digitally  
 at [www.aiachicago.org](http://www.aiachicago.org)





## ANNUAL MEETING & HOLIDAY PARTY

December 5, 2018

Chicago Cultural Center, 78 East Washington Street

Join us for the 2018 Annual Meeting & Holiday Party, celebrating another successful year at AIA Chicago. We will present this year's Student Awards in Architecture, Professional Excellence Awards and Distinguished Service Awards, as well as recognize all of the newly licensed AIA members. Member will also vote to confirm the 2019 Board of Directors.

Join us! Visit [aiachicago.org](http://aiachicago.org) for more details.

## EQUITY ROUNDTABLE UPDATE

AIA Chicago's Equity Roundtable was created early in 2018 to address issues of equity, diversity and inclusion in the profession. Led by Patricia Saldaña Natke, FAIA, the group is addressing a list of high-ranking Priority Recommendations for Action for the coming year, including creating guidelines and firm self-assessment tools along with ensuring that AIA Chicago Chapter programs highlight a broader depiction of architects. The Roundtable includes a liaison to the newly formed LGBTQ-identifying architects group.

AIA Chicago's Equity Roundtable Priority Recommendations for Action:

- Create guidelines for an equitable, diverse, and inclusive practice: Guides for Best Practices for career progression, leadership development, work culture, and talent recruitment. Creation of case studies.
- Develop a firm self-assessment tool: Create a tool which measures a firm's engagement with equity, diversity, and inclusion principles. Criteria will include policies, benefits, and life/work topics.
- Require equity, diversity, and inclusion data as part of AIA Award program submissions: The more the profession reflects the society we serve, the better the outcome of our design work. Creation of firm demographic data required for firms submitting for AIA Awards.
- Ensure that AIA publications reflect equity, diversity, and inclusion: Implementing a broader depiction of architects in publications and imagery.

## DISRUPTIVE DESIGN: AN AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMPETITION

Thursday, October 18, 2018

15:30-7:30 p.m. CDT

Pella Crafted Luxury, theMART, Suite 100

AIA Chicago has partnered with Neighborhood Housing Services, Chicago Neighborhood Initiatives, Northern Trust and LISC Chicago to introduce Disruptive Design — a competition to design a new typology of affordable housing for Chicagoans.

As the costs of construction rise, Chicago has seen a decline in affordable starter homes. The competition asks architects to design flexible, replicable homes at a limited cost per square foot — allowing them to be reconfigured for varying neighborhoods across the city. Participants are asked to include a flexible space that could potentially be used as a wealth-building component (home office or studio).

Phase I (written) opens December 1, 2018, and closes January 18, 2019. For more information, visit [aiachicago.org](http://aiachicago.org).

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## AIA CHICAGO STUDENT AWARDS IN ARCHITECTURE

The Chicago Award in Architecture is a juried competition of student projects. Recognition is given, at the jury's discretion, for first, second, and third place and for honorable mentions. The project awarded first place is honored with the Benn-Johnck Award, in the amount of \$500, second place is awarded \$300, and third place is awarded \$200.



BRIDGEPORT INNOVATION CENTER BY JUNGHYO WOO, KEIGO YAMAZAKI AND GRAHAM BOWMAN



### FIRST PLACE: BRIDGEPORT INNOVATION CENTER

By Junghyo Woo, Keigo Yamazaki and Graham Bowman  
Illinois Institute of Technology

Advisor: Thomas Brock, AIA

The Bridgeport Innovation Center, is a 113,000-square-foot co-making and co-working facility. The building seeks to build a community of creators within Bridgeport and the greater Chicago area by providing a platform for making, innovating and community involvement.

In response to the long, slender site, the building takes the shape of a 540-foot-long continuous manufacturing hall with spaces for fabrication, prototyping, electronics and a micro-factory for small production runs. The building is entirely one-directional, prioritizing the riverfront. Its portal frame truss structure responds to this priority, using the southeast side of the building as a large shear wall in order to minimize structure size along the northwest side.

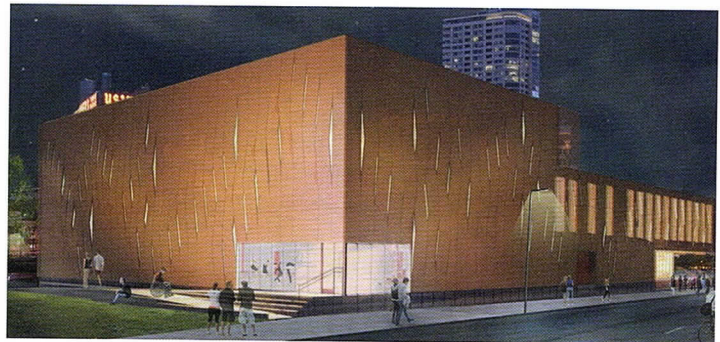
Inspiration was taken from historical production floors, where a centralized "control room" was often elevated above the working floor so administrators could observe the production process. Likewise, rather than interrupt the continuous manufacturing floor, co-working programs in the Innovation Center are lifted from the space to be suspended from the ceiling.

### SECOND PLACE: GRADIENT

By Jason Lawler and Amanda Wagner  
University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee

Advisors: Jim Shields, FAIA, and Karl Wallick

The Milwaukee Ballet Company is in need of a new rehearsal space. The new project is intended to house a center for not only classical but also contemporary dance styles. The proposed dance center would bring together the larger of the Milwaukee dance troupes under one roof to eliminate the competition for funds, create multi-use facilities, and generate an atmosphere of shared dance experiences.



GRADIENT BY JASON LAWLER AND AMANDA WAGNER

### THIRD PLACE (SHARED AWARD)

Scientific Customized Station

By Yuan Liao and Yueshen Mei

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Advisor: Hugh Swiatek

The goal of this project is to create a year-round scientific field station for geology research in Greenland. The design maximizes construction efficiency, and logically creates a highly efficient form and system with an aesthetic feature that responds to Greenland's severe weather conditions.

Using properties of a manufacturing chain, the project optimizes a customized design service. Instead of a single building, the whole system includes an assembling and disassembling kit, energy system (wind turbines and solar panels), transportation solutions and garbage disposal.

Social Magnet: Activating Voids Socializing Cities

By Lina Fahad Alsharif

The School of the Art Institute of Chicago

Advisors: Linda Keane, AIA, and Carl Ray Miller, AIA

The urban fabric of contemporary cities is changing at a rapid pace, which can leave behind a scattering of leftover void spaces. These voids present vital opportunities for social interaction as potential meeting points that allow people to be in direct contact with each other. Activating VOID Toolkits promotes flexible public uses in temporary vacant spaces, reinforcing sustainable social gatherings in a city's dense development. The VOID Toolkit focuses on space as a magnet for social interaction bringing people together to make them aware of their city's urban fabric and engaging them culturally, physically and environmentally. CA





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**Eric Martin, AIA**, is now principal at Ross Barney Architects.



**Jessie LaFree, Assoc. AIA**, has obtained her Illinois architects license.

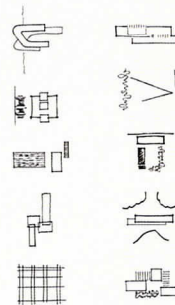


The JGMA-designed KLEO Art Residences, opening in 2018, will be Chicago's first housing project with a light-transmitting polycarbonate façade.



**Wight & Company's** new courthouse in Chicago's suburbs has been recognized by the American Institute of Architects' Academy of Architecture for Justice. The design for the Will County Courthouse is one of 15 recipients nationally of the 2018 Justice Facilities Review (JFR) awards program.

**Dirk Denison 10 Houses**



The new book *Dirk Denison 10 Houses* (Actar, October 17, 2018) invites readers into 10 extraordinary private homes designed by the Chicago architect and educator **Dirk Denison, FAIA**, founder and principal of Dirk Denison Architects.

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**Pappageorge Haymes Partners'** 48-story residential apartment tower, 465 North Park, celebrated its grand opening earlier this year. Currently tracking LEED Gold certification, the building was designed by firm partner **Brian Kidd, AIA, LEED AP BD+C.**



MAPS has added two new staff members: **Spencer Blaney**, a licensed architect, is now a project manager. **Steven Vance**, founder of City Cityscape, is now director of urban planning and technology.



**Gresham, Smith and Partners** expanded to Chicago, establishing an office presence and adding three senior health care leaders. **Dan White, AIA, LEED AP, CLGB**, joined as a senior vice president, and **Sandy Faurot, AIA, ACHA, LEED AP**, and **Steve Stokes, AIA, LEED GA, CLGB**, join as vice presidents.



**Francisco Gonzalez Pulido, Intl. Assoc. AIA**, founder and principal of **FGP Atelier**, has completed the regional offices of Land Rover in Shanghai China.



**Studio Gang** has completed Solstice on the Park, the latest collaboration between MAC Properties and the firm. The residential tower provides self-shading in summer and increased solar exposure in winter months.



**Thorsten Johann** has been promoted to design principal at **Studio Gang Architects.**





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HDR recently completed Advocate Medical Group's Lakeview Outpatient Center, an adaptive reuse of a former Sports Authority store at the intersection of Clark and Barry Streets.



Official groundbreaking ceremonies took place August 27 for the new 350,000-square-meter Changchun China Resources Center complex in Changchun, China, designed by Goettsch Partners.

MAIN ARCHITECTURE has moved their offices to 1332 N. Halsted, Suite 301, in the Lincoln Park area of Chicago.



Wright Heerema Architects is designing the top-floor tenant lounge at 123 N. Wacker, home of new office space for the Chicago Bears.

PHOTO CREDIT: MIKE SCHWARTZ



SPACE Architects + Planners has recently completed a new, single-family home on an extra-narrow Chicago lot. The home was created without parking, as the clients are avid cyclists.



David Kennedy, AIA, joined Bailey Edward as senior architect and mixed-use leader, accompanied by Tim Scovic, AIA, and Matt Lyons, AIA.

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LCM Architects' Associates Todd Douglas, AIA, and Armando Tobias, AIA, have been elevated to associate principals. Ana Berdizza, Christina Clementi, Joe Kucera, Kate Susmilch and Alec Thornton, AIA, have been promoted to associates.



Lorraine Kasznia, AIA, and Amber Van Kley, IIDA, have been promoted to directors at Eastlake Studio.

Adam Nault, Assoc. AIA, LEED AP BD+C, and Debra K. Nuñez, NCARB, of Pappageorge Haymes Partners became licensed architects.

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Gensler has revealed a new design for the Willis Tower lobby. The interiors will feature terra cotta elements and wood from long-submerged logs recovered from Lake Michigan.



Kristen Conry, AIA; Brian Vitale, AIA; and Todd Heiser are now co-managing directors in Gensler's North Central region. Conry has joined Gensler from Hyatt (pictured). **Grant C. Uhlir, FAIA**, will be joining Nila R. Leiserowitz, FASID, as co-regional managing principals for the North Central region.



Cook Architectural Design Studio, Inc. recently designed a new two-story, Mediterranean-inspired 15,000-square-foot home. The firm also completed a custom 8,000-square-foot barn to display a client's vintage car collection and entertain their family and friends (pictured).



Site work is now complete, with construction starting on the Momentary by Wheeler Kearns Architects — an adaptive reuse project announced in 2015 that will transform a 63,000-square-foot Kraft Foods plant in downtown Bentonville.



Legat Architects designed a retrofit that transforms the 100-year-old O'Rourke Building into Element Moline, the hotel component of a transit-oriented development in downtown Moline, Illinois.

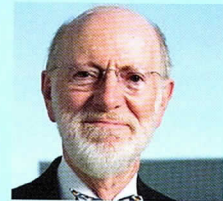
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# 2018 DESIGN EXCELLENCE AWARDS

# DISTINGUISHED BUILDING AWARDS

## JURORS



**Robert Berkebile, FAIA**

BNIM

Kansas City, Missouri



**Melissa DelVecchio, AIA**

Robert A.M. Stern Architects, LLP

New York, New York



**Matthew Kreilich, FAIA**

Snow Kreilich Architects

Minneapolis, Minnesota



# DISTINGUISHED BUILDING AWARDS

## Honor Award

PHOTO CREDITS: KARANT + ASSOCIATES



### Legacy Charter School

Lothan Van Hook DeStefano Architecture

Location: Chicago, Illinois

Client: Legacy Charter School

General Contractor: W.B. Olson, Inc.

Structural Engineer: Rubinos and Mesia Engineers (RME)

Mechanical Engineer: RTM

Electrical and Plumbing: Grumman and Butkus

Landscape Architect: Wolff Landscape Architecture

Civil Engineers: Prism Engineering

Sustainability Consultant: H. J. Kessler Associates



Bright colors and playful forms work toward reshaping how the neighborhood perceives the institutional presence of a new school in their community. The elementary school building is sited across from a police station along Ogden Avenue, an industrial corridor on the Southwest side of Chicago that has seen cycles of disinvestment. In the North Lawndale community, an “institutional building” usually means a police station, a courthouse, which often engender strained relationships with the resident population.

Jurors were excited about this building’s physical presence within the community, understanding these challenges. “The colors create a striking appearance that doesn’t feel imposing,” one juror said. “I’d love to have this school in my neighborhood.”

Corrugated aluminum panels and a lightweight metal lattice layered over painted pre-cast panels creates a “solar veil,” a cost-effective, high-performance

building envelope. The amount of color and shadows on the layered, perforated façade change throughout the day and year. The veil also reduces the school’s energy costs.

“I like the interiors a lot,” another juror said. The school’s interiors are organized to maximize transparency. Clean sight-lines, shared spaces and an abundance of glass obviate the need for an array of security cameras and metal detectors. The school’s ethos values student-centered education, small class sizes and an array of social and educational services, and the design team responded with group study and work rooms, private break out spaces and traditional and specialty classrooms.

“It’s so urban, but contemporary and necessary,” a juror commented. “They’re doing so much with very little; you know that a school budget is small, and this building is making big moves with little capital.”



# DISTINGUISHED BUILDING AWARDS

Honor Award



PHOTO CREDITS: IGNACIO ESPIGARES ENRIQUEZ



## Lycée Français de Chicago | The French International School STL Architects

Location: Chicago, Illinois

Client: Lycée Français de Chicago

General Contractor: Bulley & Andrews

Structural Engineer: ARUP

MEP Engineer: McGuire Engineers

Civil Engineer: Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.

Lighting Designer: ARUP

Acoustical Engineer/Designer: ARUP

Located near Lincoln Square in Chicago, the 85,000-square-foot Lycée Français de Chicago has been conceived as a unique educational campus with light-filled spaces intended to encourage educational discovery and shared environments aimed to celebrate the Lycée's international community.

The project's key concept revolves around the creation of a shared-learning environment. Intended to engage faculty and students across all grade levels, this social learning fabric space manifests itself through a four-story atrium.

"I love the main corridor. It's so light and spacious, but there is continuity and connectedness," a juror commented.

The Lycée is situated in a dynamic neighborhood, where the school aims to cultivate community partnerships. The campus has a private drive and college-preparatory facilities equipped to serve up to 800 students with 41 classrooms, a cafeteria, a gymnasium, a library, administrative offices, playgrounds and ample space for outdoor athletic activities.

Due to the development's budgetary objectives, the project has been conceived with extreme efficiencies in mind, making it very cost-effective. "The designers are doing a lot with basic materials. It's very impressive," a juror said. "It's cool and simple," another said. It's within the framework of these ambitious budgetary goals that the new Lycée Français de Chicago represents restraint and design excellence.



# CONGRATULATIONS

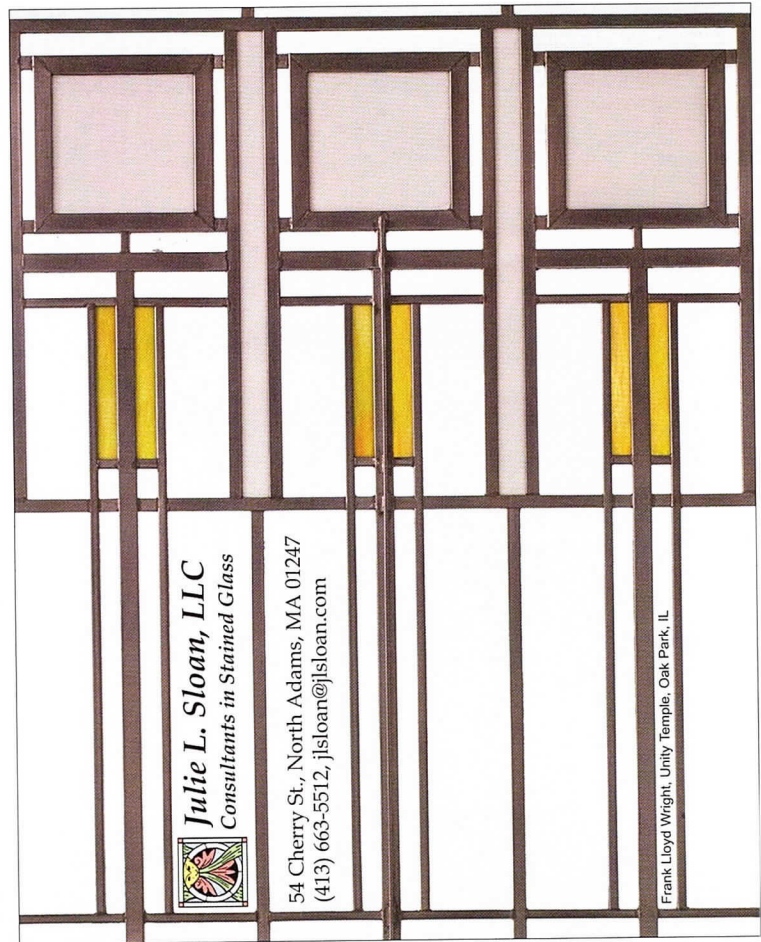
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Frank Lloyd Wright, Unity Temple, Oak Park, IL

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# DISTINGUISHED BUILDING AWARDS

## Honor Award

### Unity Temple

Harboe Architects

Location: Oak Park, Illinois

Client: UTP, LLC

General Contractor: Berglund Construction

Landscape Architect: CYLA Design Associates

Structural Engineer: CTLGroup

MEP Engineer: Architectural Consulting Engineers

Materials and Finishes Analysis and Conservation: Building Conservation Associates

Lighting Designer: Charter Sills

Acoustical Designer/Engineer: Talaske

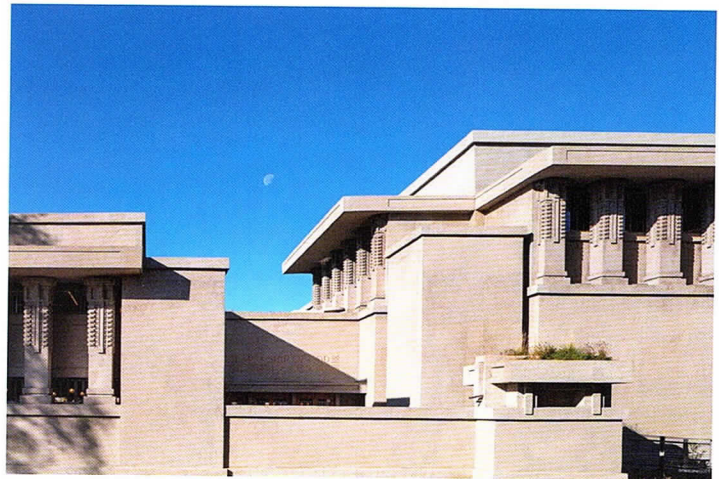
Art Glass Consultant: Julie Sloan, LLC

Accessibility Consultant: Heitzman Architects

Audio/Video Consultant: Pentegra Systems

Project Management: Project Management Advisors

PHOTO CREDITS: TOM ROSSITER, FAIA



Originally completed in 1908, Unity Temple is one of Frank Lloyd Wright's greatest works and one of the world's most important 20th century buildings. It is a National Historic Landmark and one of the 10 "Key Works of Modern Architecture by Frank Lloyd Wright" nominated to the World Heritage list. It was a featured work in the 1910 Wasmuth Portfolio, which profoundly impacted contemporary European architects, giving birth to modern architecture.

The \$25 million restoration encompassed every aspect of the building and returns this internationally significant work of architecture to its original appearance while giving it new life to successfully serve its original congregation and the thousands of tourists who come from all over the world to see it.

The project had numerous challenges, but the design and construction team spent nearly a year in research and development of treatment strategies, allowing for one of the most comprehensive and authentic restorations of a Wright building completed anywhere.

Main components included:

- Complete restoration of the concrete exterior. Matching of 1970s shotcrete was particularly challenging.
- Complete restoration of all interior surfaces using original exposed sand plaster and extremely thin paints that fully replicate Wright's beautifully soft interiors.
- All original oak trim was documented, removed, cleaned and reinstalled in its original locations.
- All new code-compliant MEP upgrades including new conduit routed into the concrete.
- All art glass was documented, removed, restored and reinstalled.

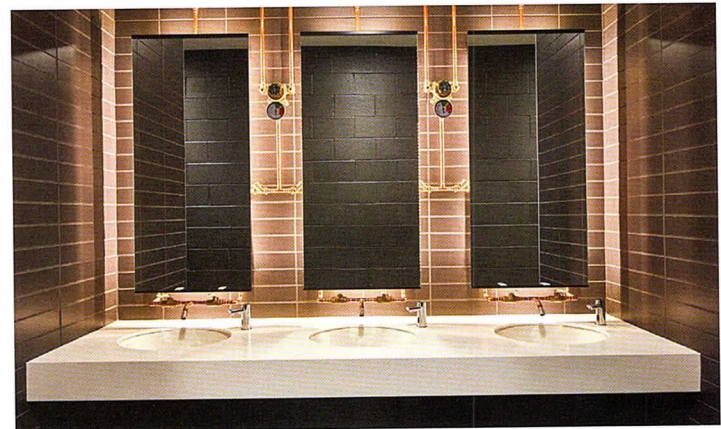
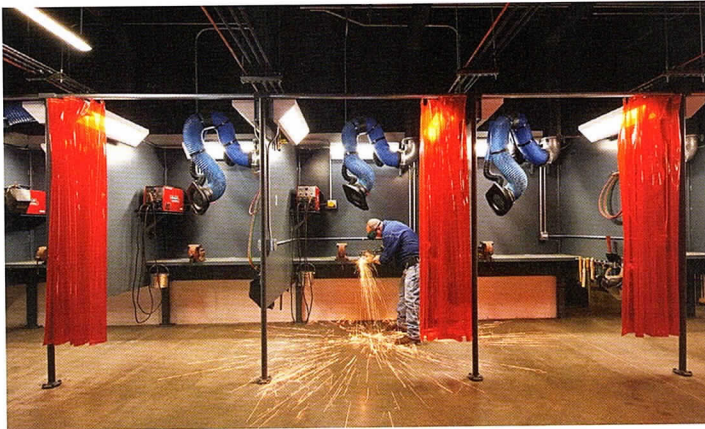
Jurors were floored by the final product. A long silence followed the project's display, with one juror stating, "It's unbelievable."



# DISTINGUISHED BUILDING AWARDS

## Honor Award

PHOTO CREDITS: TOM HARRIS, 2017



### Plumber's Local 130 UA Training Center

Gensler

Location: Chicago, Illinois

Client: Chicago Plumber's Union Local 130

General Contractor: W.E. O'Neil Construction Co.

Landscape Architect: Site

Civil Engineer: Terra Engineering

MEP Engineer: WMA Consulting Engineers, Ltd.

Within the 48,000-square-foot school for plumbers and those seeking to enter the trade, Gensler approached the project with the mindset that apprenticeship should go beyond learning the fundamentals — it should prepare workers to tackle next-generation challenges and technologies. The building is a living laboratory for the apprentice to gain hands-on experience with the industry's top technology. It features state-of-the-art water and energy conservation tools, such as rainwater harvesting, a graywater system and a solar hot water system. Hot air from 20 welding booths gets filtered cleaner than outside air

and reused within shop space. The system is the first of its kind in the city of Chicago. All of this can be monitored in real time from a digital display adjacent to the glassy mechanical room in the main lobby.

While the building's systems focus on conserving energy, the spaces were designed for occupant comfort. All of the classrooms and "wetlabs" are naturally lit with framed views of the Chicago skyline. The main shop space showcases a large north-facing clerestory, minimizing the need for artificial lighting. Large convenience stairs are meant to encourage an active environment. Materials and labor for the project were locally sourced when available, and the building itself is 100 percent American-made through union labor.

The design team chose materials inspired by the trade: copper pipe, galvanized steel and black pipe. "Its simple, raw materials produce really profound workspaces," one juror said. "Industrial is beautiful."

Protecting the health of the nation is the core mission of Plumbers Union. The new training facility celebrates that tradition while propelling the trade into the future. "The fact that the union values having a contemporary, innovative and beautiful building to train people in their trade is inspiring and worthy of recognition," another juror said.



# DISTINGUISHED BUILDING AWARDS

Honor Award

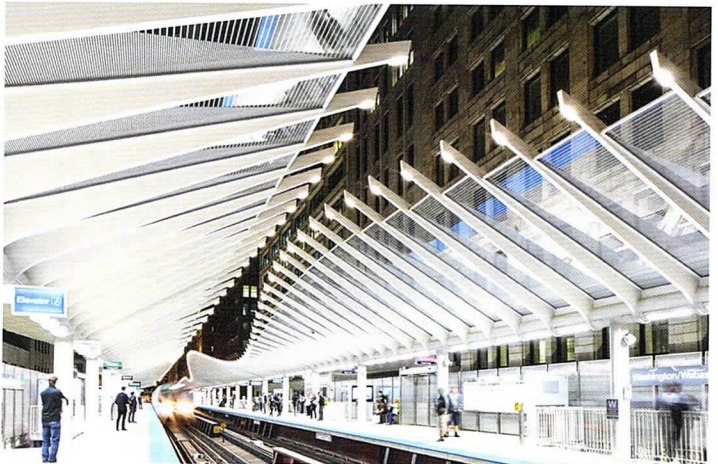
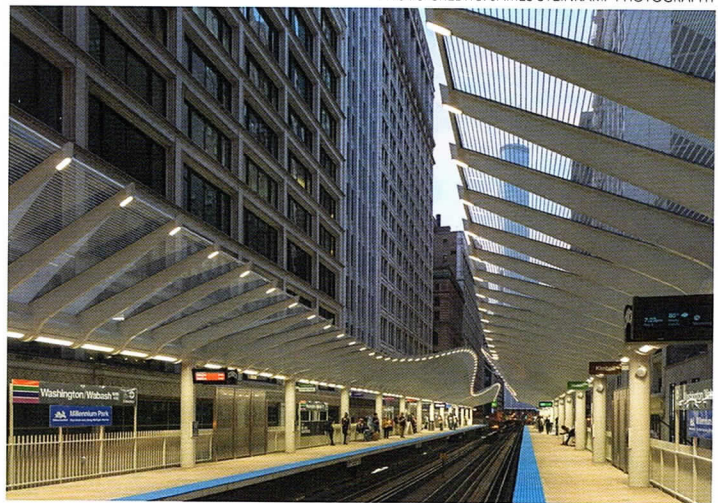


PHOTO CREDITS: JAMES STEINKAMP PHOTOGRAPHY

## Washington/Wabash CTA Station

exp

Location: Chicago, Illinois

Client: Chicago Department of Transportation

Using Agency: Chicago Transit Authority

General Contractor: FH Paschen

A passenger's view of Chicago is utterly transformed as one weaves through the city on the El. Similarly, the new Washington/Wabash Station transforms the perception of public transportation facilities and is the new gateway for Millennium Park and many of Chicago's downtown attractions. The wave form of the canopies weaves through the historic Wabash Avenue canyon as a playful undulating counterpoint to the geometry of the city grid and buildings, anticipating the soft forms of the park and lake beyond.

The architecture of the canopies is simple, elegant and economical, expressing honesty of construction and the art of craft for the city that works and the city that builds. The skeletal steel and faceted glass structure create a dynamic play of light, alluding to diamond facets and the immediate Jeweler's Row context. From the platform, the canopy serves as a deliberate contrasting frame that captures views to the historic Wabash façades. One juror noted, "It's a joyful canyon now; curvilinear shapes along repetitive windows."

The station influences its context beyond its primary use as transportation infrastructure to become "cultural infrastructure" with ambitions of serving as public sculpture, which animates and enlivens the Wabash Avenue canyon at all levels — the street, the platform, the buildings above and the long view from blocks away — and in so doing, unlocks the potential of the formerly dark street. "What a transformation!" one juror remarked. "It's well-detailed and a wonderful addition to the city."



# CONNECTION & COLLABORATION

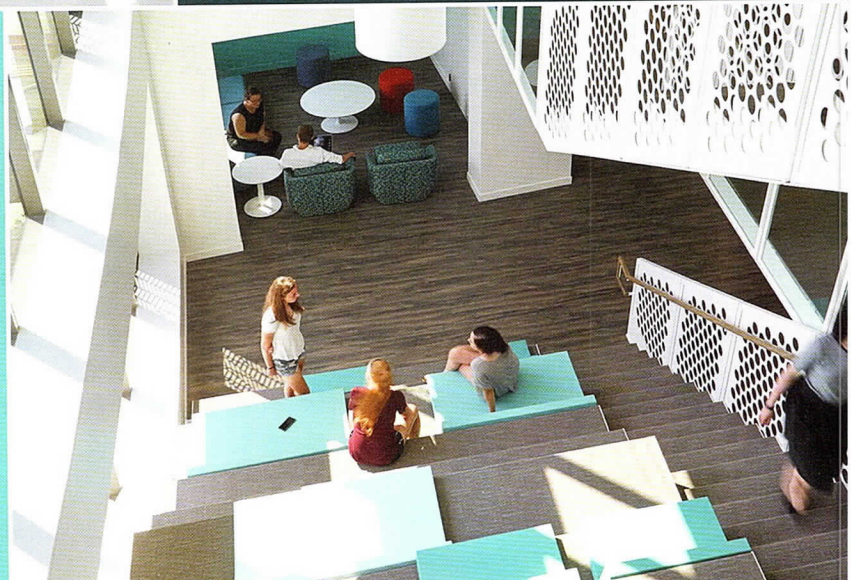


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# DISTINGUISHED BUILDING AWARDS

Honor Award

## University of Chicago Campus North Residential Commons

Studio Gang

Location: Chicago, Illinois

Client: University of Chicago

General Contractor: Mortenson Construction

Associate Architect: Hanbury

Structural Engineer: Magnusson Klemencic Associates

MEP/FP Engineer: dbHMS

Landscape Architect: Terry Guen Design Associates

Landscape Concept Designer: Hood Design Studio

Civil Engineer: David Mason & Associates

Lighting Designer: Lightswitch

Food Service Consultant: Ricca Design Studios

Acoustical Engineer/Designer: Threshold Acoustics

Sustainability Consultant: Transsolar

Code Consultant: Jensen Hughes

Elevator Consultant: Jenkins & Huntington

Three slender bar buildings by Studio Gang frame a network of new outdoor spaces for the University of Chicago. The firm carefully considered the site and project requirements: the campus needed a new residence hall to enhance its existing on-campus housing system. It would need to establish new campus connections between students and the surrounding neighborhood.

Responding to its grander context, the architecture reinterprets the campus's neo-Gothic heritage with a highly tuned sculptural precast concrete façade. Each building is scaled to its context. The tallest structure provides insulation from a busy boulevard; the lowest structure harmonizes with the neighborhood. In addition to connecting

PHOTO CREDIT: TOM HARRIS PHOTOGRAPHY

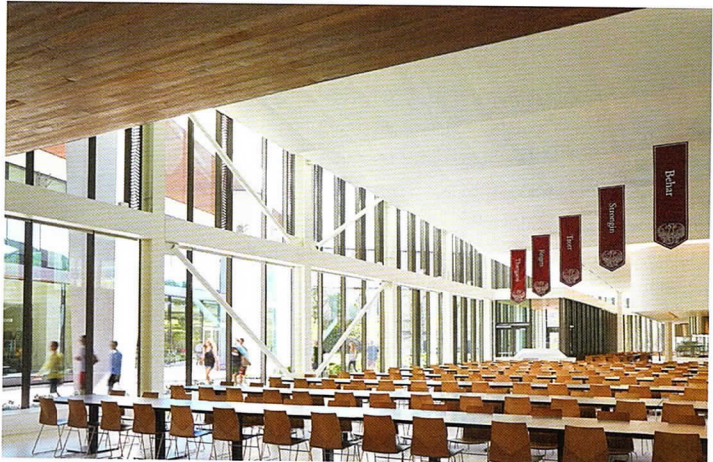


PHOTO CREDIT: TOM HARRIS PHOTOGRAPHY

campus and community, this configuration deploys passive strategies to optimize solar orientation — part of a comprehensive sustainability strategy that earned LEED Gold certification. “The building looks beautiful, but it’s more than a façade treatment,” a juror said.

Featuring a mix of residences, dining amenities, classrooms, retail and green spaces, Campus North is an open, welcoming portal to campus and a nexus of connectivity, encouraging exchange among students while strengthening connections with the community. From the outside in, the buildings are organized around staggered three-story “House hubs” — clearly visible from the exterior — which feature home-like spaces where 100 undergraduates can gather, study, cook and relax. Additional spaces — the dining commons, a top-floor reading room, music rehearsal rooms, and areas for studying and gathering — unite the entire student body. Summarized by a juror, “Overall, a very nice project.”

PHOTO CREDIT: STEVE HALL (C) HEDRICH BLESSING





# DISTINGUISHED BUILDING AWARDS

## Citation of Merit



PHOTO CREDITS: EMA PETER

### T3 Timber Office

Michael Green Architecture

Location: Minneapolis, Minnesota

Client: Hines

Architect of Record: DLR Group

General Contractor: Kraus-Anderson

While the trauma of the Great Fire has made it challenging to build wood timber structures in Chicago, Michael Green Architecture and DLR Group completed the largest speculative office building in North America constructed of wood with a finite budget.

As an architectural design approach, the building is a return to the art of construction. Concrete is left exposed, raw steel and cor-ten façades unpainted and its mass-timber frame exposed to view throughout. The building features a high-performing envelope, optimized daylight and views. "Looking through the exterior into the interior really shows how elegant it is," one juror said.

The lobby is a working lounge and a rooftop amenity is shared by all tenants all contributing to a social priority. It was the material, however, that most excited the jury. "I love the wood. It's restrained, but I love how the timber is expressed," a juror commented.

### Campus International School

Perkins+Will

Location: Cleveland, Ohio

Client: Cleveland Metropolitan School District

Architect of Record: ThenDesign Architecture

General Contractor: ICON, LLC

To provide collaboration spaces, outdoor learning areas and parking, the building stacks up efficiently on four levels surrounding a central, naturally day-lit atrium. Interior windows throughout inspire students and staff to learn from each other, and the brightly colored walls reflect daylight.

The building provides technology-equipped shared project areas outside of each classroom and connects visually to all four levels from these shared areas. Small group areas and distributed administration spaces on each classroom floor allow for flexibility of group size to gather and work together. The jury was impressed with how much the design accomplished within the smaller footprint. Said one juror, "The openings and scale are appropriate for the urban context."

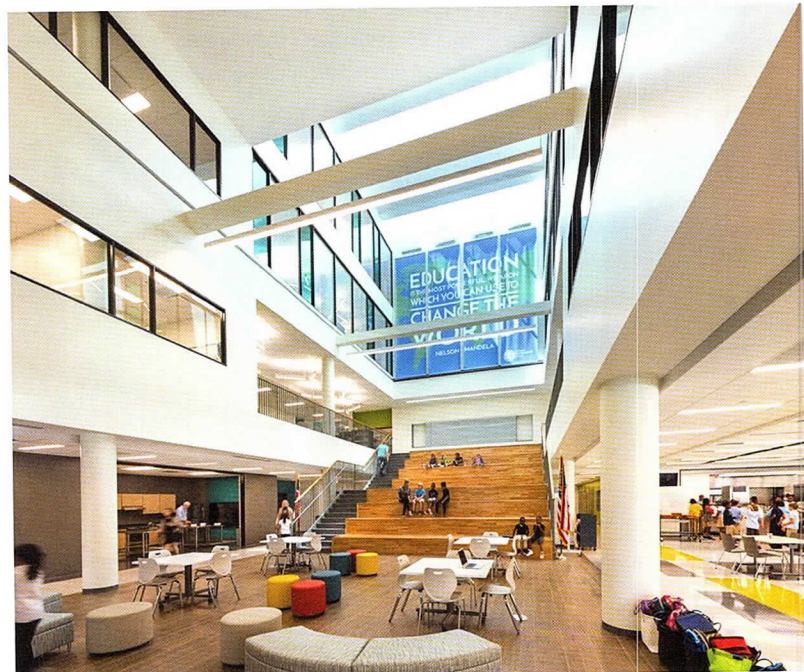


PHOTO CREDIT: JAMES STEINKAMP PHOTOGRAPHY



# DISTINGUISHED BUILDING AWARDS

## Citation of Merit

### **Benjamin P. Grogan and Jerry L. Dove Federal Building**

**Krueck + Sexton Architects**

**Location:** Miramar, Florida

**Client:** General Services Administration

**Architect of Record:** Gensler

**General Contractor:** Hensel Phelps

**Sustainable Strategies and Daylight Design:** Atelier Ten

**Structural Engineer:** Thornton Tomasetti

**MEP Engineer:** WSP Flack+Kurtz

**Landscape Architect:** Curtis + Rogers Design Studio Inc.

**Civil Engineer:** Miller Legg

The holistic design of the Grogan | Dove Federal Office Building was focused not on a single issue, but on a long-term view for enduring value and performance while enhancing the well-being and quality-of-work life for users.

Originally a part of the Everglades, the site had been leveled with 18 feet of aggregate fill prior to purchase by the GSA and restoring the indigenous wetlands became an overarching goal of the project. The landscape integrates and conceals security elements, accommodates a storm-water management system and creates outdoor spaces for employees. "What they're doing is huge," one juror said.

Two 60-foot-wide buildings — six and seven stories tall — strike the best balance of internal efficiency and maximized site ecology. Building massing and east-



west orientation support passive sustainability by minimizing solar exposure and heat gain and create microclimates that encourage building occupants to engage with the outdoors. Perforated sunscreens at the south-facing façades reduce glare without obstructing views. "There are a lot of sustainable features. Its integrated high-performance is so sophisticated," a juror said. "It's so hard to balance performance elements with qualitative architecture." "It's just such an unusual form, and I love it," another juror remarked. "It keeps with the type of school it is."

### **Ningbo Bank of China Headquarters**

**Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP**

**Location:** Ningbo, China

**Client:** Ningbo Eastern New Town Development Investment Co., Ltd.

**Government Leadership:** Ningbo Eastern New Town Development Headquarter

**Architect, Structural Engineer and MEPF Engineer of Record:**

Institute of Shanghai Architectural Design and Research Co., Ltd.

**Construction Contractor:** Ningbo Construction Engineering Group Co., Ltd.

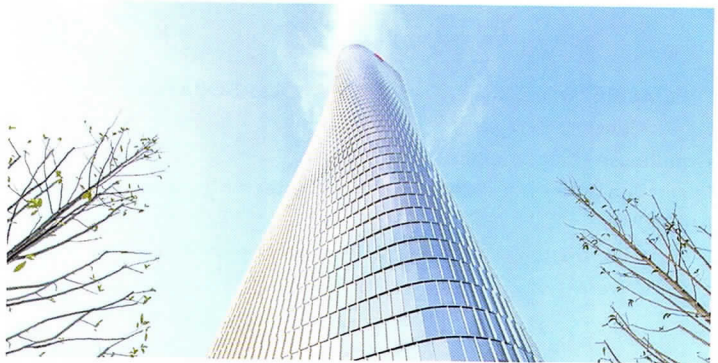
**Acoustical Engineer/Designer:** Shen, Milsom & Wilke

**Lighting Designer:** LEOX Design Partnership

**Vertical Transportation Consultant:** Lerch Bates Inc., Fortune Shepler Saling

**Fire Protection Consultant:** Jensen Hughes

PHOTO CREDIT: ARCHEXIST



"It's heroic!" one juror exclaimed. All floors utilize 48 perimeter mini-columns draped vertically to avoid providing an identical framework for flexible, column-free lease spaces.

The tower also features a comprehensive sustainability scheme, including smart appliances, recycled building materials, individual controls for lighting and thermal systems, improved insulation and a façade punctuated with translucent fins between high-performance glass panels, mitigating solar gain. "The subtle slippage between glass panels is compelling," a juror commented.

Clad in a sweeping curtain of glass, this 50-story tower integrates a porous metal diagrid canopy to cap a pedestrian-level podium and shelter, with a rooftop garden. Inside the podium, an open, three-story lobby provides full-service banking and houses a private employee cafeteria on the fourth floor.

Each floor of the tower rotates one degree and steps in 100 millimeters around the central core to create a seamless, twisting form from base to crown.





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# 2018 DESIGN EXCELLENCE AWARDS



# INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE AWARDS

## JURORS



**Katherine Chia, FAIA**

Desai Chia Architecture  
New York, New York



**Barbara J. Felix, AIA**

Barbara Felix Architecture + Design  
Santa Fe, New Mexico



**Vladimir Pajkic, AIA**

ZGF Architects  
Portland, Oregon



# INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE AWARDS

## Honor Award

PHOTO CREDIT: TOM ROSSITER, FAIA



### Optimo Hat Company

Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP

Location: Chicago, Illinois

Client: Optimo Hat Company

General Contractor: Helios

Creative Consultant: Richard F. Tomlinson II, LLC

Design Consultant and Brass Doors: Tim Thompson Designs

Metalwork: Bader Art Metal & Fabrication

Project and Process Management: Dave Crowell, Cotter Consulting

Founded in 1991 in Beverly, Optimo is a leading maker of luxurious handmade hats that have generated quite a buzz, having adorned the heads of celebrities like Jack White and Johnny Depp. Aside from their fashionable global cult following, their new, 7,700-square-foot workspace and design studio by SOM speaks humble, simple and high-quality. Located at the “gateway” to the historic suburb of Beverly, Optimo’s new, LEED Silver headquarters and workshop centralizes operations inside a 100-year-old decommissioned firehouse.

As an adaptive reuse project, Optimo preserves the historic character of the building and diverts a significant volume of materials from the waste stream. Interior architectural surfaces use durable, long-lasting, inherently inert materials, including blackened steel, walnut and cork, to improve the indoor environmental quality and express a contemporary industrial aesthetic.

The building also preserves remnants of the original firehouse, including the original brick exterior and “City of Chicago Fire Department” bronze plaque, a kitchen finished with marble repurposed from the original firehouse showers and porthole windows, set flush on the second floor, infill existing firepole openings. Jurors were particularly taken with the relationship between form and function, noting that many of the details were reminiscent of the hat-making process.

“The design is evocative of what the business does,” one juror commented. “The circular forms and bent wood are very hat-like.”

“The concept is layered into all components of the design,” one juror said. “There is a balance of restraint and volition; just enough creativity and artful thoughtfulness,” another said.



## Citation of Merit

### Richard Gray Gallery Warehouse

Wheeler Kearns Architects

Location: Chicago, Illinois

Client: Richard Gray Gallery

General Contractor: Graycor, Inc.

Lighting Designer: Lux Populi

Structural Engineer: Enspect Engineering

A renowned gallery owner asked Wheeler Kearns Architects to look at an old machine shop for renovations. They found a building with a messed-up façade; tired, listing trusses overhead; rotting roof and drain-heads; cracked and heaved slab over slab. But the span, the height and the monitor light were right.

For the building's shell, roof trusses were restored, reinforced and tensioned; purlins, structural decking replaced and sandblasted to expose the Douglas Fir. A central portal was opened for vehicles and pedestrians alike. Within the space, a new concrete floor carefully rises, plateaus and rises again. Atop the floor, a visually disengaged, "floating, inner liner" of flat white painted gypsum. Materials play a crucial role: A reception top and library shelving are made of Douglas Fir to match the structural decking; new metals are brushed silver, including structure, sash, mechanical, lighting, fans and trim. Two large rolling walls live in the main room, each the width of one portal. "It's cohesive, clever and filled with personality," a juror said.

PHOTO CREDIT: TOM ROSSITER, FAIA



### Skender

Perkins+Will

Location: Chicago, Illinois

Client: Skender

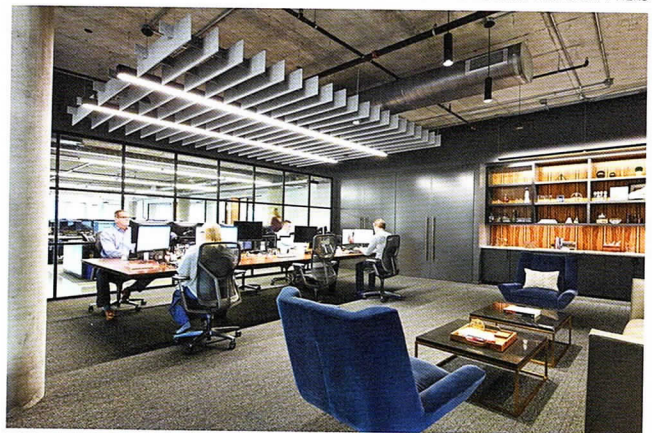
General Contractor: Skender

MEP Engineer: Environmental Systems Design

Skender's new headquarters reflects their continued growth, maturity and expression of their business and social culture. Upon entry, a steel-framed ceiling/lighting element draws one into the large flexible central café hub space that supports multiple daily functions. Adjacent to the café hub are three large flexible phase rooms, unfolding to create a large internal meeting and social space. The open plan also provides a variety of meeting spaces to support choice of how and where to work. Throughout the space, the brand message integrates within the architecture: the team chose materials that reflect both the workplace culture and what the company does. Tangible resources construction teams come into contact with such as exposed ceilings/floors, gabion wall and exposed column capitals represent the framework of construction projects.

Jurors enjoyed many of the project's details, including the use of wood. "Wood is used in interesting ways," a juror said, "It feels raw and also acts as a marker for different spaces." Another juror added, "I like the repeating forms — materials like carpet and ceiling décor work together to build an interesting workspace."

PHOTO CREDIT: STEVE HALL HALL AND MERRICK PHOTOGRAPHERS

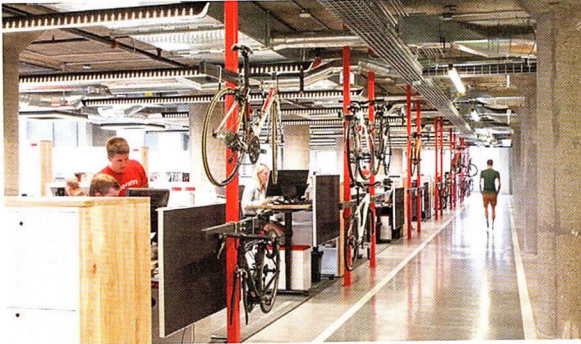




# INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE AWARDS

## Citation of Merit

PHOTO CREDITS: MICHELLE LITVIN, MICHELLE LITVIN PHOTOGRAPHY



### SRAM Headquarters

Perkins+Will

Location: Chicago, Illinois

Client: SRAM, LLC

General Contractor: Skender

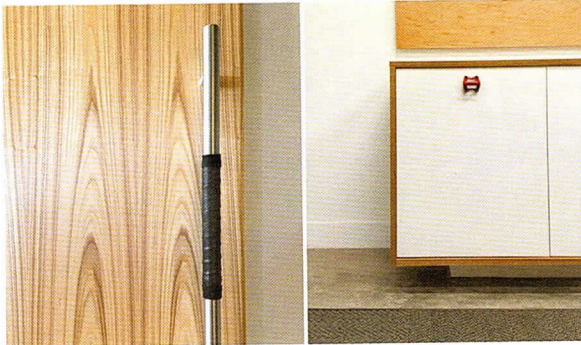
MEP: Environmental Systems Design

IT Engineer: Engineering Plus

For their new headquarters, global bicycle component manufacturer SRAM Corporation desired a fun, active and high-performance environment that would connect employees and reinforce their unique culture.

A 72,000-square-foot floorplate allowed for a practical way to connect staff and the solution — that bicycle test track spanning the entire office. “There is a sense of movement that translates throughout the project, even in the floorplan,” one juror said. But it was more than just the track that excited the jury; they appreciated the small design elements that carried the cycling theme throughout. “I like that they wrapped that drawer handle. It’s a tactile gesture that shows the architect was considering the entire narrative,” another said.

As SRAM employees are largely cycling enthusiasts, the active design features in the workplace are inherently authentic to their culture — not merely a corporate initiative. “The design is simple but shows different layers of storytelling,” a juror said.



## Special Recognition

### SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR EMPLOYEE WELLNESS

#### Banfield Pet Hospital Headquarters

Gensler

Location: Vancouver, Washington

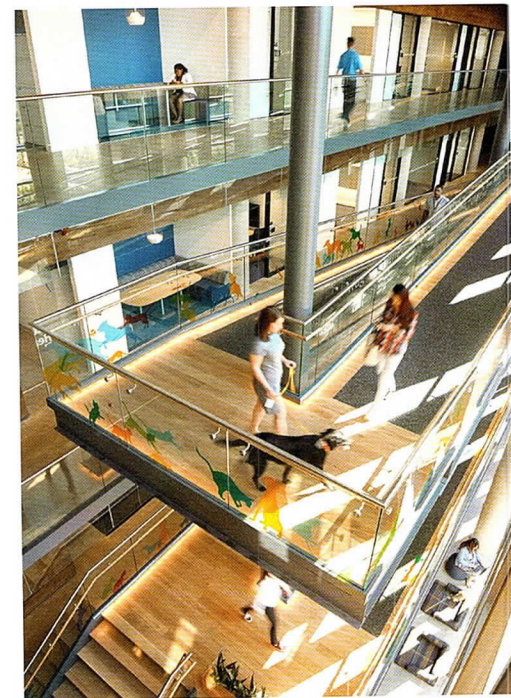
Client: Banfield Pet Hospitals

General Contractor: Skanska

In the Banfield Pet Hospital Headquarters, there is no shortage of dogs in architecture photos. For jurors, short moments of hushed cooing and pointing dotted a conversation about what a truly healthy, employee-focused workplace looks like. The Gensler-designed headquarters for the veterinary chain focuses on the health of people, the health of pets and the health of the environment. The resulting building is Washington’s largest LEED Platinum workspace with amenities such as a full gym, walk stations, seven cafes and a 3-story dog walk ramp.

As an activity-based work environment, employees no longer sit at their desks throughout the day due to an eclectic arrangement of seating and meeting choices, including standing tables, collaboration corners, secluded booths, lounge settings and more.

“If you asked me what space I’d like to work in, I’d choose this one,” one juror said. “There are elements in this project, like the indoor/outdoor connections that would normally be edited out of most corporate projects” another juror commented. “They kept them in here, demonstrating their commitment to wellness.”





# INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE AWARDS

## Special Recognition

### SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR ADAPTIVE MATERIAL REUSE

#### Midtown Athletic Club

DMAC Architecture

Location: Chicago, Illinois

Client: Midtown Athletic Club

General Contractor: Norcon, Inc.

Development and Construction Management: Construction Concept Management, Corp.

DMAC's Midtown Athletic Club expansion transformed what was the largest indoor tennis club in the country to the largest lifestyle center in the country. Working within an aggressive schedule and budget, the design team rethought materials. The form work used for the board-formed concrete walls and beams are repurposed as interior wall cladding. The typically discarded granite block ends from quarries found a home as a backdrop behind the reception desk. The ceiling screen over the main stair incorporates materials salvaged during the demolition of the old club.

Finish materials were salvaged from the old club and reused for its sustainability value as well as for its emotional value. Original copper from the old fire place



PHOTO CREDIT: ANTHONY TAHLIER PHOTOGRAPHY

and oak paneling from the lockers were repurposed as design elements that were used as infill elements in the custom-designed screen over the main staircase.

"There are huge spaces in this project that could have felt too huge or too short," one juror commented. "The materials they chose make them feel cohesive and expansive. It's a good solution, and very responsible."



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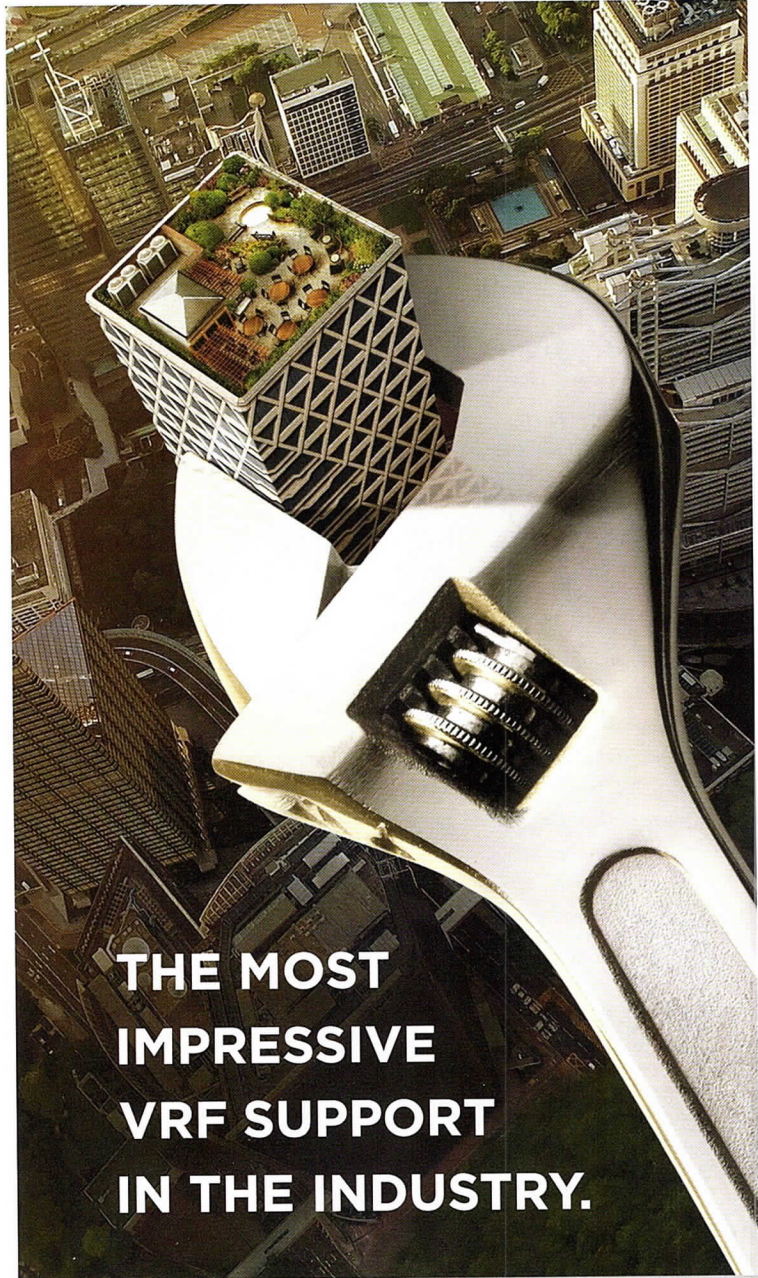
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# 2018 DESIGN EXCELLENCE AWARDS

## JURORS



**Eric Martin, AIA**  
Ross Barney Architects  
Chicago, Illinois



**Patricia Saldaña Natke, FAIA**  
UrbanWorks  
Chicago, Illinois



**Aracely Nevarez, AIA, ASID**  
Hartshorne Plunkard Architecture  
Chicago, Illinois

# DIVINE DETAIL AWARDS



# DIVINE DETAIL AWARDS

## Honor Award

### Midtown Athletic Club: Landing Pit Trellis

DMAC Architecture

Location: Chicago, Illinois

Client: Midtown Athletic Club

General Contractor: Norcon, Inc.

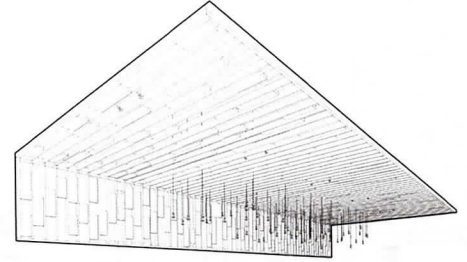
Development and Construction Management: Construction Concept Management, Corp.

A 40-foot trellis soars over the stair at the new Midtown Athletic Club, visually choreographing movement through the lobby to a landing “pit,” which is the communal hub of the club. Designed as an homage to the original Midtown Tennis Club that stood in the very location, a large portion of which was demolished to make room for the new expansion. The metal screen is infilled with panels of copper and oak salvaged from the original club prior to demolition.

Oak panels that once lived in the locker rooms of this club, frequented by revered professionals like Andre Agassi and John McEnroe, were reclaimed and carefully infilled within the new trellis. Copper panels from the original fireplace were folded to fit within the metal screen. Traces of bronze mirror used as additional infill material symbolically represents “reflection” of the past in the new.

Jurors enjoyed the piece both as a structural element of the club, as well as a decorative element. “It’s authentic to the space, due to both design and materials,” one juror commented.

IMAGE BY DMAC ARCHITECTURE



The custom fabricated trellis screen is fabricated in 8-foot modules and installed on site with all bolted connections. An elaborate scaffolding was erected to execute the installation, structural hang points were located on site to suspend the 5,000-pound frame from the structure above. “We all know how hard this type of thing is to do,” another juror said. “It took a lot of thought and strategy to make this happen.”

PHOTO CREDIT: ANTHONY TAHЛИER PHOTOGRAPHY

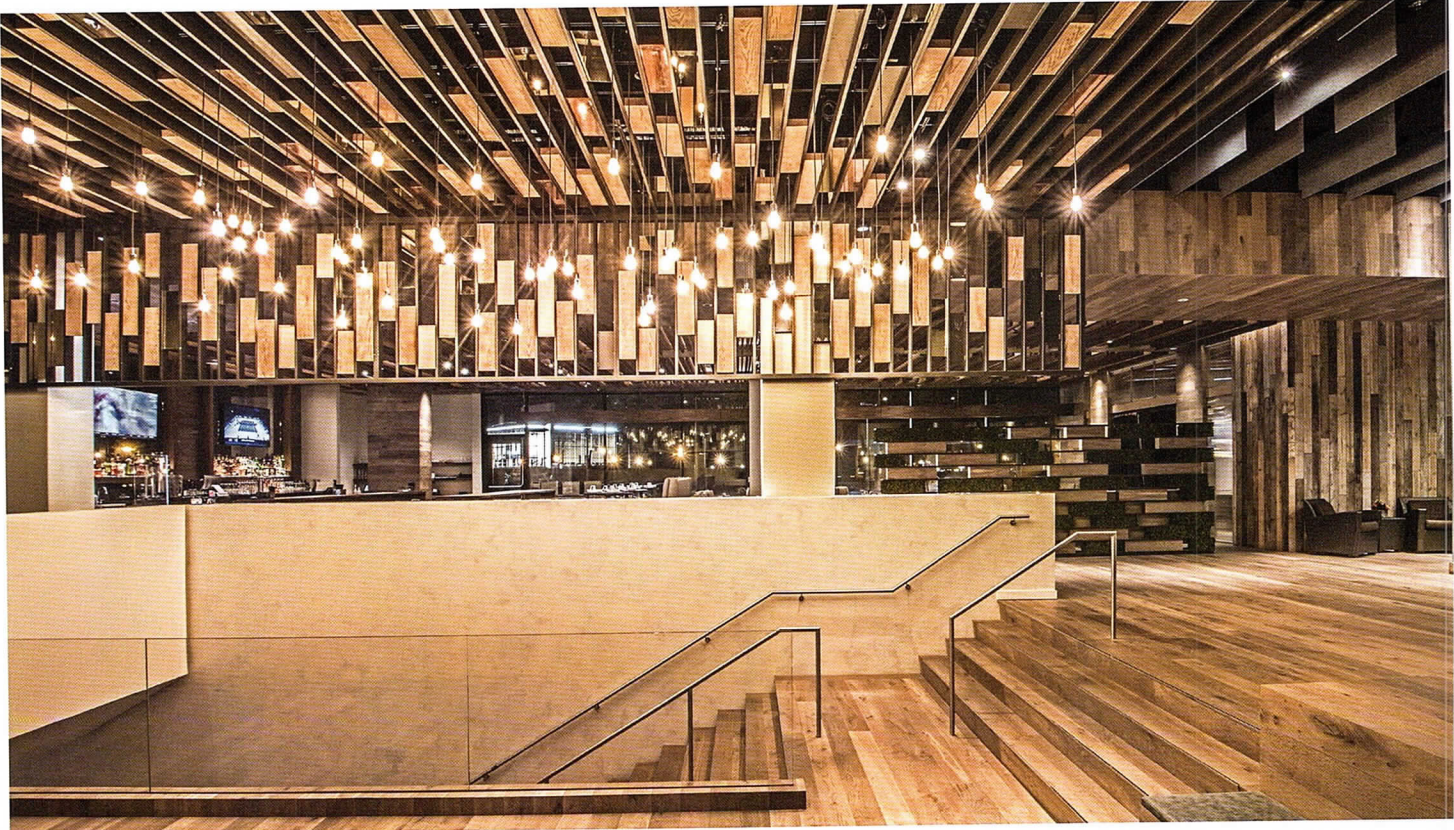




PHOTO CREDITS: BALLOGG PHOTOGRAPHY



### Park Plaza Synagogue

Epstein – Principal Designer, Andrew Metter, FAIA

Location: Chicago, Illinois

Client: Park Plaza Senior Living Facility

General Contractor: G.A. Johnson

Contractor: Helios

This addition was conceived of as a device which mediates between two distinct spaces: a senior residential facility and a new, attached synagogue. The synagogue trellis/screen wall emphasizes openness and opacity, designed for the south façade. The brushed aluminum screen wall allows for an abundant amount of natural light, while providing sun-shading, privacy and security — all essential to a senior population.

The structure is a moment frame, eliminating the need for diagonal bracing. The construction detail is identical to a kit-of-parts metal “picture frame” and utilizes L-shaped steel corner brackets, Allen set screws and top/bottom receiver brackets. The assembly is tensioned by six lines of tension rods, encased in round aluminum spacer tubes. One juror called the design “brave,” while the concept was, “bold; to suggest something so modern in a space dedicated to tradition.”

The trellis/screen wall, at times, is opaque and uniform, conveying a sense of oneness and commonality of purpose, similar to the Chupa in Jewish tradition, which signifies community. At other times, it appears transparent, penetrable and porous to the outside world, physically illustrating the constant tension created between the idea of alienation and assimilation. This element changes with the viewer’s perspective, while the champagne anodized color changes with the light and seasons: at sunset, the trellis emits a golden glow, to signal the start of the Jewish day.





## Honor Award

PHOTO CREDITS: CHRISTOPHER BARRETT



### Wood House

Brininstool + Lynch, Ltd.

Location: Chicago, Illinois

General Contractor: Goldberg General Contracting, Inc.

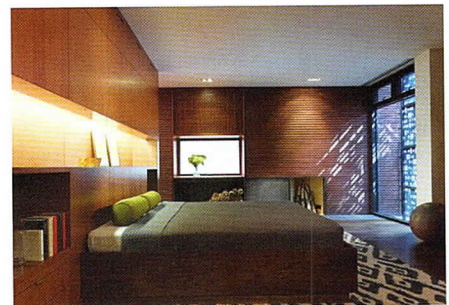
Landscape Architect: Coen + Partners

Structural Engineer: Goodfriend Magruder Structure LLC

The use of copper screens was conceived as a means of permitting natural light into the upper floors of the front of the house while maintaining privacy for those spaces from the street. The screens are composed of individual, hand-treated panels designed with a custom pattern of rectangular perforations with debossing and embossing.

The copper screens wrap around one leg on four sides of the L-shaped home. The individual panels are attached to a concealed stainless steel frame. On the second floor, one window is floor-to-ceiling glass and faces east, overlooking the street. The perforated copper screen on the front façade covers this window, as it does the east-facing third-floor windows, providing privacy while allowing eye-level views to the street and an articulated pattern of natural light into the room.

"I like how the detailing is repeated on the interior and exterior," a juror commented. "The screens provide textural continuity through the interior and exterior environments."







GOLDBERG GENERAL CONTRACTING, INC.

Photo: Christopher Barrett Photography



Architect: Brinnscool + Lynch, Ltd.



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# DIVINE DETAIL AWARDS

## Citation of Merit

### Legacy Charter School

Lothan Van Hook DeStefano Architecture

Location: Chicago, Illinois

General Contractor: W.B. Olson, Inc.

Client: Legacy Charter School

Structural Engineers: Rubinos and Mesia Engineers (RME) Mechanical Engineers

RTM Electrical and Plumbing: Grumman and Butkus

Landscape Architects: Wolff Landscape Architecture

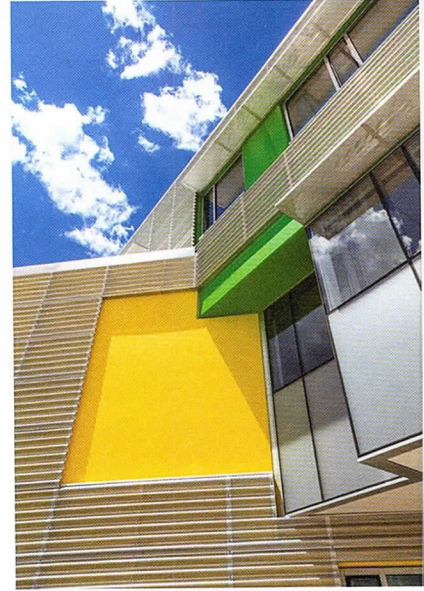
Civil Engineers: Prism Engineering

Sustainability Consultant: H. J. Kessler Associates

A high performance “solar veil” envelope was developed for maximum thermal insulation at minimal cost for this new K to 8 school. Corrugated aluminum panels and a lightweight metal lattice layered over painted pre-cast panels create an innovative solar veil: a cost-effective, high-performance scrim that shades and ventilates the pre-cast in summer, radiating heat gain away before it hits the thermal barrier.

The perforated exterior also moderates the perceived color of the pre-cast, creating a dynamic and lively exterior wall. The amount of color and shadows on the layered perforated façade change throughout the day and year as the sun moves across the building. A solar photovoltaic system on the roof works in concert with the solar veil, reducing ongoing operational cost for the school. Sustainability has been integrated into the teaching curriculum for all grade levels — something that jurors appreciated. “I love that students can learn about sustainable structures straight from their own building.”

PHOTO CREDIT: KARANT + ASSOCIATES



### Washington/Wabash CTA Station

exp

Location: Chicago, Illinois

Client: Chicago Department of Transportation

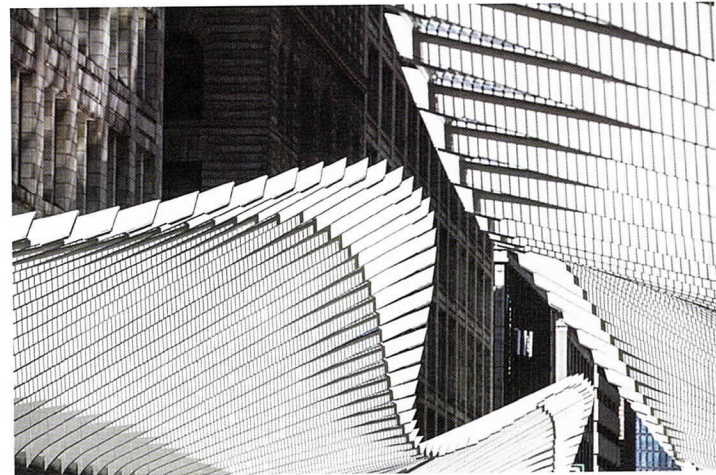
Using Agency: Chicago Transit Authority

General Contractor: FH Paschen

The architecture of the canopy system at the new Washington/Wabash Chicago Transit Authority Station is simple, elegant and economical. The skeletal steel and faceted glass structure create a dynamic play of light, alluding to diamond facets in the immediate Jeweler's Row context. “I like how they've thought through the historic context,” one juror commented. “It's not too much Calatrava — it's more ‘Chicago.’”

The canopy steel was designed to integrate all utilities (gutters, downspouts, conduit, lighting, communications and signage) within the profiles, thus yielding a streamlined uncluttered appearance, and eliminating surfaces for roosting pigeons and trash accumulation. The team used BIM and full-scale mockups to work through design coordination, complex details and constructability. Undulating guardrails were designed to complement the canopy form. The profiles/quantities were economized through algorithms to minimize varying profiles to only 50 shapes and eliminate all waste material.

PHOTO CREDIT: TIM KLEIN PHOTOGRAPHY





### Arizona Courtyard House

David Hovey & Associates Architect Inc./David Hovey Jr., AIA  
Location: Scottsdale, Arizona  
General Contractor: Optima DCHGlobal, Inc.

This home is a product of an architectural solution that utilizes a sustainable, modular, prefabricated building system that is flexible and adaptable to any climate or site. Composed of recycled cor-ten steel, the structural system consists of standardized components of columns, beams and connectors that are assembled in the shop and transported to the site sequentially.

The cor-ten structural components are left open to view, creating a pleasing contrast to the highly polished concrete floor throughout the house. The grid of cor-ten beams overhead defines the ceiling inside and flows beyond the glass enclosure to define outdoor rooms in the courtyard, blurring the distinction between inside and out. "I like the material choice here," one juror commented. "It's innovative but also looks good in the surrounding landscape."

PHOTO CREDIT: BILL TIMMERMAN

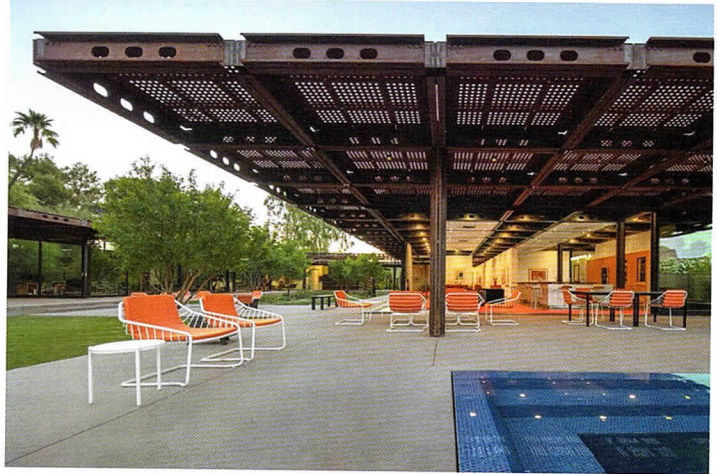


PHOTO CREDIT: STEVE HALL @ HEDRICH BLESSING



### Mountain Retreat Suspended Stair

Robbins Architecture  
Location: Aspen, Colorado  
General Contractor: Harriman Construction, Inc.  
Structural Engineer: Goodfriend Magruder Structure LLC  
Interior Designer: Shawn Henderson Interior Designer  
Lighting Designer: 186 Lighting Design Group, Inc.

Set within the double-height entry of a new modern mountain home, this grand stair preserves views to the Rocky Mountain landscape. To achieve its floating quality, designers envisioned attaching a portion of the stair to the wall to conceal the cantilevered steel supports; however, the first run of the stair had no wall. Designers worked closely with an engineer who specialized in solving challenging staircases, who suggested suspending vertical rods from the ceiling to provide additional stiffness. This stabilized the cantilevered steel beam under the landing. "It's an elegant solution," one juror commented. "At first, the issue didn't register with me — that's just how beautifully it ties in with the space."

Another solution that married aesthetic and structural goals involved changing the thickness of the stepped stringer from half to quarter inch, then coupling stringers together. This made them easier and more cost effective to fabricate, while creating the strength and surface area. "The process was so collaborative and created a beautiful structural detail," another juror said.





**AIA**  
Chicago

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# 2018 DESIGN EXCELLENCE AWARDS

# UNBUILT FORWARD AWARDS

## JURORS



**James Baird, FAIA**  
Holabird & Root  
Chicago, Illinois



**Lynda Dossey, AIA**  
JAHN  
Chicago, Illinois

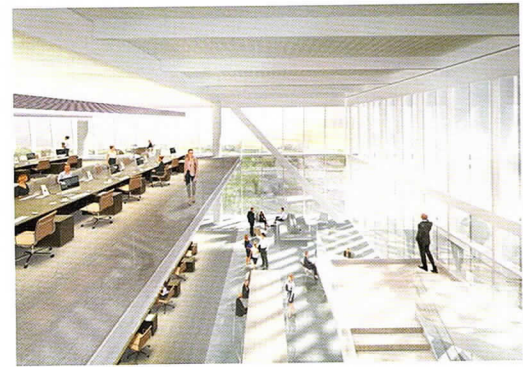
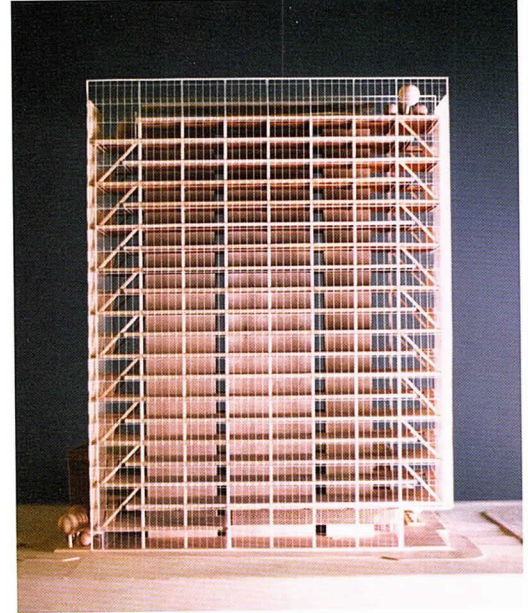


**Scott Seyer, AIA**  
Goettsch Partners  
Chicago, Illinois



## Honor Award

IMAGES BY HDR



### Engineering Company Headquarters HDR

A global engineering company, with several disciplines housed in buildings on multiple sites, sought to foster collaboration by bringing its 1,200 employees from disparate disciplines housed across multiple sites into a single, collaborative space.

Conceived as a continuous floor of offices, folded in upon itself to fit the confines of its downtown site, a 20-story glass tower houses a series of alternating double-height collaboration spaces with communicating stairs at each end. This arrangement enables departments to expand and contract across floors as needed; associated diagonal bracing obviates the need for corner columns, allowing each collaboration space to “float” in the city. “They truly embraced the ‘open floorplan’ to the fullest,” one juror said. “They’re pushing structural limits while also considering employee collaboration.”

Reflecting the values of the engineers who inhabit it, the building’s design prioritizes performance and craft to inform aesthetic. The tower’s core is offset to buffer winter winds; a narrow building profile ensures adequate daylight and natural cross-ventilation. “I like their thinking on how to naturally ventilate it,” a juror said. Building systems that are often concealed were, in this case, integrated with the surrounding architecture and left exposed. Façades were designed with their solar orientation in mind; shingled glass on the southern façade is self-shading and conceals air intakes, while vertical stainless-steel louvers on the eastern and western façades filter and shade low-angled sunlight.

In addition to conventional sustainable design practices, the approach was to build less by creating: multi-functional spaces such as elevator lobbies that doubled as copy room and breakout spaces; an offset core that not only buffers winter winds but allows all occupants to reside within a single space that’s not split by a central core; and engineered elements that are normally hidden were left exposed and celebrated. “I’m intrigued with the project as a form, but also with their thoughtful details,” a juror said.



### Astana Arts Center

Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture

Location: Astana, Kazakhstan

Client: Expo-2017

The conceptual design for the 5,000-square-meter Astana Arts Center was created for Expo-2017, Kazakhstan's International Exposition. Inspired by the hills of Kazakhstan, the goal was to design a form that complements various sizes and scales of art, while also incorporating a double-wall system that insulates the building during the region's humid summers and harsh winters.

The Arts Center's shape was optimized to reduce energy and carbon loads while incorporating passive design philosophies. An extensive solar radiation analysis was done to locate the optimal location for a series of rooftop photovoltaic panels, which determined that the exterior wall needed to be tilted downward to minimize solar radiation. A daylighting analysis helped determine the shape and the size of the atrium skylight and the density of the solar cells integrated into the skylight glass. "It's well-rounded, with nothing wasteful," one juror said.

Inside, the main level includes large ceiling heights designed to exhibit sculptures and art pieces of considerable sizes. The perimeter gallery features a double glass wall system, providing the indirect filtered light that is necessary for art spaces. The façade reduces thermal loads on the gallery space, thus reducing energy consumption. Two galleries of full height are separated by a series of smaller gallery spaces designed for the exhibition of smaller scale paintings, photography or overall smaller scale art. The second level of the smaller scale galleries provides a viewing platform toward the larger gallery double height space below.

The museum not only integrates with the surrounding park, but its sloping landscaped roof becomes a platform that further expands the reach of the front-facing outdoor amphitheater. "The design is strong; it is elegant and also solves program issues," a juror said. A green roof further activates the sustainable qualities of the design, thermally and acoustically insulating the museum as it creates multiple viewpoints and gathering points for visitors.

IMAGES BY ADRIAN SMITH + GORDON GILL ARCHITECTURE

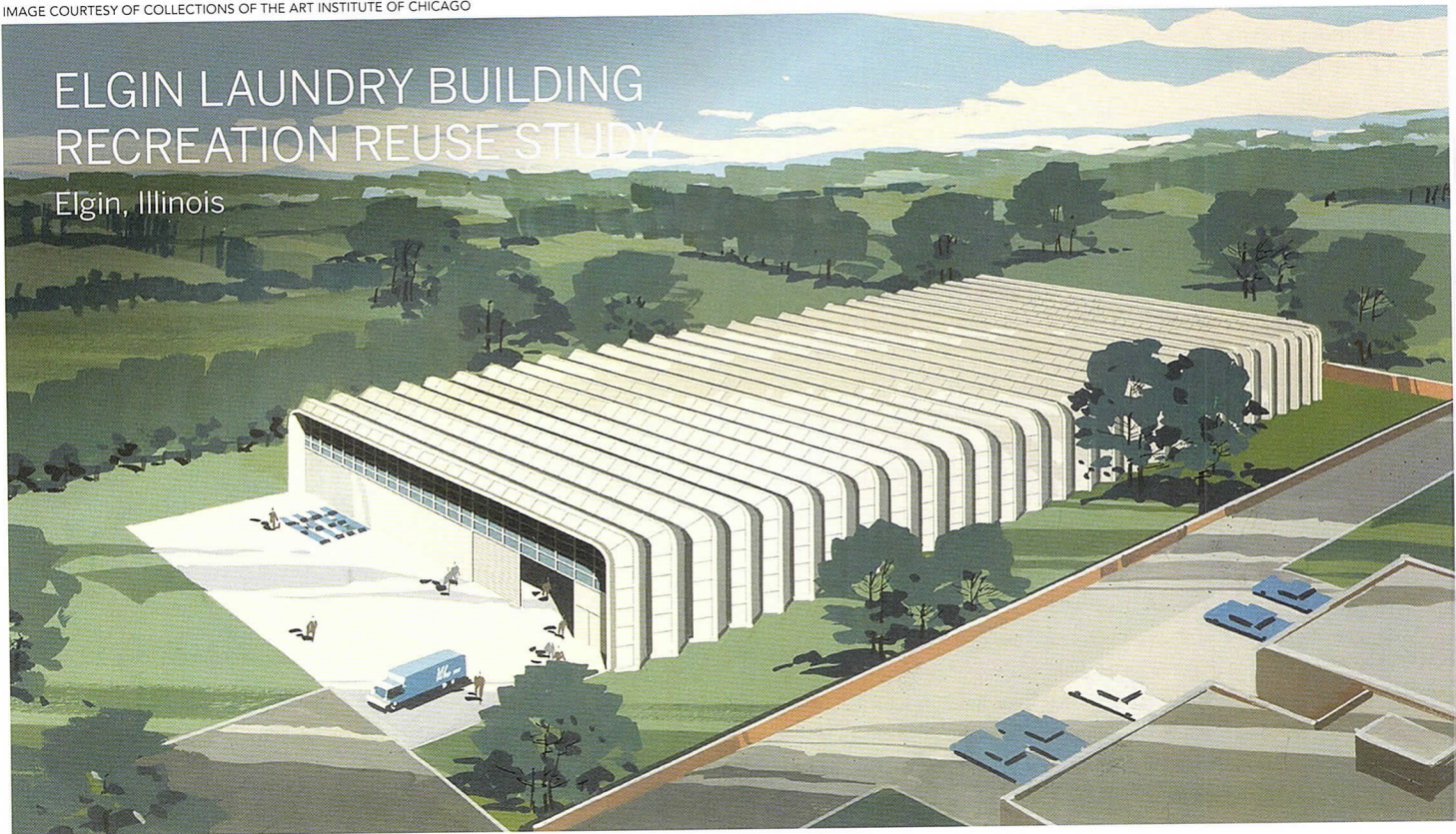




# UNBUILT FORWARD AWARDS

## Honor Award

IMAGE COURTESY OF COLLECTIONS OF THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO



## ELGIN LAUNDRY BUILDING RECREATION REUSE STUDY

Elgin, Illinois

### Elgin Laundry

Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP

Location: Elgin, Illinois

Client: Landmarks Illinois

Collaborator: City of Elgin

Designed in 1967 by Bertrand Goldberg, the Laundry Building in Elgin, Illinois, is a rare piece of architectural history. Vacant for many years and currently part of the Elgin Mental Health Center campus, the facility is now used for storage by City of Elgin Parks and Recreation Department.

Goldberg's design is defined by large, V-shaped concrete structural members, which create a unique, column-free, hangar-like interior. The study honors the building's signature architectural expression while incorporating innovative sustainability strategies and creating a recreational hub for the community.

The study proposes a sustainable design with soaring, day-lit spaces for an array of recreational functions, including soccer, basketball, strength training, martial arts and dance. "I like how the interior is a remodel but takes cues from the original. It showcases the historic elements," one juror said.

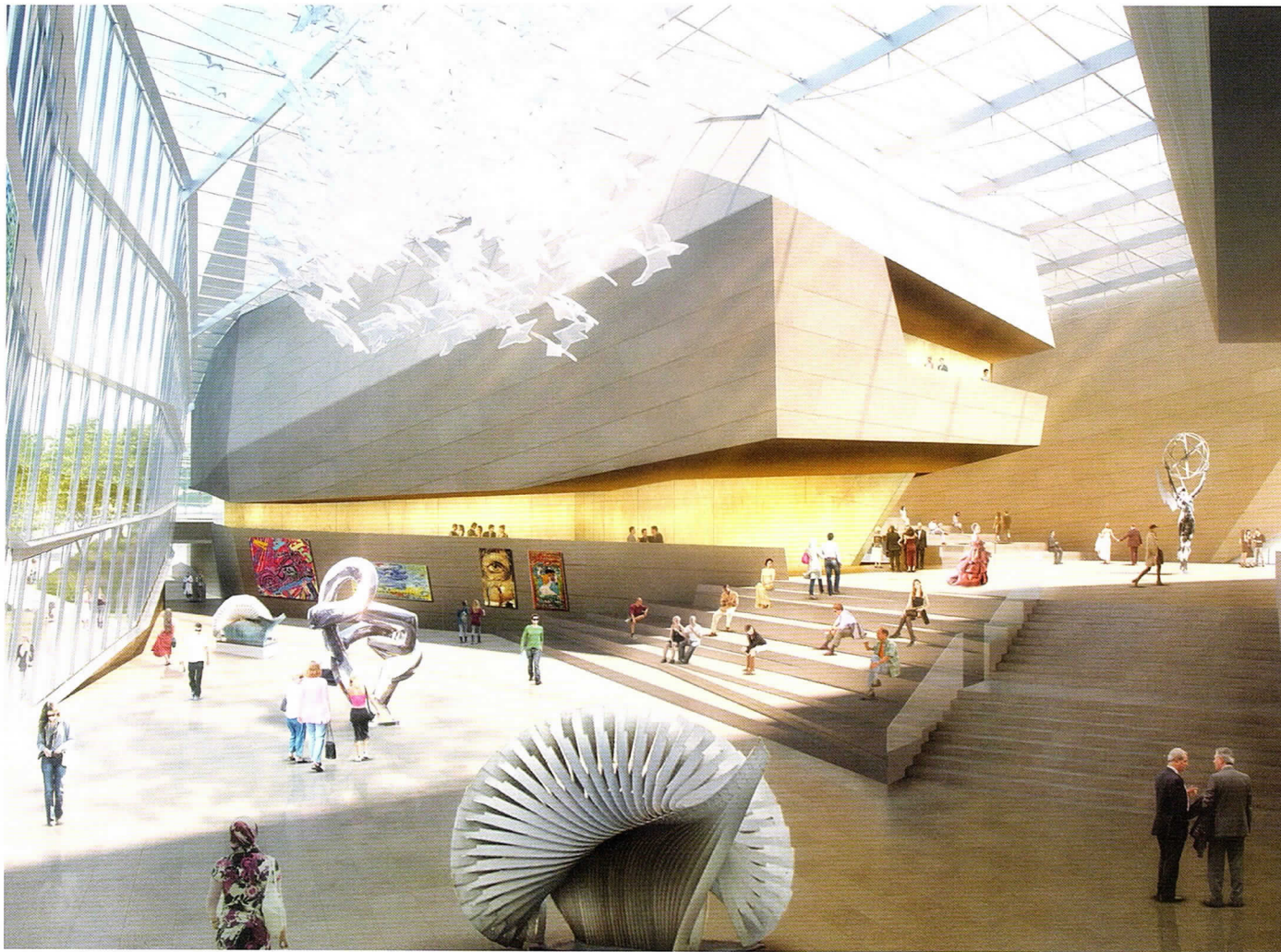
IMAGES BY SKIDMORE, OWINGS & MERRILL LLP



The proposed reuse aims to achieve zero net-energy in line with sustainability goals set by the Living Building Challenge 3.0, incorporating photovoltaic panels in the roof geometry, introduction of additional daylighting by providing skylight-glazing infill to existing removable precast ventilation panels, natural ventilation, fabric daylight diffusers and acoustically absorptive surfaces, rainwater harvesting and reuse. "The firm obviously did their research," one juror asserted, "There is so much consideration taken in the design."



IMAGE BY ADRIAN SMITH + GORDON GILL ARCHITECTURE



### Istanbul Cultural Center

Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture

Location: Istanbul, Turkey

Client: City of Istanbul

The Istanbul Cultural Center is an integrated group of state-of-the-art cultural buildings and public spaces. The primary goal of the center is to allow residents maximum accessibility to world-class cultural venues — the design integrates the building with the plaza and park. City views currently only accessible by the private sector will become public.

The full program of the cultural center includes several outdoor public performance venues; public gardens and lawns; four performance venues, an opera house, a concert hall, and more; as well as a public linear park. “The scale of the spaces lend more to civic interventions,” one juror said.

Istanbul Cultural Center seeks to recreate a cultural destination for



Taksim Square by regenerating a semi-abandoned and under-utilized site for the beneficial enjoyment of the local population and world visitors. By reworking the walk, the new site includes public amenities and increases public space by 50 percent from its current condition.



# UNBUILT FORWARD AWARDS

## Citation of Merit

### Blue Line Visioning

Muller2

Location: Chicago, Illinois

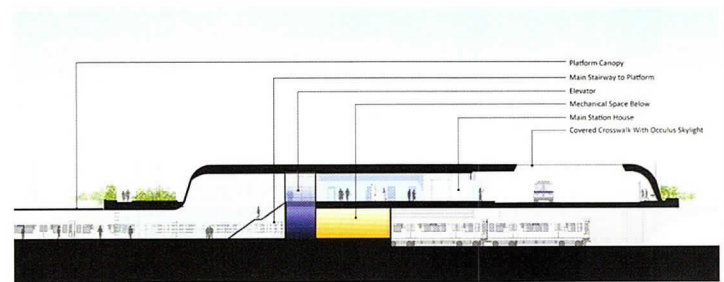
Client: Chicago Transit Authority

Professional Engineer: WSP

Blue Line Visioning is an effort to utilize research and design to create a path forward for the redevelopment of the Forest Park branch of the Chicago Transit Authority's Blue Line through the design of a new station prototype. Transit stations located within Chicago's I-290 thoroughfares have unique challenges, including stations that leave passengers and employees exposed to the elements as well as noise from highway motor vehicles. Vehicle routes and lane configurations were studied in order to propose modifications that would integrate bike lanes as well as accessible crosswalks.

Sustainable design strategies focus on passive strategies, energy efficiency, and the use of on-site renewable energy production. Photovoltaic panels within the roof system of the station house, as well as the platform canopy structures, allow the station to operate independently from, and even offer excess energy back, to the grid. "The project outlines a realistic future of what infrastructure can be," one juror said. "This is what we need now," another added, "more projects that push us into the future."

IMAGES BY MULLER2



### Ski Saudi

CallisonRTKL

Landscape Designer: Studio Outside

Landscape Architecture Urban Design

Lighting Designer: Kaplan Gehring McCarroll

Architectural Lighting

Digital Experience: DigitalKitchen

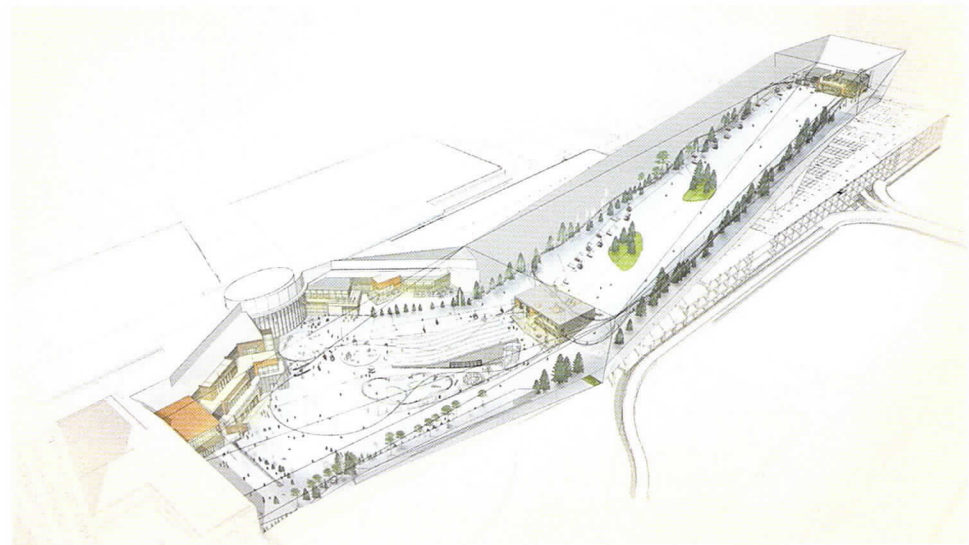
Fit Out Consultant: WSP

Structural Engineer: Thornton Tomasetti

Ski Saudi is a 30,000-square-meter enclosed snow park and ski slope, intended to satisfy the desire to experience snow and snow activities in the desert. Envisioned to be part of a planned mixed-use development, Ski Saudi acts as a cultural anchor to the development and intends to attract international and regional visitors seeking snow sports and snow experiences.

The 550-meter-long envelope is an architectural expression that focuses on user experience and interface with snow. The faceted and wedge-like form similar to Penitentes ice formations takes its shape from an analysis of space usage, experi-

IMAGE BY CALLISONRTKL



ence and energy use and utilizes structural design characteristics that mimic bridge construction. Environmental challenges are mitigated through the use of photovoltaics, geothermal systems and

a cladding composed of sand and mortar prefab panels, intended to allow the skin to breathe.

"It's thoughtful, and the team explained all components thoroughly," a juror said.



# UNBUILT FORWARD AWARDS

## Citation of Merit

### Chicago Portage National Historic Site Picnic Shelters

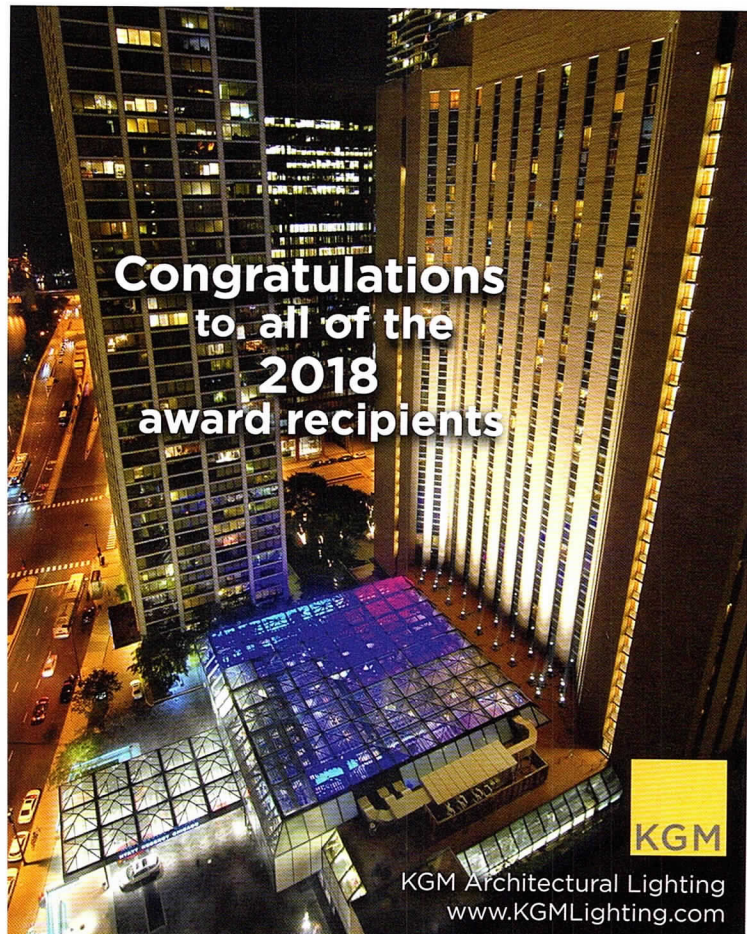
exp

Location: Chicago, Illinois

Client: Cook County Forest Preserve

Portaging: The act of carrying a canoe overland from one body of water to another. Typically, canoes were carried upside-down overhead and often used as shelter for overnight camps. The Chicago Portage National Historic Site commemorates the place where Native Americans led Marquette and Joliet to the portage connection between Lake Michigan and the Mississippi. Conceptually, the design draws inspiration from traditional canoe construction, with steel bents (inverted "U" shapes) forming the main structure similar to the u-shaped straps that form the canoe hull. The structural bents are arrayed as a series of parallelograms to suggest a back-and-forth movement as with the act of rowing and portaging. The roof plane floats underneath like the floor boards of the canoe. The structure is cor-ten steel, relating to the existing site sculpture while being virtually maintenance-free. "For a park structure, the design is elegant and sculptural; bold for this context," a juror commented.

IMAGES BY EXP



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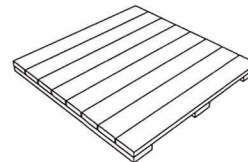
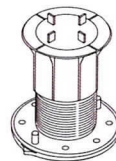
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# UNBUILT FORWARD AWARDS

## Special Recognition

### SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR SUBURBAN PROTOTYPE

#### Corporate Suburban Office Campus

Epstein

Principal Designer: Andrew Metter, FAIA

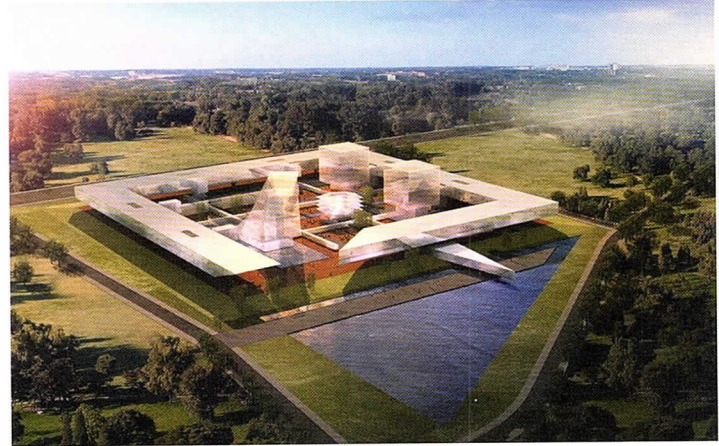
Location: Schaumburg, Illinois

A 40-acre communal work village combines large-scale office space with individual discrete pavilions. Each pavilion houses communal amenity space, (café, stores, gym, conference center) while the office work space, housed in a surrounding ring, is treated as modular, universal, flexible space. The pavilions are situated on a slightly elevated plaza, which serves as an extension of the prairie.

Building cores and pavilions are connected by glass-enclosed walkways, creating a pedestrian path system which crisscrosses the plaza. Parking, mechanical distribution systems and building cores are located under this green plaza. The organization follows from an analogy to the prairie biome: individual plants (pavilions) as an expression of a common, below-grade, root system.

“It’s an interesting prototype for a campus; it moves us forward in how we think about suburban development,” one juror commented.

IMAGE BY EPSTEIN – ANDREW METTER, FAIA, PRINCIPAL DESIGNER



### SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR RESEARCH & URBAN PLANNING

#### Planned Agricultural District

CannonDesign

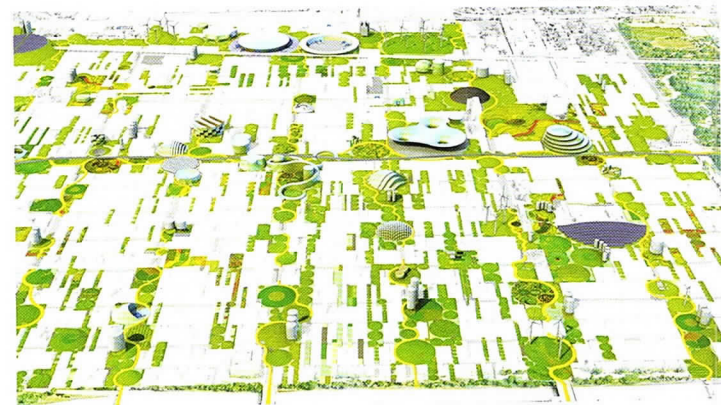
Location: Chicago, Illinois

Client: Chicago Architecture Foundation

Chicago’s West Garfield Park neighborhood, once a vibrant epicenter, has seen alarming vacancy and safety issues over the last half-century. The Planned Agricultural District (PAD) adds new neighborhood amenity space by using available land for vertically integrated agricultural production and distribution.

The urban plan aims to create a new market square focusing on visibility, safety, food access, commerce and transit. The PAD’s zoning mechanism will incentivize the creation of a co-operative land ownership for the community of vacant or city-owned lands. These lands will be available for uses of agriculture, processing, distribution and transportation of goods and services created in the district. The PAD will bring new vitality to the area, offering land-ownership for existing and displaced residents to help reknit the community with agriculture.

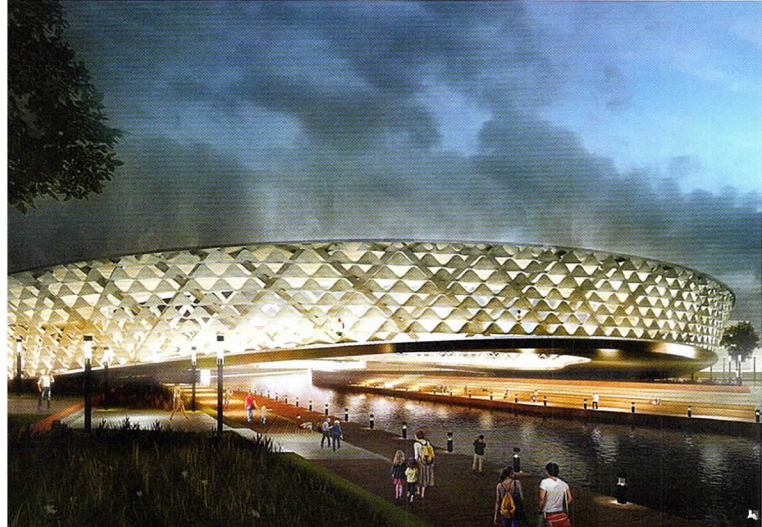
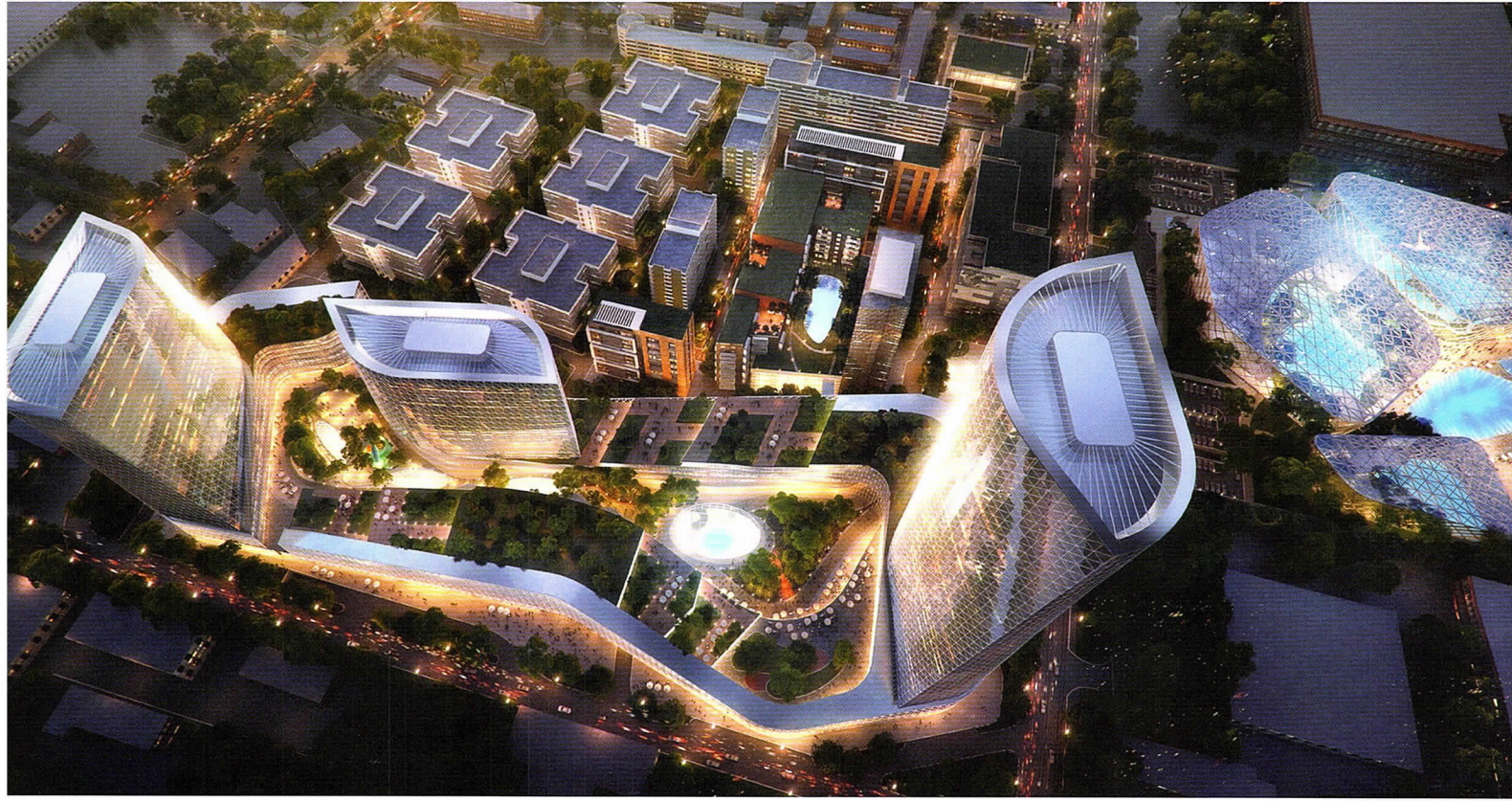
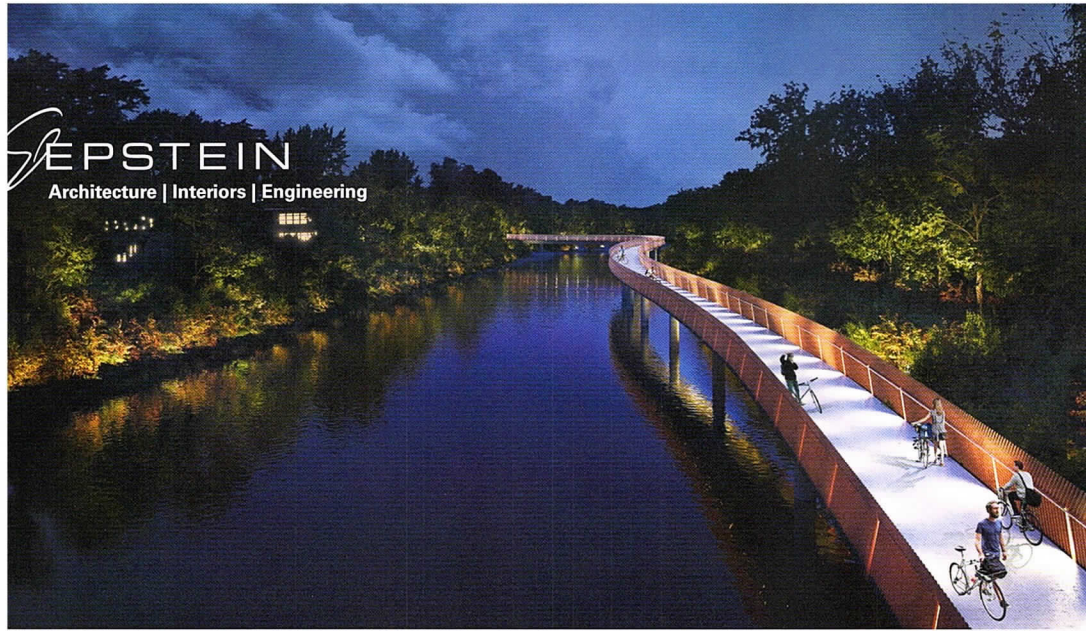
IMAGE BY CANNONDESIGN



“It’s a good idea for reclaiming infrastructure loss, and I appreciate bringing design and planning to a social level,” one juror said. “How do you rejuvenate a part of the city without, say, putting in Starbucks? This is how,” another added. **CA**



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ROSA PARKS APARTMENTS CONSISTS OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF 94 AFFORDABLE RENTAL APARTMENTS IN EIGHT BUILDINGS SCATTERED ACROSS 21 CITY LOTS IN WEST HUMBOLDT PARK. IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE AN ECONOMY OF SCALE AND AFFORDABILITY, THE BUILDINGS VARY FROM SIX TO 27 UNITS, AND ARE ALL A VARIATION ON A THEME OF THE SAME MODULAR FACADE. LBBA RECEIVED A DISTINGUISHED BUILDING AWARD FOR THE PROJECT IN 2011.



PHOTO CREDIT ANDREAS E.G. LARSSON



# The Citizen Architect

AIA Chicago Awards Peter Landon, FAIA, the 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award

BY LAURIE PETERSEN

“I know a Pete Landon building when I see one, and they’re always good,” declared Roberta Feldman, AIA. On the other hand, prospective clients will sometimes drive right past the firm’s work and then tell them, “We didn’t see your building.” This paradox illustrates Landon’s remarkable ability to quietly enhance a neighborhood with well-designed buildings that accomplish a social mission.

Landon’s unswerving dedication to his early calling of socially conscious work has earned him the admiration of many colleagues. James Baird, FAIA, said, “So many of us in college had his career path in mind; he actually pursued it. He held tight to his ideals of the type of practice he wanted to have and made it happen.”

Landon’s civic involvement echoes the ideals of his architecture practice. He is currently the president of the board of Chicago Public Art Group, which unites artists with community members in the city’s neighborhoods. And he continues to serve on planning committees, including one that advocates for affordable housing in his own community of Lincoln Park.

In his typical low-key way, Landon is excited about receiving the AIA Chicago Lifetime Achievement Award not because it honors him personally but because it recognizes the importance of affordable housing and community development. He is proud

PHOTO CREDIT: LONDON BONE BAKER ARCHITECTS



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PHOTO BY WAYNE CABLE

AT LOS VECINOS, A SUPPORTIVE HOUSING COMMUNITY IN WEST HUMBOLDT PARK, LONDON BONE BAKER FACILITATED PROGRAMS FOR RESIDENTS TO CREATE PUBLIC ARTWORKS. THE RESULTING MOSAIC IS DISPLAYED INSIDE.



to have built a firm that will carry on the founding ethos proclaimed on their website: “Good design is for everyone.” He noted, “Originally everything flowed through me; now many jobs are run by Catherine or Jeff.” (Catherine Baker, AIA, and Jeff Bone, FAIA, became partners in 2002 and 1999.) However, he is far from ready to fade away, and James Baird said Landon “still has a lifetime of achievement ahead of him.”

Landon’s choice of profession seems almost predestined. His mother was an artist, the daughter of an architect, and she encouraged all her children to pursue the arts. His father was an electrical engineer who enjoyed rehabbing and building furniture for their house in the Chicago suburbs. When Landon took a high school architecture class, his design of a house advanced him to a state-level competition.

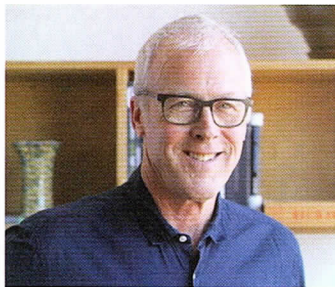
After graduating from Kansas University, Landon moved to San Francisco and worked on converting loft buildings to artist live/work spaces. Then it was back to Kansas, where he and a group of friends did design/build projects, including geodesic domes and an A-frame structure designed for transcendental meditation. He was also designing and building furniture.

He moved back to Chicago in the mid-1970s with the goal of joining Harry Weese’s firm. But he ended up working on sewage treatment plants at Consoer Townsend. He took a break to spend several months at Arcosanti, the utopian design community in Arizona. Of all his varied experiences, he said, “I learned a lot, and I saw how different kinds of buildings get put together.”

When he got back to Chicago for good, he interviewed at Harry Weese Associates with Harry’s brother Ben: “We felt we were on the same wavelength right off the bat.” Ben became an important mentor to him, and shortly after Ben and his wife Cindy broke away to start their own firm, Landon became one of their

PARKSIDE OF OLD TOWN

PHOTO CREDIT LESLIE SCHWARTZ



first hires. Landon acknowledged their importance to him in an award acceptance speech: “They taught me so much about the richness of our city ... and they gave me entrée to the rich, complex and fascinating world of affordable housing and community development [which] is what I had wanted to do.”

After a decade at Weese Seegers Hickey Weese, Landon had truly found his calling, so in 1987, he established his own practice to focus on affordable housing. With the

Weeses’ blessing, he took with him a client that remains an important one to this day: Bickerdike Redevelopment Corporation. Bickerdike had been founded in 1967 by residents of the near Northwest side who wanted to develop and preserve affordable housing in their neighborhood. Their executive director at the time, Bob Brehm, said, “The architect is the most critical member of the development team; you’ve got to think alike and be on the same page.” He recalled, “Pete would be frustrated that buildings in wealthy neighborhoods got so much scrutiny over their design; he said that low-income housing should have high standards, too.”

Brehm remembered specific examples of how Landon was able to maintain high-design quality on a low budget. When a contractor wanted to use jumbo size brick for cost reasons, instead of rejecting the idea, Landon suggested laying it in a different bond pattern to avoid an institutional look. That simple change “made a huge difference,” Brehm said. Landon is so familiar

with the construction process that he knows exactly how far a wall can jog out without incurring additional cost. And sustainability — constructing tight, energy-efficient buildings in dense urban neighborhoods — has always been part of the equation.

In addition to community-based affordable housing, Landon’s portfolio includes many current or former Chicago Housing Authority properties. One of the firm’s best-known successes is the rehabilitation of Archer Courts in Chinatown. The simple moves of glassing in exterior corridors and injecting pops of color into the façade created a profound transformation. For Theaster Gates’s Rebuild Foundation, the firm rehabbed the abandoned Dante Harper homes into the Dorchester Art + Housing Collaborative. And the firm has been working with Holsten Real Estate Development to create the mixed-income Parkside of Old Town community in the area formerly occupied by Cabrini-Green.

Given this experience, and Landon’s longstanding commitment to participatory design, it was not



PHOTO CREDIT: BALLOGG PHOTOGRAPHY



PHOTO CREDIT: DAVID SCHALLIOL



TERRACE 459 AT PARKSIDE OF OLD TOWN (IIB)

PHOTO BY LANDON BONE BAKER ARCHITECTS



THE LBBA LABS PROGRAMS OFFER A SIX-WEEK PAID INTERNSHIP TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND COLLEGE-AGE MENTORS.

surprising that his firm won the commission for the National Museum of Public Housing. Landon relished the opportunity to listen to the community's stories and "not impose a narrative, but be the steward of the vision of the community," according to Todd Palmer. Throughout the lengthy development process, Landon has helped maintain momentum for the project with public outreach and pop-up exhibits.

One of the most remarkable things about the firm is how many different ventures it has created. One program — archi-treasures — has even taken on an independent existence. This organization, which works with community members on grassroots arts-based projects, such as murals and arts camps, was started two decades ago by a Scottish intern at the firm. Neil Gaffney and Landon had weekly meetings with residents at Cabrini-Green to brainstorm a community arts projects. Gaffney was so inspired by the process, he extended his internship another year so he could helm another project, this one in Humboldt Park. When it was completed, Landon and a small group of artists and designers formalized the organization with a board of directors and an executive director, Joyce Fernandes. She praises Landon's hands-on participation over the years. "He is so approachable and kind, and he does work that dignifies all kinds of people's lives."



Another program that is still going strong is LBBA Labs. Begun in 2010, the program offers a paid six-week summer internship to high school students and college-age mentors interested in architecture, design and planning. Each year, students engage in a specific research project that involves interviewing community members, gathering data and exploring design solutions. In recent years, the scope has expanded to include training in architecture skills, such as building models and using software programs. This past summer, the students interviewed future residents of LBBA-designed tiny houses and then designed and fabricated furniture to meet their needs.

The idea of students' designing furniture was a logical extension of another unique offspring of the firm, Knothead Furniture. When Landon's children were young, he wanted to create sturdy, attractive furniture. And he wanted to bring the warmth of wood to low-budget interiors. Thus, the concept was born of creating a line of "Simple Furniture Built to Last." Seating pieces include an origami-like "easy chair," described as a cross between a lazy boy and a paper airplane. Knothead chairs and tables often enliven public spaces of LBBA buildings, and custom-designed built-ins such as bunk beds and armoires

maximize tight spaces in individual rooms of supportive housing.

Several projects in the firm's broad spectrum of socially conscious housing — affordable, public, mixed-income, supportive, SRO, micro units,

senior — incorporate both Knothead furniture and archi-treasures artwork. Furniture, art, architecture — it's all part of Landon's broad humanistic vision about the power of design and the right of everyone to share in it. **CA**

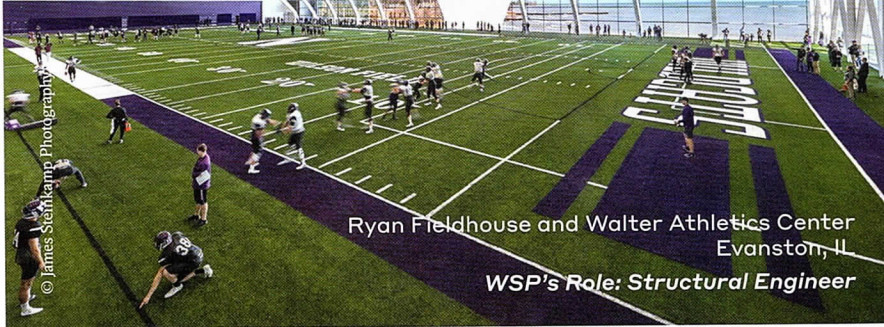



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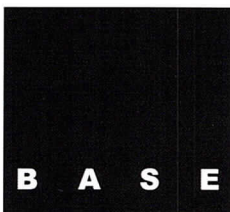
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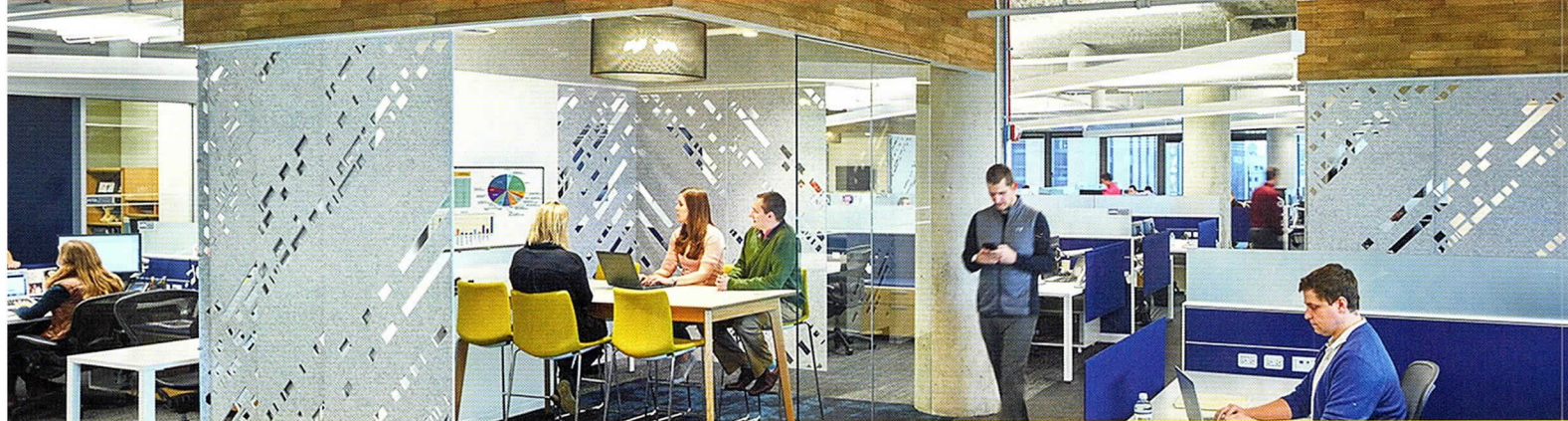
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