

CHICAGO ARCHITECT

JANUARY // FEBRUARY // 2020

JENNIFER PARK, AIA

2019 DUBIN FAMILY YOUNG ARCHITECT AWARD RECIPIENT // 34

**BRININSTOOL + LYNCH
FIRM OF THE YEAR // 28**

REIMAGINE THE ROOF

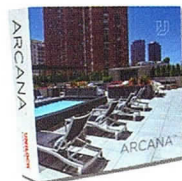
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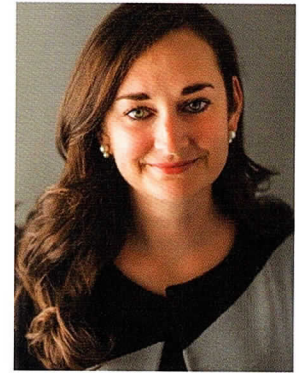
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DESIGNING TOWARD SUSTAINABILITY

Happy New Year! I'm honored to serve as your 2020 Board President. We have a lot to accomplish in 2020, addressing issues such as climate change and local advocacy. We have a lot of work to do, and I'm excited we'll be tackling it together.

At Designight this past October, I outlined my 2020 priorities and initiatives, the most significant being an emphasis on sustainability. As architects, we have a duty to ensure that our work — in all sizes and scales — meets sustainability goals set by the 2030 commitment. It isn't an easy task, but saving the world never is.

In this issue we highlight three small firms working on projects of varying sustainability goals: from a multi-generational, LEED-certified home, to a small-scale community center approaching Passive House Institute certification, we chat with firm owners to find out how they are adopting sustainability into their practice. Each firm is 2030 committed yet has reached varying points in reporting their project data using the national DDX system. You'll hear from those firm owners about how they take or plan on taking on the big task of data reporting with limited staff, and what inspires them to design even the smallest projects with sustainability at heart.

This issue also includes an opinion piece by Dan Earles, AIA. In his article, he presses the importance of Mayor Lori Lightfoot's initiative to provide resources to businesses owned by LGBTQ individuals. A petition has been circling throughout the architecture community in support of this proposal, and I encourage members to read his piece and support the initiative.

This issue's feature article is about Brininstool + Lynch, the 2019 Firm of the Year Award recipient. For 30 years, Brininstool + Lynch has been creating unique and timeless spaces, tapping into rigorous modernist principles and histories. Their commitment to their artistic vision and dedication to supporting diverse practitioners within and outside of their practice is well-known throughout the architecture community. Congratulations to their team, and to Jennifer Park, AIA, recipient of the 2019 Dubin Family Young Architect Award, who is also featured in this issue.

I'd like to thank Bob Forest, FAIA, for helping mentor me into this position, and to all of you for your enthusiasm. I'm looking forward to this great new year!

April Hughes, AIA

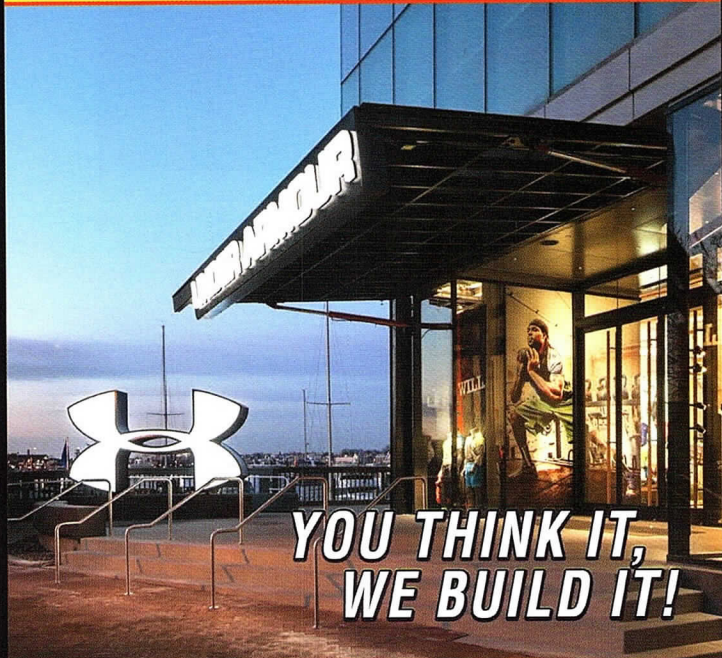


Chicago Architect, the primary outreach tool of AIA Chicago, is published six times a year as an authoritative resource for architects, the larger design community and the public about architecture and related issues of interest to Chicago architects. The magazine communicates industry trends, the value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

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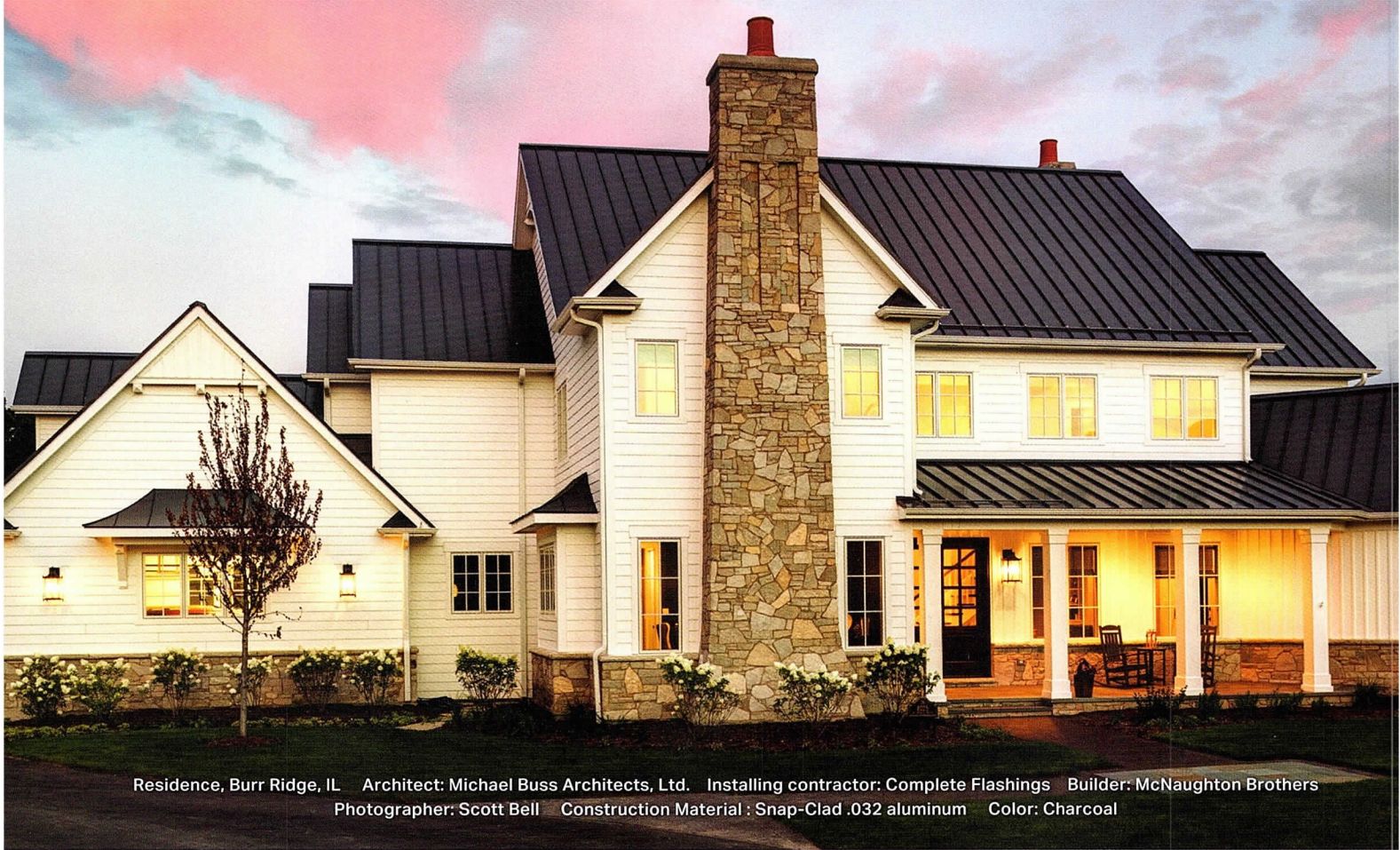


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"When the owners decided they wanted a metal roof, we were all-in. We were looking at renderings on the computer and when we put the metal roof on the design, all of a sudden this quaint house became stunning."

-Michael Buss, AIA, Michael Buss Architects, Ltd.



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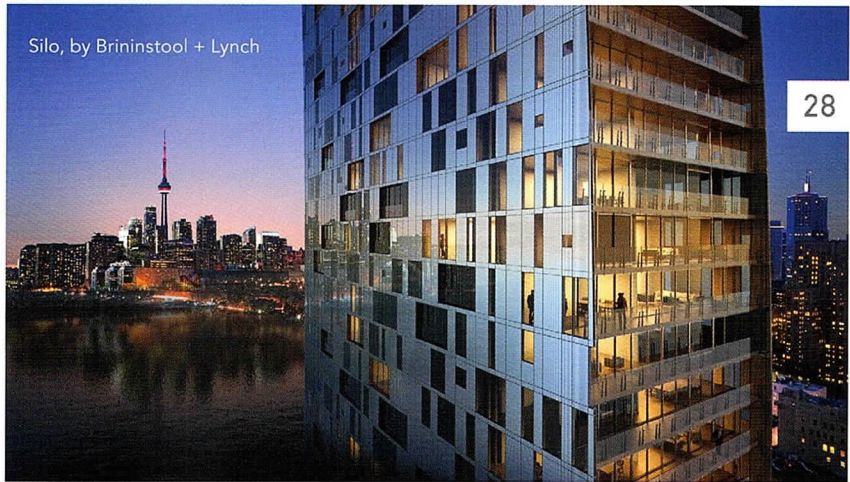
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IMAGE COURTESY OF BRININSTOOL + LYNCH



PHOTO CREDIT: DARRIS LEE HARRIS

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ON THE COVER

Jennifer Park, AIA, 2019 Dubin Family
Young Architect Award Recipient

Credit: Darris Lee Harris



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AUSTIN GARDENS ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER



The Austin Gardens Environmental Education Center for the Park District of Oak Park sits within Austin Gardens — a quiet natural area nearby Oak Park’s bustling main strip. When working with architect Tom Bassett-Dilley, AIA, the Park District of Oak Park sought a versatile building: space for children’s nature day camps, environmental education programs, seasonal activities and a hub for other community events that could be wrapped up in a sustainable structure.

What Dilley’s firm, Tom Bassett-Dilley Architects (TBDA), delivered is a unique building that connects to its natural surroundings and employs technologies to

deliver a LEED Platinum certified community hub.

“The idea was to create a building that could teach people about the elements of

sustainability — water reclamation, solar and geothermal technologies — and how to employ those principles at home,” Dilley said.

The thermal envelope was designed using Passive design strategies, like optimum insulation, thermal bridge avoidance, airtightness and

triple-glazed windows. Heating and cooling use a ground-source heat pump (geothermal) system with heat recovery ventilation. "It's a nice little building with a big solar array," commented Dilley: the solar photovoltaic system was designed to offset the predicted annual energy use of the facility. All lighting is LED, using motion detection for auto-shutoff and daylight dimming. Rainwater is slowed through a green roof, then collected in a cistern for toilet flushing, while excess is diverted to rain gardens on site.

Grants provided to the project by Illinois Clean Energy Foundation allowed them to pursue LEED Platinum; it was a pleasant surprise when their modeling achieved something closer to Net Zero. Ongoing data collection by the Park District could confirm the building's Net Zero status.

"These types of grants can help — especially public agency — clients clear that initial cost hurdle," said Dilley.

Ultimately, TBDA, a firm staffed only by six employees (three licensed architects, two Certified Passive House Consultants and one part-time administrator), is the only firm in Illinois to reach the national benchmark of 70 percent energy reduction in their buildings. "Our firm has committed not just to 2030, but to energy modeling in general," stated Dilley. "It's the biggest hurdle for a small firm, but there are a lot of inexpensive tools out there that can help show you the impact of your design decisions in real time." **CA**

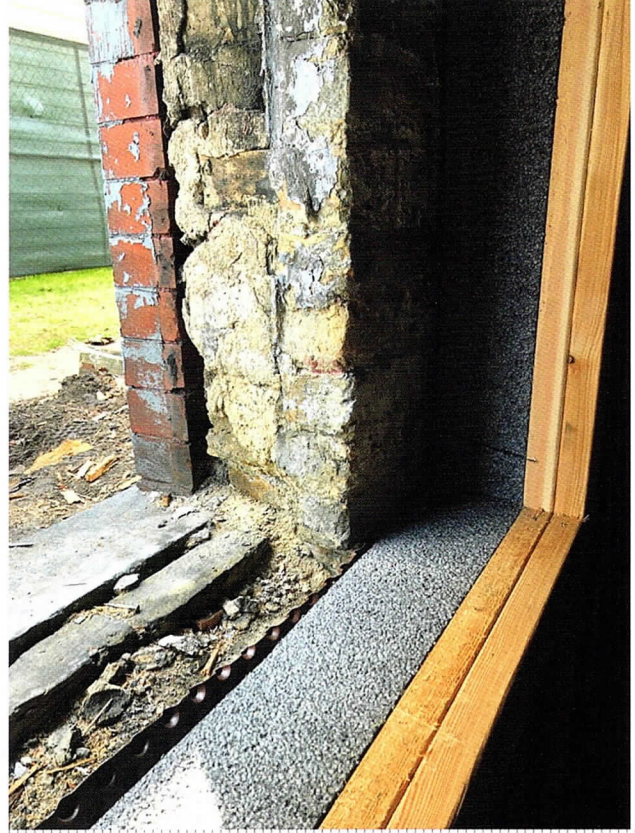
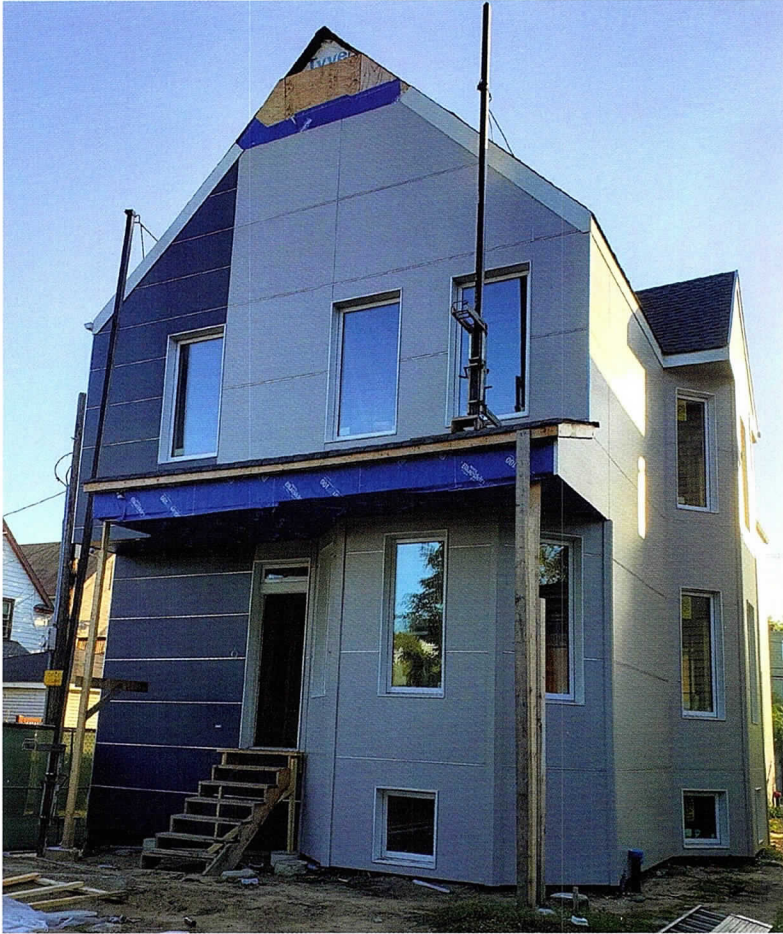


HPZS PASSIVE HOUSE RENOVATION



IMAGES COURTESY OF HPZS

Achieving Passive House standards isn't easy to do, and it's particularly difficult when rehabbing a 100-year-old home. HPZS has been commissioned to renovate an existing residence to meet Passive House Institute US (PHIUS+) standards, as part of a first-of-its-kind speculative low-energy renovation project in Chicago. The project will add a 500-square-foot addition and will completely renovate the interior and exterior of the building.



According to April Hughes, AIA, principal of HPZS, the owner purchased the Ravenswood home after preventing its demolition. He had worked with Hughes in the past to develop his own nearby LEED Platinum residence, and decided to renovate the building with further sustainability in mind.

“There was one thing we could do that hasn’t been done, and that’s a Passive House-certified renovation. It’s complicated, challenging and speculative, but it would create a precedent for speculative sustainable homebuilding in the Midwest,” said Hughes.

HPZS is working with the client to determine the pro

IT’S COMPLICATED, CHALLENGING AND SPECULATIVE, BUT IT WOULD CREATE A PRECEDENT FOR SPECULATIVE SUSTAINABLE HOMEBUILDING IN THE MIDWEST.

— APRIL HUGHES, AIA

forma, design and budget, as well as working in an integrated fashion with the project engineers to ensure architectural solutions meet the engineering energy demands of the project. “We had to get the house airtight, which is difficult with a balloon frame; the house barely stood up once we removed the exterior sheathing,” commented Hughes. They

performed five blower door tests before installing drywall to ensure a leak-free structure to achieve the rigorous interior pressure requirements needed for PHIUS+ certification. The result will be a structure with little need for mechanical systems. HPZS is also coordinating with DreamTown Realty to determine how to get this project to market effectively,

understanding that this extensive renovation has not yet been listed in the region.

As a small firm, HPZS is deeply committed to sustainability, and PHIUS+ certification, according to Hughes, is just one path toward that goal. Yet, as a 2030-committed firm, they have not as of yet reported data through the 2030 DDX. “We need to do a better job of equipping architects to do this type of reporting. Our project will be 70 to 85 percent more efficient than a typical building, but time is a resource,” explained Hughes. “We need to have tools, and most importantly, the confidence to report on the good work already being done.” **CA**

LEED MULTI-GENERATIONAL LIVING IN PILSEN

IMAGES COURTESY OF CANOPY ARCHITECTURE + DESIGN



While baby boomers are relocating back to cities in retirement, many urban-dwelling retirees are choosing to live their golden years among family. Multi-generational housing is a solution for many seniors and their families — grandparents can help with child care and the entire family can ensure elders are safe and mobile. In Pilsen, one family decided that, after many years of living down the street from grandparents, it was time to integrate their households into a multi-unit intergenerational home.

Canopy Architecture + Design, known for its collaborative work with clients in Pilsen and Little Village, was brought on to design a new, three-unit residence and restore the neighboring historic two-flat — all meeting LEED standards.

“The owner came to us first at the start of [the] project knowing we had already completed a couple of other LEED projects in the neighborhood,” commented Jaime Torres, AIA, principal and founder of Canopy. “They’re big nature lovers, they grow fruits and vegetables in their backyard, and love to entertain family and friends often.”

According to Torres, the family also advocates for architecture and energy efficiency, but also desired to spend more time with their older parents. “They put all these priorities together and we began discussing a LEED multi-generational project; truly a dream commission,” commented Torres.

The younger generations will own both buildings; the family will occupy the two-flat with their children, and the three-unit new construction will be occupied by grandparents, extended family, and a rental garden unit. The buildings will be connected to provide shared spaces at multiple floor levels, concentrating the larger gathering areas along the rear of the site for privacy and natural light. “In establishing this project, they will now be able to be literally next door to each other to support each other



with grandkids and grandparent needs. They still will keep privacy in living in independent units along the same site,” said Torres. Both buildings will reach LEED certification to include enhanced indoor air quality measures such as ERV systems throughout, natural daylighting, and aging-in-place considerations for interior finishes.

Canopy is a 2030-committed firm that, like this Pilsen client, sees sustainability as an inherent part of what they do. “It’s in our DNA,” he notes. They became committed in 2018, which means Torres plans

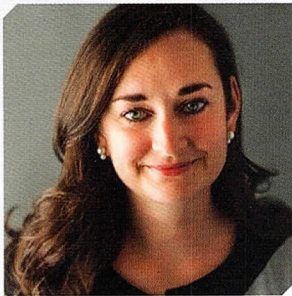
to begin the process of reporting building performance data in 2020. With only 10 employees, Torres understands the challenge of the extra work, but it’s a part of that DNA. “We know we’ll need to devote extra time to document projects — we see the effort as a symbol of our promise to climate response and the environment. We are currently assigning each PM to prepare documentation for completed projects. Hopefully this information is beneficial for both our clients [and] AIA, and other interested groups,” said Torres. **CA**

“IN ESTABLISHING THIS PROJECT, THEY WILL NOW BE ABLE TO BE LITERALLY NEXT DOOR TO EACH OTHER TO SUPPORT EACH OTHER WITH GRANDKIDS AND GRANDPARENT NEEDS.”

— JAIME TORRES, AIA

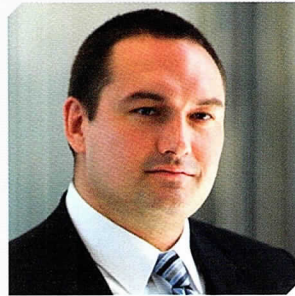


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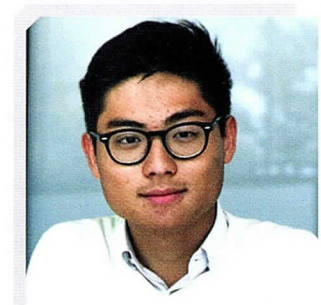
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DESIGNIGHT: 150 YEARS IN THE MAKING

Designight 2019 was a spectacular success: more than 1,000 architects, contractors, engineers and clients packed the Navy Pier Aon Grand Ballroom to celebrate AIA Chicago's 150th anniversary. We announced the two winners of the AIA Chicago Foundation Diversity Scholarship and introduced the upcoming Roberta Feldman Socially Just Design Award.

Visit aiachicago.org to view all submissions to the Design Excellence Awards, and head over to the AIA Chicago Facebook page to view photos from the event.

ANNOUNCING THE ROBERTA FELDMAN SOCIALLY JUST DESIGN AWARD

Announced at Designight 2019, the Roberta Feldman Socially Just Design Award will recognize built, unbuilt and research projects that further the role of architecture in building a more equitable world. The award will be administered by the AIA Chicago Foundation and will present a cash prize to winning projects at Designight beginning in 2020.

This award is generously endowed by Roberta Feldman, PhD. AIA Chicago would like to thank her for her contribution to elevating the work of design professionals in service to local and global communities.

ALL PHOTOS BY STEPHANIE JENSEN



Brininstool + Lynch, 2019 Firm Award recipient



ANNUAL MEETING AND HOLIDAY PARTY

AIA Chicago finished our 150th anniversary at the Annual Meeting and Holiday Party on December 3, 2019. We celebrated Brininstool + Lynch, 2019 Firm Award recipient; Jennifer Park, AIA, 2019 Dubin Family Young Architect Award recipient; and Lee Bey, Distinguished Service Award recipient. Disruptive Design team members from Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS) Chicago, CNI Group, LISC, AIA Chicago and Northern Trust were also honored with a Presidential Citation for their work on the competition to design a prototype for affordable single-family homes.



SMALL PROJECT AWARDS RETURNS FOR ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY

The Small Project Awards annually celebrates design excellence in architecture projects smaller than 10,000 square feet designed by firms with fewer than 10 full-time or equivalent employees.

The 10th annual Small Project Awards opens for submissions on February 10, 2020, and will close March 16, 2020. Visit aiachicago.org for rules and to submit your project.



TRANSFORM LEADERSHIP FOR AEC PROFESSIONALS RETURNS IN 2020

February 12-April 29, 2020
Harold Washington College

AIA transFORM, back for a second year, is an interdisciplinary, interactive series of classes focused on skill building for the business of architecture. Powered by the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses Program, this intensive, five-session series centers on transformational leadership, utilizing strategic, tactical and operational skill sets designed to affect change in an architect's individual career and within their firm.

TransFORM registration is now open. Visit aiachicago.org to learn more or apply.



DESIGNERS AND ARCHITECTS TALK

IIDA and AIA Chicago, together, are pleased to announce the **Designers and Architects Talk: A Series About Design and Its Impact on Client Success** will return in spring 2020 after a highly successful inaugural series. The four-part discussion series, addressing commercial interior architecture and design, will be held at IIDA Headquarters in Chicago.

Join us for four sessions, each bringing together an assembly of the best in design and architecture, featuring topics that cover headline project firm leadership and design strategy:

- Tuesday, February 11: Lauren Rottet, FIIDA, FAIA, in conversation with Cheryl S. Durst, Hon. FIIDA
- Tuesday, March 10: Repositioned and Reimagined: Willis Tower, Tribune Tower and Old Post Office, moderated by Zurich Esposito, Hon. AIA
- Tuesday, April 14: New Design Firms Changing the Face of Chicago, moderated by John Czarniecki, Hon. IIDA, Assoc. AIA
- Tuesday, May 5: Fulton Market: An Evolving City, moderated by Peter Exley, FAIA

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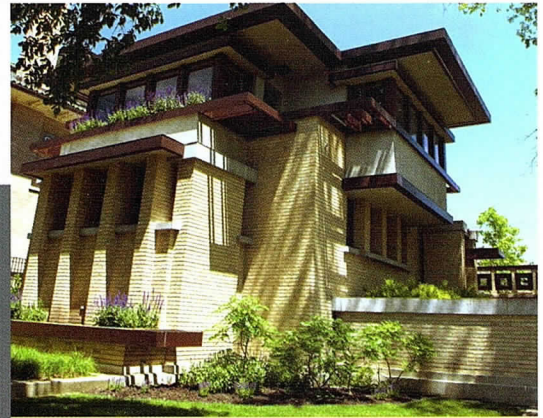
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PHOTO CREDIT: TIM GRIFFITH PHOTOGRAPHY



Margaret Derwent Ketcham has won the Chicago-Midwest Chapter of the Institute of Classical Architecture & Art's Chicago-Midwest ICAA Design Competition. Underpinning this design challenge is a move to correct the private Chicago Yacht Club's current interruption of the otherwise "public" waterfront with a multi-use edifice whose purposes are united under the marine theme: a maritime museum; watersport-oriented park district field house and/or lido; and new Yacht Club facilities.



Goettsch Partners recently completed Park Tower at Transbay in San Francisco, California. The 45-story, 803,700-square-foot tower, which is the new home to Facebook, has a series of large outdoor terraces that provide mini "parks in the sky." The tower's façade is composed of floor-to-ceiling glass and is articulated with vertical glass fins that relate to the location of the tower terraces, which occur at a three-story module.

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PHOTO CREDIT: AJ BROWN IMAGING



Construction has finished on Ascentra Credit Union's new headquarters, designed by **Legat Architects**. The 40,000-square-foot building, one of the tallest in Bettendorf, Iowa, optimizes views toward the Mississippi River.

PHOTO CREDIT: BARKLEY PHOTO



Legat Architects designed RiverStone Group's new 24,000-square-foot headquarters in Davenport, Iowa. The competition-winning design pays tribute to the company's 125-year legacy and to the aggregates that it quarries.

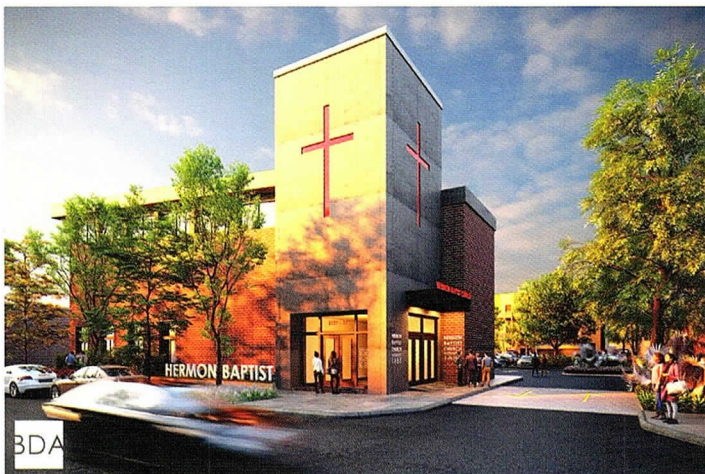
SmithGroup's Chicago office was ranked No. 32 in Chicago Tribune Top Workplaces 2019 in the small office category — the third year in a row that the firm has been recognized in this category.



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JDJ Architects has redesigned the Weil Foot & Ankle Institute, a 54-year-old podiatry practice. The new space highlights the brand and provides patients with a contemporary interior.



BURHANI DESIGN ARCHITECTS was recently commissioned by GMP Development to design a church and community center in the East Garfield Park neighborhood. Apart from the church's offices and sanctuary space, it will house a community center to benefit the local residents. This project is currently in the planning phase, slated to break ground at the beginning of 2020.



Luke Heerema is the new director of business development at Wright Heerema Architects.

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Bailey Edward Design Inc. has completed Phase I of the renovations to bring the Illinois State Fairgrounds Coliseum back to life, installing new, yet historically accurate clerestory windows, louvers, shingles and trim, as well as executing Hanson Engineering’s design to restore the structural integrity of the building. Bailey Edward will continue to lead Phase II of the coliseum’s rehabilitation, focusing on bringing the coliseum back to its 1918-1935 peak appearance as well as upgrades to the MEP system insulation, windows, doors and improved ADA access.

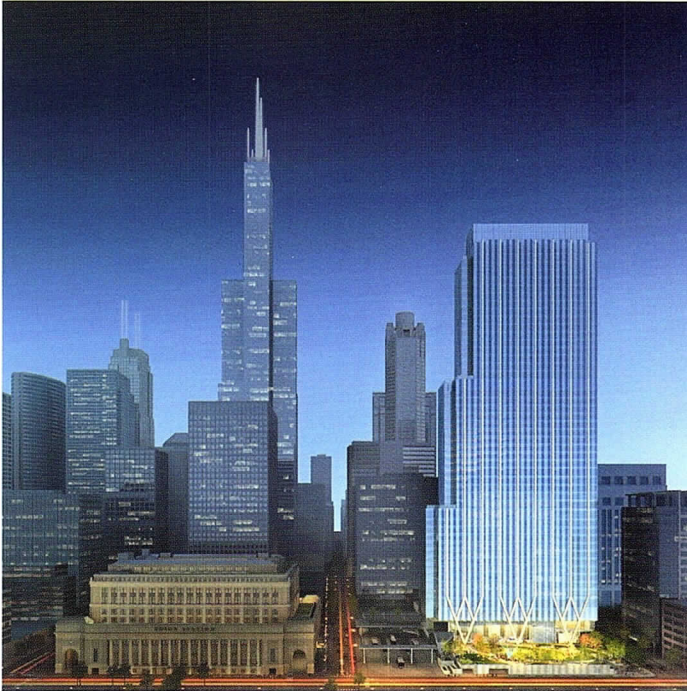
PHOTO CREDIT: IGNACIO
ESPIGARES @ STL ARCHITECTS



STL Architects has completed the Williams Park Fieldhouse, located in the Bronzeville community adjacent to the Chicago Housing Authority Dearborn Homes. It replaces an existing fieldhouse and will support the Chicago Park District and Chicago Housing Authority’s expanding programming needs.



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Construction started for **Goettsch Partners'** Union Station Tower. As part of the larger redevelopment of Chicago Union Station and additional adjacent real estate owned by Amtrak, this project adds a new landmark office tower and major public space to the city.

PHOTO CREDIT: JAMES STEINKAMP PHOTOGRAPHY



Wright Heereema has completed The Schuman, a socially activated office building in Naperville that recently underwent a major redevelopment and renovation.



BURHANI DESIGN ARCHITECTS, in collaboration with Epstein and Wolff Landscape Architects, recently completed Phase-1 of the "Play on Pritzker" project for Pritzker Elementary School in Wicker Park. The newly transformed outdoor facility replaces a worn-out asphalt parking lot that was used as the school's playground for generations. The school and local community are ecstatic about this new urban oasis, which includes a running track, multi-use turf field, basketball courts, play equipment and much needed landscape.

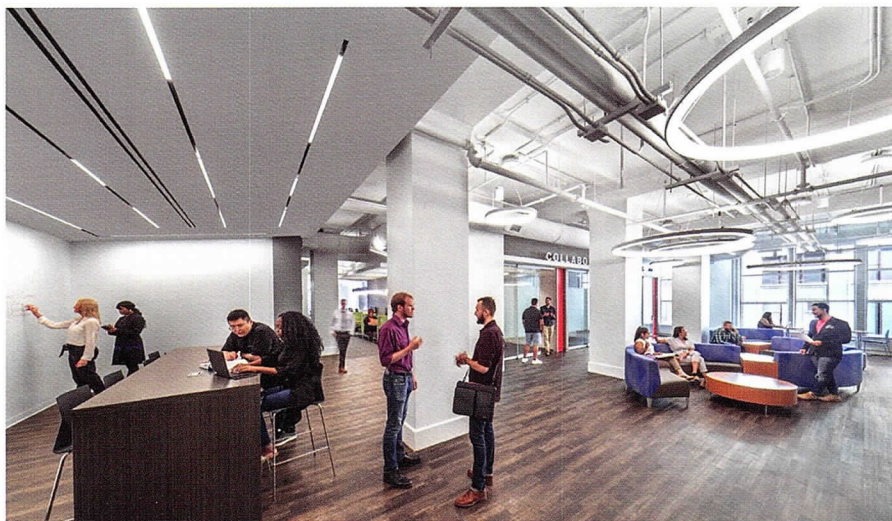
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Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture has released the design of the new South HeXi Yuzui Financial District and Tower. The firm won an international design competition in 2018 to design the new South HeXi Yuzui Financial District and Tower.



Kevin Gildemeister and **Anne Hiter** have moved into director positions on the business development and procurement teams at The Gettys Group.



Griskelis Young Harrell transformed the full eighth floor library stack space into a student-focused collaboration commons at UIC John Marshall Law School. The floor features open meeting space and interactive lounge areas, all with direct access to floor-to-ceiling whiteboards and abundant natural light, divided into usable zones by pods of two-, four-, and six-person meeting rooms.



Structural Engineer **Peter Heppel**, a longtime collaborator of Studio Gang, will act as a technology fellow in the firm's Chicago office.

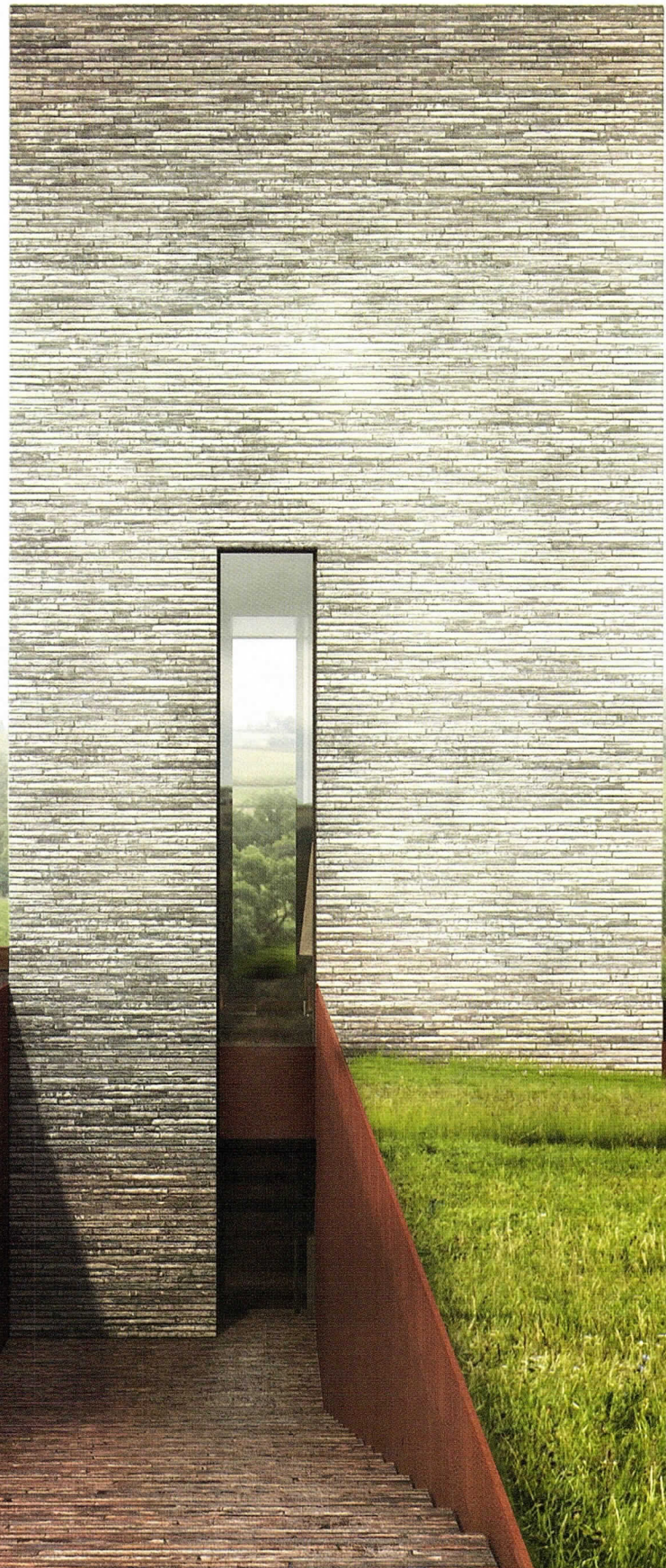
Mineral Point three (MP3) is a weekend retreat in Mineral Point, WI, designed by Brininstool + Lynch. The structure mimics other agrarian structures in this remote area.

IMAGE COURTESY OF BRININSTOOL + LYNCH

AS A MEANS OF LIVING LIFE

Brininstool + Lynch is a business built on artful philosophy, exploration and camaraderie.

30 years later, they are the 2019 Firm of the Year.





Brininstool + Lynch at their 30th anniversary celebration, held at Lincoln Hall in 2019.

A little more than 30 years ago, architect David Brininstool, AIA, was looking to renovate his home and needed some help. So, he put out a call to his fellow architects at the firm he was working at: light construction, mostly, and the promise of beer and good company. When the day came, only one person showed up: Brad Lynch. “As long as David kept buying beer, I’d keep hammering those nails,” said Lynch.

The architecture firm Brininstool + Lynch was founded not too long after that.

The two architects have a lot more in common than just their love of beer and good company. They founded their firm on deep values: a guiding, artful philosophy; a deep admiration for modernist principles; and a desire to create a firm that values that design ethos as well as their fellow designers. For the last 30 years, Brininstool + Lynch has carved a place for themselves among

Chicago’s modernist greats, crafting buildings that are exquisite in their restraint and attention to details. Yet it’s their business model and attention to longevity that impressed the jury of this year’s firm award, making Brininstool + Lynch the 2019 Firm of the Year.

Having attended the Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning at the University of Michigan, Brininstool was influenced by the dean of the college, who happened to have worked for Ludwig

“ALTHOUGH CHICAGO RESISTED LONGER THAN MOST COMMUNITIES, WE EVENTUALLY KIND OF FELL INTO THE POSTMODERN DILEMMA.”

— DAVID BRININSTOOL, AIA

Mies van der Rohe. Modernism was an aesthetic he was drawn to, and as Postmodernism slowly crept up, he

desired to take a stance. “Although Chicago resisted longer than most communities, we eventually kind of fell into the postmodern dilemma,” said Brininstool.

Lynch found himself in a similar situation: having grown up in a community influenced by Frank Lloyd Wright, restoring those buildings, he was less interested in architecture as a practice. “I was more interested in design-build and immersed in art history. Looking at Postmodernism in terms of art and architectural

history, I thought that this whole post-modern Deconstructivism movement was kind of ridiculous, only because it was made up, as opposed to actually having any real connection to art history,” commented Lynch.

Truly, the two connected because they both loved the Inland Steel building.

Since founding the firm in 1989, the team has completed more than 250 projects, ranging in scale from small condo spaces in Chicago, to large towers around the world. One of their smaller projects, completed recently, was for architectural photographer Christopher Barrett. Located in Chicago’s West Town neighborhood, the existing space in a three-story loft building is typical of early 20th century industrial construction. Brininstool + Lynch created an interior aesthetic featuring the building’s heavy timber structure, exposed brick walls and concrete floors. Every insertion is meticulously planned, neatly fitting each component — dark room, work room, lighting placement — into its most logical location. A traditional dark room, generously sized at 9 by 18 feet, is tucked behind an open galley-style millwork workstation. The designers maximized the space for photography, leaving an open bay measuring 18 by 30 feet for flexible use.

“Doing a photographer’s studio has its implicit difficulties in terms of technology, simplicity and budget constraints. Barrett’s studio is going back to the nature of loft buildings of 40 years ago, where simplicity is the reason that a photographer would move into it. So the moves that we have in that are very minimal and very clean and very simple,” explained Lynch. “We don’t make places into things that they’re not. So like, if you look at the studio carefully and critically, it’s a reduction of the space.”



Photographer Christopher Barrett’s studio.



The David M. Rubenstein Forum, designed by Diller Scofidio + Renfro, is a much-anticipated new facility at the University of Chicago. Brininstool + Lynch is the Associate Architect on the project.

The idea of reduction applies to their large-scale projects: In Toronto, the firm was commissioned to transform landmarked silos into a 53-story thriving, multi-use complex of residences, restaurant, lounge and commercial space. The silos’ west-facing elevations were required to remain in place

per their landmark status, which meant the new mixed-use residential tower design had to be integral with the silo structures.

The iconic and vernacular monumentality of the silos and the utilitarian movement of conveyors used in grain elevators affected decisions about place-

ment of program and the form of new structures, rationalizing an irrational set of existing structures to a logical combination of new uses, according to the firm. Again, the team’s design decisions played on the silos’ intended use, reducing them to their purest vertical forms.

The team describes the new design process: existing silos on the east and in the core were removed down to their foundations. The remaining silos were sectioned and repurposed with punched perforations, allowing natural light to illuminate an inserted automated parking structure. The punched perforations also facilitate articulated views to the city from the base of the building. The glass-enclosed base houses retail and commercial space, as well as the restaurant and lounge.

While these two projects are very different in scope, scale

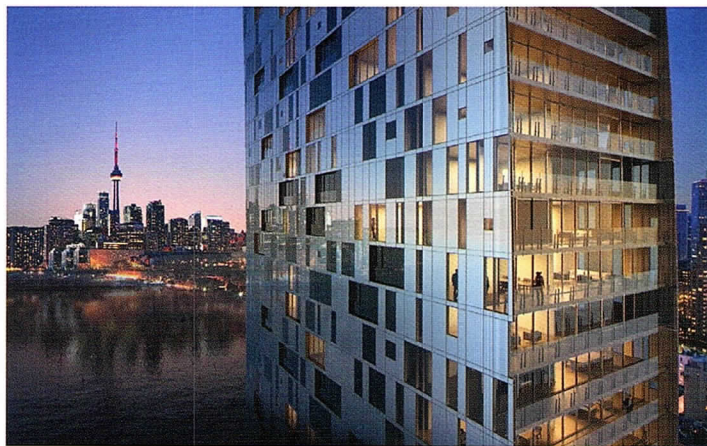
CREDIT: CHRISTOPHER BARRETT

CREDIT: IMAGE BY DILLER SCOFIDIO + RENFRO



and function, the design team's approach — and commitment to the challenges of modernist principles — functions similarly in both cases. "The diversity of scale comes from skill," explained Jennifer Park, AIA, Brininstool + Lynch principal. "That's where it comes down to being a practice that can absorb all those sizes and scales of projects. And that's what we want because, we don't want projects to come our way that ask us to click the copy and paste button. Whether they're commercial or residential projects, we're thoughtful about how we approach them from the start and then the scale from there."

Park is a recent addition to the Brininstool + Lynch team, having left her one-woman practice, Jurassic Studio. Park's arrival coincided with five other promotions to senior-level positions — a plan devised by Lynch and Brininstool



Silo, the 53-story mixed-use building in Toronto by Brininstool + Lynch

to ensure longevity at the firm — proving that the two founders are not just committed to their design ethos but also to their practice as a business. It just happened that the duo learned a lot about the business along the way.

"We received mentorship from people like Stanley Tigerman on running a firm," noted Lynch.

"When you look at those who worked for Tigerman — Ralph Johnson to John Ronan — they adopted a unique approach to the way that they deal with the business of architecture. There's a collage of people who have helped us through the years."

Now that the firm is anchored in their practice, they are planning

for the future. Park, alongside architects Dan Martus, AIA, Pablo Diaz, AIA, and Brad Fowler, AIA, will helm the firm as Lynch and Brininstool raise the flag. "We're going to do new kinds of projects and continue to grow. I just want to maintain that design integrity that the founders built for 30 years moving into the future," said Fowler. "Maintaining that design integrity is just as important as maintaining the culture we have here in the office."

That culture, according to Park, is one of deep respect for a holistic design process, in which all team members are encouraged to be involved in processes of interest to them, whether on the design, construction management or business side. It also means continuing to pursue diversity and provide a stake in the company: "We may only be a mid-sized firm, but diversity remains a top priority for us," commented Park. "Our size will not make us an exception." By installing systems that provide employees with equity in the business for performance, the firm has attracted and retained a multitude of talented individuals who share their values.

With a transition plan in place and a design team committed to the firm's core values, Brininstool + Lynch is ready for the future and can focus deeply on what they love. Stated Lynch, "It was the painter Robert Henry who said, 'I'm interested in art as a means of living a life, not as a means of making a living.' And I think that's really true about people who really love architecture and design, you're going to do it regardless." It's that notion — a love for architecture without regard — that symbolizes Brininstool + Lynch perfectly: A group of people committed to their driving philosophy, practicing that commitment wholly, without hesitation. **CA**

LORI LIGHTFOOT'S RESOLUTION FOR LGBT BUSINESS ENTERPRISES

BY DAN EARLES, AIA, LEED AP ID+C



On September 18, 2019, Mayor Lori Lightfoot introduced a resolution that “calls for the Chief Purchasing Officer and Department of Procurement Services City of Chicago” to provide resources/training to LGBT business owners, and to track data on engagement with businesses that carry the LGBTBE certification under the National LGBT Chamber of Commerce.

Is this a good thing? Is it necessary and, if so, why?

First, is this a good thing? Of course it is. This resolution is a long time coming — it’s been in motion since Lightfoot’s predecessor, Mayor Emanuel, held office. Any design professional who has ever had to deal with the bureaucracy inherent in any large municipality throughout the country is familiar with the difficulty of getting things done. This is not to say that dealing with bureaucracies in smaller communities is any easier. But in a large municipality, not only is less more, but more is more, to paraphrase a phrase familiar to most of us. Hence, educating members of the LGBT business community on the processes of procuring LGBTBE business opportunities with the city of Chicago benefits both the

community and the city by avoiding common errors that might delay the process.

Is it necessary? Yes, and here’s why. Since the national elections of 2016, bigotry, racism and inequality have become the rampant mantra of the current administration. Examples of this abound throughout the country in many areas of life, including the LGBT community. This resolution will assist LGBT businesses in avoiding the pitfalls of making technical or bureaucratic errors that could be used as an excuse to exclude those members from fair competition with the slightest pretext.

What are the intended effects? The primary goal is simply to educate the LGBT community and streamline the procurement process to obtain fair opportunities for contracting with the city

and to increase participation. It is simply a way to help level the playing field for those entities that need assistance. Nothing more. Nothing less. It is not intended to serve as a set aside.

Furthermore, it will provide concrete economic data on the impact of the LGBT community. According to the city’s procurement office, Chicago awarded about \$450 million worth of contracts to women- and minority-owned businesses last year. Additionally, USASpending reported the federal government awarded \$70.7 billion in similar contracts. We have yet to progress to collecting data on the impact of LGBT-owned businesses. Many cities across the country, including Nashville, Tennessee; Orlando, Florida; and Jersey City, New Jersey, have already implemented

this resolution to change their supplier programs to include LGBT vendors in an effort to push forward a federal initiative to track and report on our impact. According to a 2017 report from the National LGBT Chamber of Commerce, that impact is estimated to be \$1.7 trillion. It’s time.

Mayor Lori Lightfoot should be commended for her efforts. **CA**

Dan Earles, AIA, LEED AP ID+C, founded Earles Architects & Associates in 1991 to create client-focused architectural, interior design, and planning services that foster a culture of diversity, inclusion and collaboration.

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