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CHICAGO'S NEW
CIVIC SPACES // 8

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THE POWER OF PUBLIC SPACES

Daniel Burnham wrote that “to love one’s city, and have a part in its advancement and improvement, is the highest privilege and duty of a citizen.” As members of the robust community of architects in our beloved Chicago, we carry this responsibility with optimism and courage, imagining and bringing to life dynamic public spaces in which we gather, share and grow as a community; advocating to maintain and appreciate our cultural context; boldly imagining and designing a future to ensure our children’s children will experience a climate that will sustain life.

We have several façades in this issue that discuss some of the city’s most exciting new civic spaces. You’ll learn about the new Polk Bros. Foundation Performance Lawn at Navy Pier, designed by James Corner Field Operations and highlighting the consulting work by LCM Architects. LCM worked closely with the design team to create a spectacularly accessible seating and engagement area. You’ll also hear about KOO’s work in designing hotel spaces as places for casual gathering by more than just out-of-towners; the importance of public space in Pappageorge Haymes Partners’ new Bronzeville public housing project; the work of Human Scale, a design firm founded by UIC grads enriching a Pilsen community garden through design; and the new Southbank Park/Riverwalk extension in the Loop, which enhances a neighborhood through river access.

These projects exemplify the small- and large-scale collaborative work by architects, landscape architects, community members and more. They also are excellent examples of how civic spaces can transform and define neighborhoods, strengthen connections between individuals and provide richness to public life.

Our feature this month is a letter written by a collaborative group of individuals and organizations advocating for the preservation of the Thompson Center. AIA Chicago proudly

advocates for this unique civic space for a number of reasons: Foremost, we believe that through its adaptive reuse and by implementing advancements in technology, it can be a fantastic example of transitioning our existing buildings into a carbon-free future.

Advocacy is a central theme to this year, particularly as it relates to climate change and the role of our profession in meeting the challenge of this emergency. In that spirit, AIA Chicago is embarking on the creation of Chicago City Grassroots, a climate education and political action campaign intended to introduce our members to local aldermen as subject matter experts, ideally during Earth Week 2020. Our goal is simple, intentional and necessary: to reinforce the role of architects as key problem solvers in this crisis and provide the policy leadership we desperately need to bring up the baseline to meet the goals of 2030. As Greta Thunberg noted, we have the facts and the solutions. We must act.

The natural companion to local advocacy is state advocacy, and I encourage our members to attend Prairie Grassroots in Springfield, March 24, 2020, as well as attend a new training session for speaking with elected officials that AIA Illinois will co-host in Chicago to prepare for both Grassroots efforts.

Recognizing the importance of great design, and improving the fabric of our diverse city, we are proud to announce that acceptance of entries to our Small Project Awards started February 10, 2020. And finally, we cap off our magazine this month with congratulations to Skidmore, Owings and Merrill and John Ronan Architects for their national-level award recognition for public spaces, exemplifying the spirit of obligation we as architects have to our fair city to shape a better future for those that come after us.

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Attract Attention

"This park is in a high-wind district, and metal roofing just tends to hold up better than anything else. And with metal, you get the look – it's more and more popular every day."

-Billy Landry, project manager, estimator, Reelentless Construction

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AT POLK BROS. LAWN

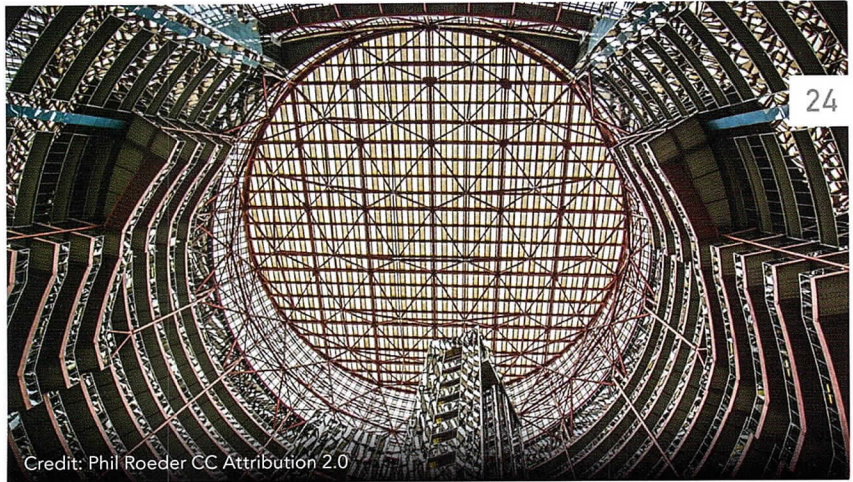
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ON THE COVER
Southbank Park
Credit: Jason Brown



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RAPID DEVELOPMENT IN THE SOUTH LOOP

BY TAYLOR MOORE

On summer days, the Chicago River teems with architecture, boat cruises, sailboats and kayaks. But it wasn't so long ago that the river was seen as a dangerous liability, rather than an asset ripe for high-profile development.

In 1900, the river was so full of sewage and industrial waste that the city famously reversed its course — and even as late as 2011, the EPA under the Obama administration demanded stricter water quality standards for the Chicago River. But now, a new wave of construction is coalescing around this major artery.

In September 2019, Southbank Park opened as the city's latest green space on the south branch of the river. Developed by the Australian real estate company Lendlease, the two-acre park is seen as an extension of the riverwalk and the anchor of an eventual seven-acre neighborhood, also deemed Southbank, between Harrison Street and Polk Street in the South Loop. Until the construction of The Cooper (the first of many planned luxury high-rises) in fall 2018, the site had been vacant since Grand Central Station was demolished in 1971.

"The master plan was all based around the relationship of the river to public space ... and how the development can support both its own desires and the public's desires," said Todd Snapp, AIA, design principal at Perkins + Will. The architecture firm worked with Hoerr Schaudt for the landscape design and with Wolff Landscape Architects — now known as

PHOTOS BY JASON BROWN



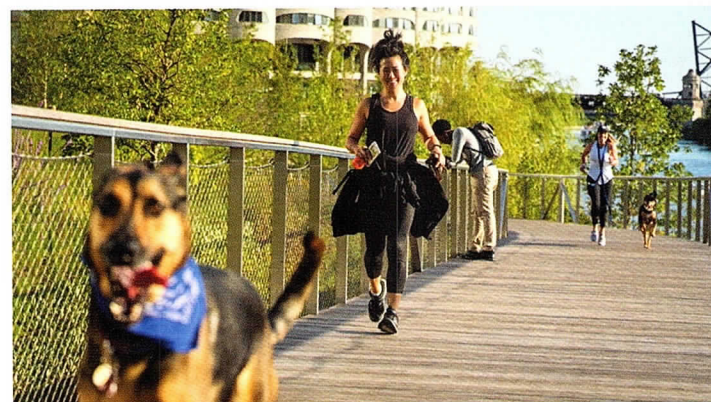
Confluence after a recent merger with the Des Moines-based firm — for its implementation.

Southbank Park is a welcome respite from the concrete and glass that dominate the South Loop’s interior. The winding boardwalk — the spine of the park — is surrounded by native grasses and flowers on one side and the river on the other. Birdhouses that were built by industrial design students for a project between Lendlease and the University of Illinois at Chicago dot the park, waiting to house migrant birds in the coming spring.

“Lendlease really thinks of their multiphase developments as the creation of neighborhoods, not just one-off residential high rises,” said Ted Wolff, RLA, senior principal at Confluence. “As landscape architects and certified tree huggers, we love that. That open space is the mortar that ties together the bricks of the different high-rise buildings.”

At the end of the park, abutting the Bertrand Goldberg-designed River City complex, is an amphitheater overlooking the river and the Old Main Post Office. The stone used for seating was originally supposed to come from a quarry, but during the excavation process Lendlease uncovered the limestone foundation that Grand Central Station sat atop. “Why wouldn’t we want to reuse that? It makes for a much more interesting adaptive reuse story,” said Matt Strange, ASLA, principal at Confluence.

When privately owned public spaces are constructed, concerns are commonly raised by residents



“WE FEEL LIKE OUR SOUTHBANK NEIGHBORHOOD IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO PULL THE LOOP A LITTLE BIT FURTHER SOUTH.”

— LINDA KOZLOSKI, AIA

and urban experts who question how public it will actually be. Fortunately for Chicagoans, the Harrison Street entrance to the park is accessible to visitors and Southbank residents alike, and it’s open daily from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m., not unlike a public park.

In the next few years, as phase two gets underway (including

construction of the rest of the high-rises), Southbank Park will grow to accommodate a water taxi stop and kayak launch. Linda Kozloski, AIA, Lendlease’s design director, said, “The grand vision in the city is ... [connecting] the Riverwalk all the way from the lake to Ping Tom Park [in Chinatown].”

With the upcoming Riverline and 78 developments pushing past Harrison all the way to 16th Street, that vision may not be so far out of reach. Ultimately, Kozloski said, “We feel like our Southbank neighborhood is an opportunity to pull the Loop a little bit further south.” **CA**

FAÇADE

BRONZEVILLE BEACON

A NEW CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT FIELDHOUSE GLIMMERS

BY RORY KEANE



Williams Park is a recreational space located in Bronzeville that reflects its ties to the surrounding community through a novel use of specially coated steel shingles.

The form factor is pretty simple: the fieldhouse holds a gymnasium and two club rooms within its footprint. But the building's vibrant exterior has become the focal point.

"The building's layout is pretty simple," says STL Architects' Principal Jose Luis de la Fuente, "so the way to transform the space was through materiality."

The fieldhouse's outward appearance changes throughout the day. Even when the skies are a scrubby gray during Chicago's winter and most color is drained from the landscape, the fieldhouse radiates warm tones. Laid out like scales on a dragon, with a golden shingle there, a ruby one above it and a bronze one next to it, the different patinas are the result of a chemical bonding process called Light Interference Coating.

Each steel panel is given an acid bath, creating a layer of chromium oxide on the surface. This oxide film layer goes on clear, but it creates dual surfaces for natural light to refract off of each shingle. STL's leadership team wanted to "take something predictably the same — stainless steel — and end up with something that's beautiful in its unpredictability," according to de la Fuente.

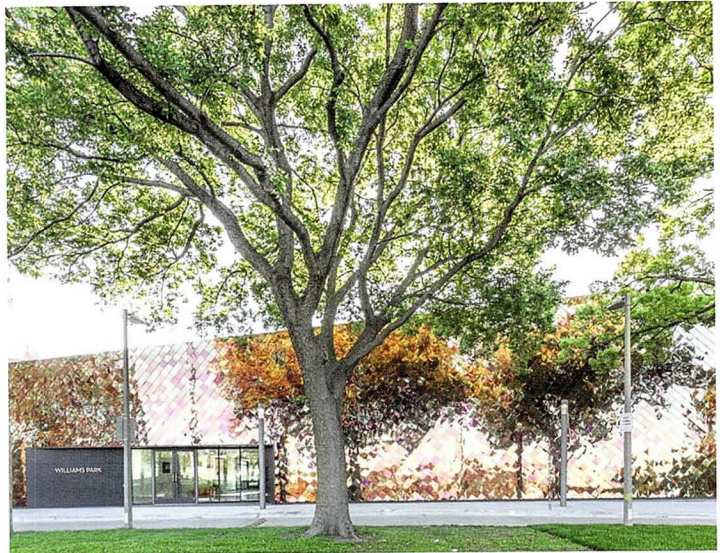
The fieldhouse has been drawing people from all across the city. "They see it from outside and wonder what it is," says Art Richardson, director of the Chicago Park District's central region. Park District staff members have occasionally needed to reassure passersby that the Bronzeville building isn't a part of IIT or a museum — it's a public park.

Eyes are drawn upward upon entering the fieldhouse's airy central corridor, where exposed wooden beams run the span of the ceiling. The fieldhouse's restrained interior is a deliberate contrast to the kaleidoscopic exterior. "We were looking for programmatic space," Richardson said of the planning, "but we also got a work of art."

The park is named for pioneering surgeon and famous Bronzeville resident Dr. Daniel Hale Williams, who performed the world's first successful heart surgery at Provident Hospital. The new fieldhouse replaced a small brick building and was born out of many community meetings and planning sessions involving both de la Fuente and Luis Collado, a fellow principal at STL.

The fieldhouse stands in a courtyard of Chicago Housing Authority's Dearborn Homes, where Drake Elementary School is mere steps away, so educational programming is another core function. The building's club rooms have a movable wall that is also a gigantic dry erase board. The Park District hosts after-school programming for pre-teens and teenagers six days out of the week.

STL created a place that not only changes with the natural light, but it changes the paradigm for what a Chicago Park District building can be. "We wanted to create a place [that] the community could really celebrate," de la Fuente says. And by the looks of it, all 77 communities of Chicago have reason to celebrate Williams Park. **CA**



PROGRESS IN PILSEN:

EL PASEO COMMUNITY GARDEN COLLABORATES WITH YOUNG ARCHITECTS

BY SAMANTHA WEISS HILLS



ALL IMAGES COURTESY OF HUMAN SCALE

Pilsen's El Paseo Community Garden, located on a narrow plot of land between West Cullerton and West 21st Streets, is a quiet refuge in the city, tucked away in between warehouses, a hospital, and a senior center.

Situated on a former brownfield site, the garden's small size belies its vital, decadelong presence in a neighborhood that's seen large-scale gentrification over the past several years. The garden's co-directors, Paula and Antonio

Acevedo, had been involved in the garden in varying capacities several years before being tapped to lead the organization.

Community engagement and partnerships have always been a bedrock of support for the

garden, but it has become especially important since the Acevedos began managing the space, during which projects like the proposed El Paseo trail have inched closer to life. Involving local residents, businesses and

nonprofits — and, most recently, architects — in decision-making for everything from mural design to building projects has created consistent buy-in over the years. The Acevedos see this activation as a long-term investment in the

“EVEN IF WE’RE GONE OR SOMETHING HAPPENS, NEIGHBORSPACE WILL ALWAYS KEEP THE COMMUNITY ENGAGED.”

— PAULA ACEVEDO



garden — making it a neighborhood institution for years to come is, after all, one of their main goals.

“One of our concerns is to create a more sustainable governance structure and system,” Paula says. NeighborSpace, the garden’s land trust, is one of their most important partners for this vision, noting that the trust brought them in when the former leaders left. “Even if we’re gone or something happens, NeighborSpace will always keep the community engaged.”

The garden operates on a lean \$3,000 budget that consists of gardener fees and general donations, as well as from selling their honey and a collaborative beer made from hops grown on-site. Grants, like those from Epstein Community Foundation, help pay for large scale projects like the Hive, a learning space at the garden designed by local architecture nonprofit Human Scale. They bank gifts from the likes of Cafe Bustelo or Country Financial as a reserve to pay for various needs, like programming instructors or infrastructure updates.

Working with Human Scale to create the Hive, El Paseo was able to leverage the group’s local connections to contractors

for affordable materials and labor to complete the project. Human Scale is a nonprofit design-build organization founded to create a positive impact in communities by designing and building community projects for those organizations that deliver a civic benefit to their members. Founded by University of Illinois – Chicago graduates Walmer Saavedra, Aylene Pacheco, Kasia Pilat, Hsu Myat Aung and Jorge Luis Mayorga, the group aims at completing one project per year — The Hive being their exciting new addition to El Paseo in 2019.

The structure, built on a budget of \$15,000, was informed by the knowledge that residents raise bees for honey. It mimics the shape and box joints of a traditional Langstroth hive and employs colorful hexagons as a design element in its walls and seating. A Langstroth hive contains vertically hung frames, a bottom board with an entrance for the bees, boxes containing frames for brood and honey, and an inner cover and top cap to provide weather protection. The “cap” manifests as a pergola, which is supported by two frames that slide away from the shed, similar to how hive frames are hung within the beehive structure. Details like the shed’s corners display the box detailing also found on beehives’ exposed wood joints.

Antonio estimates that they spent their budget in thirds: one-third materials, one-third construction costs and one-third miscellaneous, including paying Human Scale for their design and on-site work. “Human Scale did a wonderful job incorporating all

the ideas we brainstormed during the design process into the final product,” he said.

The garden doesn’t just rely on financial support from partners. Nearby organization Resurrection Project offers storage, a bathroom for gardeners and a conference room for community meetings. Christy Webber Landscapes has offered their services and gardening materials.

Since El Paseo’s most consistent membership comes from neighboring senior center Casa Maravilla, Human Scale plans to return to the garden this spring to add a series of ADA-accessible gardening beds and seating areas, and a senior gardening program is in the works. With meetings already

underway, the project has also led to a rethinking of the garden’s master plan. Looking toward the future, while exciting and empowering, has also been about grappling with how growth and opportunity in the area are linked to larger themes of inequality and access.

“We’ve participated in a couple of panels where that’s a big question about creating green space, and how it’s seen as an amenity, but it shouldn’t be,” says Paula. “That’s something that we constantly want to question, especially in the design world. How do you create these places without displacement? It’s really important to have community processes and people involved — a say in things.” CA



INTEGRATED ACCESSIBILITY AT POLK BROS. LAWN

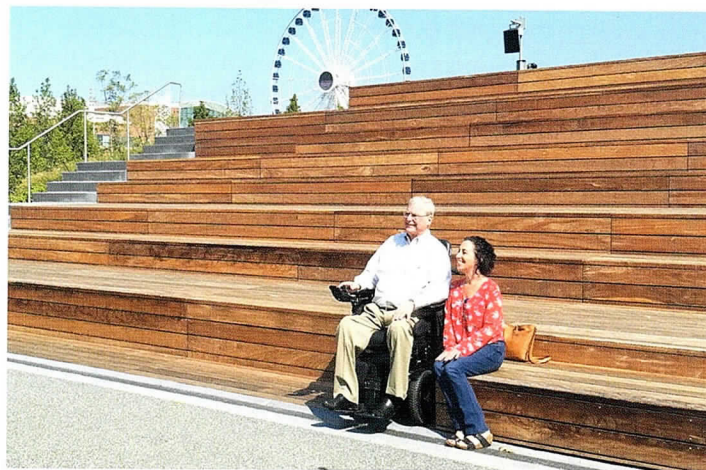
BY SARAH STEIMER

LCM Architects has done its job well if people don't notice its work. When it consulted on the Polk Bros. Park Performance Lawn at Navy Pier, the firm helped to design accessible features that were so well integrated you'd likely never notice them.

As part of Chicago's celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, LCM consulted on the project's accessibility and universal design for landscape architect James Corner Field Operations. The Polk Bros. Park Performance Lawn opened in 2017, reimagining Navy Pier's South Dock with an open-air venue. The park is a 13-acre space that sits at the start of Navy Pier and includes a 1,700-person venue on the park's eastern side and a 750-person space on the west-facing side. A landscaped hilltop connects the two and allows for views of the lake. LCM's role was to ensure that any person would be able to enjoy the public space — and make it seamless to the overall design.

"Accessibility is always integral to all our projects and never conceived as something peripheral," says Alejandro Vazquez, senior associate at James Corner Field Operations. "One of the goals for the Polk Bros. Park performance area ... was for it to become a place for all Chicagoans and visitors to come together in a unique outdoor venue."

The space is particularly unique in how it allows people with disabilities to enjoy its grassy areas, which can be a tricky surface to navigate. LCM recommended designing



indentations in the sloped lawn to allow for easier movement across the grass, and paved routes lead to these indentations for a simpler transition.

Another of LCM's suggestions actually came to firm Partner Jack Catlin many years prior, when Millennium Park and the Pritzker Pavillion were built. Catlin saw a missed opportunity in the design of the Great Lawn. He thought that if the south end of the lawn had been raised and contained by a low wall it might improve the sightlines and also provide an opportunity to allow people with mobility disabilities to easily transfer from a wheelchair onto the grass lawn. An 18-inch-tall wall — the ideal height for a person in a wheelchair to transition from their chair onto the grass allows them

to more easily sit with, rather than apart from, other visitors.

"The idea of integrating these accessible elements into the grassy area, that allow people to get onto the grassy area, goes beyond the minimum code," Catlin says.

Other seating arrangements at the Polk Bros. Lawn also better integrate those in wheelchairs with the rest of the audience. Wooden stepped seating includes cutouts at the bottom and top, so visitors in wheelchairs may sit shoulder-to-shoulder with those around them. LCM suggested a direct route from the bottom of the stepped seating to the top that has a 5 percent grade. And while not required by law at such an incline, the path includes edge protection should a person lose control of their wheelchair.

The accessible path around the seating area widens toward the back, to allow for people in wheelchairs to stay in this location without blocking the path. The stage itself also has a very low ramp at its back. According to Catlin, all routes at the lawn are safe, accessible and allow numerous options for people with disabilities, maximizing their independence to choose.

"Nobody notices this and nobody talks about it and that's one of our goals," Catlin says. "We are one of the few architectural firms in the country that is really proud of the fact that you don't see our work. When we make recommendations for integrating universal design elements, if they build it that way, you're not going to see it." CA

4400 GROVE PROVIDES ACCESS TO PARKS AND PLAZAS IN BRONZEVILLE NEIGHBORHOOD

BY DAVID ZEGEYE

When the Washington Park Homes on 45th Street and Cottage Grove Avenue were torn down, a vacant lot replaced a community for 18 years. Now, the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) hopes to welcome residents back in spring 2020 at the upcoming 4400 Grove development.

One unique component of the new development, however, is its inclusion of civic spaces (a plaza and park) for walking, mingling and entertainment.

4400 Grove is a new, 164-unit mixed-income development on the former site designed by Pappageorge Haymes Partners. The opening of the development will coincide with the city's Invest South/West program, which aims to support new businesses on Cottage Grove from 43rd Street to 47th Street.

Project Manager Greg Klosowski, AIA, said the façade

of the homes mimics the historic brick buildings that have lined Cottage Grove. This was driven in part by meetings with neighborhood groups that wanted the development to transition to the vintage streetscape. The faux fine-grain exterior is intended to restore the character of the street wall, while maintaining a distinct modern appearance. 4400 Grove will replace some of the Washington Park Homes, where two-thirds of the first-phase's 84 units will be reserved for CHA and

affordable housing. The second phase will have two- to three-story townhomes surrounding the rest of the block, facing toward the side streets.

The neighborhood has been an epicenter of Black history and culture on the South Side, from the Great Migration that brought hundreds of thousands of new Black residents to Bronzeville, to the rich art, music and writing that was birthed from residents of the area. 4400 Grove aims to celebrate this heritage with an open plaza that is intended to be a front yard for the neighborhood while honoring Bronzeville's history, according to Klosowski. The plaza will be surrounded by 12 well-finished retail stores designed for restaurant chains to mom-and-pop businesses. According to Brinshore Development, the plaza will feature "public art and water features that will host public gatherings, farmers markets and outdoor retail dining." Adjacent to the plaza will be a larger, landscaped park space that will provide more greenspace to the neighborhood. The plaza and park can be used as

programming for various community events and will certainly draw crowds during the summer season.

Ensuring 4400 Grove truly serves the community is important given that only 13 of the more than 50 public plazas in Chicago are located on the South Side. Providing direct access to the plaza and park for residents of all incomes ensures there is equitable access and that they are not exclusive from the public. These spaces have the potential to honor Bronzeville's rich culture. For now, the park will be made accessible from all directions by including crosswalks to the space.

The addition of vibrant, designed public spaces to affordable housing developments is an important part of creating civic cohesion, and 4400 Grove is a part of other developments like Lathrop Homes that see public life as crucial to the well-being of residents and visitors. 4400 Grove's plaza has the potential to be a focal point of Cottage Grove; residents should not settle for less when receiving basic necessities in their communities. **CA**





SMALL PROJECT AWARDS // LARGE 10TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY

Thursday, June 4, 2020

5:30-8:30 PM

Artifact Events

4325 N. Ravenswood Ave.

The Small Project Awards celebrates its 10th anniversary with the Small Project Awards // Large 10th Anniversary Party on Thursday, June 4, 2020. Join us for another free and fun party honoring the winners of the 2020 Small Project Awards with a short program and exhibition of all projects submitted to this year's award categories. Drinks and bites provided.



PRAIRIE GRASSROOTS: MARCH 25

Hop on the bus to Springfield! Each year, AIA Illinois hosts the annual Prairie Grassroots — the local lobbying day for Illinois architects. Chicago architects will be taken by charter bus to Springfield, where they will be briefed on issues important to our community, then taken to the state house to meet with their local representatives. We return to Chicago in the evening.

Visit aiachicago.org or aiail.org to register.



CITY GRASSROOTS

This year AIA Chicago is taking on an exciting initiative. In the coming months we will be meeting with our city council members for an event we are calling City Grassroots. Our goal will be to meet key aldermen to advance an agenda to prepare Chicago for the challenges of fighting climate change and making the city more sustainable. Stay tuned for more information about opportunities for you to provide input and participate in the aldermanic meetings. We hope you can join us to take local action against climate change.

IIDA DESIGNERS/ARCHITECTS TALK

AIA Chicago and IIDA continue their programming partnership this spring with panel conversations including architects and interior designers.



March 10

Repositioned and Reimagined: Willis Tower, Tribune Tower and Old Post Office

Moderated by Executive Vice President of AIA Chicago Zurich Esposito, Hon. AIA

- Todd Heiser, principal, Gensler
- Sheryl Schulze, principal, Gensler
- Meg Prendergast, principal, Gettys
- Lee Golub, principal and executive vice president, Golub and Company

April 14

New Design Firms Changing the Face of Chicago

Moderated by Deputy Director and SVP of IIDA John Czarnecki, Hon. IIDA, Assoc. AIA

- Ross Barney, AIA, founder, Tumu Studio
- Nina Grondin, partner and founder, Curioso
- Julie Purpura, owner and creative director, Avenir Creative
- Chris Sommers, IIDA, partner, Harken Interiors

May 5

Fulton Market: An Evolving City

Moderated by 2021 AIA National President Peter Exley, FAIA

- Kyle Kamin, executive vice president, CBRE
- Rick Kintigh, AIA, architect, Sterling Bay
- Aracely Nevarz, AIA, partner, Hartshorn Plunkard Architecture
- Sarah Oppenhuizen, AIA, IIDA, director of interiors, HOK

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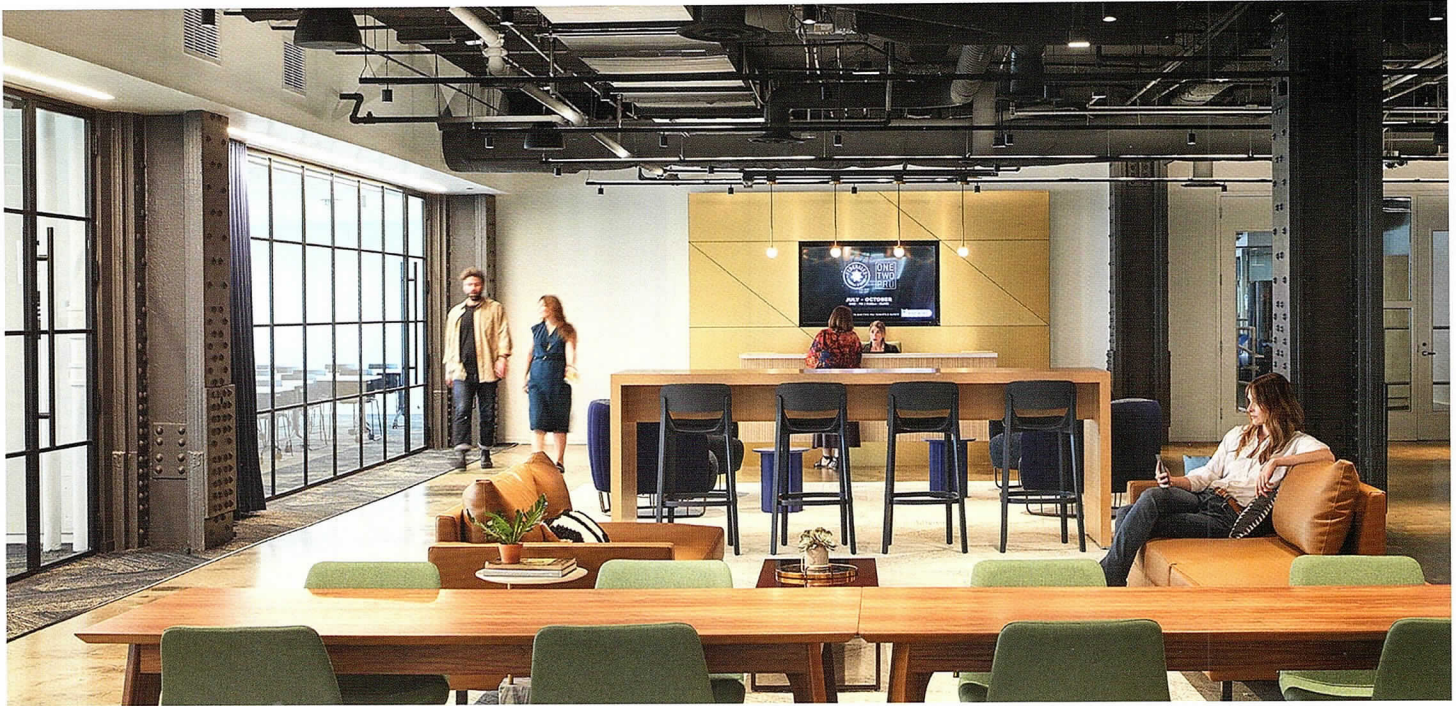
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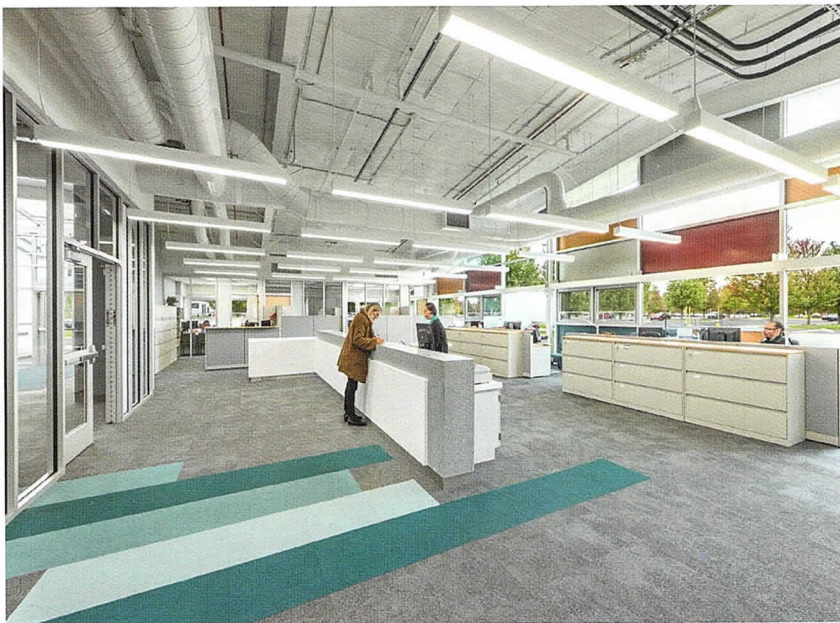


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Eastlake Studio has completed a new conference center, lounge and amenities space at One Two Pru in the Prudential Plaza.

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Legat Architects designed a retrofit that converts an early childhood center into office suites and common areas for 60+ College of DuPage employees. The design uses the pre-engineered building's open plan to create a daylight-filled space with views to the natural areas around the building.



Canopy Architecture + Design's Andreea Micu, AIA, is now a licensed architect in Illinois. Joseph Juhl, AIA, NCARB, CPHC was promoted from project architect to senior associate. Catherine Varnas, RA, LEED GA joined the firm as project architect, formerly with Perkins+Will. And, Nora Catlin, studio manager, has been promoted to associate within the firm.

ALL IMAGES ARE COURTESY OF THE FIRM, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. LEED AP STATUS IS INDICATED ONLY IF REPORTED BY THE FIRM.



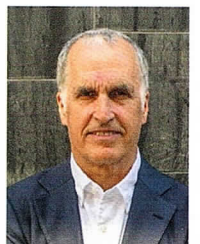
In fall 2019, **SmithGroup** participated in the Topping Off ceremony for the new R&D Facility for Promega Corporation in Fitchburg, Wisconsin. The project will be completed in fall 2020. SmithGroup is working in partnership with **Uihlein/Wilson-Ramlow/Stein Architects**.



Andrew Akins has been promoted to associate at John Ronan Architects.



Jaime Torres Carmona, AIA, was appointed to serve as a member of Mayor Lori Lightfoot's Housing Transition Committee in 2019.



Mark Sexton, FAIA, LEED AP, founding partner of Krueck + Sexton Architects, has been elected to the Illinois Institute of Technology (Illinois Tech) Board of Trustees for a three-year term.



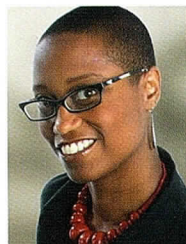
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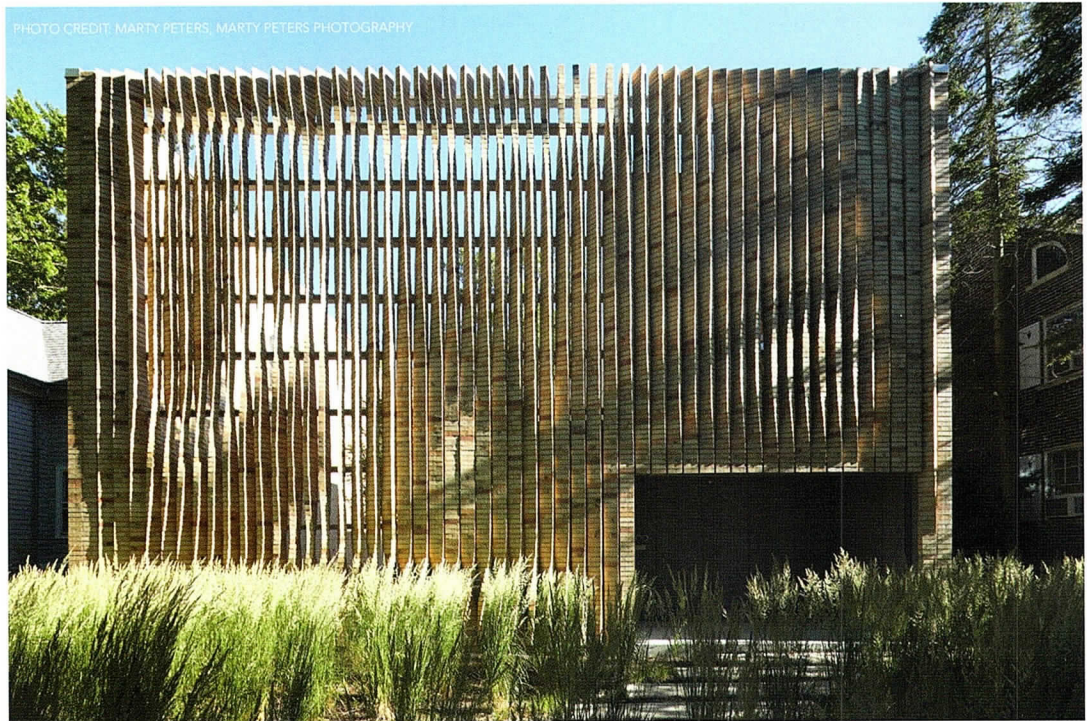
Kurt Volkman, AIA, LEED AP BD+C has joined Legat Architects as director of corporate and commercial architecture. Volkman, based in Legat's Chicago and Oak Brook studios, will also support the firm's growing interiors and hospitality practices.



John R. Jacobs, RA NCARB, has joined Kuklinski+Rappe Architects as project architect.



Dawne David-Pierre, AIA, NOMA, LEED AP, has been promoted to associate at RTKB.



The Thayer Brick House is located in Evanston, Illinois, and was designed by **Brooks + Scarpa** with **Studio Dwell Architects**. The house was designed as a 26-foot-tall box that is composed of Chicago common brick that encloses a large private courtyard and glass-lined façades within. The front façade is designed as a twisting brick screen.



Designed by **Wheeler Kearns Architects**, the Momentary — a new contemporary art space satellite to Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville, Arkansas — opened in February. The building is an adaptive reuse of a Kraft Foods cheese-processing plant that closed in 2013.



Skender was named American Modular Builder of the Year in 2019 by *Construction Dive*.



Gensler has appointed **Kristen Conry, AIA** as principal, co-office managing director; **Meghan Webster, AIA** as principal, global education, civic and culture practice area leader; and, **Scot Latimer** as principal, strategy director. **Kelly Bogenschutz, Kim Foster, Lee Greenberg, AIA, Luigi Franceschina, AIA, Neil Long, Randy Roucka** and **Scott Marker, AIA** are all senior associates, alongside 21 new associates.



Pappageorge Haymes Partners has promoted **Heather Faircloth** and **Luke Marczewski** to associate.

The **Women's Architectural League Foundation (WALF)** is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year. For the last 60 years, WALF has promoted awareness and appreciation of Chicago-area architecture. WALF organizes tours and programs on both historic and contemporary architecture. They support the city's architectural future by providing annual financial assistance via scholarships to architecture students. Funding for these scholarships is provided by contributions from WALF members, architects and builders, and profits from WALF tours.



Construction is nearing completion at Rockwell on the River, an adaptive reuse of a 100,000-square-foot former leather tannery on the Chicago River in the Avondale neighborhood. **Rosen Architecture** has designed riverfront decks, boat docks, exterior alterations and interiors for a large venue private event space, artisanal production and retail, as well as the Metropolitan Coffee roasting facility. The site also houses the Metropolitan Brewery and Tap Room (interior architecture by **AltusWorks**) and Judson and Moore Whiskey Distillery (interior architecture by **FC Studio**).



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Designed by **SmithGroup**, a 10,000-square-foot academic renovation of Northwestern University Ford Motor Company Engineering Design Center includes a large, flexible 65-person seminar space; two teaching studios and seven conference rooms. A feature wall stands in the middle of the seminar space, creating an eye-catching pattern that simultaneously reflects the light and highlights the industrial design aesthetic of the building.



Joe Procnier was promoted to associate at SmithGroup. **Brandon Stanley** and **Brett Weidl** were also promoted to associate. **Nancy Kohout** was promoted to principal.



Grace Ames, AIA, John Kolb and **Juan Robles, AIA** have been promoted to the position of director at bKL Architecture. **Anne Karlovitz, Darya Stefanovic, AIA** and **Phillip Scott, AIA** have also been promoted to the position of associate director; and, **Annabell Dai Ren, Elena Ranjeva, AIA, Kevin Kosciulek, AIA** and **Sanja Trninic** are now associates at the firm.



Wisconsin-based **Kahler Slater** has recently opened a Chicago office that will be led by Chicago architect **Trina Sandschafer, AIA, LEED AP.**



Alice Schuler, AIA is retiring from **Kuklinski+Rappe Architects**, where she led the firm's commercial and institutional projects since 2000.



EXP's 95th/Dan Ryan Terminal CTA Station won *Interior Design* magazine's "Best of Year Award" in the transportation category.



Collective Office has completed several new projects: Lake Geneva Residence in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, a 4,200-square-foot single-family residence new construction; Harcourt Residence in Toronto (pictured), a 2,200-square-foot single-family residence renovation; and the First Lady Cruises Corporate Offices in Chicago.

PRESERVING THE JAMES R. THOMPSON CENTER

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AIA CHICAGO – COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT • ICOMOS ISC20C • ILLINOIS GREEN ALLIANCE

AIA Chicago is proud to be a part of a consortium of organizations working to preserve the James R. Thompson Center. This article originated as a letter sent to Ernst & Young Infrastructural Advisors — the company hired by Governor JB Pritzker to manage the building’s sale — earlier this year.

This information shares our collective message about the value in finding a buyer for the building who will commit to keeping the Helmut Jahn-designed building intact. We urge the reuse of the existing building as a part of its listing and sale of the property. Just as the State values retaining on the site the name of former Governor James R. Thompson with any future use, it should similarly put a priority on retaining the historic and nationally significant building itself.

The Thompson Center is nationally significant for its contribution to grand-scale Postmodern architecture, and it is a testament to the people of the State of Illinois. We strongly urge the State of Illinois to sell the Thompson Center to a developer that will keep the atrium intact and accessible for public use.

A glassy reinterpretation of a traditional state capitol building in shades of pink and blue and with a sliced off dome, the James R. Thompson Center represents the high-water mark of Postmodernism in Chicago. Its extraordinary architecture and significance as a place for public gathering and protests has established a legacy that should be retained and repurposed.

Historic Significance

The Illinois State Historic Preservation Office has determined that this building is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. It also meets

multiple criteria to become a Chicago Landmark.

Preservation organizations at the local, state and national level advocate for keeping this building intact. In 2019, the National Trust for Historic Preservation included the Thompson Center on its list of America’s 11 Most Endangered Historic Places. Landmarks Illinois included the building on its Most Endangered list in 2017, 2018 and 2019. Preservation Chicago included the Thompson Center on its Chicago 7 Most Endangered buildings in 2016, 2018 and 2019.

Cultural Significance

The Thompson Center/State of Illinois Building’s design was meant to suggest a more open and transparent government while referencing the grand public buildings of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Architect Jahn specifically noted in a public lecture in the 1980s on the building’s design that it recalled the massive dome and vast interior atrium space of the old Chicago Federal Building and Post Office designed by architect Henry Ives Cobb in 1905 and demolished in 1965.

The public plaza with the Jean Dubuffet “Monument with Standing Beast” sculpture is the site of regular public protests and rallies on issues across the political spectrum. It has become an important symbol of free speech and the right to publicly gather. The interior atrium’s breathtaking beauty again harkens back to that sense of an open and

transparent government. It, too, has become a place for public gathering – for meals, shopping, visits to State of Illinois offices, to visit the DMV or just to admire the remarkable grandeur of this public space.

Historic Designation Incentives

In addition to ensuring that the historic and cultural integrity of a building remains intact, both designation on the National Register of Historic Places and a Chicago Landmark designation offer incentives to developers and owners committed to an adaptive reuse of the James R. Thompson Center.

In exchange for landmarking, federal, state and local governments offer attractive financial incentives to property owners that undertake a substantial rehabilitation of a historic building in a commercial or other income-producing use, while maintaining its historic character. These incentives could be used together to help the future owner of the James R. Thompson Center to pay for a portion of the cost to rehabilitate the building.

Listing on the National Register of Historic Places allows a building owner to take advantage of the Federal Historic Tax Credit Program, providing a 20% income tax credit for the rehabilitation of income producing buildings. The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the National Park Service (NPS) work together with the building owner to ensure that the work complies with the Secretary of the Interior’s

Standards for Rehabilitation. In addition to the 20% federal tax credit, owners who donate a preservation easement to a qualifying nonprofit organization may be eligible for a charitable donation federal income tax deduction based upon an independent appraisal of the easement’s value.

The Illinois Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program provides a state income tax credit equal to 25% of a project’s qualified rehabilitation expenditures. This program is offered twice a year in competitive rounds.

Landmarking a building in Cook County offers the opportunity for a special real estate tax assessment classification if the building is an individually designated City of Chicago Landmark. Owners can have their property tax assessment levels reduced for a 12-year period providing they invest at least half of the value of the Landmark building in an approved rehabilitation project. The City of Chicago Department of Planning and Development also administers

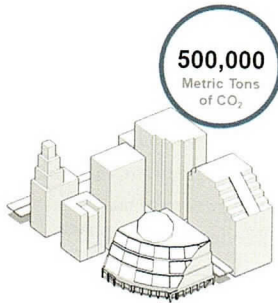
THE THOMPSON CENTER IS NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT FOR ITS CONTRIBUTION TO GRAND-SCALE POSTMODERN ARCHITECTURE, AND IT IS A TESTAMENT TO THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS.

30 YEARS OF CO₂ EMISSIONS: REINVISION THE THOMPSON CENTER

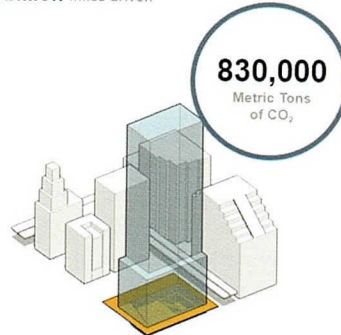
 1.2 billion miles driven by average vehicle

 2 billion miles driven

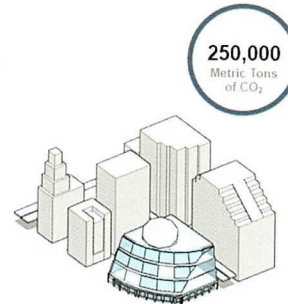
 0.6 billion miles driven



EXISTING THOMPSON CENTER



FULL DEMOLITION + NEW CONSTRUCTION



ADAPTIVE REUSE OF EXISTING STRUCTURE

the Adopt-A-Landmark Fund, allocating in competitive rounds rehabilitation funding generated by downtown construction projects to support the restoration of buildings that have been designated as Chicago Landmarks.

Cost

The cost to adapt and reuse the building will be significantly less than the cost to demolish and then rebuild. If the building is sold to be demolished, a developer could potentially spend up to \$250 million just to have an empty lot.

Transportation Disruption

The additional cost and disruption of service to relocate or reconfigure the CTA Clark/Lake L station located entirely within the State of Illinois building will be a burden to the 22,000 people each weekday who pass through that station. That number does not count how many people exit the station. The Orange, Green, Blue, Pink, Purple and Brown lines

converge at this busy station on a daily basis. It is a major transportation hub, and it offers one of the most accessible stations in the Loop. Rerouting commuters during any demolition phase would put a significant burden on all commuters but especially commuters with accessibility needs.

Reuse and New Construction Potential

The Thompson Center has significant reuse potential. Recent examples of large, complex buildings successfully rehabilitated include Old Cook County Hospital and the Old Chicago Main Post Office, which could serve as models for how developers utilized a range of incentives to successfully bring new life to these historic structures. For decades these buildings were scorned as a hopeless burden, but both are well on their way to a profitable and permanent reuse. The Thompson Center could also be a reuse success story. Renderings commissioned by Landmarks Illinois

show one reuse option proposed by Helmut Jahn that includes adding a high-rise tower to the southwest corner of the building.

With its existing 1.2 million square feet of interior space, there is great reuse potential for the Thompson Center building as is.

Sustainability

As one of his first acts in office, Governor JB Pritzker signed an executive order committing the State of Illinois to the US Climate Alliance, which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at least 26-28% below 2005 levels by 2025. The City of Chicago also hosted the North American Climate Summit in December 2017, where Chicago, among more than 50 mayors from around the globe, committed their cities to meet or exceed the Paris Agreement greenhouse gas reduction targets. Building operations (“operational carbon”) accounted for 28% of 2019 total global greenhouse gas emissions while the manufacturing and transportation

of construction materials such as steel, concrete, and glass (“embodied carbon”) accounted for an additional 11%.

A high-performance renovation of the Thompson Center could permit operation with up to 50% less emissions per year than in 2018. Further, building renovations have significantly lower emittance during construction due to material reuse.

Successful adaptive reuse of the Thompson Center would position Illinois and the city of Chicago as leaders in meeting their international climate commitments. By emphasizing efficient and sustainable building performance, the Thompson Center can set an example of how aging assets can be repositioned inclusively of the community’s financial, cultural, and environmental priorities.

Call to Action

We urge the reuse of the existing building as a part of its listing and sale of the property. Just as the State values retaining on the site the name of former Governor James R. Thompson with any future use, it should similarly put a priority on retaining the historic and nationally significant building itself. As corporations continue to migrate to Chicago from suburbs and beyond, we believe the Thompson Center presents itself as a desirable reuse option for corporate offices or any number of other uses and there should be equal marketing toward its rehabilitation and reuse.

Representatives from our organizations welcome the opportunity to speak more with Ernst & Young about how best to achieve that most desirable outcome. **CA**

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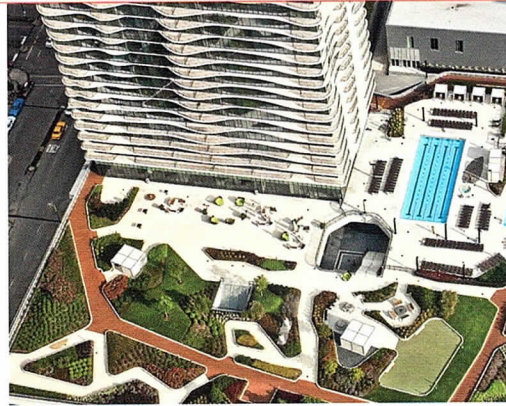
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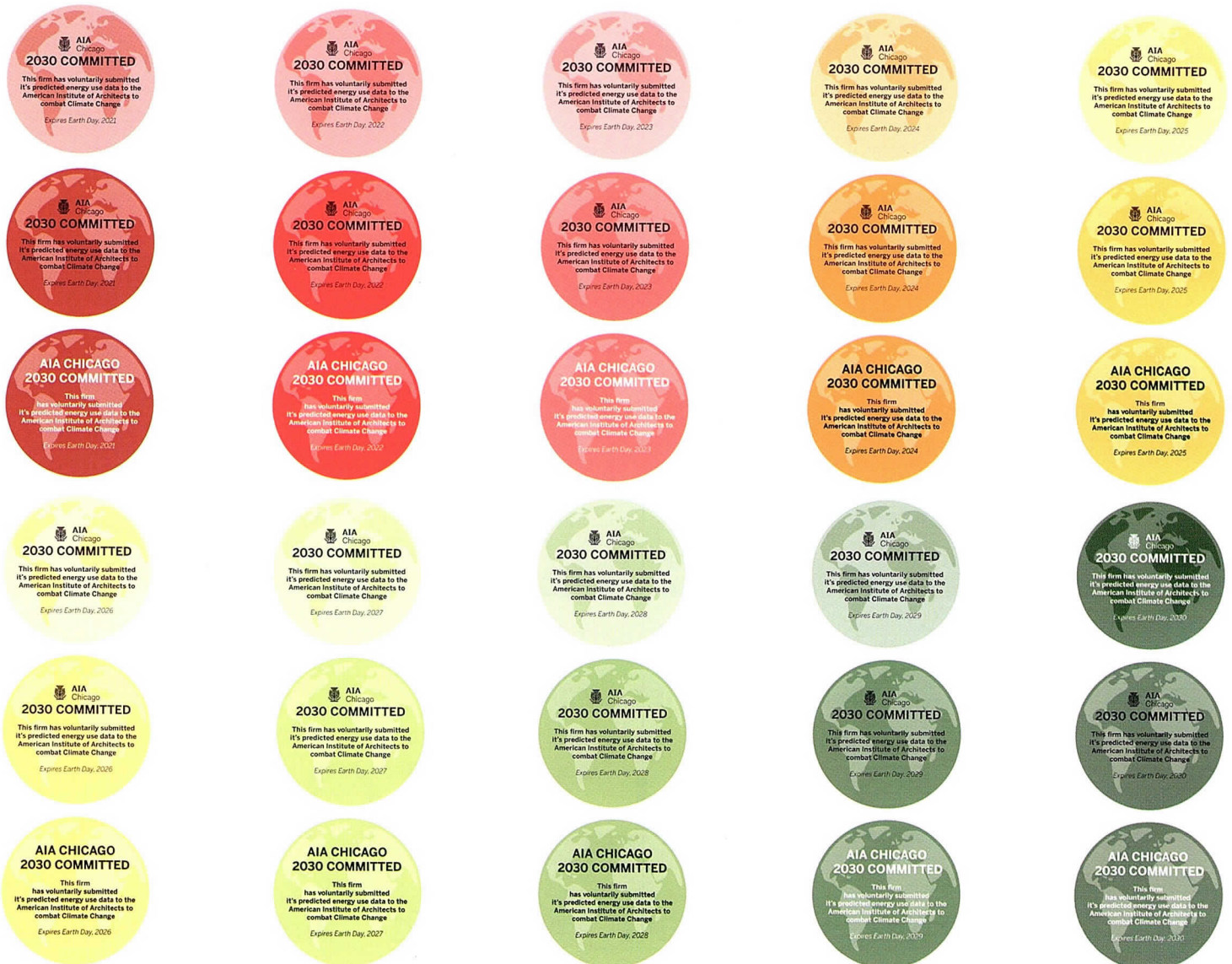
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THE AIA 2030 COMMITMENT

THE CHICAGO CAMPAIGN TO COMBAT THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

BY DOUGLAS FARR, FAIA, 2030 CAMPAIGN STRATEGIST; ARATHI GOWDA, AIA, AND SCOTT FARBMAN, AIA, AIA CHICAGO 2030 WORKING GROUP CO-CHAIRS; AND NATHAN KIPNIS, FAIA, 2030 NATIONAL LIAISON



THE ILLUSTRATION ABOVE ARRAYS THE COLOR SPECTRUM FOR THE ANNUAL AIA 2030 BADGES

Every day there are reports on our current climate emergency — from fires in Australia to record high temperatures and flooding closer to home — reminding us of our urgent need to stop burning fossil fuels and pumping CO₂ (and its equivalents) into the atmosphere. With 53 percent of Chicago’s CO₂e generated by residential and commercial/industrial buildings (or 71 percent if including manufacturing industries and construction), architects have a duty to lead climate change mitigation efforts locally.¹ The AIA 2030 Commitment is the architecture profession’s leading platform for tackling this emergency and ridding our economy of carbon dependency, and AIA Chicago area member firms are stepping up.

Last year, Chicago architects made history by pledging in record numbers to track and report the modeled energy use (pEUI) of their projects under the AIA 2030 Commitment. Based on AIA National data, in 2019 a total of 102 firms with Chicago-area offices pledged to track and report the energy used on their projects. This is up from 62 AIA 2030 Committed firms at the end of 2018, a meteoric annual growth rate of 65 percent! Firms with Chicago area offices made up nearly one-sixth of all 2030 Committed firms nationally. Ten years ago, Chicago architects helped to organize the 2030 program nationally, and 10 years later we’re leading the nation in commitment.

The number of Chicago area firms that pledge to join the AIA 2030 Commitment will continue to grow as more smaller firms join.



PANELISTS REPRESENTING FIRMS LARGE AND SMALL EXPLAIN HOW THEY APPROACH THE 2030 COMMITMENT TO A PACKED ROOM AT LEOPARDO ON DECEMBER 5, 2019.

The explosive growth in 2019 was in part due to a new requirement that firms submitting to AIA Chicago Design Excellence Awards be 2030 Committed. It should come as no surprise that of the medium to large Chicago firms that dominate the awards (40+ architects), virtually all are 2030 Committed. This same requirement will apply to the Small Project Awards starting in 2021. Based on this experience, the ranks of smaller firms that are AIA 2030 Committed will grow in the next two years.

Despite this progress, there are still challenges: Only approximately 45 percent of the Chicago-area firms that are 2030 Committed are



CAROL ROSS BARNEY, FAIA, RECEIVES HER 2017 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WEARING AN AIA 2030 COMMITTED BUTTON.

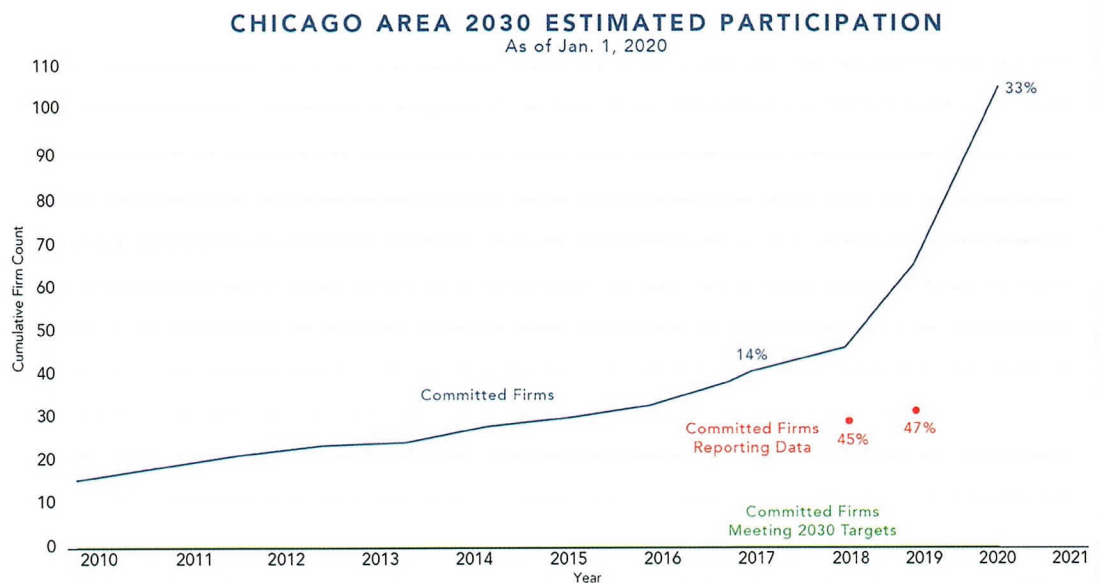
taking the next step to report their performance data (which relies heavily on energy modeling). This is especially troubling because research shows that firms that do not use energy models during the design process do not show improvement in the energy efficiency of their designs. (Nationally, 60 percent to 70 percent of projects submitted to the DDx platform rely on energy models.)

Introducing the AIA Chicago 2030 Badge

In early April 2020, the AIA Chicago 2030 Working Group is rolling out a new strategy to recognize firms that report their energy data. It is called the AIA Chicago 2030 Badge (see page 28). The badge will be available to firms that report their data before the March 31, 2020, cutoff, and will be distributed prior to Earth Day, April 22, 2020. Firms can use the digital badge in their marketing materials and website through its expiration date on Earth Day, April 22, 2021. To incentivize firms to report their data year after year, the following year's badge will be provided prior to the expiration date each year, allowing for a continuous "seal of approval."

Marketplace Distinction

The AIA Chicago 2030 Badge can be thought of as a third-party verification of a firm's professional commitment



AIA COTE'S TWO-PLUS YEAR CAMPAIGN HAS INCREASED THE NUMBER OF FIRMS THAT ARE 2030 COMMITTED BY 230 PERCENT, WHILE THE NUMBER OF FIRMS ACTUALLY REPORTING ENERGY PERFORMANCE DATA REMAINS STUCK AT AROUND 40 PERCENT.

to sustainability. In this time of environmental crisis when architectural clients are searching for ways to make real progress on climate change, the badge should confer a marketplace distinction for those who display it.

Goal to Get 100 Percent of AIA 2030 Committed Firms to Report Their Data in 2020

The list on page 31 shows the 102 Chicago area firms that are AIA 2030 Committed as of January 15, 2020. The bolded names highlight the firms that reported their data in 2019. Experience shows that firms that have reported data once tend to stick with it and build reporting into their business

operations. To spur a jump in data reporting, the AIA Chicago COTE Working Group has set the goal of getting 100 percent of all Committed firms to report their data in 2020.

It Takes a Village

The strategy to achieve the 100 percent reporting goal relies on "a little help from our friends." Have a look at the list and consider sending a "thank you" note to those Committed and reporting firms. If your firm is Committed and reporting, please reach out to a Committed firm that is not reporting and offer to help. If you are familiar with a firm that is not on the list at all and should be, please reach out. Only by working together can we change the profession.

Helpful Resources

We are here to help! AIA National is facilitating an "Open Office Hours" webinar series every other Thursday through April 9, 2020. These hour-long sessions include a 20-minute expert presentation followed by a 40-minute open format reserved

for you to ask your most pressing 2030 and DDx questions. You can register at www.aia.org and also see other 2030 resources at www.aia.org/resources.

The AIA Chicago 2030 Working Group will be hosting a DDx Study Hall on February 26, 2020. The expertise of this working group will be available to anyone who needs it in order to assist in the submission of portfolio data to the DDx by the March 31, 2020, deadline.

In addition to the Study Hall, the AIA Chicago 2030 Working Group has created a Slack channel for real-time discussion of any topic as it relates to the 2030 Commitment, the DDx, sustainability and the design industry. Reach out to AIA Chicago or either committee Co-Chair (Scott Farbman or Arathi Gowda) to get invited. Get involved today! **CA**

RECOGNIZING LOCAL EXCELLENCE: TBDA

For the 2018 reporting year, only 16 firms nationally achieved the ambitious 2030 performance targets. (This means that the average weighted pEUI reduction for each firm's building projects was at least 70 percent compared to the 2003 baseline.) These 16 elite firms represent roughly 0.25 percent of all 2030 Committed firms nationally. Only one firm in greater Chicago — Tom Basset-Dilley Associates (TBDA) — achieved this level of performance. On behalf of the entire AIA Chicago community we extend our congratulations to TBDA.

¹Reference: Table 3 from the City of Chicago 2015 Greenhouse Gas Inventory report - https://www.chicago.gov/content/dam/city/progs/env/GHG_Inventory/CityofChicago_2015_GHG_Emissions_Inventory_Report.pdf

**AIA Chicago Area
2030 Committed Firms**
(Bolded firms reported 2018
portfolio data in 2019.)

- **Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture**
- AECOM
- Antunovich Associates
- Architecture Is Fun, Inc.
- Bailey Edward
- Booth Hansen
- **bKL Architecture**
- BKV Group
- Brininstool + Lynch
- BuroHappold Engineering
- **Callison RTKL**
- Canopy
- **Cannon Design**
- CLUAA
- Cordogan, Clark & Associates
- dbHMS
- Design Bridge
- Design Organization
- **DLR Group**
- DMAC Architecture
- dSpace
- Engberg Anderson Architects
- Ellipsis Architecture
- Epstein
- EXP
- **Farr Associates**
- FGM Architects
- FGP Atelier International
- Gary Lee Partners
- Gastinger Walker
- **Gensler**
- Gresham Smith
- Ghafari Associates
- Goettsch Partners Inc.
- **GREC**
- Harboe Architects PC
- **Harley Ellis Devereaux**
- **Hartshorne Plunkard Architecture**
- HBRA Architects
- HDR
- HKS
- HOK
- Holabird & Root
- HPZS
- Huntsman Architectural Group
- HUSarchitecture
- Interface Engineering Inc.
- Interactive Design Architects
- JAHN
- **John Ronan Architects**
- JGMA
- Jurassic Studio
- **Kipnis Architecture + Planning**
- **KOO LLC**
- **Krueck + Sexton Architects**
- **Landon Bone Baker Architects**
- Lamar Johnson Collaborative
- **Legat Architects**
- Lothan Van Hook DeStefano
- Map Lab Inc.
- MIR Collective LLC
- **Moody Nolan**
- Nelson
- Odile Compagnon Architect
- **Pappageorge Haymes Partners**
- **Perkins Eastman**
- **Perkins+Will**
- PositivEnergy Practice
- **RATIO**
- Ross Architecture
- **Ross Barney Architects**
- Rivetna Architects
- **Serena Strum Architects**
- Sheehan Nagle Hartray
- Shive Hattery
- **Skidmore, Owings & Merrill**
- Sink Combs Dethlefs
- Skender
- **SmithGroup JJR**
- SMNG A Ltd.
- **Solomon Cordwell Buenz**
- Stantec Architecture
- Studio Dwell
- Studio Gang Architects
- Studio Nigro Architecture + Design
- Symbiotic Living Architecture
- **TBDA**
- Thomas Roszak Architecture
- Tilton, Kelly + Bell LLC
- Tvsdesign
- Urban Lab
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UPDATES ON COLD FORMED STEEL FRAME CONSTRUCTION CODE REQUIREMENTS

BY SPENCER BLANEY, PROJECT MANAGER, R.A., MAP STRATEGIES

Cold formed steel framed (CFSF) buildings have been one of the topics that MAP Strategies has been asked about the most since adopting the modernized Chicago building code (CBC). Sometimes called cold formed metal framing, light gauge framing or light-frame construction, CFSF is popular with some residential developers because of its potential to have lower costs and shorter build times. In the new building code, CFSF is called Cold Formed Steel Light Gauge Construction (14B-22-2211).

Architects, structural engineers and developers, especially, have inquired if a Chicago Department of Buildings memo applies to the new building code, what construction type cold formed steel framing falls under and how tall these buildings can be.

In 2017, DOB Commissioner Judy Frydland issued a code memo regarding the use of CFSF. This memo specifically addressed the use of CFSF for bearing walls in residential buildings, Type 1B and 1C construction, that are taller than four stories by introducing four stipulations.

- Masonry or concrete enclosures are required for vertical shafts.
- The building must be fully sprinklered.
- The maximum number of stories in Type 1C may be increased to seven stories.
- Any floor supporting an interior bearing wall must have a three hour rating in Type 1B construction.



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The memo will no longer be applicable to projects using the updated CBC because it refers to construction types that will no longer be recognized by the CBC. The updated CBC has adopted the portions of the memo DOB intends to keep.

The 2017 CSFS memo will translate into the new code as follows:

- The requirement for masonry and concrete shaft enclosures will remain essentially the same. See section 14B-22-2211.3.
- Requirements for sprinklers will be essentially the same. Sprinklers are required in all residential buildings, regardless of the framing system, unless it meets one of the exceptions of section 14B-9-903.2.8.

- The number of permissible stories increases from 7 to 12 for Type 1B construction. *Type 1B construction in the new code is roughly equivalent to Type 1C of the old code for rating requirements, 14B-6-601.*
- The rating requirement for floors is reduced from three hours to two hours for Type 1A construction. *Type 1A construction in the new code is roughly equivalent to Type 1B of the old code for rating requirements, 14B-6-601.*

CFSF will most often be classified as Type 1B or Type 2A in the updated code. This is a result of the rating requirements associated with each construction type

provided in Table 601 of the updated CBC and of the wall and floor assemblies that are able to meet those rating requirements. There is a scarcity of cold formed steel framing assemblies that are able to achieve the fire rating requirements of Type 1A construction.

Amendments were introduced on January 15 to clarify portions of the updated CBC. Most importantly for CFSF projects, the definition of *Primary Structural Frame* is revised to explicitly include bearing walls in light-frame construction. Without the amendment, insufficient fire ratings for occupant safety would be allowed. These amendments may be adopted by the time of publication. **CA**



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CONGRATULATIONS TO JOHN RONAN ARCHITECTS AND SKIDMORE, OWINGS AND MERRILL LLP!



PHOTO CREDIT: TOM HARRIS

Chicago Public Library branch built in the burgeoning West Loop

The Ed Kaplan Family Institute for Innovation and Tech Entrepreneurship, designed by John Ronan Architects, has won a 2020 AIA Award in Architecture.

In the heart of Mies van Der Rohe's historic Illinois Institute of Technology campus, the Kaplan Institute fosters collaboration and innovation among the school's students, faculty, and alumni. Containing a wide array of collaboration spaces for the school's project-based experiences, this open and light-filled building embodies its synergistic and interdisciplinary approach to educational initiatives.

The institute's second floor, which cantilevers over the ground floor to provide shading, is wrapped in a dynamic façade of

ETFE foil cushions that vary the amount of solar energy entering the building through a sophisticated pneumatic system. The entire façade is controlled by an automated system and adapts to shifting weather and daylight in real time to balance energy use and daylight potential.

At just 1 percent of the weight of glass, the foil gives the building a cloud-like appearance. The rest of the institute's systems are nearly as advanced. Water-filled tubing enclosed in a concrete-filled metal deck provides heating and cooling, while the courtyards are its eyes and lungs to promote natural light and ventilation.

Said one juror, "The Kaplan Institute at IIT is an academic



The Ed Kaplan Family Institute for Innovation and Tech Entrepreneurship

building that combines functionality and sustainability into an elegant design solution, all while working within rigorous financial constraints in a setting with tremendous architectural standards."

Skidmore, Owings and Merrill LLP has won a 2020 AIA Award in Interior Architecture.

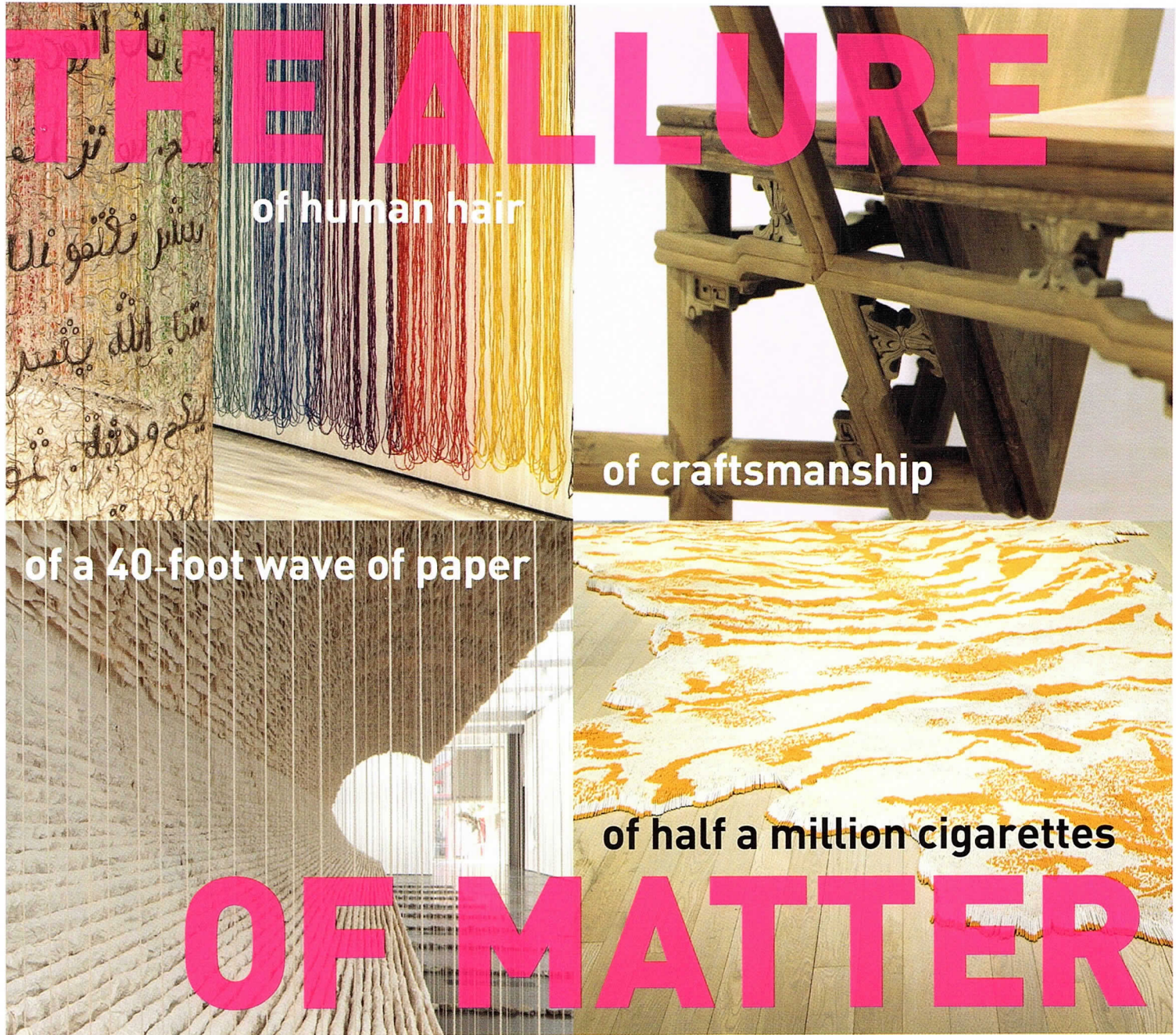
The first Chicago Public Library branch built in the burgeoning West Loop neighborhood, this two-story adaptive reuse project transformed former television studios into a new cultural and social center. The conjoined buildings were donated to Chicago by a generous developer to spur the redevelopment of the

formerly industrial zone, and the project helps fill a critical resource gap.

The team was able to preserve the industrial character of the buildings, and its weathered steel exterior and rust-like patina unify the façade and guide patrons through a steel-framed entrance. Inside, the renovated interior highlights the original bow-truss ceilings and skylights, lending a loft-like atmosphere that is typical of the neighborhood's factory-warehouse style.

Architectural interventions and bold graphic design elements identify the different programmatic areas, including all-ages reading spaces, community rooms, and a digital learning space that boasts a recording studio.

In conjunction with existing industrial windows, the team uncovered hidden skylights to increase daylighting and add to the calming atmosphere of the main reading room. Existing offices from the building's time as studios were repurposed as collaboration and activity spaces for all age groups. One juror commented, "Finally, a library that makes you want to go read a book. Top notch attention to detail, a children's area that does not resort to childish clichés, and a warmth from reuse of existing materials..." CA



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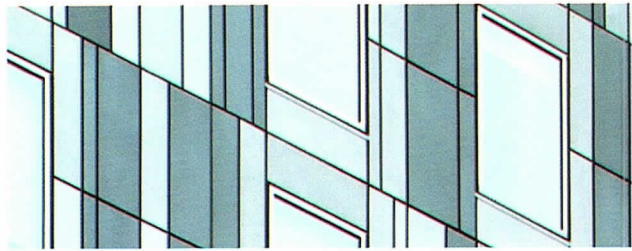
THE ALLURE OF MATTER Material Art from China



The Allure of Matter: Material Art from China is on view through May 3 at the Smart Museum of Art on Chicago's South Side and at Wrightwood 659 on the North Side. Featuring monumental artworks made from unique materials such as stretched pantyhose, cigarettes, and rubber and nails. *The Allure of Matter* highlights the unconventional usage of seemingly everyday objects through 48 works of art by 26 leading Chinese contemporary artists.

theallureofmatter.org

wise: gu wenda, *united nations: american code*, 2019, Photo © Museum Associates/LACMA. siwei, *Tables at Right Angles*, 1998, Stockamp Tsai Collection, New York. Xu Bing, *1st Class*, Photo © Museum Associates/LACMA. Zhu Jinshi, *Wave of Materials*, 2007, Photo © Museum Associates/LACMA.



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