

# CHICAGO ARCHITECT

MAY // JUNE // 2020



2020 SMALL  
PROJECT AWARDS // 17

 AIA  
Chicago  
AIACHICAGO.ORG

# Your CREATION Our TEAMWORK

Our team of Commercial Design Consultants are ready to support your next unit paving project from start to finish.

Combine our technical expertise with a vast array of Unilock colors, shapes and textures, to bring your unique vision to life.

Contact for samples, product information and Lunch & Learns.

[UNILOCK.COM](http://UNILOCK.COM) | 1-800-UNILOCK

PROJECT White Plains Library, White Plains, NY

DESIGN IQ Landscape Architects

PRODUCT City Park Paver™ with Series™ finish



**UNILOCK**®

Rimadesio

Velaria sliding panels,  
Eos shelves.

Design Giuseppe Bavuso

rimadesio.com



Resident Manager North America  
Andrea Romano +1 917 860 5839 info.usa@rimadesio.it



SIERRA  
PACIFIC  
WINDOWS

Architect: Kipnis Architecture | Builder: Shardon Builders | Photographer: AJ Brown Imaging LLC

From a small sitting room to a large gathering hall, the most welcoming spaces are often the ones that make the best use of light. Fortunately, this is one of the many strengths of our new Architectural Wall System, a load-bearing structural timber curtain wall with glulam beams on the interior, truly blurring the lines between inside and outside. New approaches to windows and doors are encouraged by our complete control of the manufacturing process, from tree seed to delivered product, which means you get to design with products that deliver uncompromising beauty for years to come.

**Chicago Design Center** - 2445 E Higgins Rd. | Elk Grove Village | 847-262-5907

[www.SierraPacificWindows.com](http://www.SierraPacificWindows.com) | P.O. Box 8489, Red Bluff, CA 96080 | 800-824-7744 | A Division of



SIERRA  
PACIFIC  
INDUSTRIES

## PUBLICATION DIRECTOR

Zurich Esposito  
zesposito@aiachicago.org

## EDITORS

Anjulie Rao  
arao@aiachicago.org

Liz Herrera Lauer

liz@innovativepublishing.com

## DESIGNER

Catherine Meany

## ADVERTISING SALES

Innovative Publishing  
advertise@innovativepublishing.com  
844.423.7272

# EXTRAORDINARY RESILIENCE IN ABNORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES



These are not normal times.

With this issue of *Chicago Architect*, we find ourselves in the midst of an economic downturn, the likes of which has never been seen since the Great Depression, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Firms small and large, in almost every specialty, have been faced with a changed workplace and uncertain marketplace; and for how long, we cannot be certain. For now, many of us work remotely, and periodically in the field, the work of architects being essential to the basic societal needs of shelter and safety, governance and education. With the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, we recognized that climate change, and our work to combat its effects, is now at humanity's collective doorstep — this is not just about sea level rise or superstorms. Our natural world is changing and invading our everyday lives, and we must rapidly adapt.

Despite these remarkably difficult circumstances, we've found time for celebration. The 2020 Small Project Awards mark 10 years of this wonderful, not-so-small awards program. What began as a celebration has become a much-anticipated party and exhibit, attracting more than 600 architects, design professionals and members of the public. Since its founding in 2010, we've seen explosive growth in small firms leading the way in issue areas like sustainability, intergenerational living, adaptive reuse and more. We're proud of this program and the incredible work done by the Small Practitioners Group and Custom Residential Architects Network.

This year we present three Honor Awards that demonstrate the breadth of design excellence taking place in both rural and urban communities. Two homes — one in rural Wisconsin and another in Chicago — provide homeowners with the perfect abodes for their contexts. In Wisconsin, Collective Office designed a house that integrates seamlessly with its surroundings: a wild prairie that has been restored by the homeowners. The

second home, designed by Vladimir Radutny Architects, also carefully considers the exterior condition — this time, in the heart of an urban environment that is adjacent to elevated train tracks. Both projects demonstrate agility and ingenuity, earning them Honor Awards.

And, when it comes to agility, the third, commercial project, the Green Line Performing Arts Center, shows what restoration and renovation can do in the context of history. Designed by Morris Architects Planners, the facility combines four existing storefronts that once housed music and entertainment venues. The project both enlivens this Washington Park corridor and reinvigorates its historic context. You'll also hear from these three firms in A to Z at the back of the issue.

These projects, plus seven other projects, are being recognized for their commitment to excellence, even on a small scale. We're so grateful, especially during this trying time, to entrants and to our audience, many of whom have been submitting to and following this program for a decade.

Rest assured AIA Chicago continues its work to provide support to our strong architectural community, through continuing our Board's leadership in local climate advocacy, our convening of town halls to address the immediate economic, professional and social needs of our membership, and our staff's intelligent and nimble programming response to move our continuing education and awards programs online.

The word resilience has never had so much meaning to our profession and our Chicago community. This is not a disposable word, or a talking point coming from a white paper; it's a palpably credible path forward. With confidence and the connection of our collective, I believe we will rise to the challenges we face with resilient action through design.

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.

- facebook.com/chicagoaia
- aiachicago.tumblr.com
- twitter.com/aiachicago
- vimeo.com/aiachicago



PARA Activity Center, McCalla, AL    Installing Contractor: R. B. Atkins & Associates    Architect: Ellis Architects    Distributor: Roofers Mart  
 Photographer: hortonphotoinc.com    Profiles: Reveal panels w/ 2 pencil ribs, HWP panels    Colors: Sandstone, Granite



**PAC-CLAD REVEAL + HWP**  
 METAL WALL PANEL SYSTEMS  
 Color: Sandstone + Granite

## Playful Balance

The architects selected a combination of PAC-CLAD Reveal panels and HWP panels to add visual interest to the façade. "The intent was to find a balance between the texture and proportion of the two profiles, using the tighter, undulating panel as an accent."

-Eric Requist, Senior Project Architect, Ellis Architects

Case study at [PAC-CLAD.COM/PARA](https://www.pac-clad.com/para)

PAC-CLAD.COM | [INFO@PAC-CLAD.COM](mailto:INFO@PAC-CLAD.COM)

IL: 800 PAC CLAD    MD: 800 344 1400    TX: 800 441 8661  
 GA: 800 272 4482    MN: 877 571 2025    AZ: 833 750 1935



## DEPARTMENTS

10 // **CHAPTER REPORT**

12 // **PEOPLE + PROJECTS**

34 // **A TO Z**  
A CONVERSATION WITH  
2020 AIA CHICAGO  
SMALL PROJECT AWARDS HONOREES



CREDIT: MIKE SCHWARTZ

## FEATURES

17 // **SMALL PROJECT AWARDS**  
HONOR AWARD  
CITATION OF MERIT

31 // **IN MEMORIAM**

32 // **BOOK: MODERN IN THE MIDDLE**



HISTORICAL IMAGES COURTESY OF CHICAGO HISTORY MUSEUM,  
HEDRICH-BLESSING COLLECTION

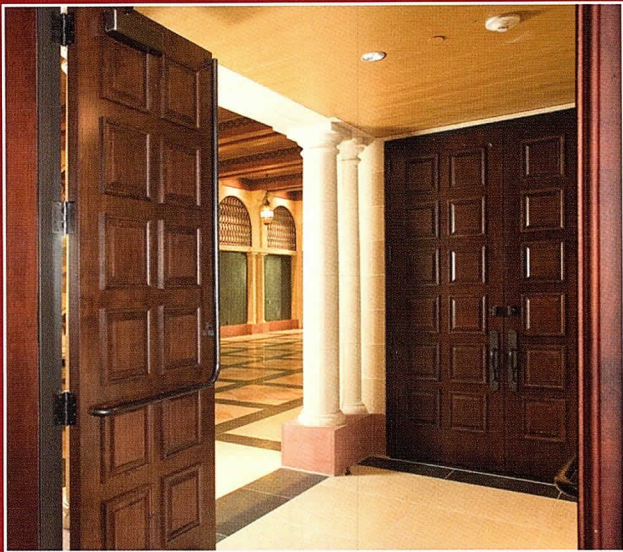
ON THE COVER  
**Lake Geneva Residence**  
Credit: Mike Schwartz



OUR PREVIOUS ISSUE  
is available to view digitally  
at [www.aiachicago.org](http://www.aiachicago.org)



# Make Your Building Quiet and Safe



## Acoustical Door Panels with a Bullet Resistant Rating

Krieger doors enhance the building acoustics by exceeding the ANSI Standard S12.60-2002, and now they add safety with an included bullet resistant rating UL 752. Plus, all Krieger doors are manufactured to your requested size, style, and finish.

Acoustical Rating	Bullet Resistance
STC 45 - 48	UL Level 1 & 2
STC 49 - 53	UL Level 3

Made in the USA. All Krieger's products are designed and manufactured in the United States.



[www.KriegerProducts.com](http://www.KriegerProducts.com)

## 2020 AIA CHICAGO DIRECTORY

### CHICAGO ARCHITECT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thomas Braham, FAIA  
Peter Exley, FAIA  
Peter Schlossman, AIA  
Linda Searl, FAIA  
Brett Taylor, AIA  
P.K. VanderBeke, AIA  
Cynthia Weese, FAIA  
Thomas Zurowski, AIA

### AIA CHICAGO 2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**PRESIDENT**  
April Hughes, AIA

**PAST-PRESIDENT**  
Robert Forest, FAIA

**VICE PRESIDENT/ PRESIDENT-ELECT**  
Jessica Figenholtz, AIA

**VICE PRESIDENT, SPONSORSHIP**  
Mindy Viamontes, AIA

**VICE PRESIDENT, ADVOCACY**  
Drew Deering, AIA

**VICE PRESIDENT, HONORS AND AWARDS**  
Jennifer Park, AIA

**TREASURER**  
Patricia Saldaña Natke, FAIA

**SECRETARY**  
Laura Garcia, AIA

**DIRECTOR**  
Lynda Dossey, AIA  
Jason Golub, AIA  
Manuel Hernandez, AIA  
Natalie Hicks, AIA  
Oswaldo Ortega, AIA  
Tim Tracey, AIA  
Chey Hsaio Taylor, AIA

**ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR**  
Jeremy Gentile, Assoc. AIA  
Jose Rodriguez, Intl. Assoc. AIA

**AFFILIATE DIRECTOR**  
Chris Carpenter, Affiliate AIA Chicago  
Ryan Biziorek, Affiliate AIA Chicago

**STUDENT DIRECTOR**  
Andrew Jiang, AIAS

**AIA ILLINOIS DELEGATES**  
Terran Wilson, AIA  
Joseph Lai, AIA

### 2020 KNOWLEDGE COMMUNITIES

**AIA CHICAGO CRAN (CUSTOM RESIDENTIAL ARCHITECTS NETWORK)**  
Celeste Robbins, AIA, co-chair  
Scott Crowe, AIA, co-chair

**COMMUNITY INTERFACE COMMITTEE**  
David Sikorski, AIA, co-chair  
Erin Sanchez, AIA, co-chair

**DESIGN**  
Greg Koslowski, AIA, co-chair  
Josh Mings, AIA, co-chair

**DESIGN FOR AGING**  
Steven Montgomery, AIA, co-chair  
Heidi Wang, AIA, co-chair

**EDUCATION**  
Lynne Sorkin, AIA, co-chair  
Peter Schlossman, AIA, co-chair  
Vuk Vujovic, Assoc. AIA, co-chair

**ENVIRONMENT**  
Jason Sippel, AIA, chair  
David Swain, AIA, co-chair  
Saranya Gunasingh, Intl. Assoc. AIA, co-chair

**EQUITY ROUNDTABLE**  
Patricia Saldaña Natke, FAIA, chair

**HEALTHCARE ARCHITECTURE**  
Roderick Walton, AIA, co-chair  
Holly Harris, Assoc. AIA, co-chair  
Judy Tolle, Aff. AIA, treasurer

**HISTORIC RESOURCES**  
Ellen Stoner, AIA, chair  
Jonathan Fine, AIA, chair  
John Cramer, Assoc. AIA, co-chair

**INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE**  
Susan Brain, AIA, co-chair  
John Hopkins, AIA, chair

**LGBTQI+ ALLIANCE**  
Sara Fetterolf, Assoc. AIA, chair  
Fred Grier, AIA, co-chair

**PRACTICE MANAGEMENT**  
Ben Johnson, AIA, chair  
Iana Kolev, AIA, co-chair  
Tony Gosetti, AIA, chair

**REGIONAL & URBAN PLANNING**  
Doug Smith, AIA, chair  
Richard Wilson, Assoc. AIA, planner

**SMALL PRACTITIONERS GROUP**  
Chyanne Husar, AIA, co-chair  
Frank Michalski, AIA, co-chair

**TECHNICAL ISSUES**  
Lee Fink, AIA, chair  
David Babnigg, AIA

**YOUNG ARCHITECTS FORUM**  
Justin Banda, Assoc. AIA, co-chair  
Madeline Toth, AIA, chair

**2030 COMMITMENT WORKING GROUP**  
Arathi Gowda, AIA, co-chair  
Scott Farbman, AIA, co-chair

**BUILDING ENCLOSURE CHICAGO COUNCIL**  
Fernando Araujo, AIA, CSI, chair

Rob Falconer, AIA, vice-chair/chair-elect

**DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS WORKING GROUP**  
Kenneth DeMuth, AIA, co-chair  
Holly Gerberding, FAIA, co-chair

### CHAPTER STAFF

**EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT**  
Zurich Esposito, Hon. AIA

**PROGRAM DIRECTOR**  
Joan Pomaranc

**PROGRAM MANAGER**  
Allison Garwood Freedland

**COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR**  
Anjulie Rao

**MANAGER OF PROGRAMS**  
Kacey Larsen

**FINANCIAL MANAGER**  
Kathy Jessen

**MEMBERSHIP MANAGER**  
Steve Riforgiato

**OFFICE MANAGER**  
Nina Dew

**SPONSORSHIP COORDINATOR**  
Debora Donato

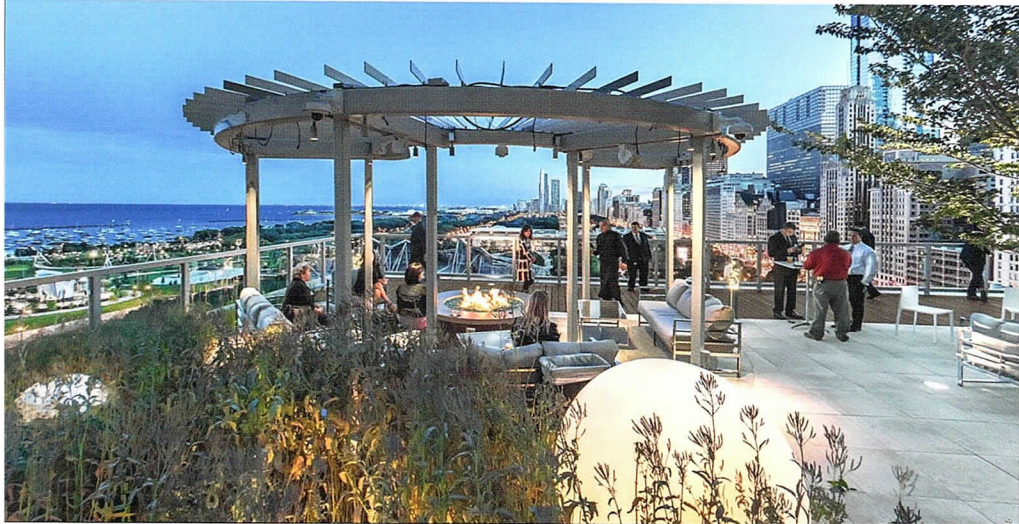
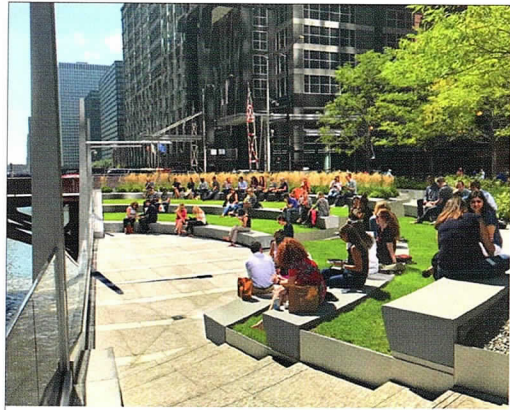
Subscription to Chicago Architect is included with AIA Chicago membership. Non-members may subscribe signing up at: [www.aiachicago.org](http://www.aiachicago.org)

Additional copies of Chicago Architect are available for \$7.50 per issue and can be obtained by contacting the AIA Chicago office at 312.670.777. If you are interested in purchasing a large number of issues, contact AIA Chicago or ask about group sales.

The American Institute of Architects is the voice of the architectural profession and the resource for its members in service to society.

Chicago Architect is printed with zero-VOC ink on 10-percent post-consumer waste stock.





# CONFLUENCE

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE  
PLANNING  
URBAN DESIGN

DES MOINES | KANSAS CITY  
CEDAR RAPIDS | SIOUX FALLS  
MINNEAPOLIS | OMAHA  
FARGO | CHICAGO

[www.thinkconfluence.com](http://www.thinkconfluence.com)



## Holiday Parties

IN OUR ARCHITECTURAL GEMS



Located steps from Lake Michigan and near transportation to Chicago attractions.



**EMIL BACH HOUSE**, one of Frank Lloyd Wright's last prairie homes, is the perfect place to hold your intimate holiday party. This lovingly restored 1915 Wright-designed home accommodates events for up to 26 people. For an overnight stay, the house sleeps up to 6 in 3 bedrooms.

Mention code **HOLIDAYHISTORY20** when booking and **SAVE 10%** on your holiday party, plus receive a free gift for all your guests! Book your event by 11/30/20.

**LANG HOUSE CHICAGO** is a spacious and elegant 4-story home designed by Edgar Newman and built in 1919. Including a full living room, dining room, reading room, game room, and three gas fireplaces; this house can accommodate events for up to 50 people. For an overnight stay, the house sleeps up to 16 people in 6 bedrooms with private bathrooms.



7415 N. Sheridan Rd  
Chicago, IL 60626  
773.654.3959  
[emilbachhouse.com](http://emilbachhouse.com)



7421 N. Sheridan Rd  
Chicago, IL 60626  
773.764.9851  
[langhousechicago.com](http://langhousechicago.com)

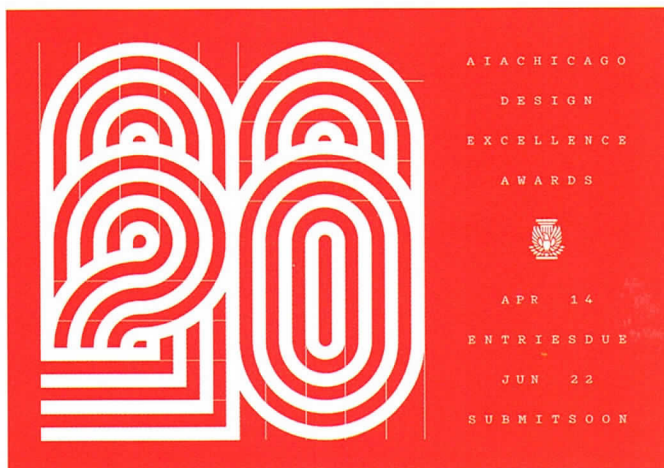
## UPDATES FROM AIA CHICAGO DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Like many other businesses around the world, AIA Chicago staff members are abiding by shelter-in-place orders. Though we are working from home, we are still here for you!

Much of AIA Chicago's knowledge community programming is being moved online so that we may still offer high-quality continuing education opportunities. We have also added programming to help firms navigate their businesses through difficult times. We teamed up with AIA Illinois to provide ongoing town hall-style programs and have tapped into our robust network of practice management professionals to provide critical information regarding legal, financial and technical support. We're looking forward to featuring our members in programs and communications related to the future of the profession in design and business.

Most importantly, we will convey the strength, resilience and creativity of Chicago's architecture community in challenging times.

Please visit [www.aiachicago.org](http://www.aiachicago.org) to view all upcoming online events and to sign up for our bi-weekly newsletter — the best place to learn about our events and related opportunities.



### CALL FOR ENTRIES: 2020 DESIGN EXCELLENCE AWARDS

#### Submit your projects by June 22, 2020

AIA Chicago presents the 2020 Design Excellence Awards, an annual awards program that honors the best work by Chicago architecture firms found worldwide, as well as Chicago-based projects by national and international firms.

Submit your projects completed between 2015 and 2020 in the following categories:

- Distinguished Building Award
- Interior Architecture Award
- Divine Detail Award

## NeoConnect

june 2020

### NEOCON 2020 IS NOW NEOCONNECT!

NeoCon has brought the commercial design industry together in Chicago every June since 1969. This June, they are launching NeoConnect, a series of online resources, programming and events from NeoCon exhibitors and media and association partners, hosted on [www.neocon.com](http://www.neocon.com) and designed to virtually connect the NeoCon community.

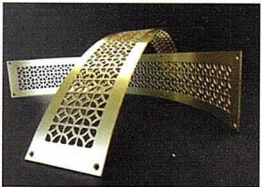
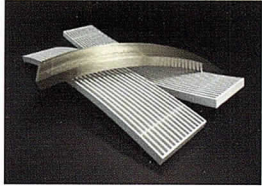
Throughout June, NeoCon attendees can expect virtual exhibitors, programming and social events, as well as a new podcast and much more.

AIA Chicago is proud to be a partner with NeoConnect in this new endeavor!



**ADVANCED ARCHITECTURAL GRILLEWORKS**  
*Artistry in Architectural Grilles & Metal*

**Helps You Enjoy The View...  
 Inside and Out**



*Unlimited Custom Design Possibilities*

**aagrilles.com • sales@aagrilles.com • 516-488-0628**



**AMCORK**

**AMERICAN  
 CORK PRODUCTS  
 COMPANY**



importers of fine cork flooring & wall coverings

[www.amcork.com](http://www.amcork.com) 1-888-955-CORK (2675)

**SCHWEISS**

**DOORS**



**YOU THINK IT,  
 WE BUILD IT!**

**HYDRAULIC - OR - BIFOLD**

**ONE-PIECE DOORS**

**STRAP LIFT DOORS**

**507-426-8273**



**"BUILDING BETTER DOORS"**

**SCHWEISSDOORS.COM**



PLEASE SEND YOUR NEWS TO:  
info@aiachicago.org



HED recently broke ground on the Fifth Avenue Apartments, a 72-unit affordable housing development on Chicago's West Side.



**AJ Finn** has been promoted to senior project manager at Earles Architects and Associates.



**Todd Douglas** has been promoted to partner at LCM Architects.



HDR was selected by RPB Hotels and Resorts to provide architectural design services for the development of a new 82-suite, 12-story, mass timber-constructed Ramada Hotel in Kelowna, British Columbia.

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



**Ghafari Associates** recently completed Southwest Airlines' Aircraft Maintenance Center at Houston Hobby Airport — the largest hangar in the airline's network.



The National Art Education Association (NAEA) has named **Architecture Is Fun** to receive the 2020 Distinguished Service Outside the Profession Award for the studio's significant advancement of visual arts education.



**Goettsch Partners** has unveiled its design for Poly 335 Financial Center, a 300,000-square-meter mixed-use complex in the Zengcheng district of Guangzhou, China.



**Drew Roskos, AIA, LEED AP, NCARB**, has been promoted to HED's Housing Studio/Sector leadership team.



The Association for Learning Environments has named Legat Architects' **Robin Randall, AIA, ALEP, LEED AP BD+C**, as one of only eight Accredited Learning Environments Planners in the state of Illinois.



**Sara Beardsley, AIA, LEED AP**, has been promoted to director at Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture.

PEOPLE + PROJECTS



PLEASE SEND YOUR NEWS TO:  
info@aiachicago.org



**Mark Schmieding**, AIA, FAIA, LEED AP, has rejoined Goettsch Partners, serving as director of digital practice and based in the Chicago office.



**Peter Randolph** and **Nicole Tabata**, AIA, have been promoted to directors at Eastlake Studio.



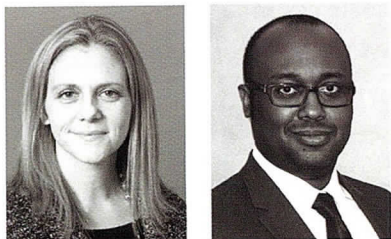
**Legat Architects** designed a modernization that brings new life to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's 55-year-old Turner Hall and showcases the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences.



**Goettsch Partners** has designed Alcove, a new 34-story residential tower in Nashville, Tennessee.



**Robin Glosemeyer Petrone** and **Gregory Miller** have been promoted to the position of partner at Thresholds Acoustics. **Connie Walker** (far left) has been promoted to managing principal.



The following five professionals have been promoted at Goettsch Partners: To associate principal, **Melissa Venoy, AIA, LEED AP**; to senior associate, **Jason Liu, LEED AP**, to associate (not pictured); **Marcus McLin, CDT**; **Al Ochsner**; and **Elizabeth Schneider, AIA**.



**Jim Jobes, AIA**, has been promoted to executive vice president and business unit leader for Ghafari's Chicago Office.

**HED** has joined **JUST**, a program of the International Living Future Institute (ILFI). **JUST** serves as a tool to help organizations measure their progress on a range of indicators about social justice, equity, diversity, inclusion and sustainability.



DMAC Architecture has designed the state of Illinois' first-ever sportsbook, located at Rivers Casino Des Plaines.

# ANNOUNCING 2020 CHICAGO FELLOWS

Congratulations to the six AIA Chicago members to receive the 2020 distinction! AIA Fellows are recognized with the AIA's highest membership honor for their exceptional work and contributions to architecture and society. The prestige of FAIA after your name is unparalleled, and the judging is rigorous.

Architects who have made significant contributions to the profession and society and who exemplify architectural excellence can become an AIA Fellow. Approximately three percent of the AIA's 90,000-plus members have this distinction.

## CATEGORIES:

**Object One:** Design, urban design or preservation. Promoted the aesthetic, scientific and practical efficiency of the profession.

**Object Two:** Advanced the science and art of planning and building by advancing the standards of architectural education, training and practice.

**Object Three:** Coordinated the building industry and the profession of architecture through leadership in the AIA or other related professional organizations.

**Object Four:** Advanced the living standards of people through an improved environment.

**Object Five:** Made the profession of ever-increasing service to society.



**CATHERINE BAKER, FAIA**  
Principal, Landon Bone Baker Architects  
Object Two: Practice (Technical Advancement)

Through a unique synthesis of leadership, advocacy, education and thoughtful design, Catherine Baker has expanded the conventional boundaries of practice to generate positive change for challenged communities and to champion equity in the profession.



**TOM ROSZAK, FAIA**  
Principal, Thomas Roszak Architecture  
Object Two: Practice (Management)

Thomas Roszak advances an architect-led, integrated project delivery process through a single source model, elevating quality architecture. He transforms underutilized properties into thoughtful buildings enriched by livable scale and uses, improving the public realm.



**MARC TEER, FAIA**  
Architect, Founder, CEO, Black Spectacles  
Object Two: Practice (Technical Advancement)

Marc Teer translates experience in practice into programs that answer today's needs for architectural training. Through his development of Black Spectacles, he positions technology users to empower practice, creates new training resources and accelerates licensure.



**RANDY DEUTSCH, FAIA**  
Clinical Associate Professor, University of Illinois  
Object Two: Education

Book author, international keynote speaker, workshop leader, administrator and educator, Randy Deutsch helps current and future design professionals to understand the impacts of emerging technology on future practice, and to plan for and navigate a fast-moving, uncertain future with confidence.



**MARK SCHMIEDING, FAIA**  
Director, Digital Practice, Goettsch Partners  
Object Two: Practice (Technical Advancement)

Mark Schmieding has been a pioneer in architectural computing his entire career, first realizing the potential of computers in architecture, then developing BIM to transform the industry, and always sharing this knowledge with the industry.



**DANIEL WHITE, FAIA**  
Senior Vice President, Gresham Smith  
Object Two: Practice (Technical Advancement)

Daniel White has dedicated his 37-year career to reinventing U.S. healthcare environments through patient-focused design, producing first-of-their-kind typologies and sharing his knowledge nationally and internationally. **CA**



# small project awards | 2020 jury

Founded by the AIA Chicago Small Practitioners Group and co-presented by the AIA Chicago Area Custom Residential Architects Network, the goal of this award program is to raise public awareness of the value that architects bring to small projects and to promote small practitioners as a resource for design excellence. All projects were designed by firms with 10 or fewer full-time or full-time-equivalent employees at the time of submission.



Andrew Moddrell, AIA  
Port  
Chicago, IL



Tom Wynn, AIA  
Wade Weissmann Architecture  
Milwaukee, WI



Jen Maigret, AIA  
Ply+  
Detroit, MI

honor award

commercial/institutional



### Green Line Performing Arts Center

**Morris Architects Planners**

**Location:** Chicago, Illinois

**Client:** Lake Park Associates

**General Contractor:** Powers & Sons  
Construction Company

**Structural Engineer:** Goodfriend  
Magruder Structure

**MEP Engineer:** dbHMS

**Civil Engineer:** Terra Engineering

**Landscape Architect:** Site

**Theater Consultant:** Schuler Shook

**Acoustical Engineer:** Way Acoustics

**A/V Consultant:** All Pro Integrated Systems

**Signage Graphic Design:** Firebelly Design

**Signage Fabrication:** RightWay Signs

**Theater Lighting:** Intelligent Lighting Creations

**Concept and Coordination:** UChicago Arts  
and Public Life

Located in Washington Park along the CTA Green Line's Garfield Park station, the Green Line Performing Arts Center is the latest component of an initiative dedicated to reestablishing Washington Park and Arts Block as a hub for arts and entertainment. The site originally held a restaurant and a music club, Rhumboogie, owned by boxing great Joe Louis.



CREDIT: STEVE HALL, HALL+MERRICK PHOTOGRAPHERS



CREDIT: SAMANTHA SHEPPARD



CREDIT: STEVE HALL, HALL+MERRICK PHOTOGRAPHERS

The design unifies four existing storefronts into a single façade that abuts the elevated tracks and station. The scale of the new façade recreates that of the existing storefronts, while the larger theater volume is tucked behind. The increasing brick façade porosity defines the lobby that connects, via an operable window wall, to a proposed one-acre park at the corner of 55th Street and Martin Luther

King Drive. “I was struck by the beautiful and careful brickwork,” commented one juror, “especially the combination of solid and screen.”

A special challenge was reusing as much of the existing structures while providing an up-to-date, technologically advanced theater. The theater and rehearsal room have state-of-the-art theatrical lighting, audio and rigging

systems that provide high production values for performing groups and students. The lobby creates a social environment that unites people and facilitates conversation and shared experience. “The project is interesting and surprising given the level of synthesis it achieved with such a complex starting point; it’s successful in its cohesion, not just through design

but from an urban planning point of view,” said a juror.

That urban cohesion is evident in a new hardscape pedestrian pathway for neighbors, especially residents of Coppin House Apartments, to walk to the CTA station. It replaces four vacant storefronts with active space that lights up the night and expands the Arts Block, both physically and temporally.

## Avondale Bowl

Range Design & Architecture

Location: Chicago, Illinois

General Contractor: Urban Design & Construction

FF&E Consultant: Studio 6F

Structural Engineer: Louis Shell Structures LLC

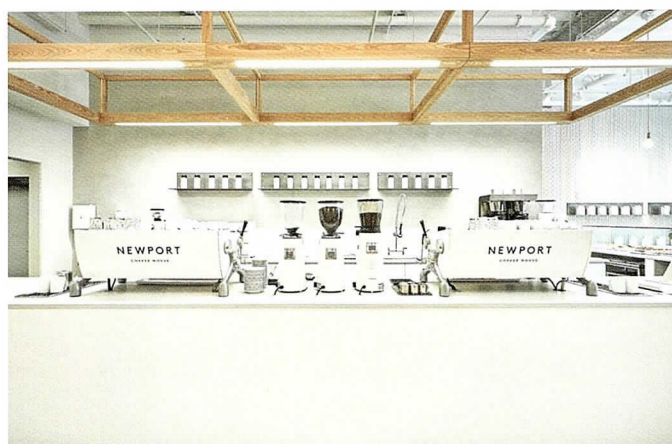
MEP Engineer: Element Energy Consulting LLC

Avondale Bowl revives a forgotten bowling alley in northwest Chicago that sat unoccupied for decades. The renovation preserves and restores elements of the original space while building on the character of three main spaces: bowling lanes, reservation desk and bar. Each area is differentiated by a distinct collection of custom furniture, fixtures and millwork, as well as lighting (skylights in the day and custom neon fixtures at night).

The second-floor location led RANGE to consider a dramatic entry sequence. From the street, visitors pass through a subtly defined alcove into a bright red, neon-lit foyer, up and around an airy, perforated metal stair to arrive at an expansive view of the lanes. The foreground is illuminated with an array of globe lights, and a sawtooth ceiling beyond conceals ambient lighting and sound attenuation. Said one juror, "The renovation creates a nice balance of old and new; it has a midcentury, classical sensibility with contemporary details and colors."



ALL PHOTOS BY MIKE SCHWARTZ



**Newport Coffee House**

34-TEN LLC

Location: Evanston, Illinois

General Contractor: Synergy Construction Group LLC

Lighting Design: Captiva Lighting Consultants Inc.

When architects at 34-TEN met with the owners of Newport Coffee, the discussion included the elements required for making exceptional coffee, inspiring ideas of the laboratory precision

required. This laboratory aesthetic helped conceptualize the coffee bar — the focal point of the space.

The design team also wanted to emphasize the owners' Scandinavian heritage to counterbalance the sterility inherent with the laboratory concept, accomplished by referencing Scandinavian design precedent. A painted wood vertical element was introduced in the retail and café spaces. Construction costs were kept in check by repurposing much of the existing layout left by the previous restaurant tenant — a strategy that jurors appreciated. "Preserving the layout allowed them to play with surfaces and textures," commented one juror.

# honor award

## residential



### Lake Geneva Residence

Collective Office

Location: Lake Geneva,  
Wisconsin

General Contractor:

Scherrer Construction

Structural Engineer: Louis

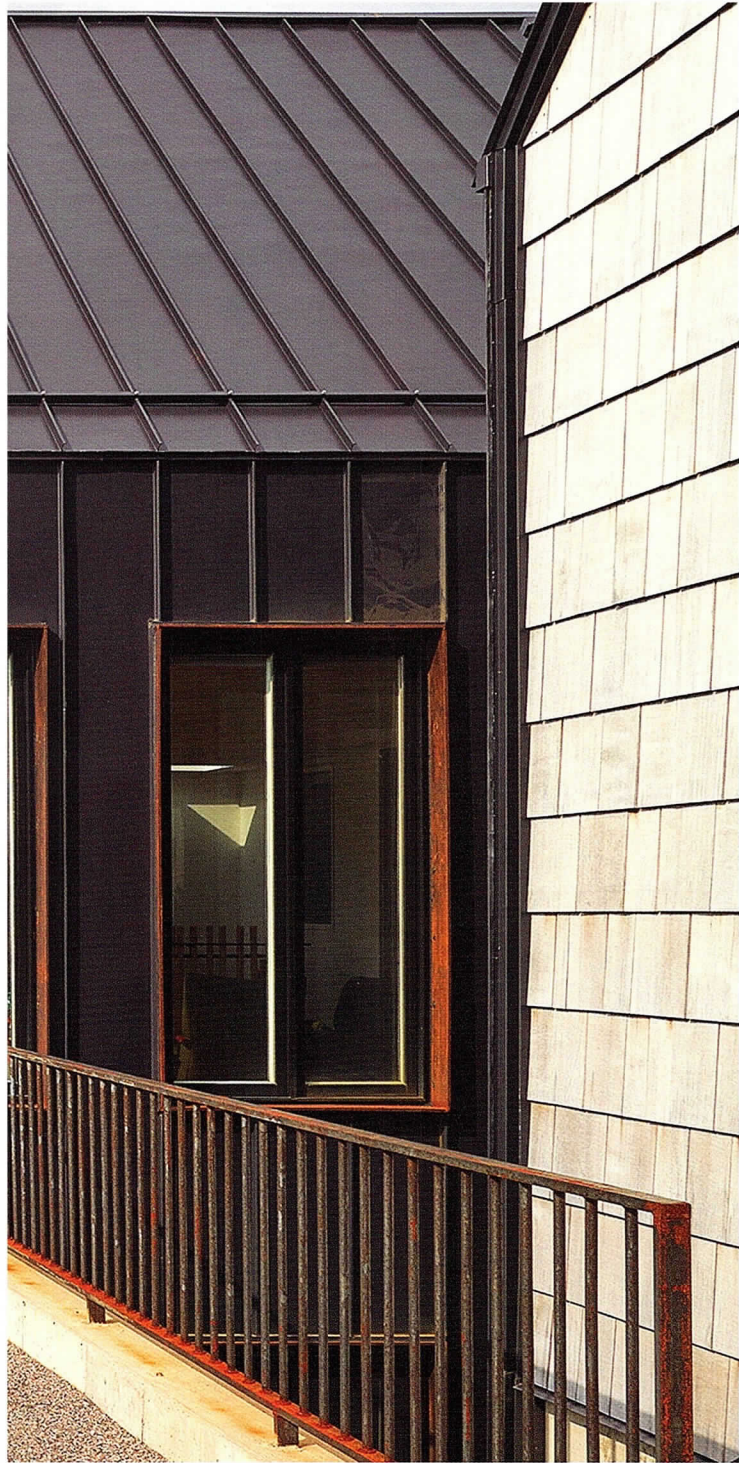
Shell Structures

In the midst of a prairie landscape in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, sit three simple, volumetric shapes, nestled below the highest point of the landscape. While their angular pitched roofs contrast with the vast natural surroundings, the home still appears connected to the natural

environment. Collective Office's clients purchased 19 acres of native prairie and rehabilitated the land themselves, and they desired a home that was uniquely connected to this place. The firm conceived the project as a modern farmhouse to meet their need for a home that would enable the interior experience to

be an extension of the restored prairie, a concept that jurors called "wonderfully executed."

The gabled roofs are informed by farm buildings and produce vaulted spaces in the interior. A limited palette unifies the residence through long-lasting materials that reference the local vernacular. The minimal interior



uses wide-plank maple floors and white walls with white oak millwork in key locations. This uncluttered aesthetic provides focused, outward prairie views and highlights the clients' collection of artwork and antiques. The roof and siding of the volumes are black standing-seam metal with 24-to-26-inch Alaskan yellow

cedar shingles on the gabled ends, a detail that the jury appreciated. "The project has beautiful simple forms, but the details, such as the roof, are handled elegantly," said one juror. The Corten canopies and window surrounds will also weather, providing architectural details that will slowly transform and connect to the prairie over time.

ALL PHOTOS BY MIKE SCHWARTZ



A large kitchen island provides programmatic separation without enclosing the space. An all-year screened porch opens directly outside. "I love that they are able to achieve the light and airy feeling without extensive use of glazing," commented one juror. A skylight above the stair allows light to flood through the louver and deep into

the basement, as does a lower courtyard on the west side. "The stairs are brilliant, filled with light," said another juror. "It is remarkable how the light and airy feel harkens back to the prairie, just through the light." At all other locations, the continuous landscape extends right up to each side of the house.

honor award

residential





## Newport Residence

Vladimir Radutny Architects

Location: Chicago, Illinois

General Contractor: DiCosola Group

ALL PHOTOS BY MIKE SCHWARTZ

This year's jury was particularly interested in the types of renovation projects completed by Chicago architects. Jurors were drawn to Newport Residence by Vladimir Radutny Architects as an extensive renovation project that one juror called "an astonishing rehab done with a touch so light you can't tell from the exterior."

Situated 75 feet away from the elevated train tracks, close enough to hear "next stop" announcements, it was a masonry two-flat that the clients desired to convert into a single-family home. The existing conditions were dismal, according to the architects — nothing was level, while the dark interior, low ceilings and lack of connectivity between floor plates added to the project's complexity. The design team decided to eliminate the entire interior, leaving the exterior load-bearing shell intact while strategically puncturing the envelope for added daylight and views. "This was a very obviously complex puzzle," commented one juror, "and I love how they solved the vertical spaces."

The team stitched all new building levels together utilizing an articulated stair within a contiguous void, pulling natural daylight down at each floor and connecting spaces via light and shadow throughout the day. One juror who has worked on residential projects near El tracks noted, "Lighting is so difficult in this area; its interior is very successful because of the architect's careful planning and studies of natural lighting."

The neighboring exterior common brick walls now become

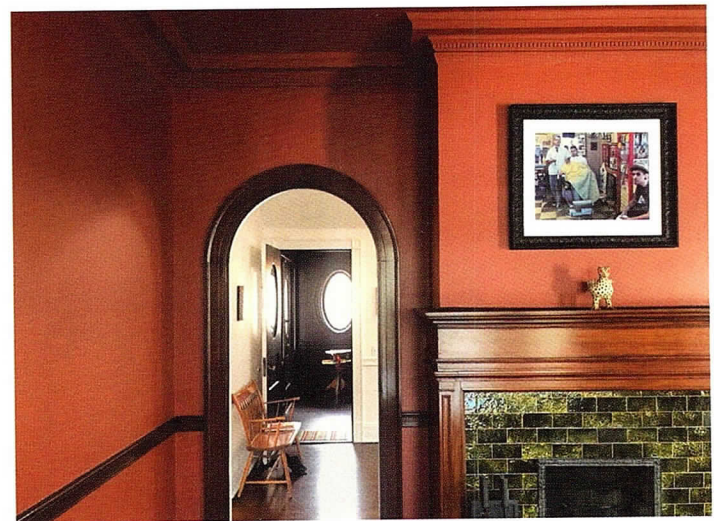
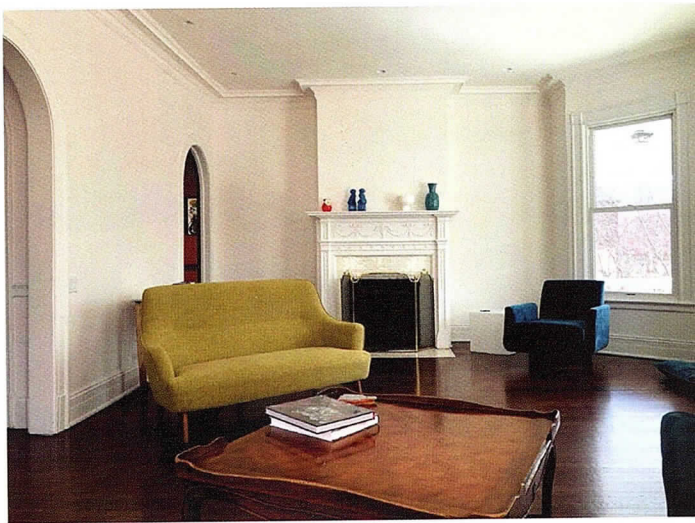
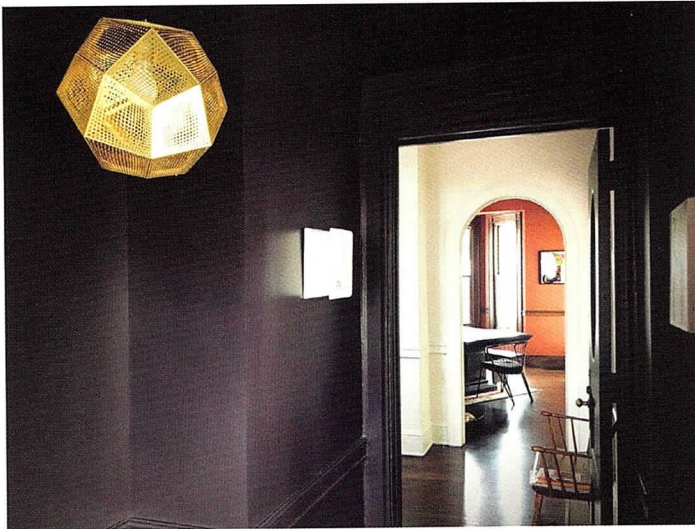


the backdrop for the interior, as spaces are visually stretched outward. They blur the boundary between the interior and the outside, as the team selectively kept some brick as finish material on the inside of the home as well.

While the front of the house remained intact, the rear embraces the alley and the elevated train — an element that jurors found charming. It is clad in narrow shiplap siding from cut-down standard fiber-cement boards to add texture, depth

and design integrity to the rear of the building — an often-unprioritized part of track-facing buildings. According to the design team, this offers a new vantage for those passengers that ride the El. "It's a gift," added one juror.

ALL PHOTOS BY CAMESGIBSON



## Minor Residence

CAMESgibson

Location: Chicago, Illinois

General Contractor: Firehouse Contracting LLC

Millwork: Navillus Woodworks

The renovation and new addition to a farmhouse, built by a Civil War veteran before Chicago's Great Fire, muddles old and new. To maintain the home's varied character, while modernizing it for contemporary life,

the project resisted design approaches to make a consistent whole (where contemporary work mimics the historic context), or a dual composition (with a highly legible contrast between old and new). The nuanced result balances compositional inconsistency and a coherency of program and circulation.

Jurors called the project "a series of quirky interventions." Said one juror, "I thought this was a sophisticated reinterpretation of an existing condition. Everything is slightly more abstract and smooth. Somehow it's playing off all the very articulated bays or woodwork of the original, pulling those layers apart to get in between."

**Old Town Modern**

dSPACE Studio

Location: Chicago, Illinois

General Contractor: Z&V

dSPACE Studio renovated this home, originally designed by Bruce Graham, FAIA, in 1972. The design direction was to restore the exterior in accordance with landmark guidelines, open the floorplan and increase natural light while respecting existing architecture. Jurors took note of this respect, calling the project “notable as a remarkably sensitive renovation.”

The floorplan was reimagined around an existing two-story atrium. The design team removed interior walls where possible and unified the open space with new herringbone flooring. The new sculptural marble fireplace is a focal point, while marble was also used to compose artful wall planes in the gallery, atrium and dining space, evoking a calm interior environment.

ALL PHOTOS BY TONY SOLURI



ALL PHOTOS BY LYDIA WHITE



## Shell House

DAAM

Location: Roxbury, New York

General Contractor: Whritner Builders

Located in the Catskill Mountains, the Shell House was designed in 1996 by Seymour Rutkin with consultation from the Monolithic Dome Institute. DAAM was hired to remodel the kitchen and entry foyer and redesign the HVAC system of the shotcrete dome to accommodate contemporary living needs, while maintaining the structure's existing aesthetics and quirkiness. Operating within the unique spatial constraints of the dome's oblate ellipsoid geometry, they developed a design strategy that opened up the kitchen floor plan and reoriented the room to alleviate problematic head clearance issues. The curvaceous theme is then elaborated further in various details — the front door lights, kitchen drawer pulls and tile pattern.

"This is essentially a kitchen renovation," noted one juror, "but the firm accomplished more in a kitchen renovation than one might have accomplished renovating the whole home." Added another, "They had to be really inventive to put something in place that can live up to the texture and the geometry of the concrete shell. The way this adds these vertical lines and dimension to the dimensionless sloping concrete walls makes it feel like it belongs there."



**Sky Vault**

**dSPACE Studio**

**Location:** Chicago, Illinois

**General Contractor:** Norcon Inc.

**Interior Designer:** Ruth Johnson Interiors

The owner obtained 4,500 square feet of raw space atop a Lincoln Park high-rise and wanted an open-plan contemporary residence that maximizes expansive lake and city views. The French-inspired building has a mansard roof with arched windows and vaulted ceilings. Influenced by these unalterable exterior elements, dSPACE Studio designed the interior to express the vault detail in ceilings and doorways throughout. Arches offer dramatic space for the owner's art collection and temper the impact of 14-foot ceilings. "It's beautiful plaster work," commented one juror. "The way they've used the windows and treated them, then aligned them, then located other features in concert with them was well done."

ALL PHOTOS BY TONY SOLURI



ALL PHOTOS BY MIKE SCHWARTZ



## Unit 2808

Vladimir Radutny Architects

Location: Chicago, Illinois

General Contractor: Hi-Teq Construction

This 28th-floor dwelling was renovated for a couple desiring an urban sanctuary as their second home. Beautiful light and captivating city views were already present as the main ingredients for making this apartment into a tranquil space.

Visual illusions are employed throughout, where reflectivity creates connections between architectural elements and the spaces they support. Shelves disappear and reemerge behind the delicate walls, creating a backdrop for everyday living things. Black floating lines organize the primary living space and become thinner as they elevate vertically above the floor plane. Walls and built-ins are simply read as planes and surfaces that encompass the domestic space.

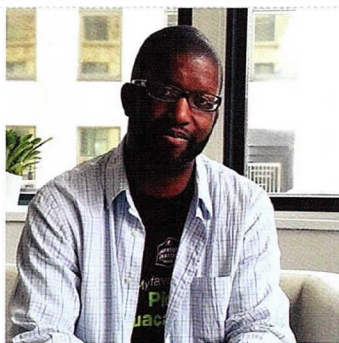
"This project goes beyond exquisitely detailed millwork," said one juror. "It is relatively modest in its size and achieves a lot of spatial complexity and layering with very little." One other juror appreciated the use of color and



texture throughout: "There's some softening moments of the angular Miesian tradition," they said. **CA**

# REMEMBERING LESTER SCAIFE, AFFIL. AIA CHICAGO

BY KATHERINE DARNSTADT, AIA



Lester at the most recent LGBTQI+ Alliance Winter Social

CREDIT: STEPHANIE JENSEN

If there was an event or lecture related to architecture, there was a high probability you could find Lester in the crowd. He was a soft-spoken but chatty figure at AIA events and more passionate about architecture than most of his peers fortunate to be in the industry. Lester was born in Chicago in 1971 and his early artistic talent was nurtured by his mother, who encouraged him to pursue a creative path. She was a creative entrepreneur herself, first a seamstress and then owning her own custom dress and tailor shop. His mother taught him to draw and Lester would joke that her “tough but fair, but mostly tough” way of parenting taught him his work ethic.

It is on this early path to architecture that I first met Lester at a YAF Chicago event that was mostly cocktails. We were both naive but determined; me walking around with business cards I printed on inkjet; him getting to know the rest of the young architects and probing for insight on assembling

an admissions portfolio. He worked retail to afford tuition at one of Chicago’s esteemed architecture programs. Not one to wait, Lester had tenacity to be an architect that led him to enroll at Illinois Institute of Art and City Colleges of Chicago to complete his associate’s degree, but both institutions left him struggling with insurmountable student debt and no degree. His home for some time was the Lawson House YMCA on Chicago Avenue.

Lester’s health was always precarious and the social services safety net in Chicago is small, but Lester was there, fighting in the background. He continued to view our city through his camera, taking

photos for events as diverse as lectures to rock concerts. This ultimately grew into him co-founding a production company that specialized in short videos for the design community, Fine Creativity. Quiet but never shy, Lester presented the work of Fine Creativity at Pecha Kucha, 1871, and various startup pitch days, catching the attention of fellow entrepreneurs. The company was starting to develop a robust clientele list featuring several notable firms and small commercial gigs.

When finished, the renovation of the stately art deco Lawson House YMCA will be the largest SRO in Chicago designed to Living Building Challenge metrics. These

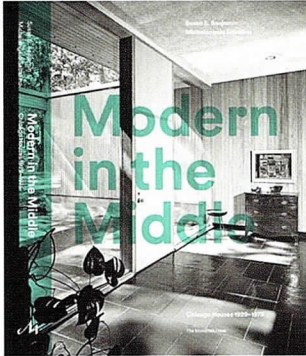
renovations required residents to move out in phases during construction with intense vetting by the development team that would determine which residents would be allowed to move back in. On March 16, 2020, Lester died alone on a sofa he rented while waiting to move back. In many ways, he was conned by higher education, overlooked by the systems put in place to protect the vulnerable, and politely dismissed by our industry. But Lester didn’t hold any anger toward these situations or people. He was a genuine and kind soul who loved architecture. He didn’t deserve this ending.

Rest in Power, Lester. You were loved and will be missed. **CA**

# MODERN IN THE MIDDLE:

AN EXCERPT FROM A GREATLY ANTICIPATED NEW BOOK BY SUSAN BENJAMIN AND MICHELANGELO SABATINO

**MODERN IN THE MIDDLE: CHICAGO HOUSES 1929-1975 IS TO COME OUT IN AUGUST 2020. MONACELLI PRESS**



*Modern in the Middle: Chicago Houses 1929-75* explores the substantial, yet overlooked, role that Chicago and its suburbs played in the development of the modern single-family house in the mid-twentieth century. In a city often associated with the outsize reputations of Frank Lloyd Wright and Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, the examples discussed in this book, generously illustrated with photographs by Hedrich Blessing, Richard Nickel and others,

expand and enrich the story of the city's built environment.

Authors Susan Benjamin and Michelangelo Sabatino survey dozens of influential houses by architects whose contributions are relatively unknown or are ripe for reappraisal — practitioners such as Howard Fisher, Paul Schweikher, William Deknatel, Harry Weese, Keck & Keck and William Pereira. From the bold, early example of the “Battledock House” by Henry Dubin (1930), to John Vinci and Lawrence Kenny’s Freeark House (1975), the generation-spanning residences discussed here reveal how these architects contended with climate and natural setting while negotiating the dominant influences of Wright and Mies. They also reveal how residential clients — typically middle-class professionals, progressive in their thinking — helped to trailblaze modern architecture in America. Though reflecting different approaches to site, space, structure and materials, the examples in *Modern in the Middle* reveal an abundance of astonishing houses that have never been collected into one study — until now.

The house William Deknatel designed for prominent Northwestern University English literature professor Lambert H. Ennis and his wife, Ellen Newby Ennis, reflects Deknatel’s training at the Taliesin Fellowship. Deknatel — along with his wife, Geraldine, John H. Howe and Wesley Peters — was among the charter applicants for membership at Frank Lloyd Wright’s school when it was established in 1932. While in temporary quarters, he and his colleagues worked directly under Wright on construction of the fellowship buildings.<sup>1</sup> This

gave Deknatel hands-on experience with Wright before setting out on his own private practice.

Deknatel was born in Chicago in 1907 at Hull House, a settlement house where his father was Jane Addams’ volunteer secretary-treasurer and his mother was a kindergarten teacher. He graduated from Princeton University in 1929 and left the following year for Paris to attend the École des Beaux-Arts. It was here that he met his wife, Geraldine Eager, an interior design student. The couple returned state-side in 1932, and after spending two years at the Taliesin Fellowship,

they returned to Paris in 1934 and spent two years working in André Lurçat’s office.

In 1937, Deknatel settled in Chicago and opened his practice. During the 1940s and ‘50s, he designed a number of suburban houses that incorporated both Wrightian and International Style elements. Geraldine often served as interior designer. William Deknatel’s most prominent commission was for Celeste McVoy and Walter J. Kohler Jr., a member of the family whose company produced bathroom and kitchen products, and who later served as governor of Wisconsin from 1951-57. The modern estate house — named “Windway” and located in Kohler, Wisconsin — was built in 1937-38 and reflects the collaboration with Geraldine for its interiors.<sup>2</sup> In 1939-1940, Deknatel designed *Good Housekeeping’s* “Better Living” house.<sup>3</sup>

The design of the Ennis House, which was completed in 1941, bears a strong family resemblance to the Libertyville house Wright designed for Kathryn and Lloyd Lewis two years earlier. These houses of Chicago common brick, wood and glass both break the box, with interlocking volumes, several levels and broad overhangs. But Deknatel designed a house that is distinctly different, suited to its suburban setting. Unlike the Lewis House, which stands adjacent to the Des Plaines River in a rural setting, the Ennis House faces the street in a small subdivision of the estate of city planner Daniel H. Burnham, with a prominent garage and an entrance from the front door to an office where Professor Ennis could meet with students without having

them walk into the home’s family living area. The backyard is strictly for family enjoyment, with French doors and bands of tall windows opening onto a raised stone terrace. Light and fresh air are plentiful. As homage to Wright, Deknatel imbedded red concrete squares in the sidewalk that leads to the front door.

Accompanied by a photograph of the rear of the house and section drawings, an article on the windows of the Ennis House was featured in *Windows in Modern Architecture*.<sup>4</sup> Because they were hung to the outside face of the house, the outward-swinging casement windows could operate in pairs, each one of a pair closing on the other without need for any fixed vertical meeting rail. This allowed for two-window-wide clear openings.

Even though Wright’s influence on the design of the Ennis House was profound, the home’s openness, with walls of windows and glazed doors, is also characteristic of the International Style. Deknatel was influenced by his early professional experience in the office of André Lurçat, a French modernist architect who had been a founding member, along with Le Corbusier, Richard Neutra, Adolph Loos, and architectural historian Sigfried Giedion, of the *Congres Internationaux d’Architecture Moderne* (International Congress of Modern Architecture, or CIAM). Lurçat’s Hotel Nord-Sud in Corsica was shown in 1932 in the *Modern Architecture: International Exhibition* at the Museum of Modern Art.<sup>5</sup>

The Ennis House was published in the March 1947 issue





Ennis House, garden

HISTORICAL IMAGES COURTESY OF CHICAGO HISTORY MUSEUM, HEDRICH-BLESSING COLLECTION

of *Architectural Forum* in a story titled "Professor's House Features Separate-Access Study for Students."<sup>6</sup> It was also included in a booklet on William Deknatel's and Paul Schweikher's architecture published by the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts and the Art Institute of Chicago. The publication accompanied a 1984 exhibition and lecture series at the foundation's headquarters in the

historic Elsa Seipp and Albert F. Madlener House.<sup>7</sup>

Lambert Ennis was a distinguished member of Northwestern's faculty from 1936 until his death in 1954 at age 48. An authority on seventeenth-century English literature and nineteenth-century prose fiction, he was the author of *Thackery: The Sentimental Cynic*, published in 1950. The current owner, Barry Alberts, is a retired attorney

and lecturer at the University of Chicago. He and his wife, Susie, have thoughtfully retained the integrity of the house. **CA**



Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup> John Sergeant, Frank Lloyd Wright's Usonian Houses: Designs for Moderate Cost One-Family Homes, the Case for Organic Architecture (New York: Watson-Guption, 1984), 199; Appendix E "Tales in Memorabilia, Charter Applicants."
- <sup>2</sup> "William F. Deknatel, Architect: House for Walter J. Kohler Jr.," *Architectural Forum* 71 (July 1939), 50–53.
- <sup>3</sup> Helen Koues, "Functional Modern at Its Best," *Good Housekeeping* 110, no. 4 (April 1940): 138; in the *Good Housekeeping's "Better Living" House Studio* section, *Architecture, Building, & Furnishings*, 137–38; now digitized through the Albert R. Mann Library, *Home Economics Archive: Research, Tradition and History (HEARTH)*, Ithaca, NY, Cornell University, October 30, 2018, [dlxs2.library.cornell.edu](http://dlxs2.library.cornell.edu).
- <sup>4</sup> Geoffrey Baker and Bruno Funaro, "Windows Hung Outside Frame," in *Windows in Modern Architecture* (New York: Architectural Book Publishing, 1948), 80–81.
- <sup>5</sup> Henry-Russell Hitchcock and Philip Johnson, "Andre Lurçat: Hotel Nord-Sud, Calvi, Corsica, 1931" in *The International Style* (New York: Norton, 1966), 173, originally published in 1932 under the title *The International Style: Architecture since 1922*.
- <sup>6</sup> *Architectural Forum* 86, no. 3 (March, 1947): 84–86.
- <sup>7</sup> John Zukowsky, ed., *Architecture in Context: The Avant-Garde in Chicago's Suburbs: Paul Schweikher and William Ferguson Deknatel* (Chicago: The Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts and Art Institute of Chicago, 1984). Published in conjunction with an exhibition and lectures of the same title, organized by John Zukowsky, Curator of Architecture, with Betty Blum, Project Coordinator, 100 Chicago Architects 1920–1970, Oral and Video History Recording Project.

# NEW! NATURE SERIES

Featuring nature inspired laser patterns  
 Color coordinated 33 gallon liners  
 Neutral powder coated colors



[ex-cell.com](http://ex-cell.com) | 847.451.0451



# A CONVERSATION WITH 2020 AIA CHICAGO SMALL PROJECT AWARDS HONOREES

Leaders of the firms recognized with Honor at the Small Project Awards share big ideas about small business with AIA Chicago's Zurich Esposito.

**Zurich Esposito (ZE):** How would you all describe your firms?

**Vladimir Radutny (VR):** I usually describe us as a family. Professionally, Fanny Hothan, Ryan Sarros and I have grown up together. Our personalities and backgrounds are very different, but our goals are the same: to produce high-level design work and make sure that it gets built.

**John Morris (JM):** We're also a small firm, with four to six of us practicing continuously at the same River West location for 33 years. In the world of performing arts-related design, we punch above our weight. Our expertise in this area stems from my early 10-year career in theater.

**Jeff Klymson (JK):** Collective Office is a creative studio that began in 2009. We focus on architecture and design to create experiences as projects, using materials and details. With just three people, we are all involved in every aspect of our work.

**ZE:** What compelled you all to open your own firms?

**VR:** I always wanted to lead my own studio. It was not a matter of "if," but rather "when." In 2008, prior to the recession, my former partner Paul Tebben and I took a chance and started a firm. It was very difficult at first, but an amazing process. We survived, but in 2014 we decided to split up and do this individually. A lot of credit for the success my firm enjoys belongs to my wife



Vladimir Radutny, AIA

and my family. They have been my greatest supporters.

**JM:** Luck — good and bad — played a role for me in finding myself leading a firm. The good luck came in the form of being the first hire for a previously sole practitioner. That was my first job in architecture. But bad luck followed when the owner took ill and died within six months of my start date. I stayed on, working to finish the projects of my late boss, and established a firm with two partners. Having my own firm happened much faster than I ever expected. Experience I had from owning and running an independent theater scene shop, where I built scenery for small theater companies, gave me the confidence to go for it.

**ZE:** I guess every journey to firm leadership is unique. What



Jeff Klymson, AIA

aspects of your firms bring you all pleasure?

**JM:** Oddly, marketing. Marketing allows me to talk about theater design with the companies of the hypercreative Chicago theater community. I also enjoy steering the design instincts of the talented young architects that we're able to hire.

**JK:** Finding the next project that's in alignment with our practice trajectory is always fun, and so is planning the direction of the practice for the future. Smaller firms can be flexible and react quickly to retool their creative process to provide highly tailored solutions for client needs. It's an advantage of operating a smaller firm.

**VR:** I love discovering new spatial conditions in our projects during construction that we didn't anticipate in the design process — that moment of



John Morris, AIA

seeing and realizing something unexpected is a great feeling. Construction and being involved in the implementation of our projects is essential. And as a small firm, everyone is involved in all projects in some capacity. One for all and all for one.

**ZE:** What challenges are common in smaller firms?

**JK:** Perceptions and questions about bandwidth can present restrictions. "Are you large enough to handle this project?" But through the use of modeling and other newer software, projects are requiring fewer people, which allows small studios the ability to tackle larger and more complex projects. It will take time for the industry to catch up to this. We're likely to see fewer mid-sized practices, with a majority being very large or small.

**JM:** Convincing clients that our small team can produce work at the same scale as large firms is certainly one of our challenges, too. Often the project team in the large firm is no larger than our team, and no more versed in the project type. And when it comes to hiring, it can be tough to compete with the pay levels and benefits large firms are often able to provide.

**ZE:** How have circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic affected your practices?

**VR:** We're all trying to figure out the impacts, short and long term, one day at a time. No one can predict the true fallout; there isn't a precedent. Things might seem fine for the next three to six months, but after that I'm less certain. All I can control at the moment is my attitude.

**JM:** Our projects have gone silent, except for one. Our clients are almost all not-for-profit groups, dependent on funding, and fundraising is now suddenly more difficult. Our firm was fortunate; our Payroll Protection Program loan support was deposited in our account earlier this week.

**JK:** We've had several projects go on hold permanently, and we're working at a greatly reduced capacity on the few active projects we have. But the economy is still moving forward, and we're doing our best to continue to support our clients, contractors and collaborators. We are making progress and we were also successful in obtaining PPP loan support. The process was not easy, and for a while became another ongoing project in the studio.

**ZE:** Do you think practices or your firms will change?

**JK:** Social distancing in the context of living and working, not only for architects but for the general workforce, will change how we create our projects. At the heart of this conversation is design, and this is our arena. New codes, standards and best practices will evolve. It's best if we all try to get in front of this.

**JM:** Since a goal of many of our projects is to get as many people as possible into an audience chamber, there could be devastating impacts. Live performances depend on intimacy between the audience and performer.

**VR:** Firms will need to be more versatile, take on greater roles in contracting, fabrication and possibly becoming their own clients.

**ZE:** Even with the challenges, your voices sound hopeful. Is there a project on the boards or on the horizon that has you excited?

**JM:** For us, a production center for Court Theatre.

**JK:** We may have an opportunity to work on a historic North Shore residence — restoring some original design aspects and adding newer modern functionality and interior elements. We also have an opportunity to prototype a timber/CLT prefab concept for a site in Michigan. We hope to roll that out later this year.

**JR:** A residential project in the John Hancock Tower. It's a unique project, something very different from all the units in the building. Since the Disruptive Design competition, we have been working on a single-family prototype for affordable housing. I strongly believe in its potential to be part of the affordability solution. **CA**



**AIA**  
Chicago



**INNOVATIVE**  
PUBLISHING

*Chicago Architect* is published six times a year by Innovative Publishing. Innovative Publishing specializes in association communications and messaging.

Photocopy permissions where necessary, permission is granted by copyright holder for those registered with Copyright Clearance Center (CCC), 222 Rosewood Drive, Danvers, MA 01923, [www.copyright.com](http://www.copyright.com) to photocopy any article herein for personal or internal reference use only for the flat fee of \$2.00 per copy for each article. Send payment to CCC. Copyright 2020 AIA Chicago.

The information contained within has been obtained by AIA Chicago and Innovative Publishing from sources believed to be reliable. However, because of the possibility of human or mechanical error, AIA Chicago and Innovative Publishing do not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of any information and are not responsible for any errors or omissions or for the results obtained from use of such information. The editor reserves the right to censor, revise, edit, reject or cancel any material not meeting the standards of *Chicago Architect*. The information and opinions published in *Chicago Architect* represent the views of the authors and not those of the publisher or AIA Chicago, unless otherwise stated. The acceptance of advertising does not reflect endorsement of products or services by this publication, AIA Chicago or Innovative Publishing.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:** *Chicago Architect* gladly accepts all signed, dated letters to the editor. We reserve the right to edit for style and any potentially libelous content. Letters should be no longer than 250 words. Submit letters to [ca@aiachicago.org](mailto:ca@aiachicago.org).

**STORY IDEAS AND SUBMISSIONS:** *Chicago Architect* welcomes your story ideas and your written article submissions, whether about your projects or about business trends and issues. Email us at [ca@aiachicago.org](mailto:ca@aiachicago.org).

facebook.com/chicagoaia

twitter.com/aiachicago

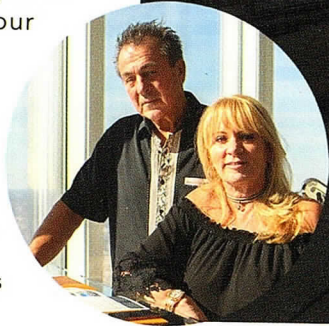
aiachicago.tumblr.com

vimeo.com/aiachicago

Chicago Tempered Glass is Illinois' largest glass tempering and fabrication facility. Located in the heart of Chicago, they partner with architects and designers on commercial and residential projects.

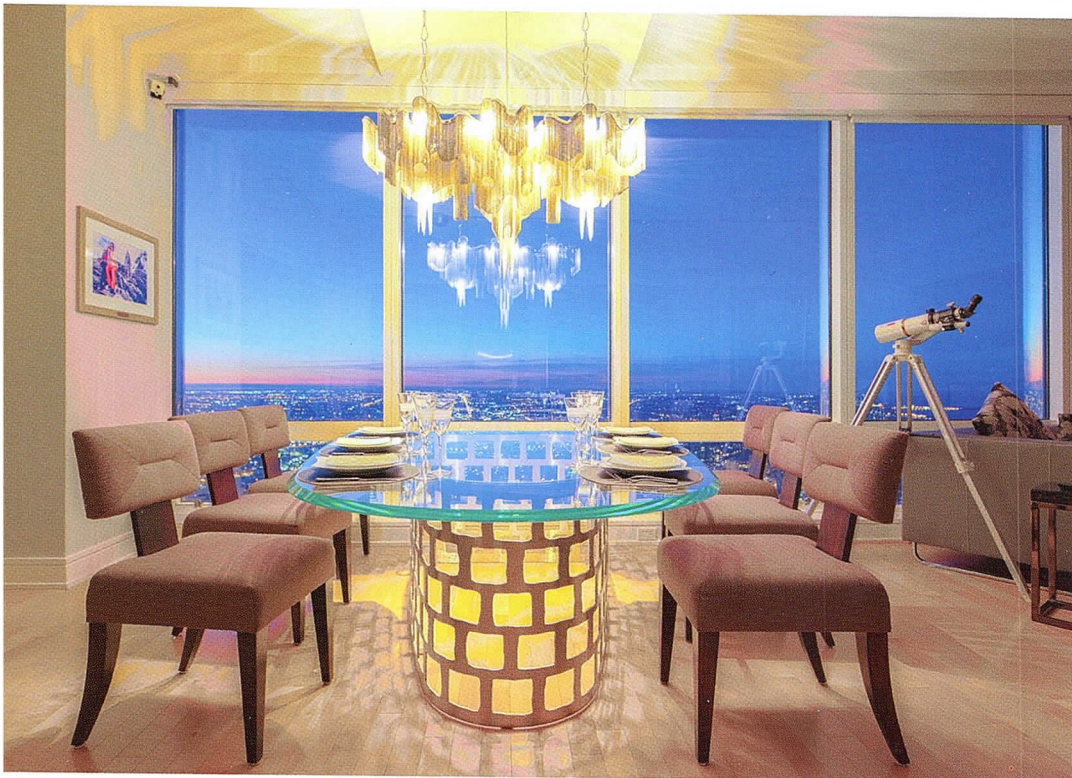
You bring the design and Chicago Tempered Glass will make your vision happen.

Adam Kaczynski and Kathy Rizzo, Owners, Master Glass Fabricators



Glass entrance, Terrace 16 Rooftop Patio at Trump International Hotel and Tower. One-half-inch tempered glass walls, tempered laminated roof, architectural/commercial hardware.

# TEMPERED GLASS UNTEMPERED POSSIBILITIES



Above: Glass and steel dining table. One-inch, low-iron glass with mitred edge fabricated on CNC Machine.

Below: Glass staircase entrance at Geneva Seal Oak Street. 1 1/2-inch tempered, slip-resistant laminated glass with etched, painted lettering



Over two-million square feet of glass in stock (one-sixteenth-inch to one-inch-thick).

Glass tempering, glass lamination, water jet cutting, CNC machinery for high-end custom edgework, sandblasting, bullet-resistant glass, engraving. Digital printing on glass coming soon.

**Chicago Tempered Glass is one of the only facilities in the United States that can produce one-inch tempered glass.**

SGCC Certified  
Member, National Glass Association

 **Chicago Tempered Glass**

2945 N Mozart Street, Chicago, IL 60618 • [ChicagoTemperedGlass.com](http://ChicagoTemperedGlass.com)  
Architects and Designers, call Kathy Rizzo at 312-838-3900