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2020 DESIGN EXCELLENCE AWARDS // 18

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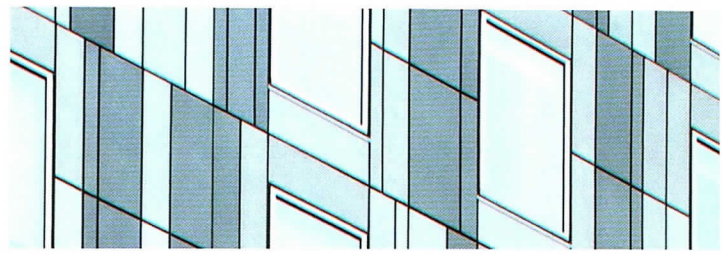
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 rao@aiachicago.org

iz Herrera Lauer
 z@innovativepublishing.com

ESIGNER
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DVERTISING SALES
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 dvertise@innovativepublishing.com
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RENEWED OPTIMISM



Friends,

With the end of the year on the horizon, I'd like to reflect on this year that shook us — as a city, a profession and a community — to the very core. 2020 was a relentless year, but it was also one that has shown the determination, resilience and dedication of our community. In the last eight months, we came together to rethink how to run a remote practice, shared resources and thought leadership, participated in mutual aid, donated resources to first responders and so much more. We have come together to support and comfort our friends, peers and families; to celebrate accomplishments and mourn tragic losses. I'm so proud of this community.

The year's end won't end the pandemic, but with a new year, we are again renewed with hope and optimism through fruitful and difficult times; Designight has always been a time to gather and celebrate our colleagues' accomplishments, to renew old friendships and applaud projects that demonstrate the forward-thinking design for which our community is known. While we may not be gathering together physically, the 2020 Design Excellence Award winners radiate their values throughout the city and our profession.

This year you'll see many civically minded projects, ranging from a CTA station rehabilitation, elementary schools, libraries integrated with affordable housing, university spaces, sculptural infrastructure and more. The projects included in this issue and recognized by nationally renowned jurors are considerate of the environment and the public while also meeting client needs. They help

define what we strive for in sustainability and community-building.

You'll also read about Phillip C. Johnson, FAIA, 2020 Lifetime Achievement Award recipient. His career as a firm leader has enriched our communities with thoughtful design, empowering disinvested communities. Johnson&Lee has been engaged in architecture and planning projects across Chicago — from community health centers to geographically diverse affordable housing. His work as a mentor over many decades has also empowered architects of color from across Chicago — many of whom, under his guidance or influence, currently run their own firms. We congratulate Phil for his many accomplishments and thank him for his dedication to this profession.

As I complete my term as president of AIA Chicago's Board of Directors, I want to thank our past presidents for their generous support and mentorship throughout the year. I also want to thank our Board for their thoughtful, unwavering and steadfast leadership during this tumultuous time. For the first time in this Chapter's 151-year history, a woman will succeed another to serve as Board president. Jessica Figenholtz, AIA, will lead us into 2021 as your next president, and I'm excited to see how she shapes the organization's annual priorities into realities through the scope of strategic planning. We have so much important work to do, for our communities and each other; let us continue to be generous, kind and committed to the change we want to see in the world.

To a bright 2021,
 April Hughes, AIA



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

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High-Performance Metal

Civitas | Net Zero Design



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-Barry Alan Yoakum, FAIA, Principal, archimania

Civitas, Memphis Installing contr.: Ralph Jones Sheet Metal Architect: archimania
Owner: Barry Alan Yoakum Photo: archimania

Civitas makes a strong statement not only in its visual presentation, but also in its accomplishment as the first single-family home in the Americas to be registered as a Zero Energy/Zero Carbon home. Petersen's wall and roof systems contributed to both design and performance of this progressive home.



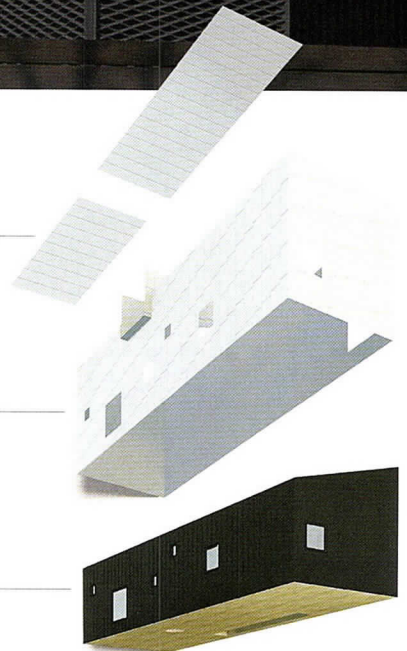
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PHIL JOHNSON, FAIA



ON THE COVER

Le Cube
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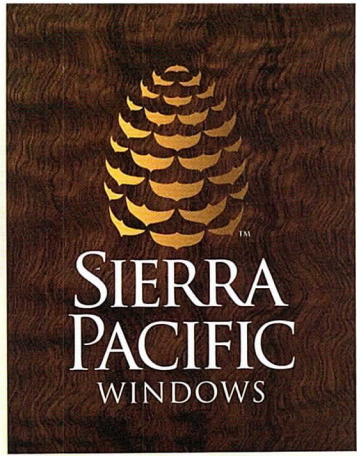
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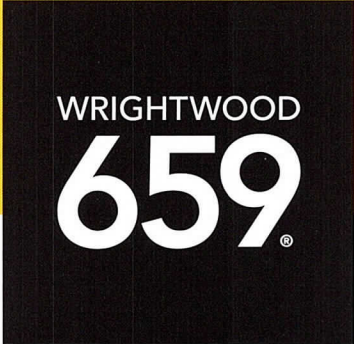
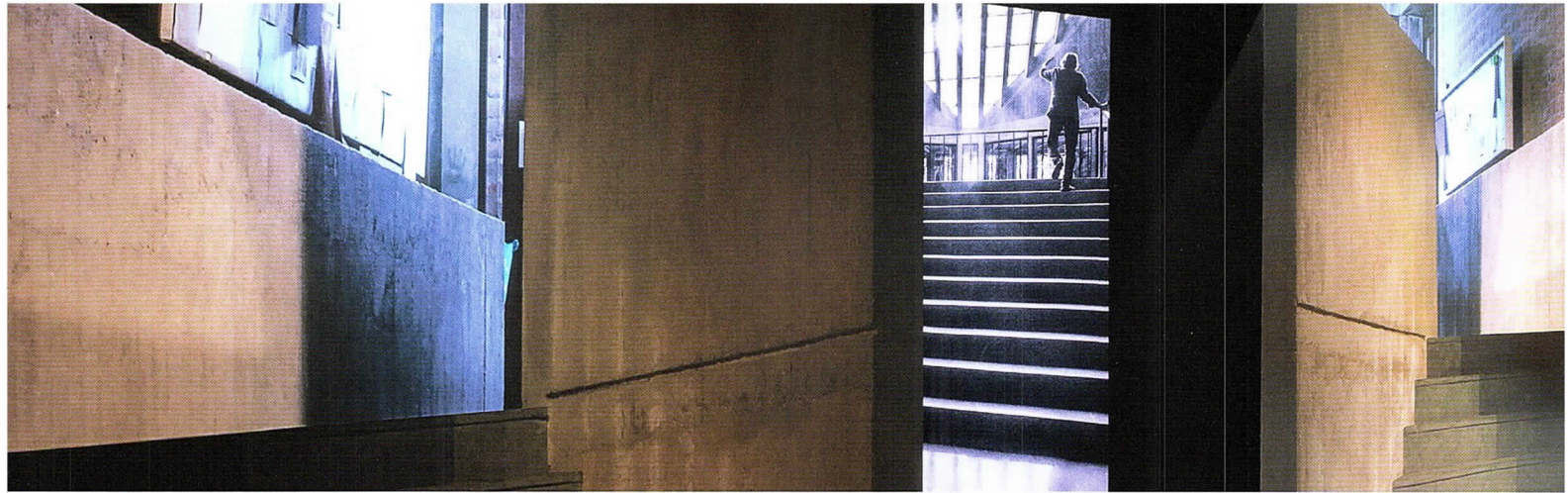
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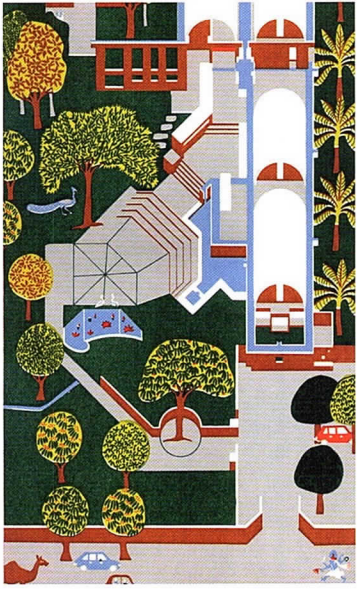
BALKRISHNA DOSHI ARCHITECTURE FOR THE PEOPLE

THROUGH DECEMBER 12, 2020

Wrightwood 659 in Chicago is honored to be the first North American venue to present this important retrospective of the work of seminal Indian architect and 2018 Pritzker Prize winner Balkrishna Doshi.

This limited-run exhibition explores 23 key projects realized between 1958 and 2014, and introduces viewers to Doshi’s ideas of equitable and harmonic urban habitats. Bringing together full-scale models and a wealth of material from the architect’s studio and archive, the retrospective reveals Doshi’s lifelong devotion to the social good and sustainability, illuminating the ways in which he crosses traditional boundaries—including those between architecture and nature, modernism and tradition, and East and West.

Doshi remains one of the last living links to two of the great masters of Modernism—Le Corbusier and Louis Kahn, with whom he worked at the start of his career. It is particularly fitting that his work be shown at Wrightwood 659, cradled within the remarkable design of Tadao Ando, who also draws inspiration from those two pioneers. **To learn more about BV Doshi, and to reserve tickets to the exhibition please visit wrightwood659.org.**



Wrightwood 659’s presentation of *Balkrishna Doshi: Architecture for the People* is made possible by support from Alphawood Exhibitions.

The exhibition is a project by the **Vitra Design Museum** and the **Wüstenrot Foundation** in cooperation with the **Vastushilpa Foundation**.

IMAGE CREDITS – TOP: Installation view, *Balkrishna Doshi: Architecture for the People*, Wrightwood 659, Chicago, IL. Photo: Michael Tropea. © 2020 Alphawood Exhibitions LLC. All rights reserved. LEFT: Balkrishna Doshi, Sangath Architect’s Studio (Miniature painting), Ahmedabad, 1980, © Vastushilpa Foundation, Ahmedabad.



VĀSTU SHILPĀ FOUNDATION



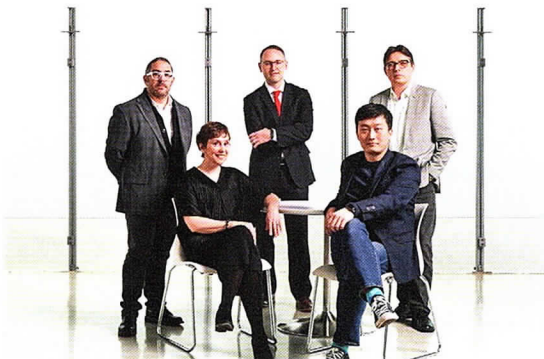
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Perkins&Will received a 2020 AIA/ALA Building Award for their Northtown Branch Library and Apartments.



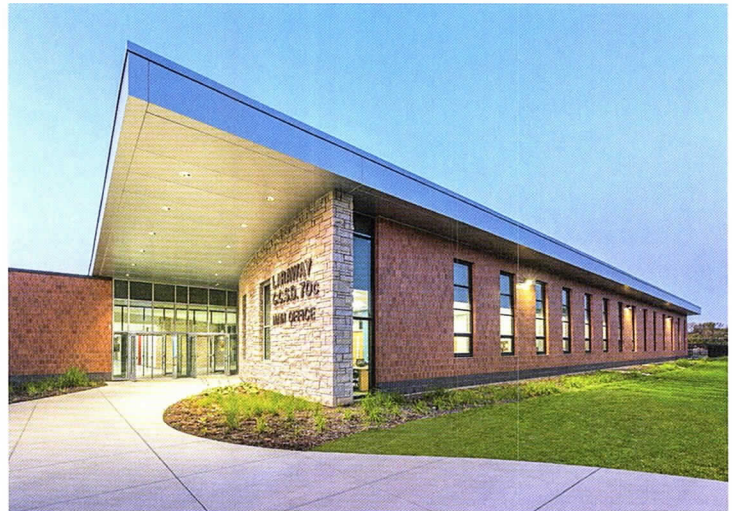
Yugene Cha, AIA; Jamie Cook; Sara Lundgren, AIA; Don Semple, AIA; and Juan Villafañe, AIA, have been elevated to partner at Krueck Sexton Partners.



Landon Bone Baker Architects received the 2020 AIA/HUD Secretary's Award in Community Informed Design for their Tierra Linda housing projects in Logan Square.

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Laraway School (Joliet, Illinois), designed by **Legat Architects**, was the sole recipient of the 2020 John H. Shaw Award, issued by the Association for Learning Environments Midwest Great Lakes Region. The competition, which encompasses 12 Midwestern states and the province of Ontario, Canada, honors “good design that results from collaboration with educators, students and community representatives.”



Danielle Tillman, AIA, NOMA, (center), **Jon Gately, AIA**, (right) and **Juan Robles, AIA**, (left) have been promoted to principles and owners at bKL Architecture.



The Village of Arlington Heights Police Station, designed by **Legat Architects** and built by Riley Construction, has earned a 2020 Project of the Year Award from the American Public Works Association (APWA).



John Ronan Architects received a 2020 AIA/ALA Building Award for their Independence Library and Apartments.

design excellence awards

2020

DISTINGUISHED BUILDING AWARDS

The purpose of the Distinguished Building Award program is to recognize excellence and distinction in architecture.

INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE AWARDS

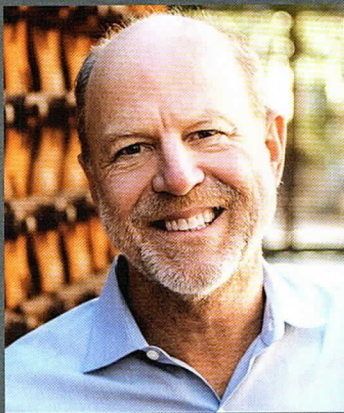
The purpose of the Interior Architecture Award program is to recognize excellence and distinction in interior architecture.

DIVINE DETAIL AWARDS

The purpose of the Divine Detail Award is to recognize an instance in which the expression of architectural theory becomes an artistic medium, defining the relationship between architecture and craft. Projects should illustrate the governing design concept of the building in which the detail is found through the use of a particular material, detail or technology.

distinguished building awards

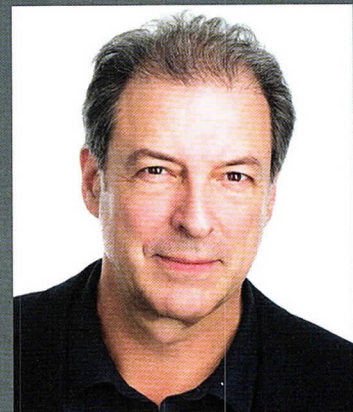
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New York, NY

distinguished building awards

HONOR AWARD

Columbia College Student Center

Gensler Chicago

Location: Chicago, Illinois

Client: Columbia College Chicago

General Contractor: Pepper Construction

The new 114,001-square-foot student center is the second purpose-built building in Columbia College's 130-year history. It was designed to both provide an emphatic center to the disparate campus and to magnify the energy and creativity found within it. As an arts building, it was designed to "connect" rather than "collect," creating visual awareness and opportunities for spontaneous interaction within the building, thus allowing students to sample a multitude of distinct perspectives.

To achieve this, the design took the conventional idea of a building atrium and simply turned it inside-out, making the active and purposely ambiguous student spaces visible to the city. Pushing the hyper-connected atrium space and circulation to the perimeter, the building provides interfloor connectivity while enhancing its dialogue back out to the surrounding campus. The façade's patchwork of translucent glass strategically and playfully expresses the activity and student artwork back out to activate the street, while the meandering stair embraces the students, creating spaces to gather, play and perform, while constantly shifting its user's perspective of the city, the students and the building's program. "The project animates the street," commented one juror. "Putting these gathering spaces on

PHOTO CREDITS: TOM HARRIS



the street instead of internally [makes it so that] even [if] you're not a part of the school you see the dynamism that goes on in this place. It invites you in."

The program consists of flexible creation space, where students of all majors and disciplines will have access to dance studios, meeting rooms, state-of-the-art digital maker labs, a workshop and studio spaces. To further bring the student community together, the building accommodates social outdoor spaces and an 800-person, multipurpose event space, for both large-scale student functions and external events. "I love the way the building manages to be both an object and participate in the fabric of the city," said another juror.

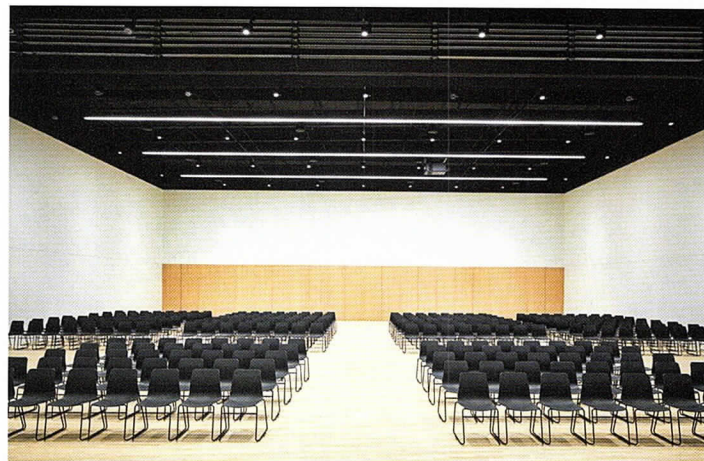
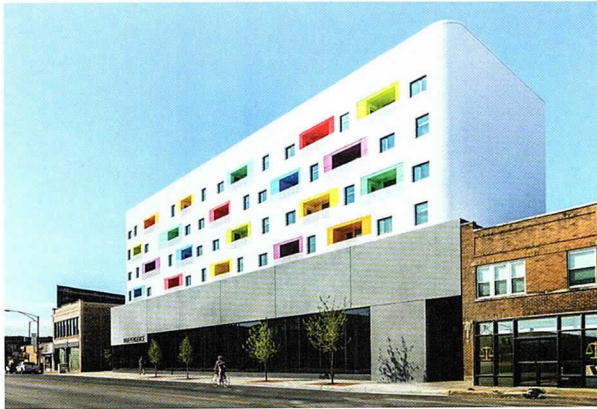


PHOTO CREDITS: JAMES FLORIO



Independence Library and Apartments

John Ronan Architects

Location: Chicago, Illinois

Client: Evergreen Real Estate Group

General Contractor: Leopardo Companies

Structural Engineer: Thornton Tomasetti

MEP Engineer: dbHMS

Civil Engineer: Terra Engineering

Acoustical Engineer/Designer: Shiner Acoustics

This LEED Gold hybrid library/affordable housing project in Chicago combines a 16,000-square-foot branch library with a 44-unit, affordable apartment complex for senior citizens that jurors called “an unequivocal honor.” The two-story library element abuts the property line, while the residential block is set back from the street, creating an entry courtyard for both uses.

The library supports reading and learning areas for all ages on two levels, as well as a large community multipurpose room for public events

that can be entered directly from the street for use after library hours. A second-level terrace over the covered parking (entered from the alley) offers a park-like garden outdoor amenity space for both residents and library patrons. The Chicago Public Library’s owl logo on the south façade identifies it as a library from afar.

In a conscious departure from Chicago’s post-war housing blocks, which “warehoused” the poor, a special design effort was made to foreground the individual resident and create a building that feels like a “home” rather than “housing.” Jurors appreciated how the interior spaces and exterior relayed this message, noting that “they work together perfectly.”

To address wellness, each apartment features a brightly colored balcony recessed into the façade, which speaks to individuality amid the collective, enabling residents to identify their home from the street in a conscious attempt to transcend the brutal pragmatism which has characterized Chicago’s past efforts in the area of social housing. Doorways in the interior common corridor are color-coordinated with the balconies, both to animate the hallway and to help seniors easily identify their homes.

distinguished building awards

HONOR AWARD

University of Cincinnati Health Sciences Building

Perkins&Will

Location: Cincinnati, Ohio

Client: University of Cincinnati

Architect of Record: Moody Nolan, Inc.

General Contractor: Messer Construction

Civil Engineer: EMH&T Engineers

MEP Engineer: CMTA, Inc.

Structural Engineer: Schaefer

Code Consultant: Code Consultants, Inc.

Planning Consultant: Francis Cauffman Architects

Landscape Architect: Vivian Llambi & Associates, Inc.

Commissioning Agent: BC+E

Environmental Services: Resource International, Inc.

The University of Cincinnati's new Health Science Building combines high-performance construction and cutting-edge design to support the future of science, research and trans-disciplinary learning. A new center with a holistic approach to patient care that supports students' academic success is a key driver for an integrated, healthy medical campus.

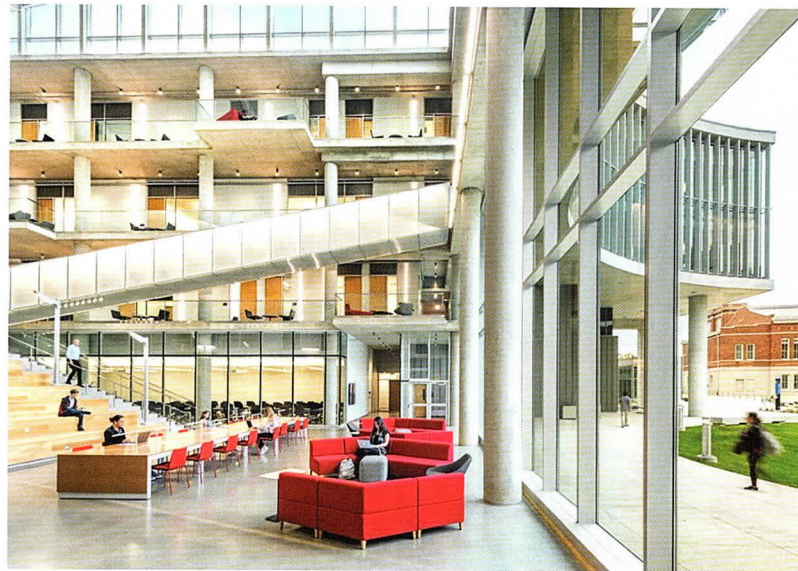
Integrated education with practice is essential.

Interprofessional, problem-based learning demands unique spatial solutions and technological applications. The building's program has been distributed into two splayed bars, which form the central atrium space that serves as the hub for social and collaborative interaction. "It's amazingly transparent," commented one juror. "Once you're inside, this open atrium space is very connected to the outside campus as well." The jury particularly enjoyed how the atrium's openness offered spaces of calm. "There are delightful eddies that invite students and others to sit in, so it doesn't feel like 'waiting.' The grand stair, it's very elegant with concrete and wood," explained one juror.

Three generous, monumental stairs that jurors called "elegant" are distributed in and around the central atrium and encourage pedestrian movement between the levels as part of teaching physical therapy rehabilitation and reinforcing the notion of healthy activity through design. Spaces need to foster collaboration among nurses, physicians, pharmacists, dentists and allied health professionals and encourage serendipitous encounters for the exchange of ideas that blur the boundaries between disciplines and roles.

The modular and flexible plan allows the program and space to evolve over time, provides a diversity of teaching spaces and prepares providers to be agile, collaborative and inspired. The building is not only a hub for learning and training, but it also serves the public and local community through its clinic and acts as a beacon for UC's personalized outreach programs within the greater Cincinnati region.

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HONOR AWARD

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Wolcott School Arts and Athletics Center

Lothan Van Hook DeStefano Architecture

Location: Chicago, Illinois

Client: The Wolcott School

General Contractor: By Owner

Structural Engineer: Goodfriend Magruder Structure, LLC

Landscape Architect: Nilay Mistry Landscape Architect, LLC

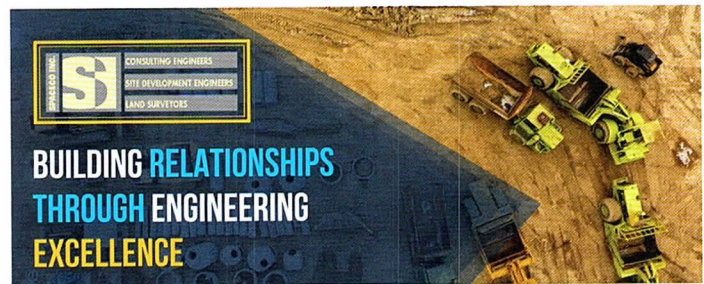
Civil Engineer: Spaceco

Theater Consultant: Schuler and Shook

The Wolcott School Arts and Athletics center is a new precast structure located in a manufacturing district two blocks from the school's main classroom building. Designed to be both simple and inspiring for the school community, all spaces feature abundant daylight and high ceilings to create a sense of openness that jurors called "very skillful," which was unavailable in the original renovated brick school. The durable precast concrete finishes reveal the integral aggregate patterning of the concrete and are designed to be light reflective, enhancing the natural variety of concrete as it patinas over time. The result is a simple building that melds seamlessly into its industrial location while creating a welcome complement to the school's portfolio of spaces.

The principal public assembly space is a "gym-a-torium" with stage facilities for theatrical and academic productions as well as athletics. Jurors appreciated the multiuse space; said one juror, "The team was efficient with the tilt walls that create a support system for the gym walls." The lobby creates dual entries, on the main street side and on the parking lot side. This space acts as a daytime student social space as well as a prefunction foyer for nighttime performances and athletic events.

Every part of the facility is designed to serve multiple program requirements, as the school is too small for purpose-designed spaces that do only one thing well. The small private high school is focused on the needs of kids with learning differences, with the curriculum based on experiential learning in small groups of 10 students or less.



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FOR THE EXCEPTIONAL WORK ON ADVOCATE OUTPATIENT CENTER-LAKEVIEW

BOLDT®

CITATION OF MERIT

PHOTO CREDIT: TOM HARRIS

Advocate Lakeview Outpatient Center

IDR

Location: Chicago, Illinois

Client: Advocate Aurora Health

General Contractor: The Boldt Company

Structural Engineer: HDR

MEP Engineer: IMEG

Landscape Architect: HDR

Civil Engineer: Eriksson Engineering Associates

Interior Designer: HDR

Centrally located in the heart of Chicago's Lakeview neighborhood, this Advocate Outpatient Center has given new life and purpose to a long-vacant big box store. The existing building was transformed by layering over a composition of tectonic planes that slide, fold and float in order to define space, let in daylight, and frame views of the surrounding context and new landscape. Materials assigned to each plane were informed by the limited budget and local context — precast concrete and brick — recalling neighboring buildings. Working closely with contractors and fabricators, these ordinary and ubiquitous materials were elevated using simple techniques.

"It's very inventive, thoughtful and minimal," said one juror. "It took a whole lot of imagination. Very impressive and well skinned."



A zinc-colored metal canopy begins a spatial sequence by defining a landscaped garden with public, outdoor seating that visitors pass through to enter the building. Inside, a composition of wall and ceiling planes defines waiting areas. Windows were strategically placed to bring in daylight while also giving the neighborhood a glimpse inside — fostering connection in an ever-growing, health-conscious community.

PHOTO CREDIT: STEVE HALL, HALL + MERRICK PHOTOGRAPHY



Bernard Zell Anshe Emet Day School Expansion

Wheeler Kearns Architects

Location: Chicago, Illinois

Client: Bernard Zell Anshe Emet Day School

General Contractor: Bulley & Andrews

Structural Engineer: Thornton Tomasetti

MEP Engineer: IBC Engineering Services, Inc.

Civil Engineer: Terra Engineering

Owner's Representative: CBRE

Acoustical Engineer/Designer: Shiner Acoustics

After decades of sharing a small, inconspicuous entrance with their partnering synagogue, BZAEDS expanded to establish an identity and entrance of their own — unifying an existing assemblage of dark masonry buildings with a tall, singular glass and brick volume that floats above the ground floor. "It's a tight site," commented one juror, "They had to do as much as they could, but they kept it simple."

Timeless Jewish principles are woven and thoughtfully placed throughout, underfoot, wrapping the head, framing eyes, and shaping the heart of the school: From outside, a light-colored brick wraps the school and symbolizes how a tallit (prayer shawl) creates a sacred space for reflection, learning and prayer. The Makom Rina or "Place of Joy" — is a brick and glass sacred space at the heart of the new school addition. Twelve curved brick walls, representing the 12 original tribes of Israel, pinwheel to allow glimpses to the musical and spiritual activities taking place inside. In an echo of the ancient western wall of Jerusalem, joints are raked open so that participants can place prayers between the bricks.

distinguished building awards

CITATION OF MERIT

Arizona State University, Tooker House

Solomon Cordwell Buenz (SCB)

Location: Tempe, Arizona

Client: Arizona State University and American Campus Communities

General Contractor: Okland Construction

Structural Engineer: PK Associates, LLC

MEP Engineer: GLHN Architects & Engineers, Inc.

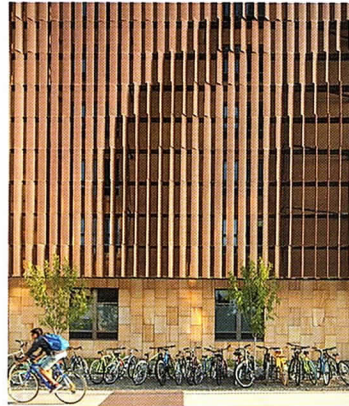
Landscape Architect: Trueform landscape architecture studio

Civil Engineer: HDR, Inc.

Interior Designer (Residential Program): Sixthriver Architects

Technology/Security/AV Consulting: PlanNet Consulting

PHOTO CREDIT: BILL TIMMERMAN



Tooker House at Arizona State University is a case study on the impact of design solutions created for unique student groups. Working closely with the university and the Fulton Schools of Engineering, Tooker House is a tailored living/learning facility for first-year engineering students designed to support both their academic success and social growth and development. The 458,000-square-foot building includes 1,582 beds of housing, a 27,000-square-foot dining hall, study and social lounges, fitness center, and a flexible classroom and maker lab.

“You don’t often see live/work spaces for college students,” commented one juror. “This is an excellent and interesting program.”

Tooker House is located at the terminus of the campus’s historic Palm Walk and fronts the “Beach,” one of the major green gathering spaces on campus. The project is highly visible from University Avenue, where a pedestrian bridge offers a commanding view of the building’s south façade, with its iconic and dynamic array of vertical perforated louvers. The louvers change in pattern and intensity throughout the day in response to the sun, resulting in a sense of continual movement. This active façade contributes to a unique sense of place and serves as a dramatic backdrop to the beach and surrounding residential district.



SCB congratulates the Tooker House at Arizona State University project team on receiving a 2020 Design Excellence Award.

Solomon Cordwell Buenz
scb.com

Architecture
Interior Design
Planning

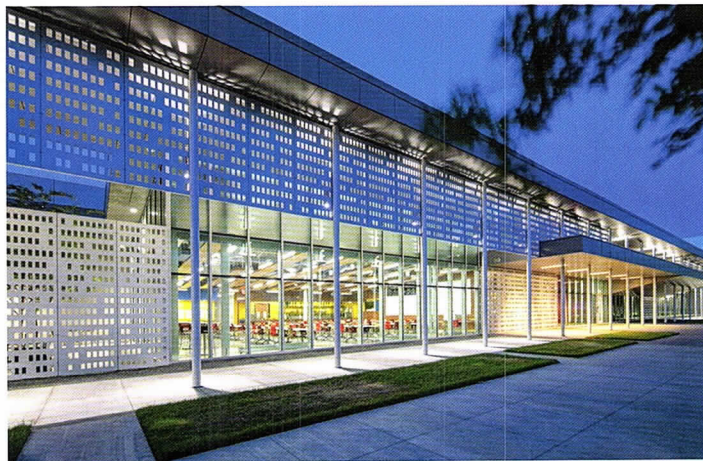


CITATION OF MERIT

PHOTO CREDIT: CHAD DAVIS PHOTOGRAPHY

Fort Worth Data Center – Administration Building

Sheehan Nagle Hartray Architects
Location: Fort Worth, Texas
General Contractor: DPR Construction
MEP Engineer: AlfaTech
Communications Consultant: Teecom
Structural Engineer: Peoples Associates
Landscape Architect: O2 Design
Civil Engineer: Peloton Land Solutions
Security Consultant: G4S, Hargis
Food Service Consultant: RAS Design Group



At 1 million square feet, the Fort Worth Data Center project was the client's largest data center at the time of completion. Breaking ground in 2015, the facility was online and serving traffic by May 2017, utilizing a phased building turnover to maximize schedule efficiency. Thanks to the unique penthouse design, the data centers are cooled using outside air instead of energy-intensive air conditioners. Additionally, the building is 80 percent more water-efficient than the average data center. The Fort Worth Data Center is served by 100 percent renewable energy, as the client collaborated to erect a 200-megawatt wind farm 30 miles from the site.

"I was taken with the idea that this is naturally ventilated," commented one juror. "There were so many things I like about it, including the connections between data and the perforated metal; I felt like [for] a design award program the level of design is high across the board," said another.

The design of the administration building's exterior elevations includes a system of perforated panels that provide sun-shading and privacy, and they serve as a unifying design element on the exterior and interior of the building.

PHOTO CREDIT: TONY ARMOUR



Gallery House

John Ronan Architects
Location: Chicago, Illinois
General Contractor: Fraser Construction, Inc.
MEP Engineer: AA Service Co.
Structural Engineer: Stearn-Joglekar, Ltd.

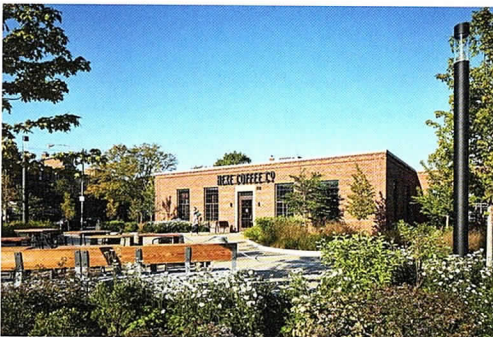
This hybrid domicile/gallery home was designed for a couple with a museum-quality collection of black-and-white photography, which they desired to exhibit throughout the house. Composed of rooms of varying proportions, the home eschews open planning for a more traditional and gallery-like integrated sequence of unique and spatially discrete spaces.

The photography prints are displayed in both the enclosed rooms and in the gallery-like spaces linking them. In the home's library, the architect designed a custom salon-style hanging system comprised of a grid of small holes drilled into the millwork wall panels and wood dowels from which the photos are hung.

The reduced material palette of the home was carefully selected. Warm, grey-toned masonry and low, iron-cast glass channels create the proper daylight conditions inside the house for day-to-day living and display. Cleft slate floors inside the house extend outside to create an entry walkway in front and a hard-scape terrace in back for relaxing and entertaining.

distinguished building awards

CITATION OF MERIT



Lathrop

Location: Chicago, Illinois

Design Architect: JGMA

Executive Architect and Architect of Record for Existing Buildings: HED (Harley Ellis Devereaux)

Historic Preservation: McGuire Iglesias & Associates, Inc.

Design Architect and Architect of Record for New Construction Building: bKL Architecture

Masterplanning: Farr Associates

Client: Lathrop Community Partners

Landscape Architect: Michael Van Valkenburgh Architects

MEP Engineer: dbHMS

Civil Engineer: Terra Engineering, Ltd.

Lighting: CharterSills

General Contractor: Lendlease

Lathrop is one of the country's earliest public housing projects and is listed on the National Register. A multiyear planning effort solicited input from hundreds of stakeholders resulting in a redevelopment plan focused on diverse incomes, equity, preservation and sustainability. Jurors called this "a really important adaptive reuse project."

The project consists of 13 historic buildings renovated into 355 modern residential units, one new construction building consisting of 59 type-A units, two residential buildings converted into nonresidential uses and the administration building converted into property offices and a locally owned cafe. With the exception of the stair towers, building interiors were fully reconstructed with modern unit layouts. "You almost can't tell what the architects did to the interiors because they are executed so well," exclaimed one juror.

The rehabilitated Great Lawn offers three acres of public space. More than a half-mile of riverfront was reimagined and includes a dog run and pedestrian overlooks. The pedestrian bridge extending over the river is a solution for a previously unsafe condition. A boat launch offers a place to launch paddle crafts into the river.

Lisle Elementary School

Perkins&Will

Location: Lisle, Illinois

Client: Lisle Community Unit School District 202

General Contractor: Pepper Construction Company

Structural Engineer: C.E. Anderson and Associates

Civil Engineer: Eriksson Engineering Associates

MEP Engineer: Mechanical Services Associates

Landscape Architect: Omni Ecosystems

Kitchen Consultant: Clevenger Associates

Lisle, Illinois, is known for its lush greenery, so the intent for its new school was a collaborative learning environment that prioritizes sustainability while fitting within the environmental context. With climate resilience and safety top of mind, designers chose environmentally responsive solutions that optimize transparency, daylighting and security.

Due to a lack of space, students previously alternated between two buildings every few years as they advanced through elementary school. A primary goal for this project was to bring these two school communities together under one roof, creating

PHOTO CREDIT: JAMES STEINKAMP PHOTOGRAPHY



a smoother environment and educational experience. "It's a well-done school with a unique program type," said one juror. "For a big footprint, it is very impressive."

The program accommodates scaled learning and common spaces that adapt to various teaching styles. The flexibility supports both project-based learning and traditional teaching as needed. There is a two-story cafeteria and secondary entryway and large gathering space. The Library Resource Center is the "heart," and connects two stories of surrounding classrooms. The open plan improves access to resources like social workers and tutoring.

distinguished building awards

CITATION OF MERIT

PHOTO CREDIT: ANTHONY MAY PHOTOGRAPHY
DANIEL KELLEGHAN PHOTOGRAPHY



Hotel Julian

Hirsch MPG LLC

Location: Chicago, Illinois

Client: Oxford Capital Group LLC and Quandrum Global

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

Interior Designer (Rooms and Floors): The Gettys Group

Interior Designer (Restaurant, Lobby and Amenities): Workshop/APD Architecture DPC

Structural Engineer: TGRWA

Project Manager: Daccord LLC

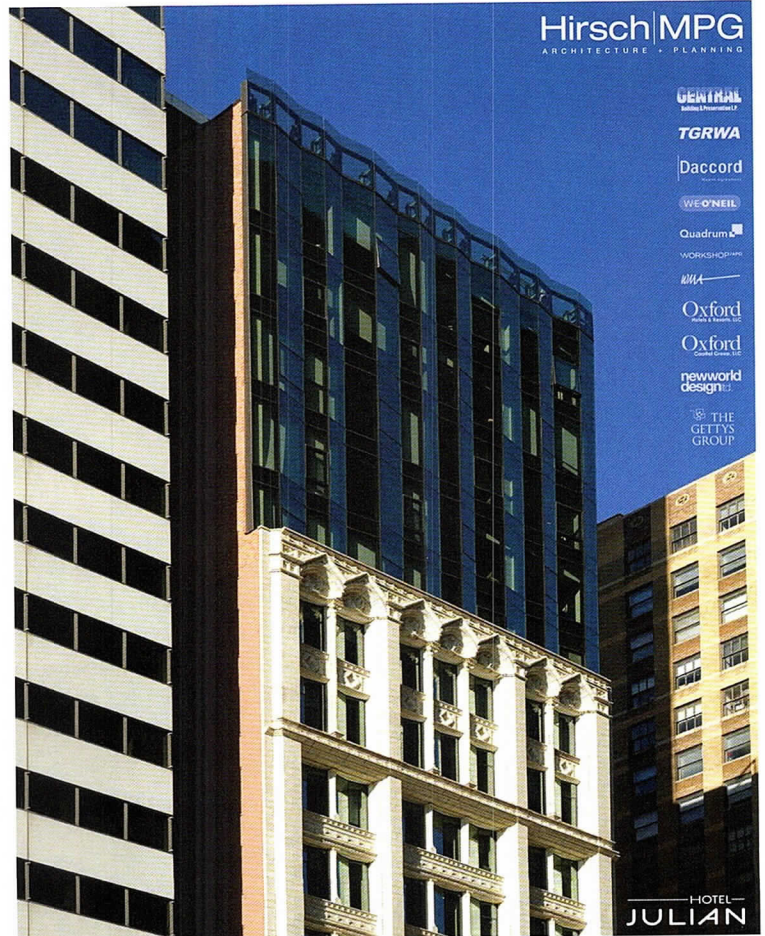
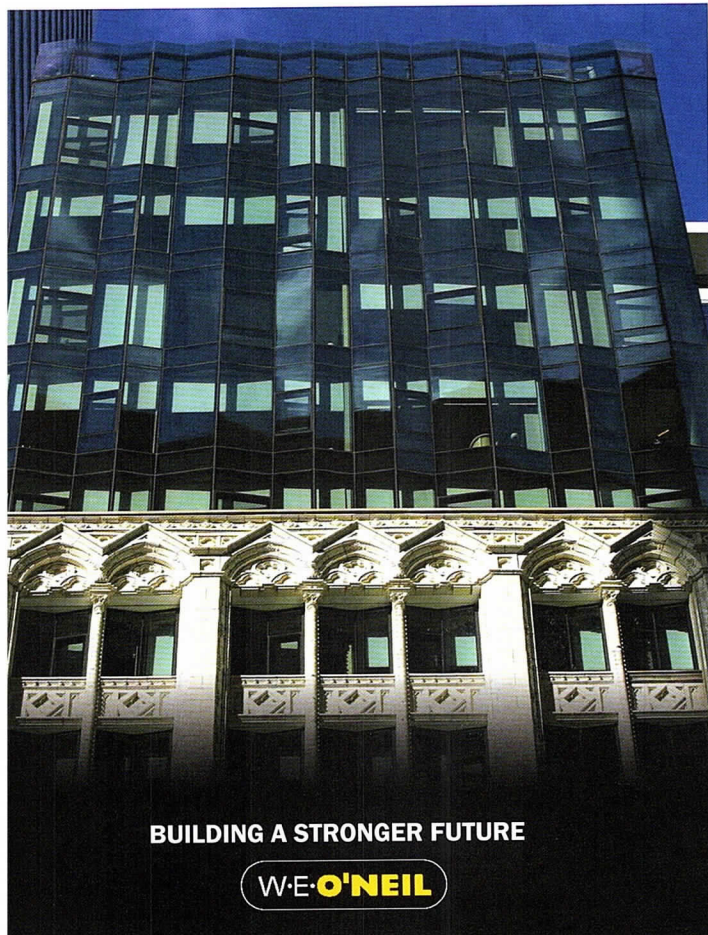
MEP Engineer: WMA Consulting Engineers (Salas O'Brien)

Historic Consultant: New World Design Ltd.

Permit Consultant: Cornerstone Permit Company

Originally designed by Marshall and Fox in 1911, this 12-story office building sat vacant and in major disrepair. The Hotel Julian redevelopment plan sought to restore the ornate terra cotta façade, add five floors and integrate new with old to create a 210-key boutique hotel.

The five-story addition, clad in a faceted glass curtainwall, extends downward within the framework of the original clay-arch tile structure and terra cotta façade — all of which required careful repair. The chamfered form of the glazing was inspired by the building's rosette details and as a planning response to providing four hotel rooms within a three-bay façade. The two-story base, defined by three terracotta portals framing a folding glass wall, opens the restaurant (complete with mural of Benjamin Marshall) and lobby to Michigan Avenue.



CITATION OF MERIT

PHOTO CREDIT: KATE JOYCE STUDIOS



McDonald's Disney Flagship

Ross Barney Architects

Location: Orlando, Florida

Client: McDonald's Corporation

General Contractor: Southland Construction

Architect/Engineer of Record: CPH

Structural Engineer: Goodfriend Magruder Structure

MEP Engineer: WSP

Lighting Designer: Schuler Shook

The McDonald's Disney Flagship in Orlando, Florida, aims to become the first Net Zero Energy quick-service restaurant. Incorporating visible and impactful symbols of change, the restaurant deploys architecture and technology to firmly place itself in the future.

Under a shed clad in solar panels, the restaurant is a sustainable and healthy response to the Florida climate. Energy consumption is reduced by optimizing building and kitchen systems. On-site generation strategies include 18,727 square feet of photovoltaic panels and 4,809 square feet of glazing integrated photovoltaic panels (BiPV), and 25 off-the-grid parking lot lights produce more energy than the restaurant uses. "It's quite beautiful and an über-sustainable building serving the most unsustainable food. We have to embrace that," said one juror.

Taking advantage of the humid subtropical climate, the building is naturally ventilated about 65 percent of the year. Jalousie windows, operated by outdoor humidity and temperature sensors close automatically when air-conditioning is required. "This is slick sustainability," added another juror. An outdoor "porch" features wood louvered walls and fans to create an extension of the indoor dining room. A robust education strategy was a goal of the project.

Vue53

Valerio Dewalt Train

Location: Chicago, Illinois

Client: Avison Young Development/Peak Campus/Blue Vista Capital Management

General Contractor: James McHugh Construction Co.

Interior Designer: Searl Lamaster Howe

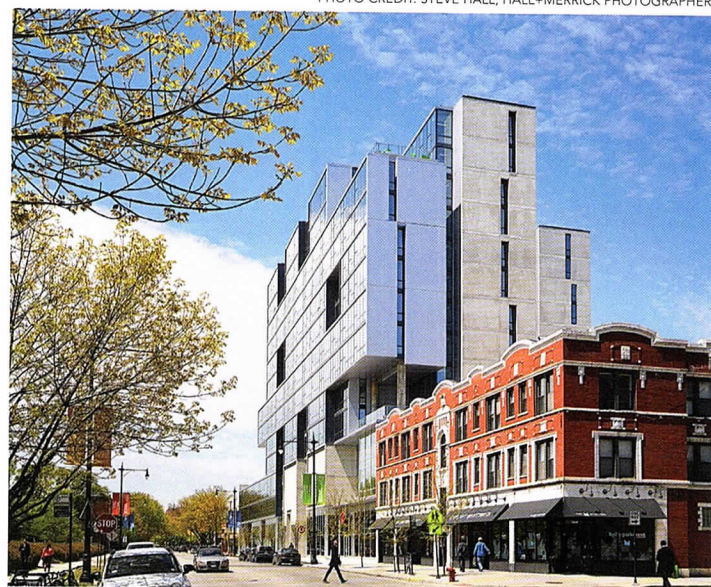
Experiential Graphic Design: Media-Objectives

Vue53 is the newest addition to the rapidly evolving skyline of Chicago's Hyde Park neighborhood. A mixed-use development with 267 units, amenities, and 28,000 square feet of retail space, Vue53 offers contemporary living space in a historic area.

The architecture carefully responds to its context. The mass of the building is divided into two towers. The south tower is on 53rd Street; voids in the elevation minimize the structure's perceived mass while framing views of the park across the street. The north tower is set 100 feet back from the street to minimize its mass. Parking occupies the two floors above the retail level, screened from 53rd Street by apartments and amenity spaces lining the south façade.

"The slipping massing is interesting; there's such a wide variety of spaces made both in and outside. It's a great accomplishment," said one juror.

PHOTO CREDIT: STEVE HALL, HALL+MERRICK PHOTOGRAPHERS



A Target store occupies two-thirds of the ground-floor commercial space, providing the area with much needed neighborhood-serving retail.

CITATION OF MERIT

PHOTO CREDIT: PATRICK REYNOLDS

Whale Bay House

Optima DCHGlobal, Inc.

Location: Bay of Islands, New Zealand

Client: Optima DCH Global, Inc.

General Contractor: Optima DCH Global, Inc.

The Whale Bay House's modular prefabricated architectural system is based on a three-dimensional structural grid consisting of a 7-foot-by-7-foot horizontal module, a 7-foot-3-inch vertical module, and a 21-foot-by-21-foot structural bay. The exposed structure consists of a simple set of standardized components much like an "erector set" of beams, columns, connectors and plates that are assembled into components in the shop and sequentially transported to the job site for erection. The floor and roof plates are constructed with nine individual 12-gauge press-formed panels bolted together to span the 7-by-7 module. Glazing, vertical screens, casework, wall panels, plumbing and ductwork are all designed in accordance to the 3D grid and integrated into the structure, hereby allowing automated fabrication with precise and efficient construction.

"The planes do a good job of breaking up what would be a really big house," commented a juror. "The long roof planes and glass — it's so minimal."

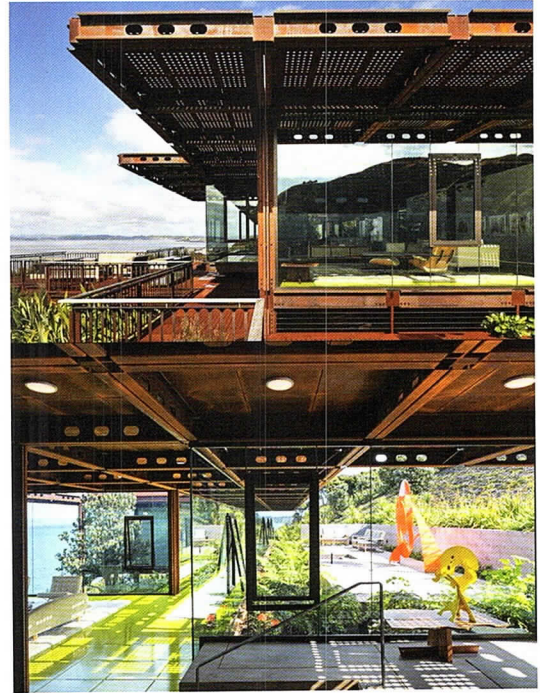


PHOTO CREDIT: TONY SOLURI



Zinc House

dSPACE Studio

Location: Chicago, Illinois

General Contractor: LG Construction

Interior Designer: PROJECT Interiors

The client wanted a light-filled home that had a strong connection to the outdoors while maximizing privacy and security in a dense urban neighborhood. The L-shaped structure features a shielded façade and a rear elevation defined by window walls facing south.

The planes are clad in warm, standing seam zinc panels. The second and third planes have inset glass at the lower right corner, and the upper left corner of the third plane is clad in wood laminate. These details give the impression of stripping away the zinc façade to reveal the internal structure and offer hints of the home within. A garden of trees and weathered steel planters guide a path to the hidden front door.

The foundation is slab-on-grade, locating interior and exterior spaces at the same level. A double-height great room amplifies the connection to the outdoors, and a switchback staircase with floating treads is designed so the landscape becomes an integral part of the experience of circulating through the home. "The volumes are thoughtful and play with the landscape. It has a nice indoor/outdoor quality," commented a juror.

distinguished building awards

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Jurors were particularly thrilled about the use of public art in both of these projects. For the CTA station, architects collaborated with Nick Cave and Bob Faust, along with Skyline Design. The artist's multidisciplinary artwork was remixed into design patterns via various materials integrated with key architectural components of the station, including:

- Perforated, patterned, stainless-steel panels that clad portions of the façade and elevator towers;
- Stationhouse ceilings clad in mosaic tiles of varying patterns and modules;
- Stationhouse structural columns clad in backlit lenticular panels that create depth and movement as one's viewpoint changes;
- Back-painted, printed-glass wall panels; and
- Fused, art-glass panels in platform windbreaks.

In Albany Park, Canopy collaborated with Little Village artist Miguel Del Real to install a public mural. In early conversations with the development team and neighborhood leaders, it was evident that the project site, as a corner lot on the busy Montrose Avenue, demanded an expressive corner as part of the building's composition. The mural begins in the public way and continues through the building's entry lobby, a public plaza.

"These projects are really adding to the texture and feel of the city," said one juror. It is worthy of highlighting the collaboration between architects and artists."

PHOTO CREDIT: ARON GENT

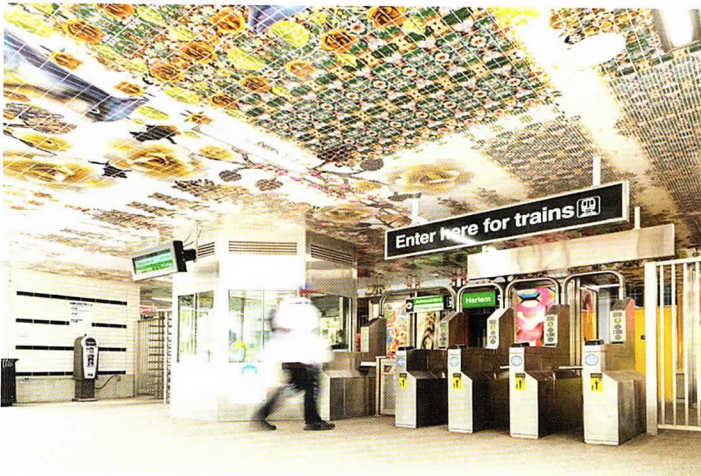
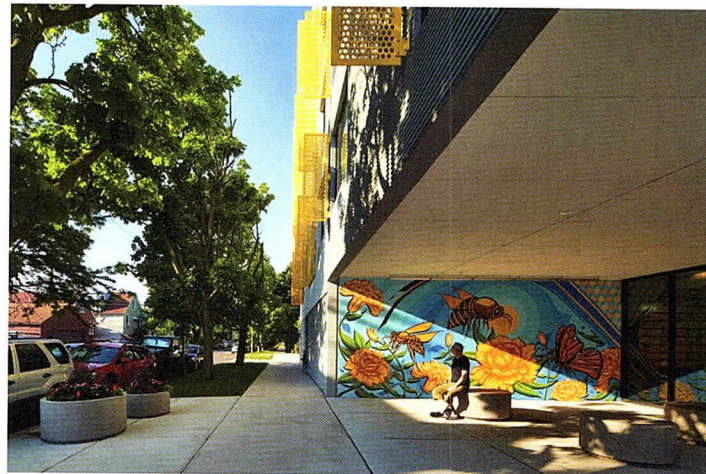


PHOTO CREDIT: CHRISTOPHER BARRET



SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR PUBLIC ART INTEGRATION

CTA Garfield Elevated Station Renovation

EXP

Location: Chicago, Illinois

Client: Chicago Transit Authority

General Contractor: Walsh Construction

Art-In-Architecture Consultant: Nick Cave in collaboration with Bob Faust

Art Glass Fabricator: Skyline Design

Tile Fabricator: Mosaico Digitale

SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR PUBLIC ART INTEGRATION

OSO Apartments

Canopy Architecture + Design

Location: Chicago, Illinois

Client: Evergreen Real Estate Group

General Contractor: Evergreen Construction Company

Structural Engineer: CE Anderson

MEP Engineer: The Engineering Studio

Landscape Architect: McKay Landscape Architects

Civil Engineer: Manhard Consulting

Energy and Envelope Consultant: Eco Achievers

Muralist: Miguel Del Real

Evergreen Real Estate Group and
Evergreen Construction Company congratulate

CANOPY

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on winning a 2020 AIA Chicago Distinguished Building Award!

Oso Apartments
Chicago, IL



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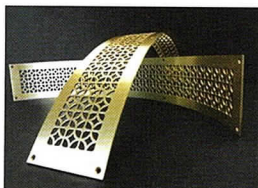
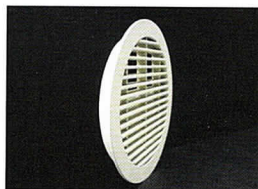
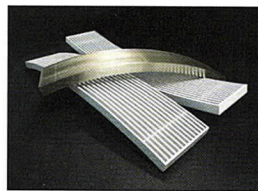
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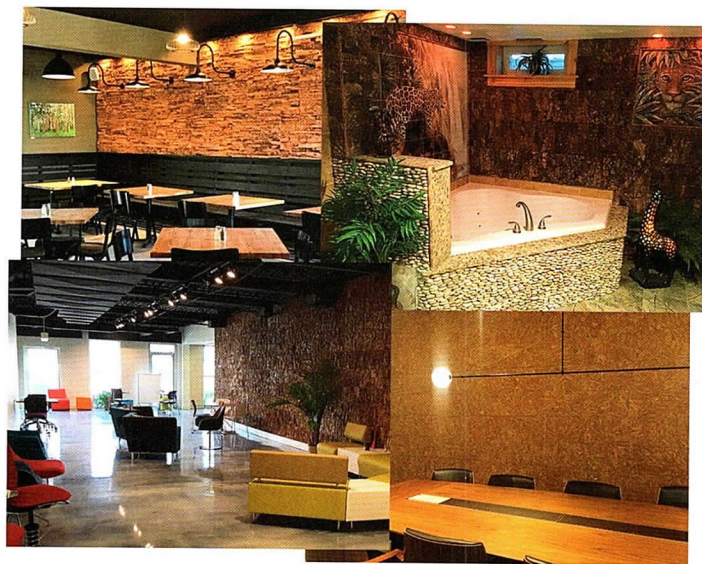
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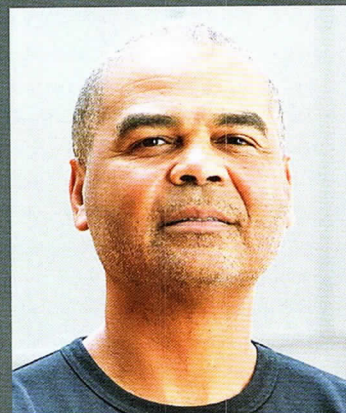
JURORS



ROBERTO DE LEON, JR., FAIA
de Leon & Primmer Architecture Workshop
Louisville, KY



WENDY DUNNAM TITA, FAIA, IIDA
Page
Austin, TX



VICTOR VINES, AIA
Vines Architecture, Inc.
Raleigh, NC

HONOR AWARD

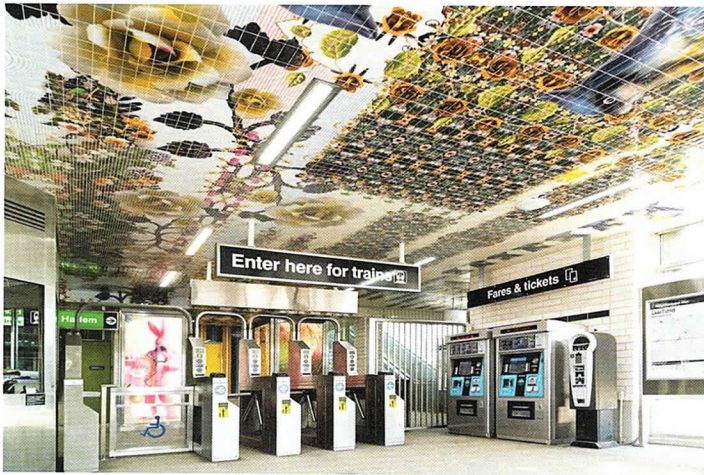
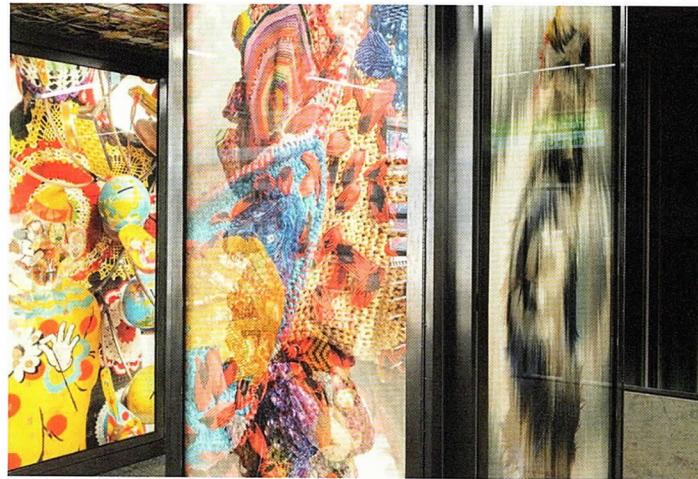


PHOTO CREDITS: ARON GE



CTA Garfield Elevated Station Renovation

EXP

Location: Chicago, Illinois

Client: Chicago Transit Authority

General Contractor: Walsh Construction

Art-In-Architecture Consultant: Nick Cave in collaboration with Bob Faust

Art Glass Fabricator: Art Glass Fabricator

Associate Architect: Chicago Transit Authority

Tile Fabricator: Mosaico Digitale

The Garfield Elevated Station, one of the oldest transit stations in the country, was built in 1892 to serve the World's Columbian Exposition. The Garfield stop includes two station houses — one nonactive (original and historic) and one active. This Gateway Renovation project creates a new iconic gateway to the Washington Park community in Chicago's South Side, with the restoration and repurposing of the original historic stationhouse as a community-based arts facility, and major renovation of the active station to benefit 475,000 riders, bicyclists and pedestrians while supporting the ongoing revitalization of the community.

"There's already motion and movement through station, but these video elements introduce another layer of movement in the space. Some are blurred in terms of the video panels but integrating art and architecture and leaving no surface unturned," commented one juror.

The active station renovation included façade improvements, elevator and escalator enhancements, new and extended glazed platform canopies, as well as visually enhanced architectural features integrating site-specific art by Nick Cave, a world-renowned, Chicago-based artist.



The artist's multidisciplinary artwork was remixed into design patterns via various materials integrated with key architectural components of the station, including:

- Perforated, patterned, stainless-steel panels that clad portions of the façade and elevator towers;
- Stationhouse ceilings clad in mosaic tiles of varying pattern and module;
- Stationhouse structural columns clad in backlit lenticular panels that create depth and movement as one's viewpoint changes;
- Back-painted, printed-glass wall panels; and
- Fused, art-glass panels in platform windbreaks.

Exclaimed another juror, "I liked that the artist was a part of the whole design-build process. It's beautiful and durable, an understanding of how public architecture, high-use infrastructure and art can coexist as one."

Lakeview Penthouse

Wheeler Kearns Architects

Location: Chicago, Illinois

General Contractor: Norcon

Interior Designer: Symbiotic Living

Structural Engineer: Enspect Engineering

Lighting Designer: Lux Populi

MEP/FP: McGuire Engineers

For clients who purchased an untouched two-story penthouse within a mansard-shaped roofline of a Chicago high-rise, their desire was to create a sophisticated, inviting home while softening the intense geometry of its sloped outer walls. "A lot of the detailing with the sloped wall could have been a disaster if they didn't do it well. They resolved those faces nicely," said a juror.

The apartment's 270-degree views of Lake Michigan and the city skyline are maximized around a J-shaped floorplan with public living spaces on the lower-level and private spaces above. Gently curved, vaulted walls wrap the outer perimeter, acknowledging the ornamental building but reinterpreting it. Gray, lacquer panels define a central service core that encloses the kitchen, bathrooms and other storage rooms.

Layers of materials — lacquered panels, walnut and oxidized black metal — create a rich and varied palette, while polished-white Venetian plaster threads throughout and unifies the duplex apartment home. The reflective qualities of the polished surface indirectly illuminate the spaces throughout the day. A strategic lighting strategy helps manage glare from the windows during the day and at night radiates the curved walls with soft, warm light. "I was initially resistant, but it's really beautifully executed. Masterfully done," added one juror.

Connecting the two floors is a sculptural stair fabricated from oxidized steel and glass, up-lit from an illuminated glass platform. Bespoke furniture, fixtures and art create a dialogue with the reflective perimeter wall to complete this serene, spacious perch.

PHOTO CREDITS: STEVE HALL, HALL + MERRICK PHOTOGRAPHERS



HONOR AWARD

Le Cube

Mana Inc.

Location: Paris, France

Design Architect: MANA, Chicago, Illinois

Client: Le Bon Marché and Scott Oster

Architect of Record: Scalapulus

General Contractor: Atelier La Fabrik

Structural Engineer: Endrestudio

Le Cube was the centerpiece of the “Los Angeles Rive Gauche” exhibition in Paris, an exhibition featuring a curation of L.A. fashion, beauty and lifestyle products at the world-famous Le Bon Marché department store, and created an engaging intersection between sport and sculptural art.

Designed with internal lighting and sound, Le Cube housed live skate performances. The structural design had to account for the normal static loads of the installation and the dynamic loads of the skateboarder. A custom steel roller bearing cradle housed the full pipe. The cradle bearings enabled the ramp to spin on its circular ribs for ease of construction. The plywood interior of the ramp was able to be laid safely underfoot instead of overhead.

Le Cube was conscious of its context, meticulously detailed and engaged with the public in a fun and exciting way. Shopping centers are not capable of accomplishing this outcome in their current state; without identity, the indifferent shopping center will not compete against the convenience of the dot-com.

Le Cube rethinks how the future of retail shall exist not only as a shopping experience but also as an exhibition, performance and spectacle. The historical setting of Le Bon Marché, the original retail department store, displayed this new precedent.

Commented one juror, “It’s technical and authentic, a strong project because it proposes how we can rethink a typology. And then it totally delivers on it.”

PHOTO CREDITS: JOHN MANAVES, /

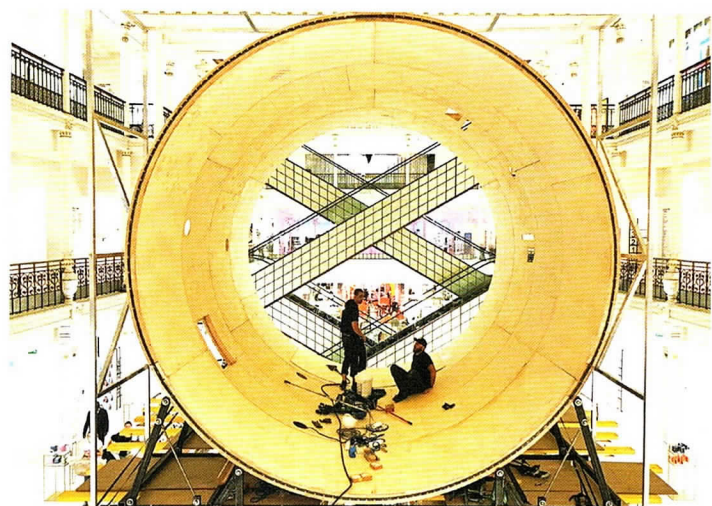
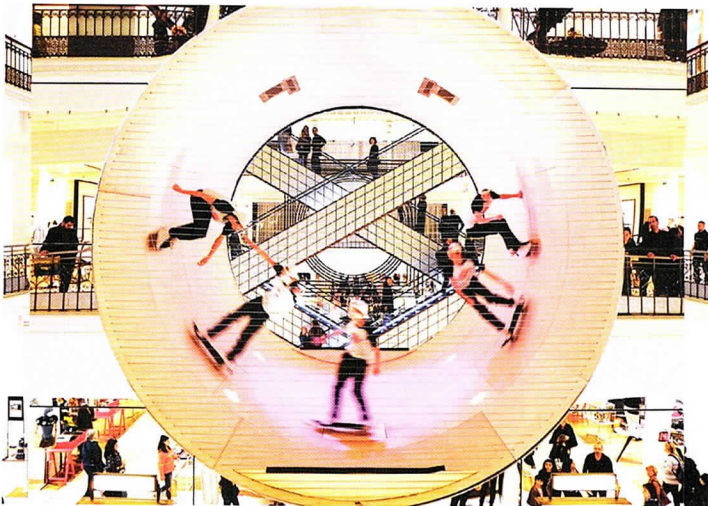
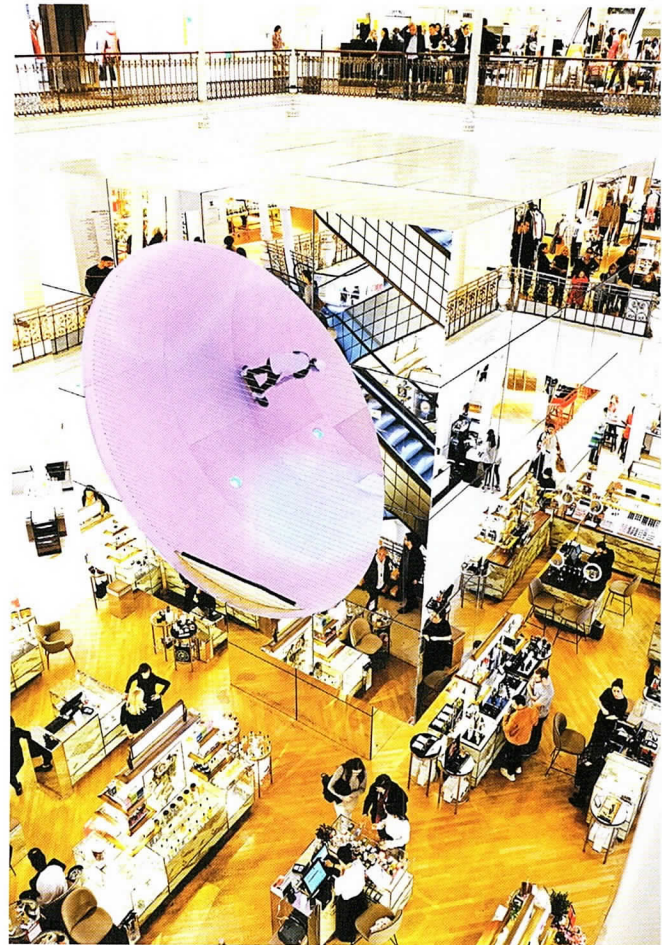


PHOTO CREDITS: STEVE HALL, HALL+MERRICK PHOTOGRAPHERS



Mansueto Office

Perkins&Will

Location: Chicago, Illinois

Client: Mansueto Office

General Contractor: Clune Construction

MEP Engineer: Environmental Systems Design

Lighting Designer: LightHive

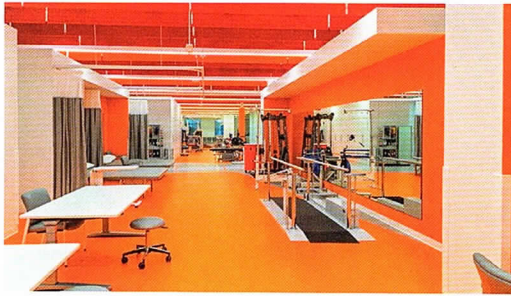
The Wrigley Building houses the new Mansueto Office, with a breathtaking view of the river and the intersection of Michigan Avenue and Wacker Drive.

The space is flexible, functional and open, with a plan that is divided into two distinct zones by a centrally located conference room, providing a built-in banquette along the north wall and a primary work table and casual conferencing zone on the south and west elevations.

Support space is minimal, with a small, efficient pantry at the back of the conference area and small internal support and focus rooms. Ceiling height was maximized by keeping the deck open with plastered-over clay tile and the infrastructure elements painted out. Exposed ceiling elements were carefully coordinated to achieve a clean and orderly appearance.

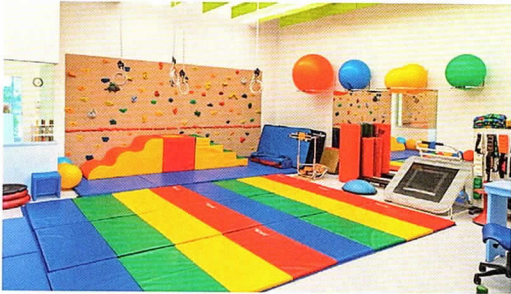
As a unifying design element, the team incorporated an understated and warm Japanese Ash veneer feature wall in which all the support spaces were built, with glass portholes offering a peek into some rooms. "I appreciate the wall without adding circulation. Restraint of that palette, how soft and inviting it is. I appreciated the editing of it and where they deviated," commented one juror. The team refurbished the original wood flooring to be reminiscent of the history of the building. "I like the material palette; a lot was accomplished in a few moves," added another.





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And to the entire Shirley Ryan Abilitylab project team on this Distinguished Building Award! We are proud to have been a part of this project.

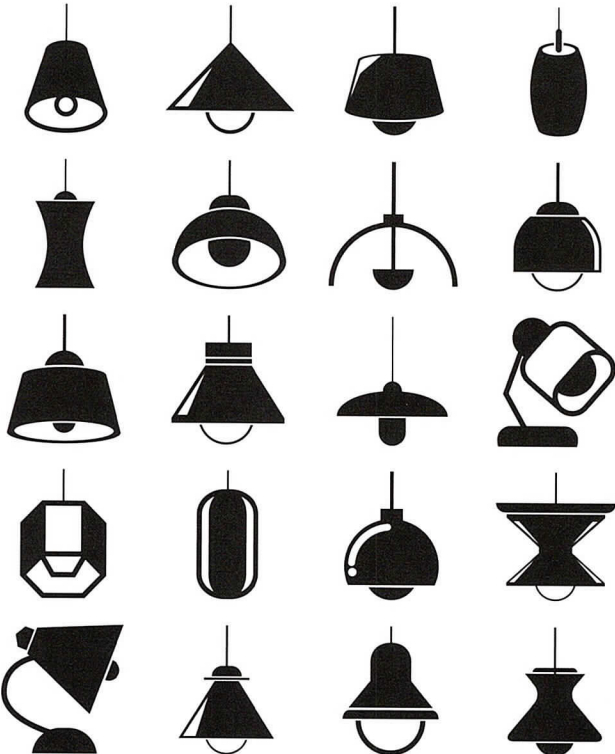


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PHOTO CREDITS: TOM HARRIS



Shirley Ryan AbilityLab Pediatric and DayRehab Clinic

HDR

Location: Glenview, Illinois

Client: Shirley Ryan AbilityLab

General Contractor: Krusinski Construction Company

Structural Engineer: HDR

MEP Engineer: Grumman/Butkus Associates



Tucked away inside a speculative office building in suburban Chicago lies a new rehabilitation outpatient center for the Shirley Ryan AbilityLab — a specialty, nonprofit hospital serving patients with the most severe, complex conditions and catering to adults and children. The interiors solved several challenges. Importantly, the spaces for children and adults had very different requirements in terms of equipment and atmosphere, yet still needed to project a unified brand identity. Dividing the space in two resulted in awkwardly long, linear spaces — a spatial challenge solved using a series of floating volumes and colored acoustic baffles.

In DayRehab, vibrantly colored felt baffles break down the length of the open therapeutic space while also providing acoustical comfort and intuitive

wayfinding. Floating volumes define various treatment areas and are used for mounting equipment and to provide discreet areas for storage — while allowing open views across the space for patient safety.

A calmer atmosphere was required for the pediatric side to keep children focused. Floating volumes define two separate therapeutic spaces and a parents' waiting area. Ceiling baffles, walls and floors in muted colors are juxtaposed against the bright colors of children's equipment and toys used in treatment. Corridors double as treatment space to maximize efficiency; white walls encourage children to focus on the floor's colored circles, which are spaced at specific intervals as therapy aids. "I loved this project. It accomplishes so much with a very simple strategy," commented one juror.

HONOR AWARD

PHOTO CREDITS: MIKE SCHWAR



Unit 2808

Vladimir Radutny Architects

Location: Chicago, Illinois

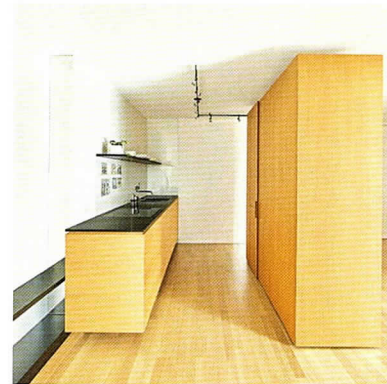
Design Team: Vladimir Radutny, AIA, Fanny Hothan, AIA, and Ryan Sarros, AIA

General Contractor: Hi-Teq Construction

Oriented south toward the Chicago skyline, this 28th-floor dwelling was renovated for a couple desiring an urban sanctuary as their second home. Captivating views and beautiful light were already present as the main ingredients for making this apartment a tranquil space. To further amplify this serenity, the architects freed the interior from visual obstructions toward the skyline and opened vantage points that did not previously exist. The interior composition of floating planes and articulated surfaces provides privacy and domesticity while maintaining a sense of openness and cohesion within the space. "The work retains rigor. It's clever in material use. The project is the least one can do but it doesn't feel stark," said one juror.

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. The long east wall separates the bathroom, as well as hiding the primary storage.

This intervention within the Mies Van Der Rohe-designed apartment buildings embodies material restraint and highlights the precision of craft. It evokes a tranquil sense of place inside the historic context while focusing on the memorable city views and dynamic lakefront.



CITATION OF MERIT

PHOTO CREDIT: CHRISTOPHER BARRETT

Barrett Studio
Barrett Studio + Lynch
Location: Chicago, Illinois
Client: Christopher Barrett

This studio in Chicago's West Town neighborhood punctuates a decades-long professional relationship between architect and architectural photographer. The existing space in a three-story loft building is typical of early 20th century industrial construction. The architects chose not to dress it up, but created a productive aesthetic by highlighting the existing space's features — heavy timber structure, exposed brick walls and concrete floors. "It's so simple but easily overdone — there's a sense of restraint," said one juror.

Every insertion neatly fits each component — dark room, work room, lighting placement — into a logical location. A traditional darkroom, generously sized at 9 feet by 18 feet, is tucked behind an open, galley-style millwork workstation. The designers maximized the space for photography, leaving an open bay measuring 8 feet by 30 feet for flexible use.

Large, glass-block-filled windows allow for natural light, while floor-to-ceiling blackout curtains provide maximum control over lighting conditions within the space. Ambient lighting is provided by pendant mounted LED fixtures that recall the 4-foot-long industrial fluorescent lights that would have lit the space for much of its history.



PHOTO CREDIT: TOM HARRIS



Columbia College Student Center

Gensler Chicago
Location: Chicago, Illinois
Client: Columbia College Chicago
General Contractor: Pepper Construction

The new student center's design took the conventional idea of a building atrium and simply turned it inside-out, making the active and purposely ambiguous student spaces visible to the city rather than internalized. Pushing the hyperconnected atrium space and circulation to the perimeter, the building provides interfloor connectivity while enhancing its dialogue back out to the surrounding campus. The façade's patchwork of translucent glass strategically and playfully expresses the activity and student artwork back out to activate the street, while the meandering stair embraces the students, creating spaces to gather, play and perform, while constantly shifting its user's perspective of the city, the students and the building's program.

"I felt like this one created a lot of energy and made the best use of the volumes of space. It was surprising how much warmth was created with the amount of exposed concrete," exclaimed a juror. "When you have that much exposure it can come off as a brutalist experience, but this one did it very well; this takes the atrium a step further in rethinking what an atrium can be."

CITATION OF MERIT

PHOTO CREDIT: JAMES STEINKAMP



Chicago Architecture Center

Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture
Location: Chicago, Illinois
Client: Chicago Architecture Center
General Contractor: Turner Construction
Exhibition Design: Gallagher & Associates
Signage and Wayfinding: Forcade Associates
Lighting Designer: MORlights
MEP Engineer: Diligent Design Group
Structural Engineer: WSP
Acoustical Engineer/Designer: ARUP
AV Design/Installation: Gand Sound Installations

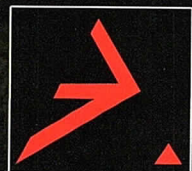
The new Chicago Architecture Center (CAC) is carved out of underutilized retail and exterior terrace space at the Illinois Center. The CAC is composed of education, lecture, exhibition and retail spaces.

The CAC's interior design contrasts the classic Miesian elements with exposed moments of raw architecture. The CAC's key color, red, is playfully represented as a wayfinding element, to show importance on signage, and as accents on important wall spaces.

"I can sense the energy and complexity of the series of public spaces and what it's providing. It's hard to make exhibit spaces that are permanent feel like they have energy," said one juror.

The heart of the space is the Skyscraper Gallery, featuring the permanent exhibit "Building Tall." An acoustically designed, highly reflective metal ceiling was installed on the plaza level to reflect the movement on the river and adjacent Wacker Drive, which activates the ceiling plane and is an extension of the city view. The elevator core, exhibit and demising walls between the galleries are kept low so that the original exterior Miesian proportions of space are preserved.

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SPACE Architects + Planners

Location: Chicago, Illinois

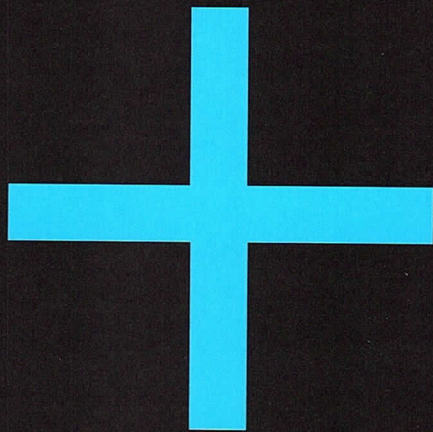
Client: Four Star Restaurant Group

General Contractor: Chas Bender Co.

Restaurant ella elli's story began with memories of a boutique in Amsterdam and a beautiful print of tulips and a butterfly by Jacob Marrel. Further design development led the design team to the speakeasies of 1920s Chicago. ella elli was designed to capture the craftsmanship and intimacy of this era in the city's history.

The space complements the restaurant's globally inspired cuisine, which focuses on unique flavors paired with wines and seasonal cocktails. Warm woods and neutral tones create the color scheme for the main features in the space, while paneled millwork and brass accentuate the details. Overall, the layout of the restaurant is what makes the design successful in encouraging a social yet intimate environment. Guests choose from different seating options, such as tufted banquettes and upholstered booths that line the French-style windows at the entry, a spot at the walnut and marble bar offering a view into the bustling kitchen, or one of the two arched alcoves near the fireplace for an intimate gathering of small groups and couples.

PHOTO CREDIT: MIKE SCHWAR



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CITATION OF MERIT

PHOTO CREDIT: JAMES STEINKAMP

Northtown Affordable Apartments and Public Library

Architect: Perkins&Will

Location: Chicago, Illinois

Client: Northtown Affordable Apartments and Public Library

General Contractor: Powers & Sons Construction

Utility Coordination/Utility Solutions: Davey Utility

Developer: Evergreen Real Estate Group

Structural Engineer: Rubinos & Mesia Engineers, Inc.

MEP Engineer: dbHMS

Civil Engineer: Terra Engineering

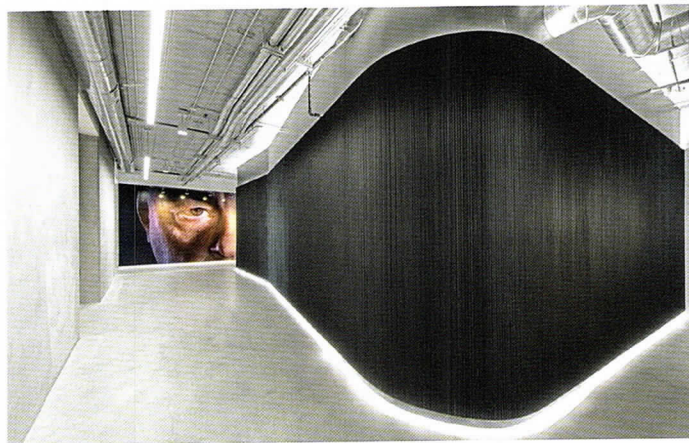


Northtown Affordable Senior Housing and Public Library co-locates affordable senior housing with a community library to encourage lifelong learning, collaboration and exploration. Modular housing units wind above from the west to the east, enlivening the typical residential corridor, while creating roof terraces that acknowledge the public park to the east and the quiet residential neighborhood to the west. Said one juror, “They created really human spaces. I can’t tell if the building is wrapping around nature or bringing nature into the building. It’s wonderful and responsible.”

Double-height, glazed lobbies connect the library to the senior housing, inspiring community interaction between the inside and outside, the public

and private. “I like the juxtaposition of overlapping program uses,” said a juror. The library is anchored at both ends with vibrant community spaces, one showcasing teens and technology, while a community room and lobby at the opposite end house an artist-in-residence, available to the community after regular library hours.

PHOTO CREDIT: ERIC LAIGNEL



Showtime, West Coast Headquarters

Architect: CannonDesign

Location: Los Angeles, California

Client: CBS Showtime

General Contractor: Howard Building Corporation

The design of Showtime’s new headquarters is designed to warp perception and cast users as characters. Upon arrival, the elevator lobby’s utilitarian circulation space doubled by a golden reflection in a full wall of glass manipulates one’s view. Two paths are offered, light or dark — an expanse of space or apparent dead end.

CannonDesign’s design cut a void in the concrete slab between the two floors, creating the headquarters’s social space. Within this void the stair rises as a heavy mass, appearing to levitate over the lobby. It wraps around a series of wood blades that, from certain vantage points, offer glimpses of the space beyond.

“I liked the juxtaposition of the forms in the project. There were some good moves that set it apart for me,” said one juror. “The use of super graphics sometimes seems like great wallpaper. But the way they chose one type of graphic to implement connected the space,” added another.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR SIDE CHAPEL WINDOWS

Chapel of St. Joseph

Wheeler Kearns Architects

Location: Des Plaines, Illinois

Client: The Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe

General Contractor: Mazur + Son Construction

Structural Engineer: Enspect Engineering

MEP Engineer: McGuire Engineers

Civil Engineer: Terra Engineering

Fabricator: V.A. Robinson Ltd.

Liturgical Consultant: Daprato Rigali Studios

After years of using a 1937 gymnasium as a makeshift chapel, the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe transformed it into a permanent worship space. Jurors were particularly taken with the window treatments on the side of the chapel, which double as devotional niches. "There's such good use and understanding of light; they are sparse moments that are incredibly effective. They accomplished what they wanted to do," commented one juror.

PHOTO CREDIT: TOM HARRIS ARCHITECTURAL PHOTOGRAPHY



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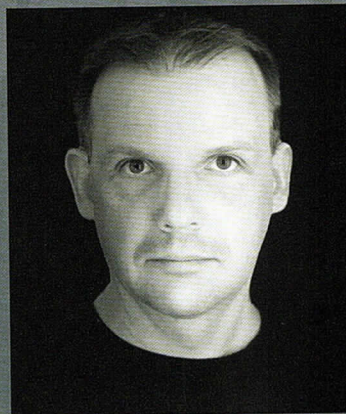


divine detail awards

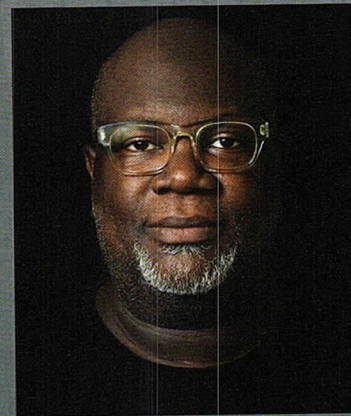
JURORS



JENNIFER NEWSOM, AIA, NOMA
Dream the Combine
Minneapolis, MN



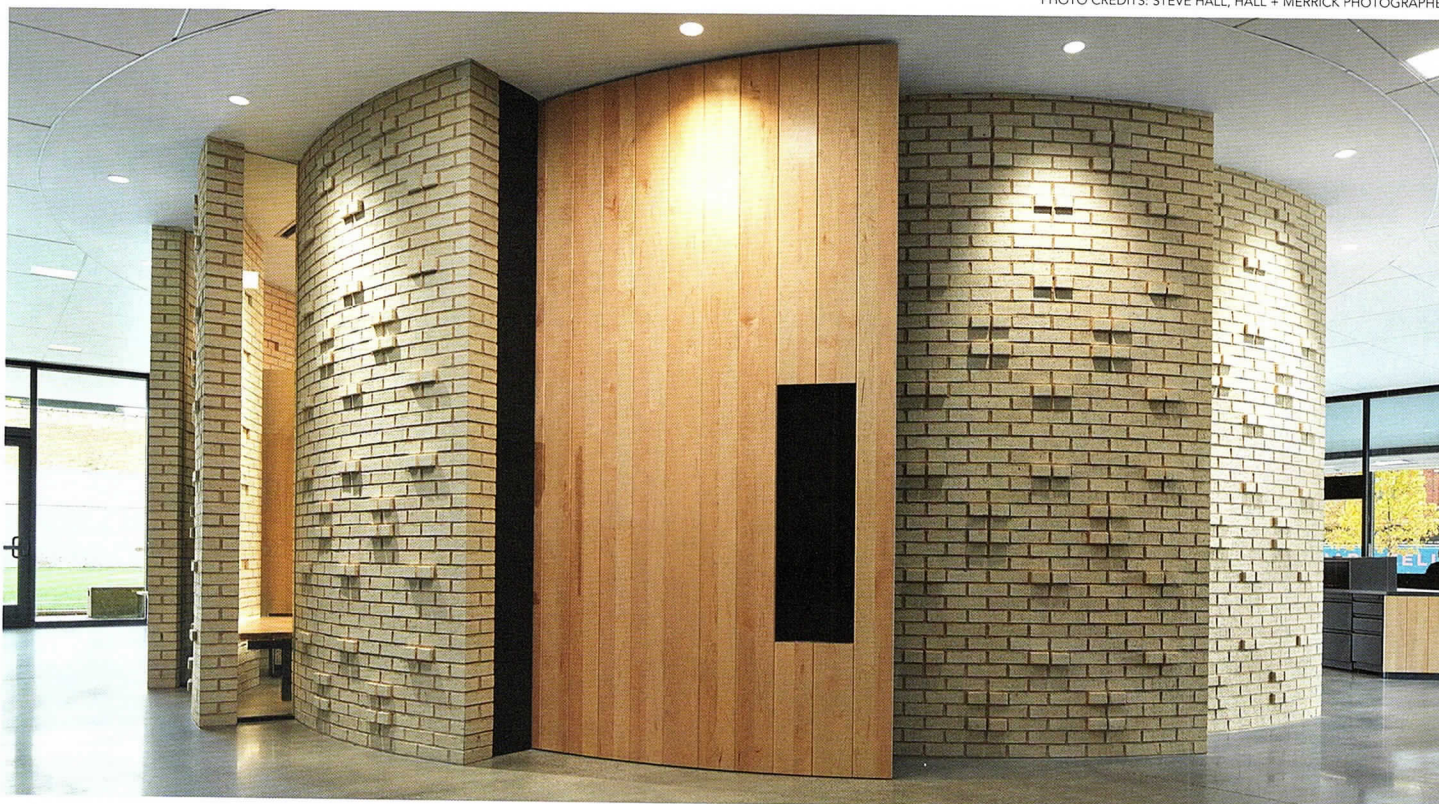
SEBASTIEN SCHMALING, AIA
Johnsen Schmalig Architects
Milwaukee, WI



MARK GARDNER, AIA, NOMA
Jaklitsch Gardner Architects
New York, NY

HONOR AWARD

PHOTO CREDITS: STEVE HALL, HALL + MERRICK PHOTOGRAPHERS



BZAEDS: Makom Rina

Wheeler Kearns Architects

Location: Chicago, Illinois

Client: Bernard Zell Anshe Emet Day School (BZAEDS)

General Contractor: Bulley & Andrews

Structural Engineer: Thornton Tomasetti

MEP Engineer: IBC Engineering Services, Inc.

Civil Engineer: Terra Engineering

Owner's Representative: CBRE

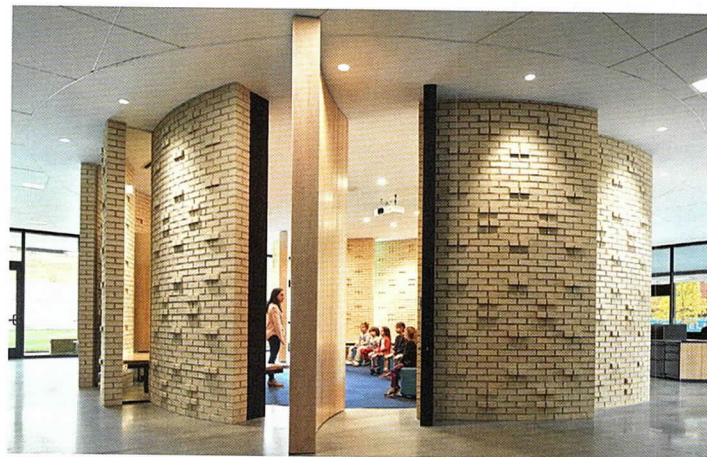
Acoustical Engineer/Designer: Shiner Acoustics

Mason: J & E Duff Inc.

In the Bernard Zell Anshe Emet Day School Expansion, symbolic architectural details embed timeless Jewish values and meanings into the entire experience of the building.

The Makom Rina — or “Place of Joy” — is a brick and glass sacred space at the heart of the new school addition. Twelve curved brick walls, representing the 12 original tribes of Israel, pinwheel in plan to allow glimpses through glass into the musical and spiritual activities taking place inside.

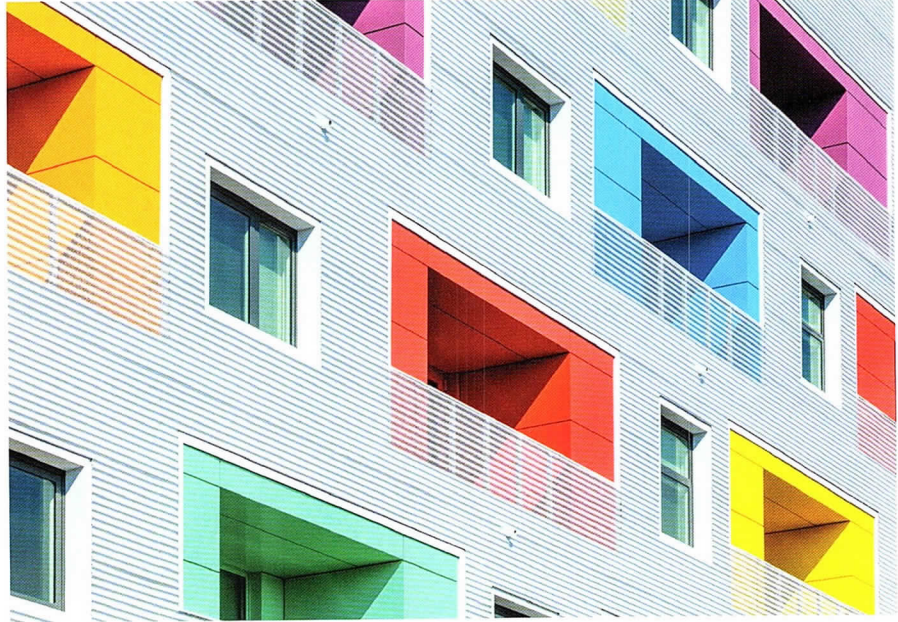
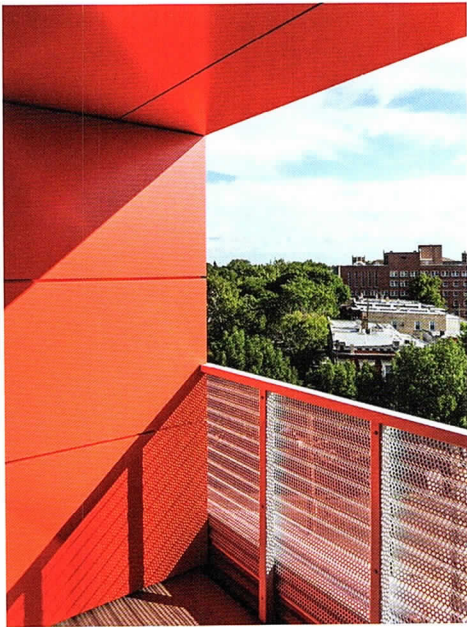
The expression and symbolism of this sacred space became richer through a collaborative process between designers, masons, educators and congregants. The simple double-wythe masonry walls are 11 feet tall, so reinforcement of the wythes is necessary for structural support. Rather than conceal supports, reinforcement is left visible, creating a pattern of bricks that slightly push and pull to form the Star



of David. These header bricks, arranged as symbols of Judaism, form the structure, tying individual units into a cohesive, symbolic whole.

In an echo of the ancient western wall of Jerusalem, this sacred space was specifically designed for prayer. Jurors enjoyed the “prayer slots,” where the header bricks tie the wall together. The interior head joints are raked open, allowing participants to place prayers into the joints between the bricks. Everything in this space, from the lighting and the custom, 8-inch-thick, curved doors, to the glazing and built-in furniture, is designed to complement and highlight this masonry structure. “It’s a well-considered project as a whole. There’s so much meaning imbued in the detail,” commented a juror.

PHOTO CREDITS: JAMES FLORIO



Independence Affordable Housing Balconies

John Ronan Architects

Location: Chicago, Illinois

Client: Evergreen Real Estate Group

General Contractor: Leopardo Companies

Structural Engineer: Thornton Tomasetti

MEP Engineer: dbHMS

Civil Engineer: Terra Engineering

Acoustical Engineer/Designer: Shiner Acoustics

To address wellness, each apartment in the new Independence Library and Apartments features a brightly colored balcony recessed into the façade, which speaks to individuality amid the collective, enabling residents to identify their homes from the street in a conscious attempt to transcend the brutal pragmatism that has characterized Chicago's past efforts in the area of social housing.

Doorways in the interior common corridor are color coordinated with the balconies, both to animate the hallway and to help seniors easily identify their home. The multilayered approach to the façade detailing speaks to both the individual resident — in the form of colored aluminum composite metal (ACM) cladding which identifies the individual unit — and the corrugated metal siding, which represents the collective identity of the residential community they are all a part of. Balconies are staggered to suggest individuality amidst the collective.

"I love the scrim, breaking it down to the perforated panels on the balconies," said one juror. "Color adds a sense of ownership. That edge of the railing could've gotten heavy, but it blends."



Where the colored ACM cladding meets the corrugated metal siding on the building face, the siding becomes perforated so that the two façade systems coexist. This superimposition hints at the underlying reality of the modern façade system, which is no longer monolithic but instead composed of numerous layers of materials, each with their own assigned role (enclosure, waterproofing, fireproofing, insulation, cladding, etc.). Said another juror, "The details are well thought out. It's one idea done well that makes the building the poster child for how details can drive the success of a project."

HONOR AWARD

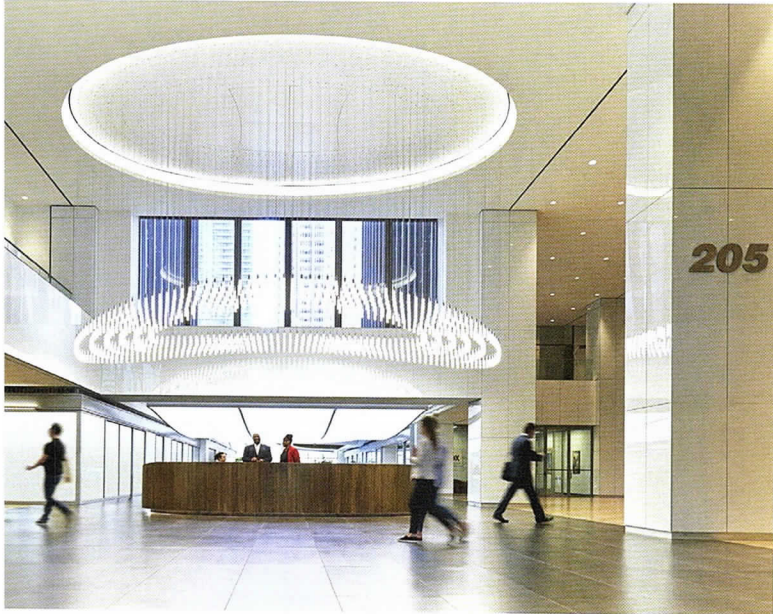
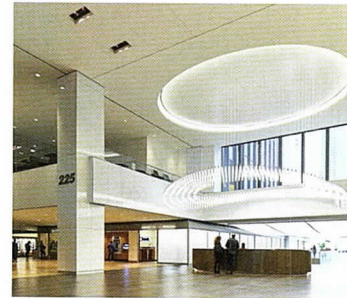


PHOTO CREDITS: CHRISTOPHER BARRETT; CANNONDESIGN (BOTTOM RIGHT)



INTERIORS

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INDUSTRIAL

Michigan Plaza, Light Sculpture

CannonDesign

Location: Chicago, Illinois

Client: MBRE

General Contractor: Bear Construction

The goal of this lobby revitalization aimed to transform a daunting, unwelcoming space into a new “place to be,” becoming a new entry point and destination for the nearly 20,000 daily tenants and visitors arriving from Michigan Avenue and the railway station below.

Light is the material here: The building’s concrete frame, which is wrapped in metal and glass, became the stepping point for the design concept. Previously metal-clad columns, now wrapped in glass, disperse reflected light throughout. Subtle curves draw light and people into collaboration and relaxation zones. The focal point is an iconic light-sculpture composed of 760 pendants, itself a wrapper, defining the space below — a new beacon of calm found within the crossing paths of people all around.

The geometry is subtle and determined, developed with a modernist rigor. Centered in the chaos, soft curves enhance traffic flow and reinforce 360-degree visibility. Grandiose in scale, the chandelier simultaneously provides an intimate sense of place within the larger lobby, defining the concierge space below while highlighting it as the main area of transaction. The detailed geometry of the canopy allows installation and repair in sections. Concealed hatches in the center allow drivers for the LED system to be maintained via a lift, while each pendant is independently adjustable to allow for microadjustments as needed. “It’s simply beautiful,” said one juror.

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CITATION OF MERIT

PHOTO CREDIT: WILLIAM ZBAREN



Roscoe Storefront

Neet Architecture LLC

Location: Chicago, Illinois

Client: Mary Jane Min

This storefront replacement project is located in a 125-year-old, two-story brick building on a lively commercial street in the Roscoe Village neighborhood. The building's longtime owner, an artist, did not want to default to a standard aluminum replacement system. She wanted a fresh take on what the storefront could become, while respecting the character of the original building.

The special corner detail is key to understanding the new storefront design. In a typical storefront system, the front window and angled window at the entryway merge at a functional boxy corner post. In the new design, the display windows are expressed as separate portals, with an open and sculptural V-shaped corner. The stepping profile of the portals draws passersby to view into the window display and further into the space of the store itself. The wood construction of the window frames allowed for experimentation and customization.

"It's so subtle and unexpected," commented a juror. "It's small but well thought out and somebody spends the time to create such depth." Added another, "I like the translation from the exterior to the interior and telescoping from the inside. It capitalizes on doing something really thoughtful in a small moment."

BZAEDS: Tallit

Wheeler Kearns Architects

Location: Chicago, Illinois

Client: Bernard Zell Anshe Emet Day School (BZAEDS)

General Contractor: Bulley & Andrews

Structural Engineer: Thornton Tomasetti

Mechanical Engineer: IBC Engineering Services, Inc.

Civil Engineer: Terra Engineering

Owner's Representative: CBRE

Acoustical Engineer/Designer: Shiner Acoustics

Mason: J & E Duff Inc.

PHOTO CREDITS: STEVE HALL, HALL + MERRICK PHOTOGRAPHERS



At the Bernard Zell Anshe Emet Day School, architectural details wrap the new school expansion in deeper meaning. A light-colored brick blankets the building — just as a traditional Jewish tallit (fringed prayer shawl) wraps one's shoulders to prepare for reflection, prayer and worship. The floating masonry volume belies the mass of the material, and the purposely expressed edges at the jambs and heads reveal the thinness and delicacy of the masonry to viewers inside and outside the building — an element that jurors called "tremendous." Each string of the tzitzit (fringe) that ties in a knot in four of the corners reminds students to do mitzvot (acts of loving kindness). "The ritual is built into the material; I love it," commented a juror.

Custom-fabricated support angles are designed to hold the plane of the brick veneer slightly in front of the window and spandrel system so that the edges of the masonry "shawl" are separated and visible from the interior of the building. The building structure is coordinated to support these angles below the elevation of the floor slabs, and a complex network of flashing, vents and closure panels ensures that the drainage, ventilation and insulation function effectively while being concealed within the wall.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

PHOTO CREDIT: WRAP ARCHITECTURE



SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR REUSE AND READAPTATION OF BUILDING ELEMENTS

Eris – Reclaimed Radiator Railings

Wrap Architecture

Location: Chicago, Illinois

Client: Eris Brewery and Cider House

Primary Fabricator: Mass Jones Studio

Structural Engineer: JF2 Design

MEP Engineer: Element Energy

The adaptive reuse of the century-old Myrtle Masonic Temple, as Eris Brewery and Cider House, included restoration of the brick and steel structure and reestablishing the sanctuary window openings previously infilled.

Extensive material reuse on Wrap Architecture projects is typical, for sustainability reasons, to divert materials from the waste stream and also to serve as a memory of what came before. On this project, the building's antiquated boiler and radiator heating system was abandoned. Previous brewery experience helped inform an integrated geothermal system and water-cooled brewery chiller, which allows waste heat from the brewing process to be recovered and used for domestic hot water, brewery hot water or space heating. The obsolete radiators, now repurposed as railings, serve as a reminder of how the building was previously heated and hopefully inspire questions about new alternative systems. "A clever idea of rescuing something as ornamental as it is," said one juror. "I've never seen this idea before."

SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR FORMAL RESPONSIVENESS TO ENVIRONMENT

Northwestern University Ryan/Walter Athletics Center Coastal Wall

Perkins&Will

Location: Evanston, Illinois

Client: Northwestern University

Associate Architect: HOK

Structural Engineer: WSP

Civil Engineer: SmithGroup

Landscape Architect: SmithGroup

MEP Engineer: AEI

Acoustical Engineer/Designer: Henderson Engineers

This athletic center is layered onto an existing recreation facility to provide a new fieldhouse and supporting spaces on campus, adjacent to Lake Michigan. A 400-foot-long coastal wall protects the building, its foundations and the pathway from the powerful forces and effects of the waves and ice of the adjacent lake. The wall's lakeside profile was calibrated to the specifics of the condition through rigorous testing at a facility in Texas using scaled models and waves.

Fabrication of the 109 5-foot, precast concrete segments was done locally with robust steel formwork that provided an optimal finish. The ends of the walls taper making it a sculptural amenity that meets a functional need. The custom formwork

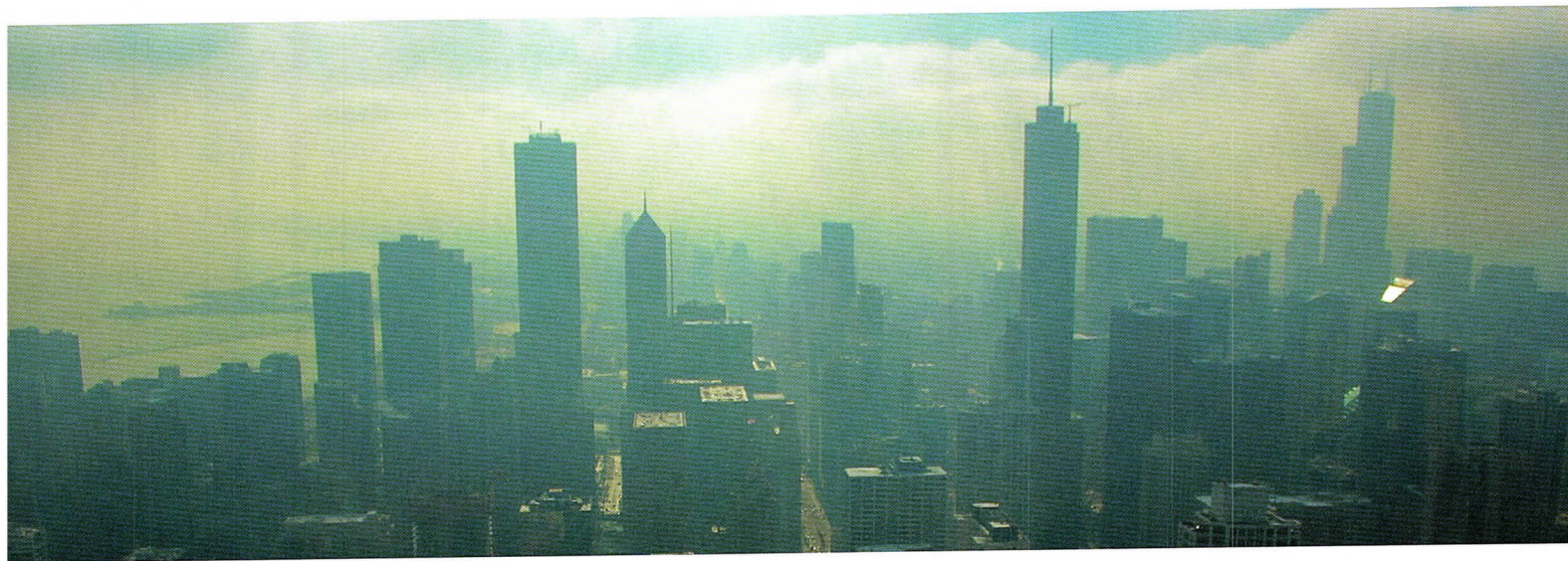


PHOTO CREDIT: JAMES STEINKAMP

was adjustable to the wall's varying profiles. "What could have been a terrible sea wall becomes a sculpture. This could have been a corrugated steel wall that runs into the ground," said one juror.

HOW ARCHITECTS ARE UNIQUELY POSITIONED TO ACCELERATE CHICAGO'S DECARBONIZATION

BY DOUG FARR, FAIA



Echoing the AIA's urgent call for climate action, on February 19, 2020, the Chicago City Council declared a climate emergency, calling on the city to "initiate a Climate Mobilization to reverse global warming and the ecological crisis." Given the aligned goals of the city and its architecture community, how can these two groups work together to make a prompt and equitable transition from fossil fuels and toward clean energy?

It's the Buildings, Stupid!

Heating, cooling and powering buildings accounts for 53 percent of Chicago's CO₂ pollution, making buildings the obvious place to start. The city took a first step by adopting a 2013 benchmarking ordinance requiring annual energy use reports from buildings over 50,000 square feet. Also, the city has adopted IECC (energy efficiency

code) updates and supported Retrofit Chicago, a voluntary energy retrofits program. But thus far, Chicago has been silent on decarbonization.

Playing Catch-Up, Learning from Away

To successfully catch up, Chicago needs to learn and apply lessons from how other cities and states are tackling building decarbonization. A key finding is that governments, working with the development community, adopt three types of ordinances:

1. "Building Performance Standards" that incentivize or require energy retrofits of existing buildings;
2. "Stretch Codes" that require energy efficiency beyond IECC requirements; and
3. "Electrification Codes" that ban natural gas connections to new buildings.

It's Inevitable; Let's Do it Sooner

It is impossible to imagine a decarbonized Chicago that didn't adopt these three codes along the way; they are inevitable. And in the fight against climate change, our scarcest resource is time. So rather than *eventually*, how can we move faster to achieve these milestones as soon as possible? It requires a broadly shared agreement on what success looks like. In other words, having a common agenda.

The Common Agenda

The common agenda is a living critical-path timeline identifying milestones on Chicago's road to decarbonization. In order to succeed, it needs broad buy-in from public, private and not-for-profit entities in the building sector, and each needs to understand the critical role they play in making it happen.

Architectural Leadership Is a Change Accelerant

In other cities, architects have helped speed up code adoptions by working voluntarily with clients to design buildings that show the technical and financial viability of meeting future code requirements today. These local "early adopter" projects are compiled into case studies of financial and energy performance, offering the evidence city councils need to be confident that the building and development industry will be able to meet the proposed code.

Given the record number of Chicago architects pledged to the AIA 2030 Challenge, there are likely to be "early adopter" projects on the boards all across Chicago. If your firm is interested in using your projects to speed up Chicago's building decarbonization, consider taking these actions. **CA**

St. Edmund's Oasis in Washington Park by Johnson & Lee created affordable units on 14 disparate lots. The project received the Third Place 2019 Driehaus Award.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT:

Phil Johnson, FAIA

BY WHET MOSER



IN MANY WAYS, PHIL JOHNSON, FAIA, WAS BORN INTO ARCHITECTURE. ONE INVOLVED GROWING UP IN AN EPISCOPALIAN HOUSEHOLD.

"When I was about 10 or 11, our church built a new church. And the architect for the diocese was Ed Dart," Johnson says. "Ed hired my father to be the structural engineer for the church. And the church won many awards; it's on the National Register for Historic Places — St. Augustine, in Gary, Indiana. Ed said, 'Well, if you ever want to be an architect when you get out of school, call me.' After I graduated college — I'd worked in Cleveland for a few years — I came back to this area, I looked Ed up, and he hired me."

On Johnson's desk is a picture of his great-grandfather, grandfather and father, all builders. His great-grandfather was a housebuilder in Indianapolis. His grandfather, also a housebuilder, moved the family to the African American metropolis of Gary after a resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan in Indianapolis following World War I.

Johnson calls his father a "true trailblazer," as the third African American graduate of Purdue University and the first to be a structural engineer in the state of Indiana. "He could not get a job at an engineering firm in Chicago," Johnson says. "Eventually he started his own

gineering firm in Chicago. But this way before affirmative action, all at stuff. He didn't get much work. He passed very early in life. He was kind of ground down."

His mother was an artist and art teacher, a Gary native with degrees from the University of Chicago. She took Johnson to the Art Institute of Chicago — which he would later attend after graduating from Kent State — and he showed a talent for drawing, winning awards. She also suggested, as he was finishing high school and unsure what to do, how to apply that talent. "I was always around art and building my whole life," Johnson says. "Going into architecture was natural. I didn't realize it at the time, but my mother did."

Also crucial in Johnson's path was their hometown, the steel capital that provided so much of America's infrastructure. "Being in Gary, at the time I was growing up, was in a boom period. Houses were going up all the time," Johnson says. "The thing about it that was so interesting was that these were African American people who owned these firms and were building these buildings. And I just assumed that's the way the world was. Of course, that's not the way the world is. That influenced me — how to create your neighborhood."

Like his father and so many other trailblazing African American builders, finding commercial jobs has often been difficult for Johnson. His firm, Johnson & Lee, has built its reputation by working with nonprofits, building a reputation for delivering distinctive, welcoming designs on extremely tight budgets that integrate into the neighborhood while moving it forward, both in terms of aesthetics and social infrastructure. "We've always been faced with these tight budgets. Before it became fashionable to claim that you're doing things for challenged communities, we were doing it," says his partner, Christopher Lee. "The sign of a good architect isn't what they have with a multimillion-dollar budget; it's what they have



North Kostner Health Center serves the Humboldt Park and Austin neighborhoods on the West Side of Chicago, providing health care for residents regardless of ability to pay. It is part of the Near North Health Services Corporation, which predates the Affordable Care Act.

with a tight budget and how much they can stretch that budget to gain some kind of design recognition."

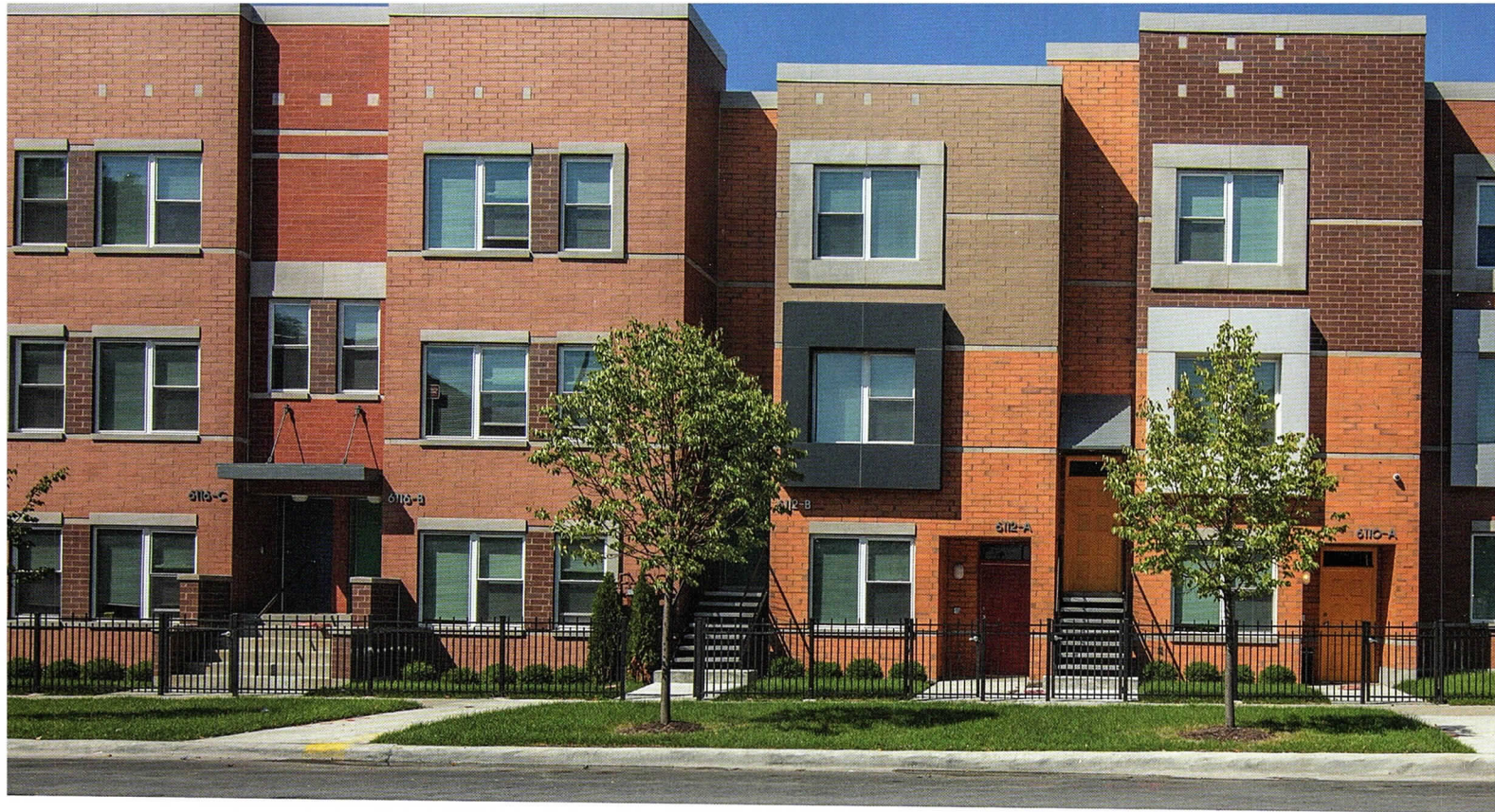
"He participates in a lot of the things you don't typically see larger or even mid-sized firms participate in. I've learned from him resilience, patience, to contribute to your community, to work as hard as you can to ensure the dreams of the people that surround you can be met. He does

that through design," says architect and entrepreneur Deon Lucas, AIA, a co-founder of the Englewood-based E.G. Woode collective. "Architecture is managing families, managing relationships, building strength through the social and economic progression of your community. And he's done that wholeheartedly."

That community includes the architecture community; Johnson

is beloved as a mentor. When Dina Griffin, FAIA, was a young architect, she was president of the National Organization of Minority Architects, of which Johnson is a member, and looked to him as a role model.

"He showed me the importance of mentoring, trying to increase the numbers of Black architects in the United States; our numbers are still surprisingly low," Griffin says. "He



showed me the value of not only getting help and seeking help from people who are more experienced in our profession, but really turning around and helping those behind you.” Among those he’s influenced are Anthony Akindele, AIA, who worked at Johnson & Lee before starting his own firm, Nia, in 1996; Billy McGhee of BMA Resources; and Helen Slade, AIA, a former Johnson & Lee architect whose organization Territory Chicago teaches community planning and design to teens through its design studios.

Monica Chadha, AIA, is another Englewood architect; her firm, Civic Projects, designed the space for the first business accelerator on the South Side and is at work on exhibition design for the Museum of the Obama Presidential Library. A veteran of Studio Gang and Ross Barney Architects, she got her start at Johnson & Lee. “They were designing in places people weren’t designing in,” Chadha says. Interested in doing socially engaged architecture, Chadha found in Johnson & Lee a minority-led firm doing progressive work. “At the time, I couldn’t list a bunch of firms that were doing that.”

The progressive nature of Johnson & Lee is quite literally foundational. “One thing I remember being told there is that your choice of materials affects who can work on the site, masonry being an example, because bricklaying is something that can be learned on site. That means you can hire locally,” Chadha says. “If you were, by contrast, to do something like a prefabricated building, you’re relying on an outside skillset. That’s one thing that resonated with me in later work, the idea that people working on the site actually reflected the neighborhood, and one of the ways you could achieve that was by the choice of materials and construction.”

Chadha gives Johnson & Lee’s Komed Holman Health Center in Oakland, winner of a 2000 Richard H. Driehaus Award, as an example of the finished product: “At the time, it wasn’t what you saw there.” A wall of glass blocks and a two-story atrium are sunny and inviting while offering privacy, a response to what Johnson found when studying low-income clinics.

“Most of these health centers are in underserved communities. They were very dreary, there was no color to



The MLK Legacy apartments designed by Johnson & Lee are monuments to Dr. King’s time in Chicago spent fighting for housing justice. The development is on the same North Lawndale site where Dr. King’s apartment was located.

them, very little light got into them. They weren’t places where you could see wellness going on. Some places you’d dread to go in,” Johnson says.

Johnson & Lee’s North Kostner Health Center in Humboldt Park is more colorful still: a towering canary-yellow canopy at the entrance serves as a wayfinding element for patients arriving by public transit down the block. A glass-walled interior courtyard provides a place to rest and brings more light into the building. It sits beneath a green

roof and geothermal wells; the first LEED-Gold Federally Qualified Health Center in Illinois, it won a Distinguished Building Award from AIA Chicago in 2017.

Last year, Johnson & Lee’s new affordable townhouse complex, St. Edmund’s Oasis, won a third place Driehaus Award. “That one was awesome,” says Lucas. “It was well below \$180 per square foot and delivered a product the residents loved. Every resident we spoke to when we toured the place, they just adored their



home. They weren't huge homes, either. They're petite and comfortable, but just the way they're laid out, the spatial relationships between them, their neighbors, and the community, hands down, that's definitely one of the projects that's a culmination of what he's designed over the years. It's a perfect model."

But not necessarily the only culmination. "Every time I see the words 'lifetime achievement,' it sounds like he's done," Griffin says. "I don't get the sense that he's anywhere near done achieving amazing feats."

Johnson is looking for the opportunities on the horizon, for himself and the younger architects following his trail, to break through the glass ceiling of being architects of record on major buildings: to build skyscrapers or major campus buildings at architectural-showcase institutions whose commitment to diversity is rarely reflected by their built environment.

"Let's look at the skyline of Chicago. My question to you is: Has there been an African American to design any of the buildings? No," Johnson says. "I think we can design something as good as that." **CA**

"I'VE LEARNED FROM HIM RESILIENCE, PATIENCE, TO CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR COMMUNITY, TO WORK AS HARD AS YOU CAN TO ENSURE THE DREAMS OF THE PEOPLE THAT SURROUND YOU CAN BE MET. HE DOES THAT THROUGH DESIGN."

— DEON LUCAS, AIA

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