CHICAGO ARCHITECT

WINTER 2021

2021 Design Excellence Awards

AIA Chicago

AIACHICAGO.ORG

MAXI SLIDING PANELS, SELF BOLD CABINET. DESIGN GIUSEPPE BAVUSO

Union Carpenters & Contractors

Building Illinois and its communities is hard, challenging work. Trust us, we know. We touch every aspect of a construction project from foundation to finish, and our highly skilled carpenters and contractors set the benchmark for performance and industry leading productivity.

Through our training and safety programs we are committed to providing our signatory contractors with a strong competitive advantage in the construction industry.

Gary Perinar
Executive Secretary-Treasurer
Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters
12 E. Erie Street
Chicago, IL 60611
312-787-3076

@crccarpenters

www.carpentersunion.org

CLIENTPAY®

AN AFFINIPAY SOLUTION

We are **getting paid twice as fast**...and there are **multiple ways to accept payments.**

– CoXist Studio

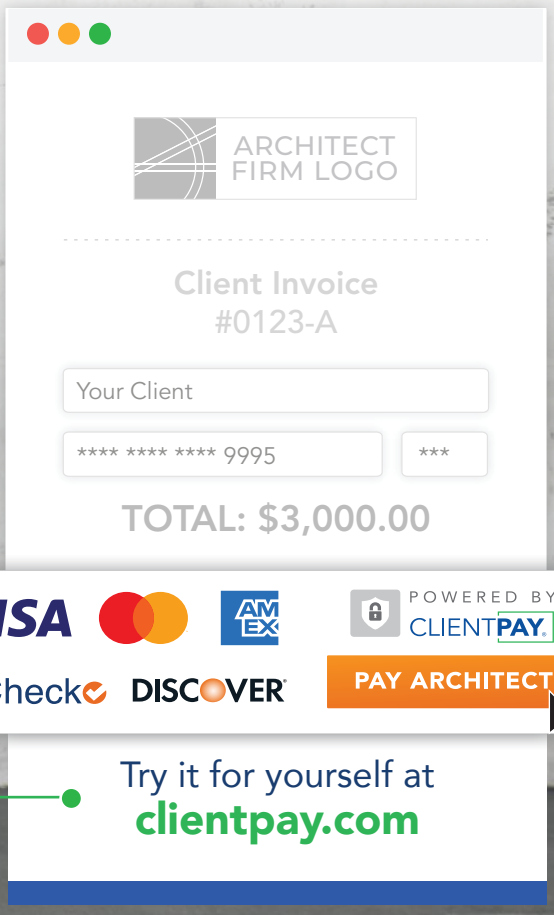
Trusted by more than 150,000 professionals, ClientPay is a simple, web-based solution that allows you to securely accept client credit and eCheck payments from anywhere.

22% increase in cash flow with online payments

Offer clients multiple convenient payment options

62% of bills sent online are paid in 24 hours

PAYMENT RECEIVED



Try it for yourself at
clientpay.com

Data based on an average of firm accounts receivables increases using online billing solutions.

CHICAGO ARCHITECT

EDITORS
Anjulie Rao
editor@aiachicago.org

Liz Herrera Lauer
liz@innovativepublishing.com

DESIGNER
Catherine Meany

ADVERTISING SALES
Innovative Publishing
advertise@innovativepublishing.com
844.423.7272

A Year of Progress

Dear Members,

As the end of the year approaches, and I complete my year of service as your AIA Chicago board president, I am proud to reflect on the accomplishments and growth our chapter has made over the last 12 months.

As I stated in January, *"Let's work to craft goals that align our actions with our mission as an organization, to create a resilient path forward,"* through the lens of:

People | Partnerships | Promoting Hope.

I believe we collectively have made progress, reminding us all that AIA Chicago is a vibrant, multifaceted, multigenerational and multicultural community. The way we thrive in challenging times is by doing it together.

PEOPLE: In this last issue of 2021, we celebrate Stuart Cohen, FAIA, in receiving the 2021 Lifetime Achievement Award. Stuart's impact upon the profession has stretched back to the 1970s, from his collaborations with the Chicago Seven, to his long-time teaching career, his myriad publications on architectural history research, and of course, his practice, Cohen Hacker Architects. I also would like to commend Stuart on his work with our Custom Residential Architects Network — he and his partner, Julie Hacker, FAIA — have been integral to the success of Chicago CRAN.

PARTNERSHIPS: Also in this issue, we celebrate the achievements of our AEC community in the Design Excellence Awards. I'd like to congratulate the 42 projects — their designers, contractors, and clients — on their groundbreaking work. Our esteemed juries were impressed by the enormous depth and breadth of work coming out of Chicago, bringing our ethos of sustainability, equity, and innovation to our city's neighborhoods and to communities around the world.

PROMOTING HOPE: This year we also commend the inaugural recipients of the Roberta Feldman Architecture for Social Justice Award. BNMO Design + Development received this year's award for their ProjectHOOD Community Center — Adaptive Reuse of Former Walgreens Store, located in Chicago's Woodlawn neighborhood. Two projects also received Honorable Mentions: Could Be Architecture for their Mobile Art + Action Community Lab in Gary, Indiana, and Antihuala Community Center, designed by students at the Illinois Institute of Technology and located in Chile.

This year, I have had the honor to work besides a dedicated and tireless Board of Directors and AIA Chicago staff. I want to give my sincere gratitude to them all as we have made real strides in action through our Strategic Planning Process with a focus on climate change advocacy, education around equity and inclusion and clarity on how we as an organization communicate to provide superior programming to our members.

I am confident the incoming leadership, led by Drew Deering, AIA, will continue to ensure every decision we make as an organization will be filtered through the lens of our new guiding principles to continue to position AIA Chicago as one of the strongest and healthiest chapters in the country!

Best wishes for a happy and magical holiday season.

AIA Chicago

INNOVATIVE PUBLISHING

Chicago Architect, the primary outreach tool of AIA Chicago, is published four 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.

PRINTED NOVEMBER 2021 • 2021/4 • VOLUME 6, ISSUE 4

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

WOOD GRAIN **BEAUTY**

Metal **Performance**

Durable PAC-CLAD metal panels are available in sixteen beautiful PVDF wood grain finishes for creative design and flexibility.

See all sixteen wood grain finishes

PAC-CLAD PETERSEN
A CARLISLE COMPANY

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

PAC-CLAD.COM | INFO@PAC-CLAD.COM

Contents

WILLIAMS PARK FIELDHOUSE, STL ARCHITECTS. PHOTO CREDIT: IGNACIO ESPIGARES

FEATURES

DEPARTMENTS

EDITOR'S NOTE

At Designight 2021, the Ardmore House's Interior Architecture award-winning project was unintentionally omitted from the evening's presentation. We apologize to Kwong Von Glinow, as well as their design team. Please visit aiachicago.org to view theirs and all winning projects.

ON THE COVER

University of Virginia Hospital Expansion interior looking up Perkins and Will
Photo credit: Todd Mason © Halkin | Mason Photography

OUR PREVIOUS ISSUE

is available to view digitally at www.aiachicago.org

PROJECT White Plains Library.
White Plains, NY

DESIGN IQ Landscape Architects

PRODUCT City Park Paver™ in Series™ finish

Your **CREATION** Our **TEAMWORK**

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

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

Contact for samples, product information and Lunch & Learns.

UNILOCK.COM | 1-800-UNILOCK

UNILOCK®
PAVERS & WALLS

AIA MEMBERS SAVE MORE

High-performance tech that keeps everyone connected and collaborating. AIA Members can save an additional 5%-10% off select systems. Visit Dell.com/AIA to access these savings or call our US Small Business Advisors at 855-900-5548

For any questions around the best remote solution for you and your business, call our Small Business Advisors at 855-900-5548.

The American Institute of Architects

Mention Member of AIA for savings.

Members can save an additional 5%-10% off select systems

Christian Mims
Strategic Partnership Account Executive
PHONE: (512) 513-2433
EMAIL: Christian_Mims@Dell.com

2021 AIA CHICAGO DIRECTORY

CHICAGO ARCHITECT

Anjulie Rao, editor
Liz Herrera Lauer, editor
Catherine Meany, designer

AIA CHICAGO 2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT
Jessica Figenholtz, AIA

VICE PRESIDENT/ PRESIDENT-ELECT
Drew Deering, AIA

PAST PRESIDENT
April Hughes, AIA

VICE PRESIDENT, ADVOCACY
Laura Garcia, AIA

VICE PRESIDENT, SPONSORSHIP
Mindy Viamontes, AIA

VICE PRESIDENT, HONORS AND AWARDS
Tim Tracey, AIA

SECRETARY
Jason Golub, AIA

TREASURER
Manuel Hernandez, AIA

DIRECTOR
Lynda Dossey, AIA
Arathi Gowda, AIA
Julie Hacker, FAIA
Natalie Hicks, AIA
Enrique Suarez, AIA
Chey Hsaio Taylor, AIA

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
Justin Banda, Assoc. AIA
Jeremy Gentile, Assoc. AIA

AFFILIATE DIRECTOR
Chris Carpenter, Affiliate AIA Chicago
Bob Magruder, Affiliate AIA Chicago

STUDENT DIRECTOR
Nyah Tsai, AIAS

2021 KNOWLEDGE COMMUNITIES

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

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

DESIGN
Josh Mings, AIA, co-chair
Greg Klosowski, AIA, co-chair
Lori Day, AIA

DESIGN FOR AGING
Steve Montgomery, AIA, co-chair
Heidi Wang, AIA, co-chair

EDUCATION
Lynne Sorkin, AIA, co-chair
Jonathan Fair, co-chair
Peter Schlossman, AIA

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

HEALTHCARE ARCHITECTURE
Holly Harris, AIA, chair
Cam Twohey, AIA, co-chair
Judy Tolle, Prof. Affl. AIA, treasurer
Luis Vazquez Rivera, Assoc. AIA, secretary

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

INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE
Susan Brain, AIA, PMP, co-chair
John Hopkins, AIA, co-chair
Charles Cunov, AIA, events

LGBTQI+ ALLIANCE
Sara Fetterolf, Assoc. AIA, co-chair
Lucas Goldbach, AIA, co-chair

PRACTICE MANAGEMENT
Ben Johnson, AIA, chair
Iana Kolev, AIA, co-chair
Sam Luckino, AIA, co-chair

REGIONAL & URBAN PLANNING
Doug Smith, AIA, AICP, chair
Richard Wilson, Assoc. AIA, AICP, co-chair

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

TECHNICAL ISSUES
Lee Fink, AIA, chair
David Babnigg, AIA, co-chair
Calli Verkamp, AIA

YOUNG ARCHITECTS FORUM
Justin Banda, Assoc. AIA, chair
Raquel Guzman Geara, co-chair

2030 COMMITMENT WORKING GROUP
Scott Farbman, AIA, chair

ARCHITECTURE FOR JUSTICE
Eric Davis, AIA, chair
Gregory Cook, AIA, CCHP, co-chair
Fred Moyer, AIA, co-chair

CHAPTER STAFF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Jen Masengarb, Assoc. AIA

PROGRAM DIRECTOR
Joan Pomaranc

PROGRAM MANAGER
Allison Garwood Freedland

MEMBERSHIP MANAGER
Steve Riforgiato

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT AND SALES
Kirstin Osgood

COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER
David Cordaro

Subscription to Chicago Architect *is included with AIA Chicago membership. Non-members may subscribe by signing up at: www.aiachicago.org*

Additional copies of Chicago Architect *are available for $7.50 per issue and can be obtained by contacting the AIA Chicago office at 312.670.7770. If you are interested in purchasing a large number of issues, contact AIA Chicago and ask about group sales.*

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

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

GOLDBERG GENERAL CONTRACTING, INC.

Photography: James Caulfield Photography

Architect: Gibbons Fortman & Associates

RESTORATION, RENOVATION AND NEW CONSTRUCTION

SINCE 1987

WWW.GGCINC.NET

773-279-9600

Please Send Your News To:
info@aiachicago.org

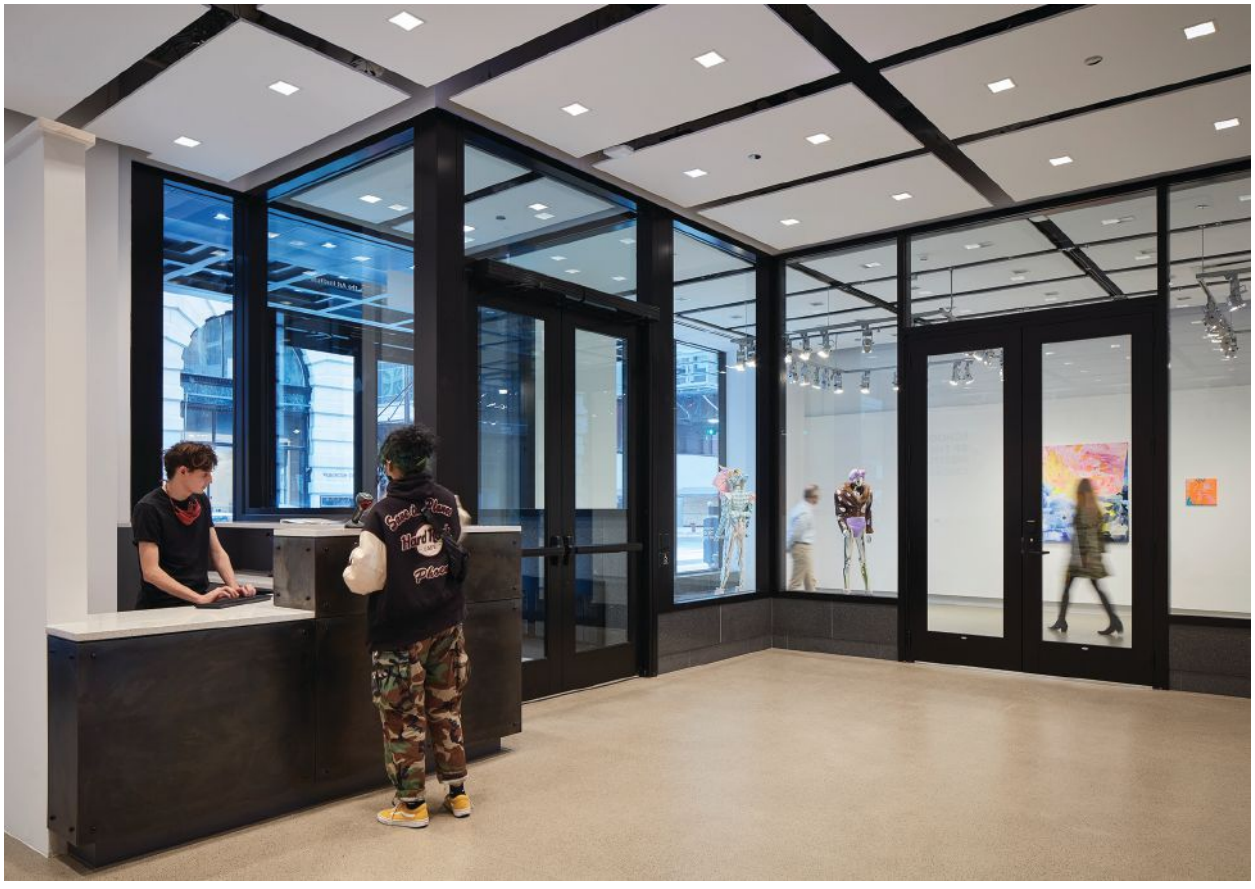
Ferrero North America recently broke ground on its new chocolate production and preparation facility in Bloomington, Illinois — the candymaker's first chocolate factory in the U.S. **Ghafari** provided architecture and engineering services for the development of the bid documents and will provide on-site construction supervision until the project is complete.

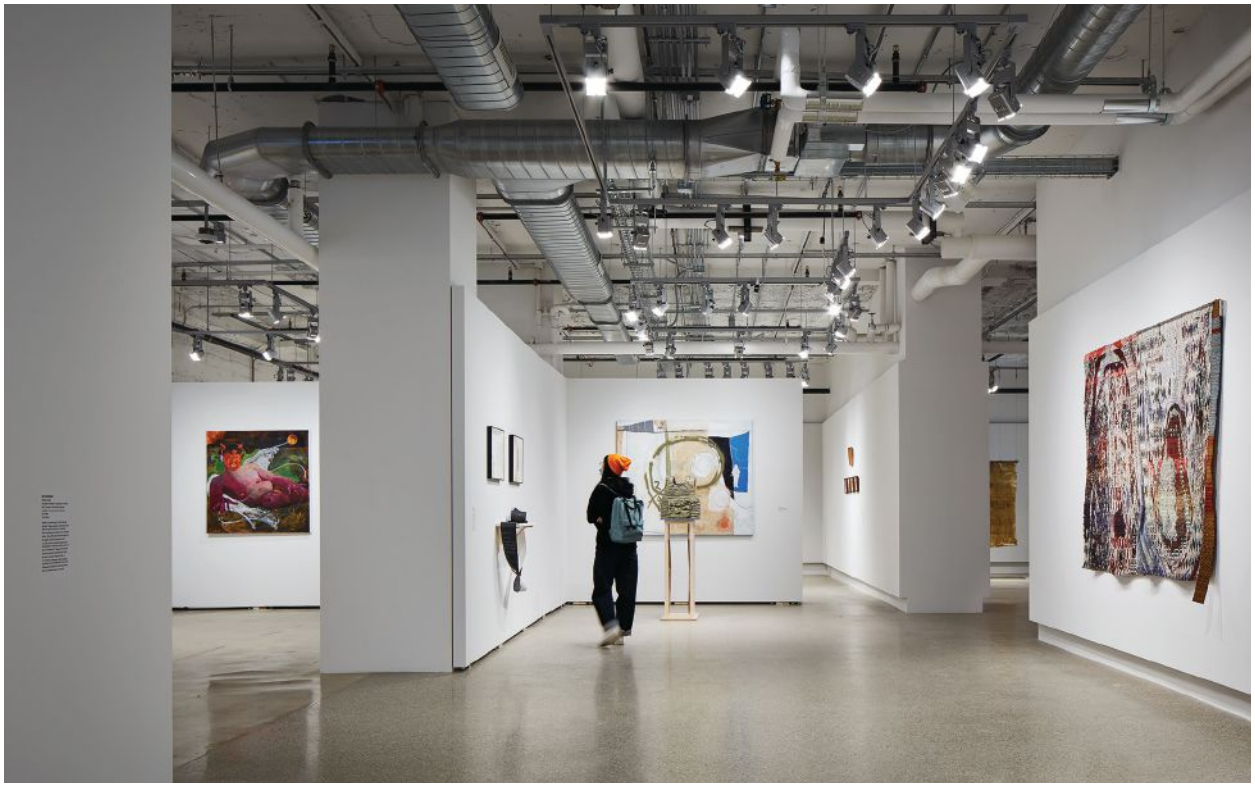
Pamela Johnson, LEED, NCIDQ, has joined DMAC Architecture as senior interior designer.

Kristen Larkin, ASID, WELL AP, has been made an equity partner and elevated to the role of principal at FitzGerald.

Andrew Buck, AIA, has been promoted to associate principal at KOO. Andrew joined KOO in 2014 and has been a leader on some of the firm's most notable projects including Sable Hotel at Navy Pier and the Offshore rooftop bar.

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





WEESELANGLEYWEESE

The School of the Art Institute Galleries and Graduate Studios
Weese Langley Weese Architects Ltd., Architect of Record
wlwltd.com

Photos: Steve Hall, Kendall McCaugherty, Hall + Merrick

Professional Flooring Installers Association

We are the leading group of third-party warranty flooring contractors supporting today's busy construction market.

Our Premier members serve the Chicagoland commercial flooring market with highly trained INSTALL Certified flooring installers.
To learn more contact us:
630-325-4132

www.pfia.org

A Smarter Value Engineering Process

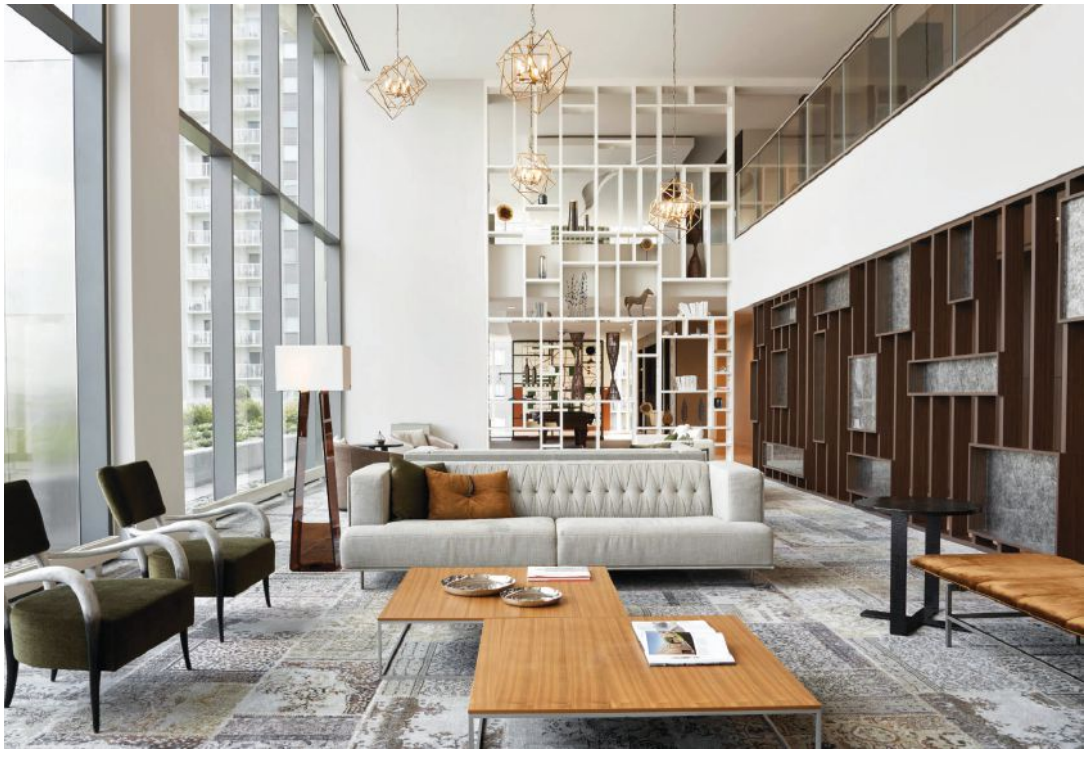
BY AVRAHAM MOR, AFFILIATE AIA CHICAGO

When I say value engineering (VE), the first thing you think of is a fun, collaborative process that increases the *value* of a project by improving the design .... Right?

If not, read on.

The VE process is a critical part of any project, but simply making a project cheaper cannot be the only goal. Let us discuss how you can effectively navigate VE, with an eye on *value*, and ensure design doesn't become secondary to cost.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MORLIGHTS



1. (Really) Understand the Client's Goal

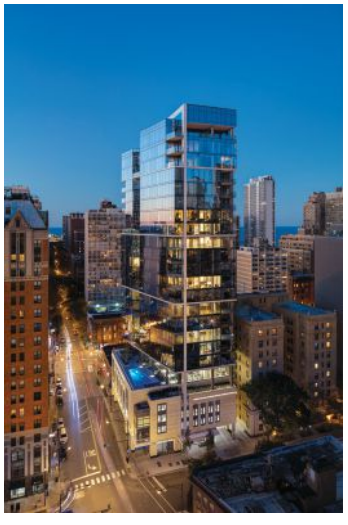
What does "done" look like? Not only do we state the goal out loud, we require the client to informally sign off that the effort we're undertaking is *actually* what they want from us: What are the target costs? What is included in those costs?

2. Know Your Budget *Before* You're Asked to Do VE

Know your budget before you begin design, and then design to that budget. Not only might you avoid some VE steps outright, it's also much easier to reduce costs when you know exactly the cost of the current design, what each component costs, and thereby which element or product to target for cost reduction.

3. Take Charge of Your Costs

In addition to keeping a designer budget, at the end of each phase, the construction team must also budget the project. More often than not, construction team budgets and design team budgets don't match, and never is the construction team less expensive. Find out why.



4. Evaluate the Design from the Users' Experience

If you cannot get on budget without impacting the user experience, then you should consider the typical occupant's movements throughout the building. Everything they won't see, touch or interact with is a place to trim cost. In that way, we can reduce costs without adversely affecting the project quality, thus delivering greater value.

5. Embrace Your (New) Reality

We consider VE "over" when the project is as lean as possible, while still providing the design the client requested. If costs must be reduced beyond that point, we make it very clear that we are leaving a VE effort and beginning a redesign. There is no value to anyone in clinging to a design that no one can afford to build, so do what you must. Design the new to be better, though perhaps smaller, than the previous design.

6. Start Over

Now that you have a new design, both you and the construction team must budget that new design and reconcile costs.

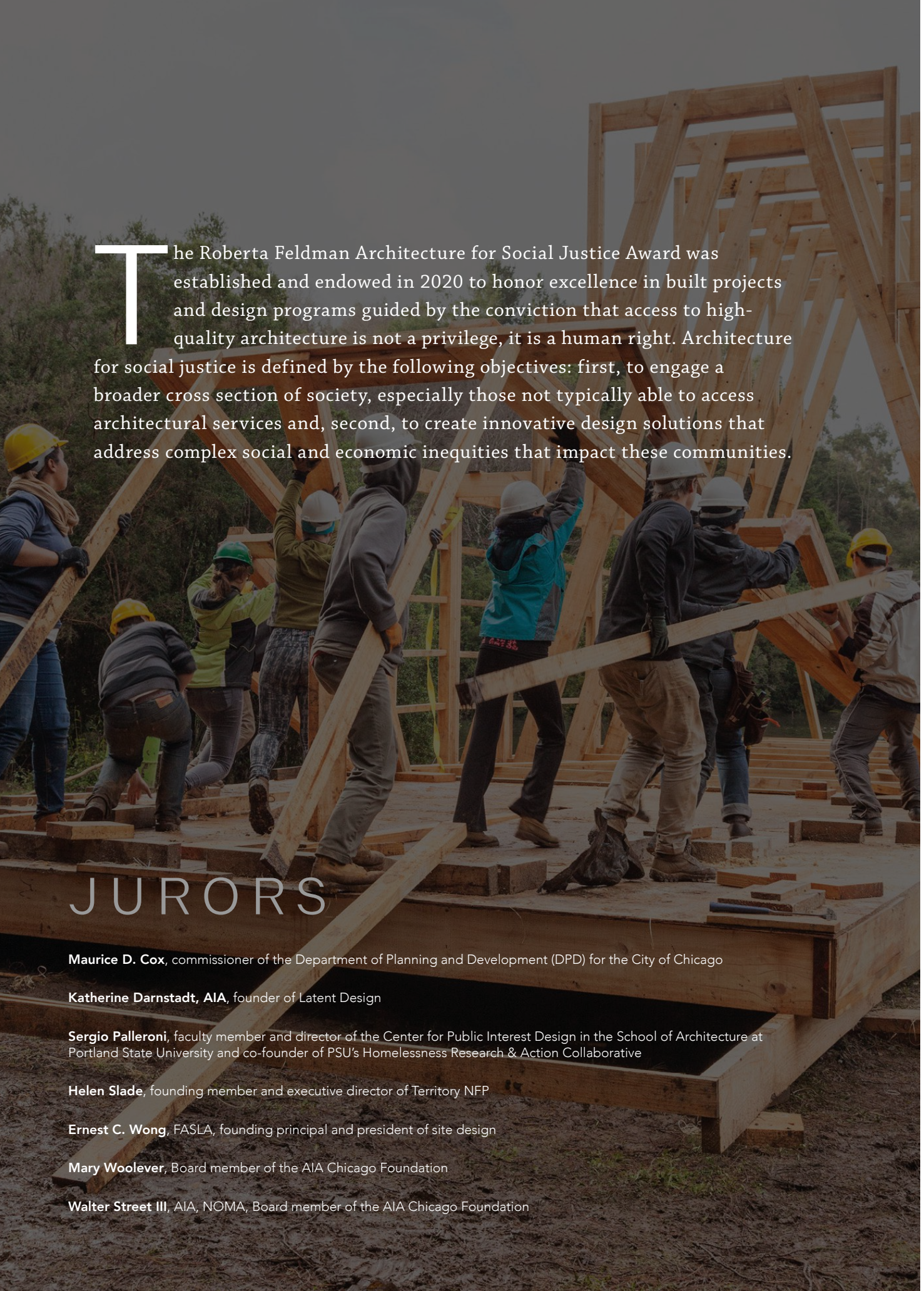
7. Celebrate Successful VE – in Writing

When the process is over, the job is on budget with an approved design, the design team's project costs match those of the construction team, and ownership has approved those costs … you are almost done. The final step? Inform your client and ownership that the VE phase is complete. This project statement not only highlights your hard work, but it's a final opportunity for your client to tell you the goal posts have moved … and to start the process again. CA

Arctic Seal® - Roofing Underlayment
Ice & Water Barrier

Arctic Seal® is a durable, waterproof, self-adhering underlayment made for areas of the roof most susceptible to leaks. Arctic Seal® can also be used as a high-performance, all-roof underlayment.

WHEN IT MATTERS™



Roberta Feldman Architecture for Social Justice awards

The Roberta Feldman Architecture for Social Justice Award was established and endowed in 2020 to honor excellence in built projects and design programs guided by the conviction that access to high-quality architecture is not a privilege, it is a human right. Architecture for social justice is defined by the following objectives: first, to engage a broader cross section of society, especially those not typically able to access architectural services and, second, to create innovative design solutions that address complex social and economic inequities that impact these communities.

JURORS

Maurice D. Cox, commissioner of the Department of Planning and Development (DPD) for the City of Chicago

Katherine Darnstadt, AIA, founder of Latent Design

Sergio Palleroni, faculty member and director of the Center for Public Interest Design in the School of Architecture at Portland State University and co-founder of PSU's Homelessness Research & Action Collaborative

Helen Slade, founding member and executive director of Territory NFP

Ernest C. Wong, FASLA, founding principal and president of site design

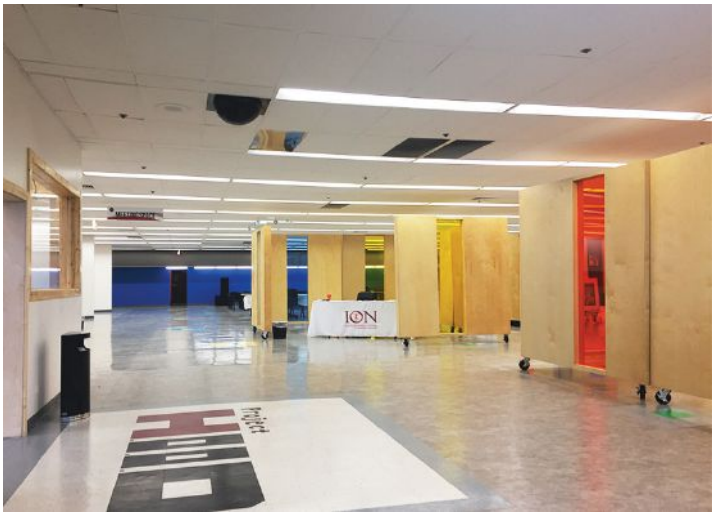
Mary Woolever, Board member of the AIA Chicago Foundation

Walter Street III, AIA, NOMA, Board member of the AIA Chicago Foundation

HONOR AWARD

ALL PHOTOS BY NEGIN MOAYER

Project H.O.O.D. Community Center – Adaptive Reuse of Former Walgreens Store
BNMO Design and Development
Location: Chicago, Illinois
Client: Pastor Corey Brooks, Project H.O.O.D. Communities Development



After Walgreens' untimely departure from their store at 63rd and South King Drive, they donated the remainder of their lease to Project H.O.O.D. Led by Pastor Corey Brooks of the nearby New Beginnings Church, Project H.O.O.D. empowers members of the community to live a purposeful life and provide a safe haven — especially for young adults. Working with BNMO, the group transformed the former Walgreens into a community space that supported a variety of activities, including job training programs, back-to-school events, mentorship and more. The final design utilized a "rolling cubicle" format to create flexible and mobile pods for activities, utilizing color and movement to create a joyful and fun atmosphere. Juror Maurice Cox commended this project, noting its replicability. "This could be done anywhere in these neighborhoods that have suffered from corporate exoduses; what they accomplished is impressive and necessary," he said.

HONORABLE MENTION

PHOTO CREDIT: LAUREN MCPHILLIPS

Antihuala Community Center

Students of the College of Architecture at the Illinois Institute of Technology: Rosa Rafart Degracia, Ndeye Fatou Diakhate-Njie, Stella Eyesus, Natalia Struk, Dawit Tadesse, Il Hwan Kim, Dennis Khambai, Jessica Potempa, Katherine "Kayla" Hacker, Dylan Otte, Kun Wu, Lauren McPhillips, and Tyler Rosas
Faculty Supervisor: Frank Flury, Illinois Institute of Technology
Location: Antihuala, Chile
Client: La Municipalidad de Los Álamos, La Comunidad de Antihuala, ARAUCO
Structural Consultant: Paul Endres, Illinois Institute of Technology & Endrestudio

This group of students traveled to Antihuala, Chile, as part of a design-build studio that resulted in a new community space. Built collaboratively with local residents using only oxen to transport materials, the structure is an example of how young Chicago architects are impacting communities around the world.

PHOTO CREDIT: LAUREN M. PACHECO, KELLY KNAGA

Mobile Art + Action Community Lab

Could Be Architecture: Joseph Altshuler and Zack Morrison, design leads, with Lauren M. Pacheco and Kelly Knaga, co-directors and curators, Arts + Action Lab
Location: Gary, Indiana
Client: Lauren M. Pacheco, director of arts programming and engagement at Indiana University Northwest
Fabrication Lead: Evangelos Stolatis
Fabrication Support: Emma Bilyeu

The Mobile Art + Action Community Lab is a family of versatile exhibit display units, designed to be deployed in indoor and outdoor public spaces for pop-up and semipermanent exhibitions for the Art + Action Lab, an outreach program for the School of the Arts at Indiana University Northwest (IUN). Various exhibit units are assembled from a cohesive kit-of-parts that includes shade and identity, stability and bench seating.

STLARCHITECTS

The new fieldhouse located in the Bronzeville community adjacent to the Chicago Housing Authority Dearborn Homes replaces an existing fieldhouse and will support the Chicago Park District and Chicago Housing Authority's expanding programming needs. The single-story building includes a 3,800-square-foot basketball gymnasium with spectator seating, two multi-purpose community rooms with a shared pantry, offices, reception, and storage space. The entry lobby and corridor are generously sized and will include flexible seating to provide a space for spontaneous gathering and events. The fieldhouse is situated at the center of an eight-and-one-half acre park that includes a playground, baseball and soccer fields, an interactive water spray feature, and basketball courts. The fieldhouse is the first building in Chicago to be clad in vibrant, stainless steel shingles that respond to different light conditions and appear to change hue when viewed from different angles. This bold and elegant exterior expression enhances the visibility of the fieldhouse and establishes the building as a community anchor for the Park District. The materiality at the interior is limited to select materials including concrete and wood with an expressive wood structural system at the ceiling, upholding the rich historical expression of wood that is found in many historic Park District fieldhouses in Chicago.

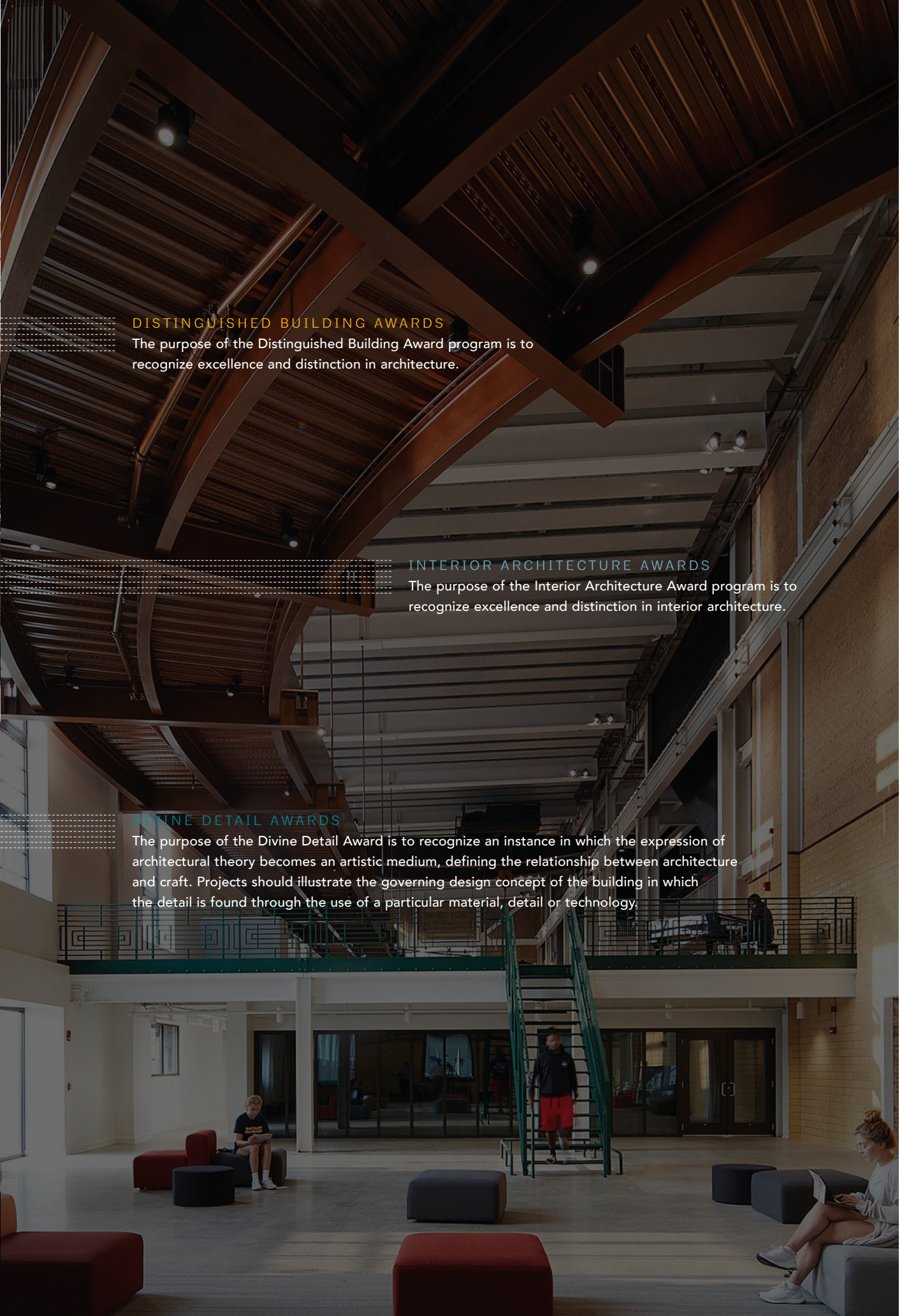
Sustainable principles are an inherent component of the design. The program was organized to facilitate an efficient north south form, optimizing the building envelope to gross area ratio, and deliver a singular geometry. The concentration of large windows on the community room's north elevation affords a monolithic reading of the building from both State Street to the east and the park to the west while establishing the fieldhouse as an urban neighborhood sculpture. The building materials were selected for their durability, longevity, and recyclability, but also for their playful capabilities — through light and reflection of the surrounding neighborhood. Every decision was made with goals of providing the community with a beautiful, durable, efficient, and useful building.

Project name: Williams Park Field House | **Company name:** STLarchitects | **Project location:** Bronzeville, Chicago | **Completion Year:** 2019 | **Size:** 11,220 SF

Other participants:
MEP & Structures: Arup | **Civil:** McBride Engineering | **Landscape:** Daniel Weinbach and Partners | **Cost estimation:** Faithful & Gould

Photo credit: Ignacio Espigares

2021 design excellence awards



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.

Modern lives comfortably with charm

Upgrade to Sierra Pacific. There are more expensive windows. But none more impressive.

Architect: Bruce Butler / By Design | Builder: Justin Fletcher Homes

SIERRA PACIFIC WINDOWS

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

www.SierraPacificWindows.com | P.O. Box 8489, Red Bluff, CA 96080 | 800-824-7744 | A Division of SIERRA PACIFIC INDUSTRIES

Scan the QR code to see more amazing projects from Sierra Pacific Windows

JURORS

distinguished building awards

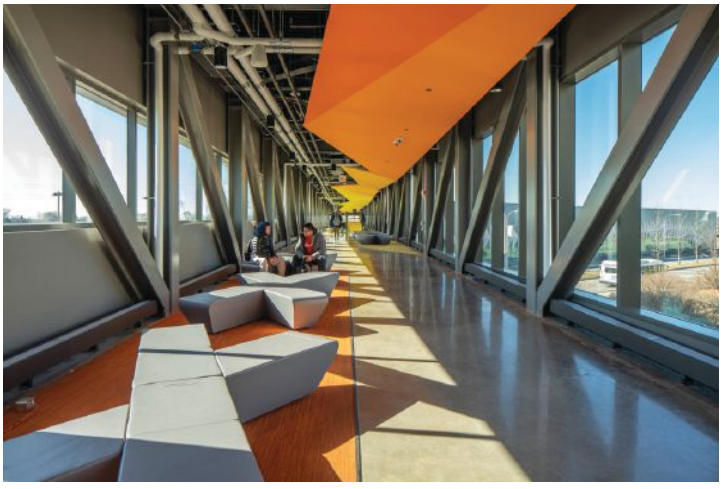
KATHY DIXON, FAIA, NOMAC
K. Dixon Architecture PLLC (KDA)
Washington, D.C.

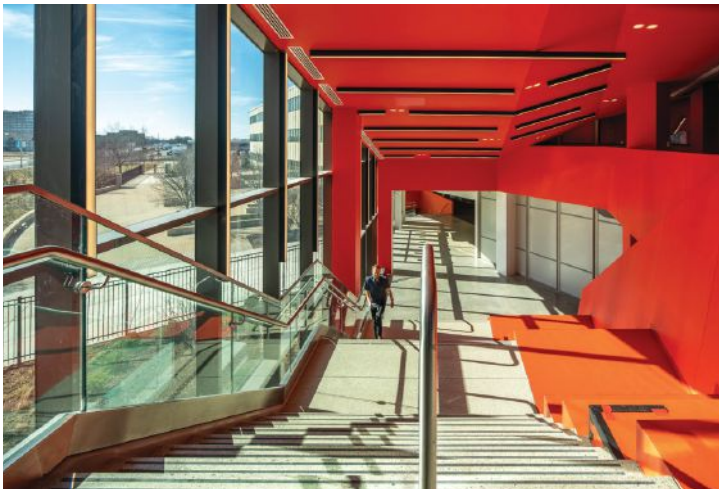
JANET TAM, FAIA
Noll & Tam Architects
Berkeley, CA

BRIAN PHILLIPS, FAIA
ISA
Philadelphia, PA

HONOR AWARD

ALL PHOTOS BY TOM ROSSITER, FAIA





Daley College MTEC

JGMA

Location: Chicago, Illinois
Client: City Colleges of Chicago
Architect of Record: Cannon Design
General Contractor: Old Veteran Construction
Civil Engineer: David Mason & Associates
Structural Engineer: Cannon Design
Landscape Architect: Terry Guen Design Associates
Sustainability Consultant: HusArchitecture

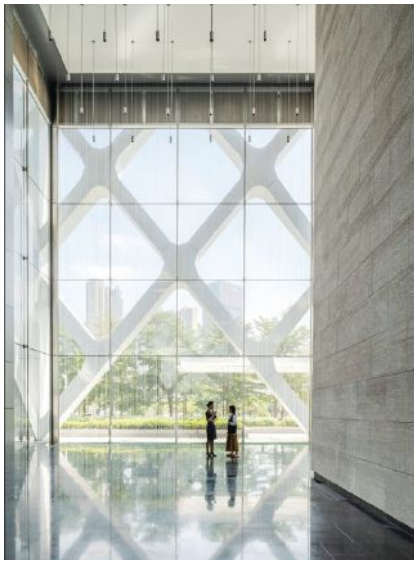
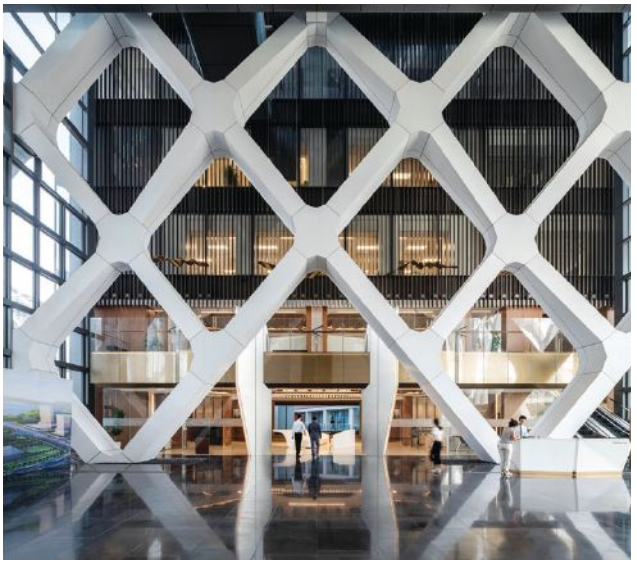
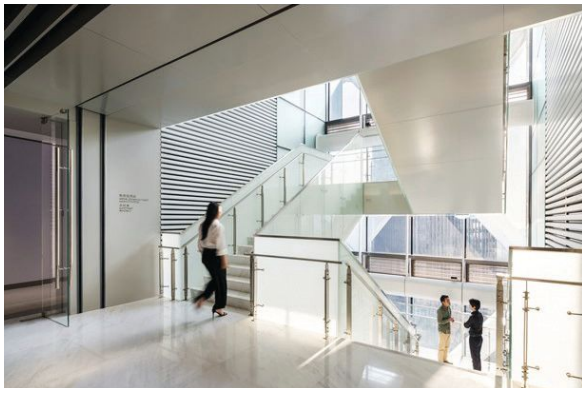
The Daley College Manufacturing, Technology and Engineering Center (MTEC) project speaks to issues larger than architecture; it is the embodiment of the community and seeks to revitalize this southwest Chicago neighborhood by creating a connective message that all are significant and welcome. Daley College tasked the architect with removing the negative stereotypes that exist in the workforce pertaining to manufacturing careers. In contrast to stereotypes often suggesting these careers are devoid of dignity and reserved typically for minority populations, the project reverses the misconception through a design focused on celebrating state-of-the-art manufacturing spaces and proves careers in this industry require tech and skills as advanced as any other.

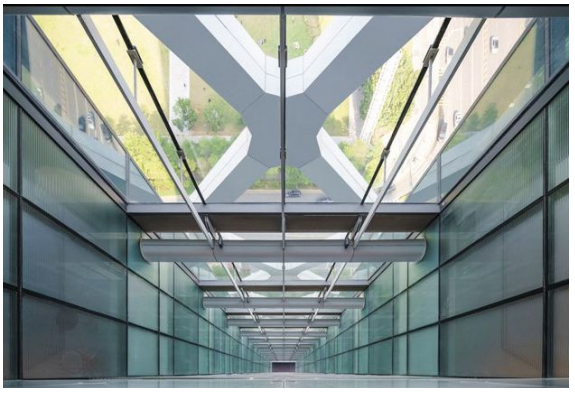
The design strategy for Daley College's MTEC utilizes building transparency to showcase machines, equipment and products integral to the learning objectives of the college system as well as provide a visual connection to the surrounding West Lawn community. All manufacturing programs sit adjacent to the exterior, elevating the program and engaging students, visitors and neighbors. The transparency of the building provides a similar experience for even the casual passerby by providing a look into the advanced technical nature of manufacturing today. "The articulation of the facade and the folded planes is a demonstration of what the building teaches," said a juror.

The seamless fluidity of the building's form was inspired by the constant and linear flow of the manufacturing process. The building spans the main thoroughfare with an elevated campus quad that links the south and north campus of Daley College. "It feels like a building in the landscape; the bridge is intriguing in how it connects to the rest of the campus," said one juror. "It reaches out to bring the new building to the campus."

HONOR AWARD

ALL PHOTOS BY SETH POWERS



Shenzhen Rural Commercial Bank
Skidmore, Owings and Merrill
Location: Shenzhen, China
Client: Shenzhen Rural Commercial Bank
Architect of Record: Beijing Institute of Architectural Design (BIAD)
General Contractor: Guangzhou Jangho Curtain Wall System Engineering Co., Ltd.

This tower is the new home for a bank that has grown from its roots as a rural credit union into a modern commercial bank. The new headquarters defines a world-class benchmark for sustainable design utilizing naturally ventilated atria and a column-free externalized structure.

The design inspiration is drawn from natural systems and elements like water and wind, which figure prominently in building features like the multistory water wall in the building's main lobby, the undulating striations of marble cladding the tower's elevator core, and the integration of a mixed-mode natural ventilation system that allows for seasonal air flushing of the key common areas and office levels. Automated louvers in the vertical atria traversing the full height of the tower and mechanized window vents on each office floor comprise a flexible system that allows the building to "breathe" during the frequent periods of pleasant weather experienced in Shenzhen.

"The building is incredible, using a strange thoughtfulness and minimization of what is required to execute the building," said one juror. "The simplicity and bare bones-ness of the exterior shape and system have almost a 20th-century attitude; we appreciate how thoughtful they were about shading and being environmentally responsive."

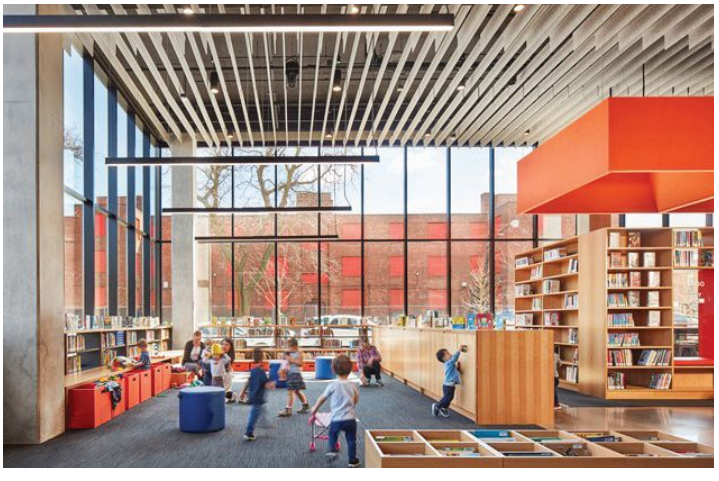
Utilizing innovative structural engineering solutions, the design incorporates a tightly spaced diagrid that serves two primary purposes. The first is to provide an exterior shading system for the building and its occupants, an important consideration in mitigating the region's hot tropical sun. The second purpose is to create an entirely column-free floor plan and enable flexibility of office layouts. The resulting interior space is defined only by a simple perimeter glass wall with an automated solar control blind to preserve optimal daylight levels. The building is certified LEED Platinum 2019 Core and Shell and is targeting China Green Star certification.

HONOR AWARD

Taylor Street Apartments and Little Italy Library Branch
Skidmore, Owings and Merrill
Location: Chicago, Illinois
Client: Chicago Housing Authority, Related Midwest, and Chicago Public Library
General Contractor: W.E. O'Neil Construction and Bowa Construction
Civil Engineer: Engage Civil Incorporated
MEP Engineer: MEPIS
Landscape Architect: site design group
Lighting Design: Zutale Design
Developer: Related
Commissioning: dbHMS – Chicago
Acoustics: Shen Milsom & Wilke

Working with the City of Chicago to design one of the city's first co-located Chicago Housing Authority and Public Library branches, the development includes a one-story public library branch and a multistory mixed-income residential complex, with additional community spaces at street level. The project provides 73 housing units — 37 Chicago Housing Authority units, 29 affordable and seven market-rate — and through public and private financing, replaces an obsolete, smaller branch library with a new, inviting and well-appointed facility. "The project is vibrant and vivid; they were considering social impact and ecology, pulled together with design. It's a beautiful library," said one juror.

To activate the street while reflecting the scale and texture of the neighborhood, the buildings are set back and staggered across the site, creating a new public space while preserving the Taylor Street Farm, a community garden. Positioned prominently at the corner of the site, the library welcomes visitors inside, with soaring open spaces designed for kids, teenagers and adults located adjacent to centralized workspaces for librarians and staff. As part of its diverse offerings, the library includes an Early Learning Play Space, designed to support parents and caregivers in developing early literacy skills in children through play; a YOUmedia space for teens to explore digital design, music, technology, and 3D and 2D making with the help of skilled mentors; individual study rooms; a community room; and spaces dedicated to workforce development and technology for adults.



ALL PHOTOS BY TOM HARRIS

HONOR AWARD

PHOTO CREDIT: TIMOTHY HURSLEY

PHOTO CREDIT: TIMOTHY HURSLEY

PHOTO CREDIT: TIMOTHY HURSLEY

PHOTO CREDIT: TOM HARRIS

PHOTO CREDIT: TOM HARRIS

The Momentary

Wheeler Kearns Architects
Location: Bentonville, Arkansas
Client: Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art
General Contractor: Flintco
Civil Engineer: McClelland Consulting Engineers, Inc.
Lighting Designer: Lux Populi
Landscape Architect: Howell & Vancuren
Structural Engineer: Thornton Tomasetti
MEP Engineer: McGuire Engineers
Theater Consultant: Schuler Shook
Acoustical Engineer/Designer: Threshold Acoustics
Kitchen Design: Edge Associates
Interiors/Branding/Signage: FODA Studio
Osage Artist: Addie Roanhorse

Repurposed from a 70-year-old decommissioned Kraft food plant, the Momentary is a multidisciplinary visual and performing arts venue that prioritizes flexibility and adaptability for artists while celebrating the building's former life. The project transforms a patchwork of existing concrete and masonry buildings into a fluid contemporary art experience. That patchwork of existing pieces enthralled the jury, who called them "fun moments within a maze of parts and pieces that have been reactivated rather than thrown away."

Inside and out, the Momentary upends what is expected from an art museum. While a traditional museum is monumental, formal and grandiose, the Momentary is casual, operating at a human scale. Like a friendly neighbor, visitors are welcomed through its backyard instead of a monumental front door. Glass-and-steel interventions — fritted with Osage-inspired graphic art — alert visitors that something different is happening, while paying homage to the extended history of its land. Rather than attempting to blur its newest additions into what existed before, contemporary interventions appear to float, superimposed onto the former factory.

Inside, social and culinary activities overlap with art and performing spaces to champion contemporary art's role in everyday life. Visitors puzzle out the physical remnants of the building's former life — enjoying a concert in a space where tanker trucks delivered milk, or in a gallery surrounded by the complex piping that once functioned as the former plant's circulatory system. In every room, the Momentary allows the building's relics to disrupt narratives with stories and curiosity about its past. "It's nice to see this type of work happening in a city that has less and less of its industrial past; it creates a connection to history and material textures," added another juror.

HONOR AWARD

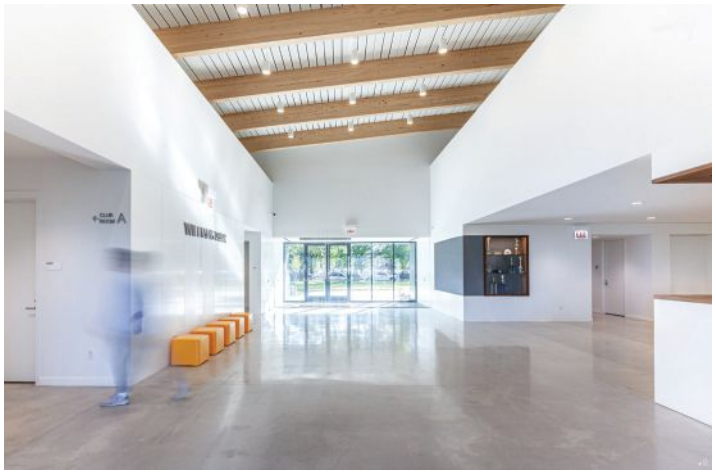
ALL PHOTOS BY IGNACIO ESPIGARES

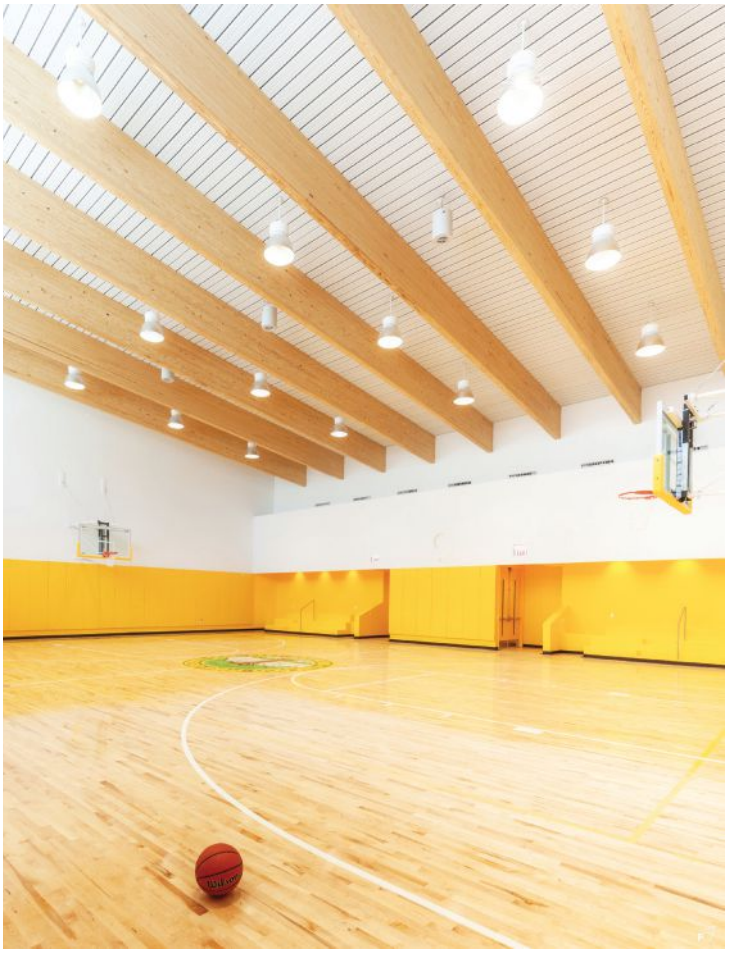
Williams Park Fieldhouse
STL Architects
Location: Chicago, Illinois
Client: Chicago Park District
General Contractor: Burling Builders, Inc.

The new fieldhouse located in the Bronzeville community adjacent to the Chicago Housing Authority Dearborn Homes will replace an existing fieldhouse and will support the Chicago Park District and Chicago Housing Authority's expanding programming needs. The single-story building includes a 3,800-square-foot basketball gymnasium with spectator seating, two multipurpose community rooms with a shared pantry, offices, reception and storage space. "It's … a nice relief to see this scale that has a big impact," commented one juror. The entry lobby and corridor are generously sized and will include flexible seating to provide a space for spontaneous gatherings and events.

The fieldhouse is situated at the center of an 8½-acre park that includes a playground, baseball and soccer fields, an interactive water spray feature, and basketball courts. The fieldhouse will be the first building in Chicago to be clad in vibrant, stainless steel shingles that respond to different light conditions and appear to change hue when viewed from different angles. This bold and elegant exterior expression enhances the visibility of the fieldhouse and establishes the fieldhouse as a community anchor for the Park District. The materiality at the interior will be limited to select materials including concrete and wood with an expressive wood structural system at the ceiling, upholding the rich historical expression of wood that is found in many historic Park District fieldhouses in Chicago.

"Architecturally it's strong, but it really does [seem] to serve the community," said one juror. "It's a public project and responds to the needs that this community has for wellness and health. You can see how they'd love this building."





CITATION OF MERIT

Academic and Residential Complex at the University of Illinois at Chicago

Solomon Cordwell Buenz
Location: Chicago, Illinois
Client: University of Illinois at Chicago and American Campus Communities
General Contractor: Pepper Construction
Structural Engineer: Thornton Tomasetti
MEP Engineer: Elara Energy Services
Landscape Architect: site design group
Civil Engineer: TERRA Engineering
Interior Designer (Residential): Sixthriver Architects

PHOTO CREDIT: STEVE HALL © HALL+MERRICK PHOTOGRAPHERS

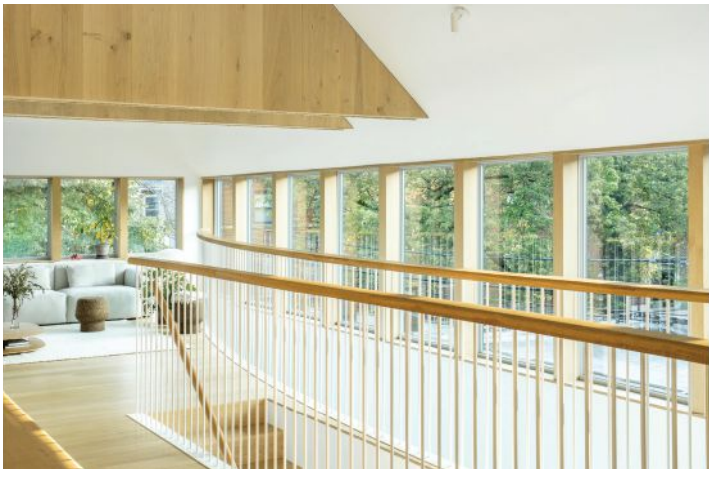
The Academic and Residential Complex (ARC) is a new LEED Gold mixed-use building at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Developed through a public-private partnership (P3), the building is composed of a 131,000-square-foot, 10-story undergraduate residence hall and a 52,000-square-foot, two-story academic classroom building. The two volumes are connected physically on two levels and visually through a façade of glazed and concrete components. "The façade is interesting no matter which way you're looking at it," said a juror.

The ARC features three technologically sophisticated, large lecture halls and several active learning classrooms and breakout spaces. The residential tower houses 554 students in traditional and semi-suite units and includes two faculty-in-residence apartments. Shared amenities include study and social lounges on each floor, a fitness center and a ground-floor student-operated Starbucks. The top floor features a sky lounge with views of Chicago's iconic skyline. "The formality of the massing is strong, and the program is straightforward," said one juror.

Ardmore House

Kwong Von Glinow
Location: Chicago, Illinois
Client: Kwong Von Glinow
General Contractor: Oslo Builders
Structural Engineer: Goodfriend Magruder Structures LLC
MEP Engineer: Blake Engineering

PHOTO CREDIT: JAMES FLORIO



Ardmore House flips the traditional residential section, arraying bedrooms on the first floor and living spaces on the second. This approach supports contemporary ways of living, emphasizing communal areas and interconnectivity. "Its place in the neighborhood was respectful of the scale but innovative in its design," said one juror. "It feels very contemporary from the streetview, but nothing so jarring that the neighbors would be up in arms."

A curved double-height interior courtyard atrium runs lengthwise from front to back doors, creating a vertical connection between the common areas on the first and second floors.

Off of the courtyard's inner curved wall lie all of the home's bedrooms, pushed away from the alleyway toward the neighboring lot. A stair tucked behind the courtyard's curving wall leads to the open-plan second floor, spatially organized by four trusses overhead. These trusses designate five areas set around the curve of the balustrade: kitchen, island, dining room, powder room and living room. A 56-foot-long ribbon window spans the length of the second level.

"The detailing is beautiful; on the top level having these wood trusses with [triangles], it feels vertical," commented one juror.

CITATION OF MERIT

PHOTO CREDIT: BILL TIMMERMAN

Arizona Courtyard House

Optima DCHGlobal, Inc.
Location: Paradise Valley, Arizona
Client: Optima DCHGlobal, Inc.
Architect of Record: David Hovey & Associates Architect, Inc.
General Contractor: Optima DCHGlobal, Inc.

The Arizona Courtyard House is a single-family home built using a patented system of standardized prefabricated structural and architectural components that fit together like an erector set and permit efficient, precise and rapid construction. The structural system is based on a 7-foot-by-7-foot horizontal module, a 1-foot-3-inch vertical module and a 21-foot-by-21-foot structural bay with connectors, beams and column components joined together by tension bolts to create a three-dimensional structural grid allowing for horizontal and vertical design flexibility.

The dwelling is composed of two steel and glass pavilions facing one another across a green courtyard. The main house is to the south, while a fitness center and lap pool lie to the north. Enormous glass panels slide open, dissolving the membrane between the interiors and the outdoors.

"For a prefabricated system or kit of parts, you wouldn't know it," said one juror. "You're taken by the outdoor [relationship] of trellises made out of Corten. The living spaces seemed like you're always looking outside which is a more important living experience."

Beloit Powerhouse

Studio Gang Architects
Location: Beloit, Wisconsin
Client: Beloit College
General Contractor: Corporate Contractors, Inc.

In the past 10 years, the U.S. has decommissioned 318 of 530 (or 60 percent of) coal-burning power plants. While this signals progress in the urgently needed transition to green energy, it also raises the need for new ideas to address aging energy infrastructure and its obsolescence. At Beloit College, the Powerhouse project combines an assemblage of landmarked, historic buildings along with a new field house addition.

For the first time in the college's history, student recreation and athletics are housed in the same space. The project also strategically adapts the existing structure and equipment, using what is already there to create spaces for recreation, collaboration and study while celebrating the building's history. The design retains architectural features and industrial equipment from the original structures while incorporating new sustainable practices and lively gathering spaces that encourage students to mix with each other and the larger Beloit community.

"In this world of adaptive reuse, this felt really smart and strategic," said one juror. "There are Tate Modern moments; with a big institutional aspiration but modesty and thoughtfulness about it," added another.

PHOTO CREDIT: TOM HARRIS

CITATION OF MERIT

Carter Woodson Regional Library Façade Replacement

EXP
Location: Chicago, Illinois
Client: Chicago Public Library
General Contractor: Ujamaa Construction Inc.

The Carter Woodson Chicago Regional Public Library façade from 1971 was uninsulated and failed long ago, requiring netting and scaffolding to protect the public from falling debris, while the second floor was cantilevered beyond the first with setbacks at narrow, deeply recessed windows. The transformation replaced the façade with a new terra-cotta rainscreen system and included two art glass installations depicting Carter Woodson, one of the nation's first African American history scholars, and Vivian Harsh, the Chicago Public Library's first African American librarian. New windows retain original proportions but are more numerous and animated by irregular placement. Color and patterning are informed by both the "reading" of the façade as book stacks, and traditional Kente cloth motifs.

"We're impressed with the interventions; they were effective and strategic," commented a juror. "The before and after photos show transformation in relation to the street. This really seems to address the community use to make a really proud civic institution."

PHOTO CREDIT: JAMES STEINKAMP PHOTOGRAPHY

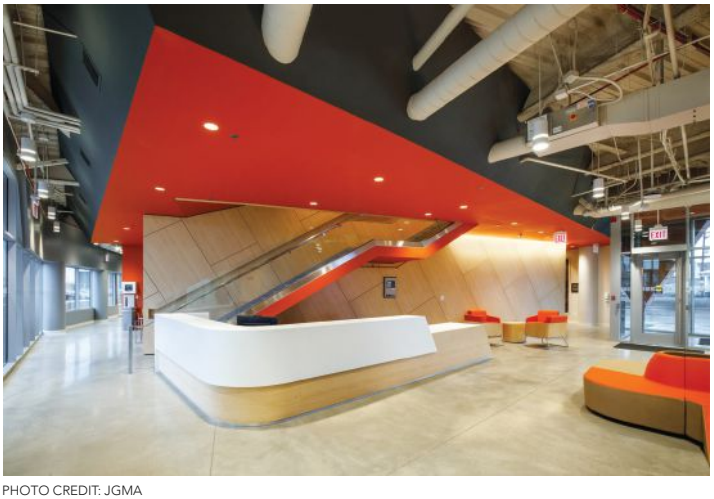


PHOTO CREDIT: JGMA

Esperanza Health Centers

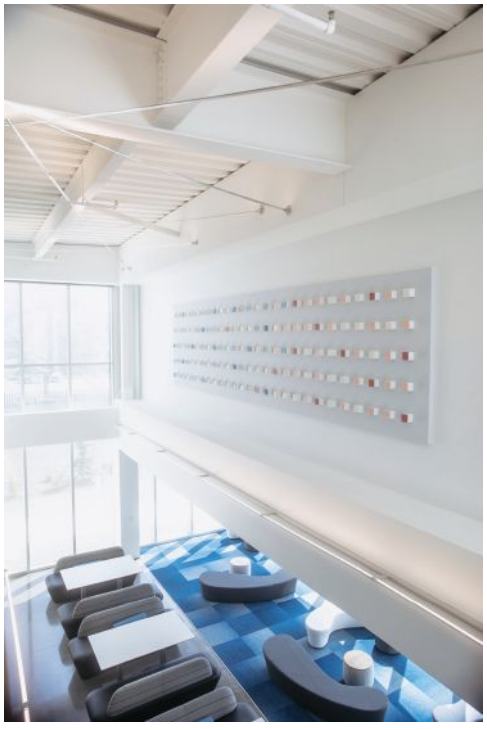
JGMA
Location: Chicago, Illinois
Client: Esperanza Health Centers
General Contractor: Skender Construction

Esperanza Wellness Campus transforms a brownfield site into a site for health in the Brighton Park community. Too often these building types are disregarded in minority communities and result in facilities that lack resources and dignity. This new facility, instead, provides critical, deeply needed services.

Jurors called this project an "energetic and passionate solution." The exterior includes orange prismatic, color-shifting panels, perforated by a pattern of rhomboid windows all above the continuous glazing ringing the ground-floor entries. Inside, visitors find Mujeres Latinas En Accion (MLEA) services, a community pharmacy, a large multipurpose room, cooking classes, and educational activities that promote health. Connecting the building's two floors is the main circulating staircase. Using warm and expressive colors that weave into the spatial design to create intuitive wayfinding for patients and visitors. The open work areas for medical caregivers and providers are designed with large walls of glazing to allow for natural light while visually connecting to the neighborhood.

CITATION OF MERIT

PHOTO CREDIT: DARIUS KUZMICKAS, KUDA PHOTOGRAPHY



Lightbox

Sheehan Nagle Hartray Architects
Location: Gresham, Oregon
General Contractor: Project Delivery Group
Structural Engineer: Paradigm Structural Engineers, Inc.
MEP Engineer: Hargis
Civil Engineer: Parametrix

Lightbox is an advanced two-story manufacturing facility producing commercial gem-quality diamonds. High-tech security measures and complex HVAC systems maintain optimal manufacturing conditions, while operations are overseen by a central command center. The multiphased design and construction project allows for future expansion.

The facility's first floor features a reception, lounge and client space showcasing a product gallery with separate staff access to the manufacturing floor. The reception area leads visitors into a gallery space that opens to a two-story lounge. The second floor is defined by office space, meeting rooms and a functional overlook of the double-height hall. "There's something precise about how you create a manufacturing space with offices, then visually connect them," commented one juror. Jurors appreciated the minimalist exterior, which includes angular planes that provide visual interest using cost-efficient materials. Client, office and manufacturing spaces are designed with complementary adjacencies while maintaining security and privacy for clients and staff alike.

NanFang University Technology Park

JKP Architects; Saltans Architects_International, Ltd.
Location: Shenzhen, China
Client: NanShan District Government, Resettlement Bureau
Architect of Record: Shenzhen Architectural Design Research Institute (SADI)
General Contractor: China State Construction Engineering Corporation (CSCEC)
Structural Engineer: Shenzhen Architectural Design Research Institute (SADI)
MEP Engineer: Shenzhen Architectural Design Research Institute (SADI)

Located within Shenzhen's burgeoning NanShan Dashahe Innovation Corridor, the NanFang University (NFU) Technology Park borders Shenzhen University's new campus. The 628,000-square-meter project includes IT incubator space, an R&D office, medical instruments development, and entrepreneurship services.

"This stuck out having a particular quality of its planning. The natural light coming in, that repetitive atrium diagram — it's straightforward, refreshing, naturally lit, and dense enough," said one juror.

The project acknowledges nature as an invaluable resource, a repository of knowledge and a source of inspiration. The urban design strategy preserves natural site features, notably an ancient burial mound hill and an existing military boundary, while introducing a central landscaped public realm. The

PHOTO CREDIT: GUANHONG CHEN - ACF VISION

integrated design strategy respects the site's existing natural topography and is organized with the framework of a city — comprising various programmatic "districts" framing a central green space. Combinations of active and passive environmental design strategies are incorporated, providing reduced operating costs, energy savings and materials conservation.

THE LIGHTBOX LAB
LOCATION: GRESHAM, OREGON
DISTINGUISHED BUILDING AWARDS CITATION OF MERIT

PROPERTY FEATURES:

- 2-story state-of-the-art laboratory and manufacturing facility producing commercial gem-quality diamonds
- Approximately 50,000 S.F.
- Gravity System: Concrete filled metal deck supported by steel wide flange beams and columns
- Lateral Force Resisting System: Steel buckling-restrained braced frames
- Foundation System: Shallow spread footings interconnected with gridded grade beams to help mitigate the sites potential settlements due to discontinuous liquefiable sublayers
- EIFS panels and glazing systems

Element Six has developed to become a global leader in the design, development and production of synthetic diamond and tungsten carbide supermaterials. Part of the De Beers Group, they employ over 1,900 people. With primary manufacturing sites located in the UK, Ireland, Germany, South Africa, and now in Gresham, Oregon in the US. PARADIGM was fortunate to provide structural engineering services to Sheehan Nagle Hartray Architects and Hargis Engineers to develop this new state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Gresham, Oregon.

CITATION OF MERIT

PHOTO CREDIT: JAMES STEINKAMP

Northtown Affordable Apartments and Public Library

Perkins and Will
Location: Chicago, Illinois
Client/Developer: Evergreen Real Estate Group
General Contractor: Powers & Sons Construction
Dry Utility Coordination/Utility Solutions: Davey Utility
Structural Engineer: Rubinos & Mesia Engineers, Inc.
MEP Engineer: dbHMS

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 gardens that acknowledge the public park to the east and the quiet residential neighborhood to the west. Double-height glazed lobbies connect the library to the senior housing, inspiring community interaction between the inside and outside, the public and private. "There is a nice urban feel to this, connecting two populations both visually and physically," said one 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 and are available to the community after regular library hours. Creating one large open space for visual connection throughout also meant creating intuitive identities and zones for patrons.

Omega Yeast

Valerio Dewalt Train
Location: Chicago, Illinois
Client: Omega Yeast Labs
General Contractor: JT Magen

As one of the largest suppliers of brewer's yeast in the U.S., the Omega Yeast production facilities are a quiet yet highly responsive integration to the Portage Park neighborhood. Located within a residential area, the loud production facilities were pushed to the back of the building, toward their existing facility and Metra Commuter Rail, leaving the quieter lab spaces, offices and break room toward the residential street. Facing the neighborhood, the volume is minimally expressed, using black corrugated metal designed to make the building visually disappear behind landscaping on the street front.

The building is highly responsive to the Metra on the east side. The lab spaces on the second floor have wraparound windows, elevated to face the platform — revealing a small glimpse of the science behind the yeast to passing commuters. "Not every day do you see a yeast production facility," said a juror. "I'm intrigued by how playful and interesting they made it: they want people to see [what's] going on inside." Adjacent to the eastern wall are large grain silos, one of which is painted in brand colors with the logo. Tucked by the alley on the north side, a small patio faces a large, glazed opening that exposes the brewing facilities.

PHOTO CREDIT: TOM HARRIS

CITATION OF MERIT

T3 West Midtown

Hartshorne Plunkard Architecture
Location: Atlanta, Georgia
Client: Hines Interests
Architect of Record: DLR Group
General Contractor: New South Construction
Structural Engineer: Magnusson Klemencic Associates
MEP Engineer: Jordan & Skala Engineers
Civil Engineer: AECOM
Enclosures Consultant: Walter P Moore

PHOTO CREDIT: RION RIZZO © CREATIVE SOURCES PHOTOGRAPHY

Notable for being the largest mass timber building in the U.S. when constructed, T3 West Midtown is a seven-story, 255,000-square-foot commercial development located within a master-planned neighborhood designed to mitigate urban sprawl and encourage sustainability. T3 West Midtown is LEED Silver Certified.

Above the first floor, the neutral and repetitive wood structural elements braced with steel accents create a universal interior space that can be personalized for each tenant's requirements. Extensive exterior glazing allows light penetration deep into the floor plate while also harboring a connection to the exterior landscape framed by the timber structure. The layout features open floor plans with floor-to-ceiling windows, heavy timber columns, beams and concrete floors. Within the common areas, timber elements and wood detailing enclose larger communal areas in the lobby and the Social Workspace amenity space, and also define smaller, more intimate areas designed for privacy and conversation.

"New projects in places like Atlanta can be very cookie-cutter," explained one juror, "but this was expressive of its construction and unapologetic about what it is, as a container for programming. There was something just really confident and straightforward about it."

University of Virginia, University Hospital Expansion

Perkins and Will
Location: Charlottesville, Virginia
Client: University of Virginia Health System
General Contractor: Skanska
MEP Engineer (New Construction): BR+A
MEP Engineer (Renovation): Valley Engineering
Structural Engineer: Walter P Moore
Civil Engineer: VHB
Green Roof Consultant: Roof Meadows
General Consultant: FEC Helicopters

PHOTO CREDIT: TODD MASON © HALKIN | MASON PHOTOGRAPHY

Focused on healing and well-being, the University of Virginia (UVA) Health System's new emergency department and inpatient bed tower integrates into a historical campus that honors the natural landscape. The expansion extends from the existing hospital with a fluid, curvilinear massing that creates a new entrance to the University Medical Center and allows access to views from patient rooms of the surrounding landscape.

"Some things you can't combat, but this felt well-executed," said one juror. "It's a beautiful building with a relationship of radius to straight lines. There's an ease and lightness to this."

Designed for change and resilience, the hospital was recently able to respond swiftly to the COVID-19 pandemic: 84 patient rooms originally scheduled to open by May 2020 were converted to negative pressure rooms to serve COVID-19 patients. Biophilic strategies such as green roofs and planted terraces enhance well-being, further reinforced by wayfinding graphics of native flora and fauna. Abundant natural light and views are integral in patient and family areas, staff break areas, surgical areas, and adjacent to operating suites. High environmental performance features include net-zero water strategies, chilled beams, green roofs, and a metal fin façade designed to reduce glare and heat and lower energy consumption.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

PHOTO CREDIT: JGMA

SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR COMMUNITY DESIGN AND REVITALIZATION

Gads Hill Early Learning Center
JGMA
Location: Chicago, Illinois
Client: Gads Hill Center
General Contractor: GMA Construction Group
Structural Engineer: Goodfriend Magruder Structure LLC
Landscape Architect: Site Design Group
MEP Engineer: RTM Associates

Located in Brighton Park, Gads Hill Center is a nonprofit youth education and family resource center. In their expansion plan, JGMA helped to identify and evaluate existing, unutilized structures. Several adjoining buildings had been built over the years, and the firm unified them into a backdrop and inserted a pattern of projected box windows. Rather than making complex, costly plans to rejoin the lost corner of the property, one structure was removed and transformed into an outdoor courtyard and playground. "They dared to do something different in this building. Big, bold moves that children can identify with are carried throughout," commented one juror.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR PROGRAM GOALS

ThyssenKrupp Test Tower
JAHN
Location: Rottweil, Germany
Client: ThyssenKrupp Elevator GmbH
Architect of Record: Werner Sobek AG
General Contractor: Ed. Züblin AG
Structural Engineer: Werner Sobek AG
Lighting Designer: L-Plan Lighting Design

The sweeping spiral of fabric gives the ThyssenKrupp Elevator Test Tower an elegance that contrasts its technical program. The facility is a slender concrete structural tube sheathed in a spiral of polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) fabric. Jurors were excited by the use of fabric to create — surprisingly — an 800-foot tower that blends into the existing skyline. "It's a crazy project," exclaimed one, "that is weirdly good at not attracting attention to itself." The tower's spiraling skin captures light, color and shadow, forming an ever-changing textural aesthetic. The test tower contains 11 elevator shafts — nine shafts dedicated to testing elevator systems, a freight elevator and the public panorama elevator.

PHOTO CREDIT: RAINER VIERTLBÖCK

JURORS

interior architecture awards

ALEC HOLSER, FAIA
Opsis
Portland, OR

DOMINIQUE DAVISON, AIA
DRAW
Kansas City, MO

NICHOLAS BRINEN, AIA, NOMA
Studio Figure LLC
Charlottesville, VA

HONOR AWARD

PHOTO CREDIT: STEVE HALL, HALL + MERRICK PHOTOGRAPHERS

33 E Washington - SAIC Infrastructure & Stair

Eastlake Studio
Location: Chicago, Illinois
Client: The School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Client Architect of Record; Galleries, Studios, Offices: Weese Langley Weese
General Contractor: Bulley & Andrews
MEP Engineer: IMEG Corp.
Structural Engineer: Forefront Structural Engineers
Building Code Consultant: Burnham Nationwide
Lighting Designer: Schuler Shook
Developer/Property Manager: Aspire Properties

The School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) is one of the world's most distinguished art and design educational institutions, providing arts education and programming at undergraduate, graduate, continuing education, and youth levels. In 33 East Washington, SAIC found the ideal space to relocate their studios and galleries, enhancing the connectivity between students, educators and the public. Located in the former annex building of Chicago's historic Marshall Field's department store, Eastlake Studio developed a master plan to refurbish the historic lobby, activate the street entry, and design a meaningful connection between the building's lower levels and the city.

A monumental stair acts as a central spine, connecting the street front to the galleries and studios on the lower floors while bringing natural light and views deep into the space. Faced in concrete and steel, the monumental stair spans four continuous floors, creating a dramatic volume of space with views into galleries and offices. Jurors were particularly impressed with the staircase, noting that the use of steel reflects the building's historic character while modernizing the material through detailing.

"The slit detail on the stair creates consistency, replicating the pattern of the lighting above into the railing," said one juror. "The lights and the rail slits are playing off each other." The minimalist linear lighting also creates a dynamic glow on the geometric forms, recalling the essential spatial forms of modern art.

Jurors also appreciated the firm's commitment to reimagining the retail storefront, which created a public-facing gallery space for SAIC. "Taking what would have been a retail space and turning it into a gallery, without trying to make it look like an art museum on the exterior is brilliant," said another juror. "The storefront gallery forms a central space now, it reminds me of the [former] arts and crafts museum in terms of the spatial organization."

The architectural gesture was heavily coordinated within the context of the existing steel frame structure of the building, while also accommodating a new elevator and MEP system at the lower levels. Much of that coordination and infrastructure is set around this main volume and keeping a clean aesthetic, which offered its own challenges within a historic building, below grade.

HONOR AWARD

ALL PHOTOS: TODD MASON © HALKIN | MASON PHOTOGRAPHY

University of Virginia, University Hospital Expansion

Perkins and Will
Location: Charlottesville, Virginia
Client: The University of Virginia
General Contractor: Skanska
MEP Engineer: BR+A
MEP Engineer (Renovation): Valley Engineering
Structural Engineer: Walter P Moore
Civil Engineer: VHB
Green Roof Consultant: Roof Meadows
General Consultant: FEC Helicopters
Landscape Architect: Rhodeside & Harwell

The University of Virginia (UVA) Health System's new emergency department and inpatient bed tower offer an enhanced experience for patients and staff. The building is designed to connect people to the calming effects of nature, reduce the building's environmental impact and allow for future flexibility to accommodate evolving medical technology and best practices.

Integrated into a historical campus that honors the Shenandoah Valley landscape, the expansion is a calming, welcoming and distinctive building designed with the diverse needs of patients in mind. The expansion extends from the existing hospital with a fluid, curvilinear massing that creates a new entrance to the University Medical Center. Those curvilinear forms are particularly abundant in the lobby spaces, where jurors saw small moments of color and breaks from patterns as refreshing: "not everything aligns, which is nice. There's an artistic quality to it; the lines are sensuous and subtle," said one.

Designed for change and resilience, the hospital was recently able to respond swiftly to the COVID-19 pandemic: 84 patient rooms originally scheduled to open by May 2020 were seamlessly converted to negative pressure rooms to serve COVID-19 patients.

Biophilic strategies such as green roofs and planted terraces enhance well-being, further reinforced by wayfinding graphics of native flora and fauna. Abundant natural light and views of the Blue Ridge Mountains are integral in patient and family areas, staff break areas, surgical areas, and adjacent to operating suites. "This type of daylight strategy and providing views is so crucial to patient recovery, and I appreciate that," added a juror.

"So many [hospitals] are awful," explained another juror, "but there is so much that is refreshing and light about this, it takes the antiseptic quality of hospitals and disguises it. And, LEED [Platinum] in a hospital isn't an easy thing to do!" High environmental performance features include net-zero water strategies, chilled beams, green roofs, and a metal fin façade designed to reduce glare and heat and lower energy consumption.

CITATION OF MERIT

PHOTO CREDIT: HALL+MERRICK PHOTOGRAPHERS

545wyn

Gensler
Location: Miami, Florida
Client: Sterling Bay
General Contractor: John Moriarty & Associates

As the first Class-A office tower in Miami's burgeoning Wynwood neighborhood, the client's new space engages and extends the energy of the community while attracting a new generation of office that best fits with the local districts and the property.

The team aimed to celebrate the city and the culturally established community of Wynwood while also contributing to the future of the neighborhood. Wynwood began as a garment district full of long, low-slung warehouses, in which the walls served as an inviting opportunity for graffiti artists. The architect integrated 545wyn with these surroundings by incorporating the neighborhood's unfinished and industrial nature into the building and extending the energy of the artist community canvas into the lobby with a large "brush stroke" behind the reception desk and into the paseo entry, which is made up of repurposed shirts by Eileen Fisher and an artistic bike helmet art installation.

"There are excellent textures here — from the use of color to the incorporation of utilities that create a rhythm," said one juror. "It's bold and sets itself apart."

600W Chicago

Lamar Johnson Collaborative
Location: Chicago, Illinois
Client: Sterling Bay
Design Architect: Charlie Greene Studio – Jen McCord
General Contractor: Bulley & Andrews
Lighting Designer: Schuler Shook
Millwork: ALX Raw

Built in 1908, 600W Chicago originally housed the Montgomery Ward catalog warehouse. Converted to office use in the 1990s, it has become the headquarters for some of Chicago's largest tech companies. The team identified ways to improve the tenant experience and establish a new identity for the building, focusing on public areas on the ground floor.

The current entry point was originally the receiving area for merchandise, with trains accessing the building at this point. A hand-laid grid of railroad date nails in the floor is a nod to the industrial past. Enlivening a block-long circulation corridor with a ceiling sculpture of skate wheels references the Montgomery Ward employees who ran packages on roller skates. The final product is a design that balances the building's history with the services and amenities that today's office users expect, resulting in a building that is welcoming and engaging.

PHOTO CREDIT: KENDALL MCCAUGHERTY - HALL+MERRICK PHOTOGRAPHERS

"They are letting an existing materiality still shine," said one juror, "but the new stuff is unique — a continuity of a light fixture or installation move throughout. There's a language [that's] being carried through in many different modes."

"It's a portal," added another juror.

CITATION OF MERIT

PHOTO CREDIT: HALL + MERRICK BY KENDALL MCCAUGHERTY

Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME) Center

Krueck Sexton Partners
Location: Chicago, Illinois
Client: Tishman Speyer
General Contractor: Lend Lease Construction Inc.

Located in Chicago's West Loop business district, the lobby renovation project reimagines an existing commercial lobby that has been in continuous use for the last 30 years. As the world continues to evolve, the experience of arrival to work has changed dramatically. The building used to have no true frontage; now each side of the building dons an inviting presence. The once separate lobbies have become integrated together by a new gallery walkway along Wacker Drive, creating a rhythm of movement throughout the space while welcoming the community inward. The curved 24-foot-high all-glass façade snakes around the building, allowing for the natural light to enter. "It blurs the lines of interior and exterior room," said one juror; the glass perimeter also opens up the ground-floor experience joining the interior and the exterior as one spatial identity to create a single unified urban ground floor.

"It's amazing juxtaposition of glass wall and ceiling wall condition against the building above it," said one juror.

Swiss Consulate Chicago

Kwong Von Glinow
Location: Chicago, Illinois
Client: The Swiss Federal Office for Buildings and Logistics (FOBL)
Design Architect: HHF + Kwong Von Glinow (Design Collaboration)
General Contractor: Helios Construction Services
MEP Engineer: Advance Consulting Group Int'l.

The new Swiss Consulate Chicago brings a domestic language and contemporary working environment to the office interior at the John Hancock Center. The workplace is no longer about division, seclusion and hierarchy, but about transparency, collaboration and connection.

The Swiss Consulate Chicago is organized around a "Green Heart" where the staff gather together and from which all of the consular program is visible and accessible: the two enclosed offices and three open desks, a conference room, and support areas. Light-filtering curvilinear built-in benches and a kitchenette mediate the two programmatic areas and allow for a soft division between the social areas and the working areas. The repetitive vertical slats of the curvilinear walls emphasize the verticality of the 14-foot-tall exposed ceiling. The frosted glass that alternates between inner and outer panes of the enclosed offices and the conference room further emphasizes connection between all

PHOTO CREDIT: JAMES FLORIO

areas of the consulate and gives added depth, light and dynamism to the space.

"Something so tight and small is one of the hardest projects to do," said one juror. "It's an intriguing little plan that uses few simple moves with curves to move you around the space."

CITATION OF MERIT

PHOTO CREDIT: PETER MOLICK

Waste Management Houston Headquarters
Perkins and Will
Location: Houston, Texas
Client: Waste Management
General Contractor: Harvey Builders
Furniture Dealer: McCoy Rockford
Commissioning Agent: Cogent Commissioning, LLC
Brand Subcontractor: xibitz
Technology Consultant: Waveguide
MEP Engineer: Wylie Consulting Engineers
Structural Engineer: Walter P Moore

Waste Management (WM) is bringing together its workforce in a contemporary space designed to inspire a culture of collaboration, accelerate a culture of innovation and agility, and communicate the company's leadership in environmental stewardship and sustainability. The new LEED Platinum headquarters celebrates the corporate brand — "Always Working for a Sustainable Tomorrow" — throughout the space and program. Brand experience elevates WM's core values and messages through design, materials, 3D elements, printed stories and digital displays.

The living wall flanks the nine-story staircase, with the mix of light and dark green and yellow reflecting WM's brand and evoking the core value that sustainability is an integral part of everyday life. Jurors loved the manifestation of this motto — particularly making recycling bins a space for socializing and the social stair to get people moving.

An overlay of metal and acrylic panels recalls the WM logo, creating a pattern of diagonal fretwork that complements the greenery. Sustainability literally is embedded in the office: every material was evaluated for building product disclosure and optimization, as well as conforming to the Precautionary List. Hydration stations on each floor are designed with a different branded element representing the materials that WM recycles — walls made from recycled plastic, metal and glass. "This place makes waste management bright and placeful," said one juror.

"Xibitz Inc. congratulates Perkins&Will on their award-winning design at Waste Management Houston Headquarters. Xibitz was honored to partner with you on this project."

xibitz

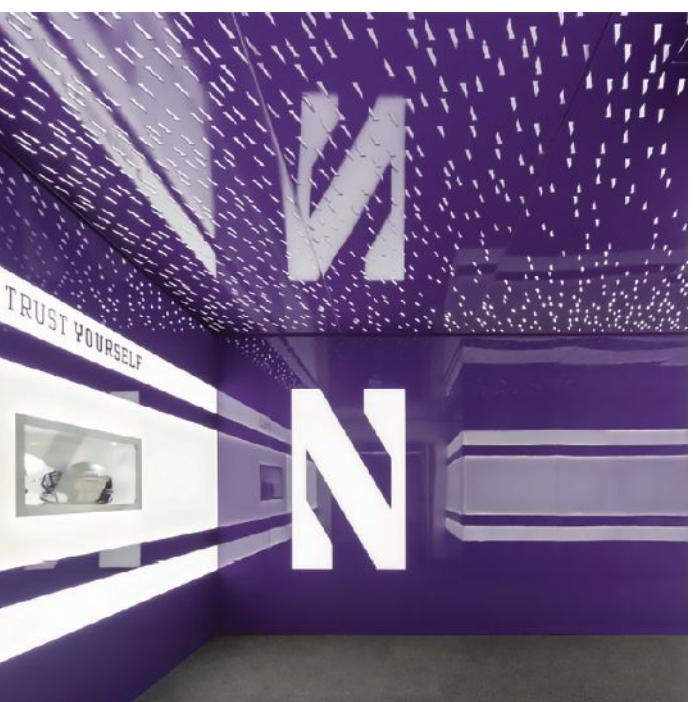
Founded in 1988, Xibitz is a custom fabricator providing project management, design solutions, engineering, production and installation services for museums, athletics, higher education, corporate and healthcare environments on a global scale. Xibitz specializes in the execution of one-of-a kind spaces by serving our clients and design colleagues as strategic partners, providing the smartest possible resources, utilizing innovation and creativity to help them achieve their goals. Throughout the years we have established many trusted relationships through our process of collaboration, transparency and open communication. Together, we build stories. For more information please access www.xibitz.com.

CONAGRA BRANDS: Corporate headquarters

Design partner: Perkins&Will

When Conagra Brands decided to relocate their corporate headquarters from Omaha to Chicago's Merchandise Mart, they partnered with Perkins&Will and Xibitz to get the job done.

The design approach was to divide the very large floor plan into four different neighborhoods, with a connecting north/south axis at the center called the Central Market. This multi-purpose hub features a variety of meeting spaces inspiring opportunities for interaction. The four neighborhoods also have unique gathering space called parks. These each have a unique identity based on places found on a family farm including The Land, The Mill, The Barn and The Orchard all made from printed and layered recycled barnwood.



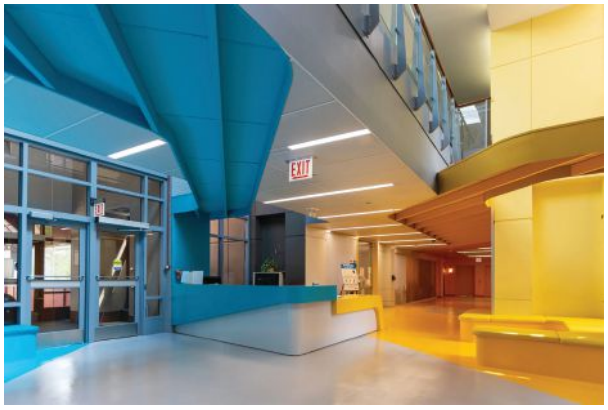
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY: Ryan-Walter Athletics Center

Design partners: Perkins&Will and HOK

A state-of-the-art training, competition and recreation facility calls for experiential elements of the highest quality and exacting fit. That's what Xibitz, partnered with design firms Perkins&Will and HOK, provided for Northwestern University – in the form of custom-perforated backlit metal ceiling panels evoking the branded letter "N," which added excitement for game day activities throughout the football locker room; an 86-foot-long solid surface enclosure with 7-foot-high custom dimensional Northwestern letters; large-scale graphics, custom-printed and mounted to canted panels with the school color in a LED lighting wash; and canted glass enclosures highlighting action figure mannequins for seven Olympic sports. Additionally, Xibitz created a 70-foot-long Hall of Honor featuring students who have become professional athletes.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

PHOTO CREDIT: JGMA



SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR RADICAL RESOURCEFULNESS

Humboldt Park Health
JGMA
Location: Chicago, Illinois
Client: Humboldt Park Health
General Contractor: F.H. Paschen
Structural Engineer: BASE
MEP Engineer: WT Group/MEP

JGMA renovated this 100-year-old hospital in Humboldt Park. The project consists of more than 25,000 square feet of work split into 22 individual phases and seeks to create a warm and welcoming environment reflecting the quality of the care provided within, as well as defining a cohesive wayfinding strategy throughout the first floor.

"The budget was obviously minimal, but their work created such a big impactful statement," commented a juror. "By using wood and chipboard and colored flooring, they created an imaginative and bold character."

SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR DESIGN FOR EQUITABLE COMMUNITIES

The Night Ministry
Wheeler Kearns Architects
Location: Chicago, Illinois
Client: The Night Ministry
General Contractor: Bulley & Andrews
Owner's Rep: IFF

The Night Ministry's new home is an uplifting oasis for young adults aged 18-24 facing adversity. Three stories of a 1910 heavy-timber manufacturing building were renovated to support the growing needs of the nonprofit organization providing housing, health care and human connection to those experiencing homelessness. The program consists of an overnight shelter, a serving kitchen and dining space, administrative offices, meeting rooms, and multipurpose space for social services, job assistance and group activities.

"Community impact is important, and design belongs everywhere, and there's a care and thoughtfulness to this space," said one juror. "There's no reason it shouldn't be in this type of facility."

PHOTO CREDIT: KENDALL MCCAUGHERTY - HALL + MERRICK PHOTOGRAPHERS

JURORS

divine detail awards

KARA BOUILLETTE, AIA
SixTwentyOne
Kansas City, MO

JOSÉ ALVAREZ, AIA
EskewDumezRipple
New Orleans, LA

OSAMA QUOTAH, AIA
LMN Architects
Seattle, WA

HONOR AWARD

PHOTO CREDIT: MARK BALLOGG

PHOTO CREDIT: ANDREW METTER

O'Hare Airport Generator Station

Andrew Metter, FAIA, Principal Designer, with Epstein
Location: Chicago, Illinois
Client: Chicago Department of Aviation
Architect of Record: Epstein - Principal Designer: Andrew Metter, FAIA
General Contractor: Bridgeview Electric

The new Generator Station consists of two buildings that are elevated on a raised plinth and located directly adjacent to the existing C.F. Murphy Boiler Building. The Boiler Building is a classical Miesian structure, with alternating vertical glass panels and black aluminum mullions. The intent of the new Generator Station architectural expression is to pay homage to the Boiler Building, utilizing the same materials and proportions — for all buildings and site elements — while avoiding imitation.

The generator building utilizes a vertical, custom extruded aluminum "T" shape, providing protection for the rainscreen wall. The switchgear building uses an insulated, double-channel glass wall. The security fence utilizes capped steel tubes, cantilevered from the concrete plinth. This vertical expression strategy operates at all scales, from the protective aluminum skin of the generator building to the channel glass of the switchgear building, and down to the material and vertical detailing of the enclosure fence. When combined with sunlight, shadows and night lighting, the result is a rich visual texture created through an overlay of simple architectural elements. The new buildings also emphasize the materiality of the Boiler Building by utilizing each material — metal and glass separately — maintaining the proportional vertical expression of each element.

PHOTO CREDIT: ANDREW METTER

"The way they use the maturity of the different materials — the fence, the façade and the depth on the façade — and they made some interesting observations about how they were using the blades and other things to help cool the building and kind of contribute to the sustainability of this piece of infrastructure was really interesting and smart," commented a juror.

CITATION OF MERIT

PHOTO CREDIT: DANY EID

Burj Vista Self-Shading Balconies

Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture
Location: Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Client: Emaar Properties
Architect of Record: BHNS Engineering
General Contractor: NSCC International

The two-tower Burj Vista in Dubai was designed to maximize views of the Burj Khaifa in each unit, minimize overall energy consumption and maximize the comfort of residents. A collection of duplex units on the upper floors of the taller tower features a series of double-height observation rooms that work in tandem with outdoor terraces. The exterior wall responds to orientation with specific features that reduce heat gain in Dubai's warm climate, including using insets for terraces and sloped-glass exterior walls that maximize shading, reduce heat gain and reduce the collection of wind-borne sand; applying high-performance coatings on the exterior glass; utilizing a significant amount of glass fiber reinforced concrete (GFRC) cladding systems to minimize the amount of glass; orienting the towers to minimize solar exposure; and connecting landscaped event areas with shaded paths.

"The climate is integral to the thoughtfulness of the balcony and allows resolving design complexities," commented one juror. "It's an interesting texture that shows how an architectural element can respond to conditions and site."

Guild Row

DAAM
Location: Chicago, Illinois
Client: Rockwell Fletcher, LLC
General Contractor: B. Leonard Construction LLC

Guild Row is a membership club situated within a rapidly developing industrial corridor along the Chicago River. The clubhouse adaptively reuses a series of former manufacturing buildings to create a vibrant facility composed of collaborative spaces for hosting member-sponsored programs, craft-based experiences and communal gatherings. The club's core values of "making stuff" and "togetherness" are deeply woven into the facility's spatial fabric through a series of hand-hewn details and carefully orchestrated moments of assembly.

Constructed of warm wood materials, which sit in direct contrast to the surrounding concrete floors and masonry walls, each element shares common materiality. "The designers were creative and crafty in the use of the wood in various ways inside the building," said one juror. Though different in species, finishes and specific textures, the wood elements are all also characterized by a signature horizontal striation that provides for light transmission, visual connectivity, acoustic performance and participatory engagement with members.

PHOTO CREDIT: WILL BYINGTON

BRONZEVILLE WINERY is a catalyst for neighborhood development and a first-of-its-kind restaurant, wine bar, and cultural space located at 4420 South Cottage Grove Avenue in Chicago.

GUILD ROW is a makers community where the creative and civic-minded connect. Built around an open air courtyard, the Guild Row campus of converted warehouses features a teaching kitchen and a woodshop, a live fire cooking station, a members lounge with a full café and bar, co-working space, a library, and an ultra-flexible dynamic event space for gatherings of all kinds.

Voted one of Chicago's Coolest Offices in 2019, **TURF's** design and sales office is located in a previously abandoned, century-old firehouse. Acoustics meet aesthetics in an office that's custom, adaptive, responsive. It is functional but also an art installation to see and appreciate.

We make communities better by building spaces for people to connect, evolve, and prosper.

www.bleonardconstruction.com

BLC
B. LEONARD CONSTRUCTION

CITATION OF MERIT

PHOTO CREDIT: RAINER VIERTLBÖCK

ThyssenKrupp Test Tower
JAHN
Location: Rottweil, Germany
Client: ThyssenKrupp Elevator GmbH
Design Architect: Werner Sobek with Helmut Jahn, FAIA
Architect of Record: Werner Sobek AG
General Contractor: Ed. Züblin AG
Structural Engineer: Werner Sobek AG
Lighting Designer: L-Plan Lighting Design

The spiral of the exterior fabric gives the ThyssenKrupp Elevator Test Tower an elegance that contrasts its technical program as a test facility. Standing more than 800 feet tall with a diameter of 68 feet, the facility is a slender concrete structural tube sheathed in a spiral of PTFE fabric. The tower's spiraling skin captures light, color and shadow, forming an ever-changing aesthetic across the sky.

The fabric skin also shades the tower, reducing thermal stresses in the concrete and the amount of reinforcing needed within the concrete structure. The skin also causes "vortex shedding" to deliberately introduce turbulence, which lowers wind loads applied to the structure. A mass damper is used to further reduce structural loading or to induce vibration and movement to simulate considerations of unbuilt towers for testing.

"I appreciated the attachment details that were used," said one juror. "Given the design problem, it seems like a kind of an elegant, simple solution that made a big difference to the end result."

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Chicago Union Station Great Hall Skylight

Goettsch Partners

Location: Chicago, Illinois
Client: Amtrak
General Contractor: Berglund Construction
Structural Engineer: Klein & Hoffman
MEP Engineer: ESD
Program and Building Manager: CBRE
Skylight Structural Steel: Corsetti Structural Steel
Skylight New/Historic Fabrication and Installation: Super Sky Products Enterprises

Chicago Union Station was designed by Graham, Anderson, Probst & White and completed in 1925. The station's ornate "Great Hall" features a vaulted skylight. Extensive deterioration and leaks developed and took their toll on the interior. As part of the Great Hall restoration, the project team was hired to develop a restoration solution that met historic requirements and contemporary needs.

PHOTO CREDIT: AMTRAK

The solution allowed the historic skylight to remain in place and be fully restored, with a new energy-efficient, watertight skylight built on top. Supported 5 feet above the restored cast-iron skylight, a new high-performance aluminum skylight with steel framing and clear, high-efficiency, Low-E glass now protects the landmark building. The Great Hall is brightened and enhanced with 50 percent more daylight — and 60 percent energy reduction — while showcasing its original grandeur.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR SYSTEMS AND ENGINEERING INTEGRATION

Northwestern University Simpson Querrey Biomedical Research Center: Winter Garden Roof Truss, Integrated MEP Systems and Lighting

Perkins and Will

Location: Chicago, Illinois
General Contractor: Power Construction Company, LLC
MEP Engineer: Affiliated Engineers, Inc.
Structural Engineer: Thornton Tomasetti
Civil Engineer: TERRA Engineering
Landscape Architect: Terry Guen Design Associates
Lab Planning and Equipment: Jacobs Consultancy
Security and Code Consultant: Jensen Hughes
Environmental Façade Analysis, LEED Admin and Lighting Design: Atelier Ten
Cost Consultant: CCS
Elevators: Jenkins & Huntington
Material and Waste Management and Façade Access: Lerch Bates
Fire Protection: Primera Engineering
Preconstruction Consultant: Walsh Construction
AV and Acoustics: Shen Milsom & Wilke
Geotechnical: GEI Consultants
Preconstruction Consultant: Barton Malow
Façade Consultant: Buro Happold
Commissioning Agent: Grumman/Butkus Associates

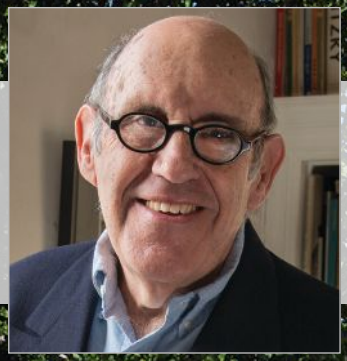
The Simpson Querrey Biomedical Research Center (SQBRC) at Northwestern University's winter garden provides space for collaboration and formal events. The goal

PHOTO CREDIT: STEVE HALL © HALL+MERRICK PHOTOGRAPHERS

for the winter garden was to maximize the size of the glass and open spans while minimizing the structure size and supports.

Round steel tube columns support a series of custom-designed kingpost trusses with stainless steel tension rods at the roof. The team integrated mechanical, electrical and fire-protection systems into the structural trusses to conceal their visual impact on the space below. The glass roof is heated by fin tubes that run on top of the trusses; these are fed through penetrations coordinated in the arms that hold up the glass. Sprinkler lines run over the top of every other truss location. The kingposts are capped at the bottom with a custom light fixture, attached to the end of the post with concealed fasteners. "A lot of thought went into packing systems in together to make the facility seem light and unobstructed. It's an elegant solution, very simple, but, but not something that you see every day," said a juror.

A Life in Context



The Multifaceted Career of Stuart Cohen, FAIA

BY LAURIE PETERSEN

House on the Beach, in Evanston, Illinois.
CREDIT: DAVE BURK/HEDRICH BLESSING

Arts and Crafts House PHOTO CREDIT: TONY SOLURI PHOTOGRAPHY

Architect, writer, researcher, curator, educator ... these are among the many facets of the distinguished career of Stuart Cohen, FAIA. "The remarkable thing is that he has been excellent in each and every one of those endeavors," notes Pauline Saliga, executive director of the Society of Architectural Historians.

To truly appreciate Cohen's impact, we need to do what he himself often did: step back and take a clear-eyed view of history. We need to go back to the 1970s because so many concepts that we take as truisms today were far from common currency then: *Take context into account when designing a building, whether a house or a skyscraper. The work of small firms can be significant and should receive attention. A design can be informed by historical principles without being a pale imitation. A reductivist view of history leaves out important work. Architecture is often the work of a collaborative effort rather than the product of a lone genius. Architects can build* **and** *talk.* Cohen believes in these concepts and has tirelessly promoted them through articles, books, museum and gallery exhibits, lectures, teaching and design.

From an early age, Cohen excelled at drawing and painting as well as math and science. He grew up in the North Shore suburb of Winnetka and has vivid memories of his family's two houses there: a comfortable Tudor and, later, a compact, modern townhouse. He can still sketch the floor plan of the townhouse and describe its inventive features: a skylight at the top of the stairs and two doors

House in Highland Park by Cohen Hacker Architects
PHOTO CREDIT: JON MILLER/HEDRICH BLESSING

precisely placed so that when they were both opened they joined to close off the dining room. "It was the first time I was aware that somebody put thought into making something like that," he recalls. It was an early lesson in two of the features that would come to characterize his residential designs: using the vertical section to make a space feel larger, and creatively dividing an open space.

Cohen's fascination with aerospace led him to enroll at Cornell to study mechanical engineering, but he pivoted to architecture, which "looked like so much more fun." The curriculum included large doses of architectural history with an emphasis on applying its timeless principles. It was also a collaborative environment that Cohen would thrive in. Working with fellow student Steven Hurtt, Cohen coined the term "contextualism" in 1965 and promoted a concept that would come to be extremely influential.

Moving to New York after graduation, Cohen sought out smaller firms. He had stints with Richard Meier, Gruzen & Partners (where his design for a housing project won a Progressive Architecture award), Johnson & Burgee, and Norval White.

When he returned to Chicago in 1971, Cohen brought an outsider's perspective. He was put off by the dominance of large firms working in the then-doctrinaire Miesian style, but more than anything he missed the lively dialogue that had characterized the New York architecture world. On the advice of Peter Eisenman, he quickly made contact with Stanley Tigerman, FAIA, and they soon began a collaboration that would change Chicago architectural history. Dan Wheeler, FAIA, says, "It's interesting to wonder where Chicago would be without Stuart and Stanley. They tapped the rudder to a different place."

TOP LEFT: French House in Glencoe, IL by Cohen Hacker Architects displays their iconic glazed cabinetry. CREDIT: JON MILLER/HEDRICH BLESSING BOTTOM LEFT: English Country House by Cohen Hacker Architects CREDIT: DAVE BURK/HEDRICH BLESSING

After playing a behind-the-scenes role encouraging the Museum of Contemporary Art to host the German exhibition "100 Years of Chicago Architecture," Cohen worked with Tigerman to organize a counter-exhibit. Both thought that the "100 Years" show promoted an overly reductive view of the city's history, jumping from Chicago School skyscrapers to the Miesian "Second Chicago School." Cohen and Tigerman's "Chicago Architects" exhibit, curated with the help of Larry Booth, FAIA, and Ben Weese, FAIA, created an alternative narrative by displaying the work of overlooked architects from the past and present. Almost overnight, the Miesian "build, don't talk" ethos was shattered.

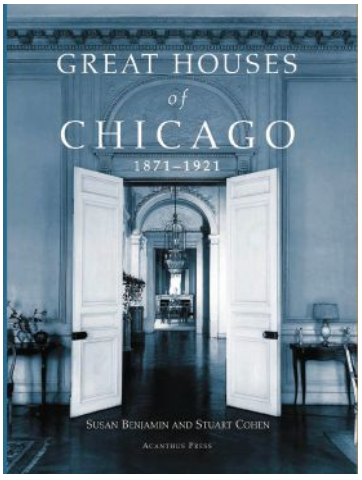
Drawing upon Tigerman's flair for publicity, when the four organizers added Tom Beeby, James Nagle and James Ingo Freed, they dubbed themselves "the Chicago Seven" to evoke the radical yippie disrupters of Chicago's 1968 Democratic convention. Thus began a heady period of exhibitions, symposia and publications. Doctrinaire modernism was out, replaced with a broader, more inclusive view of architecture.

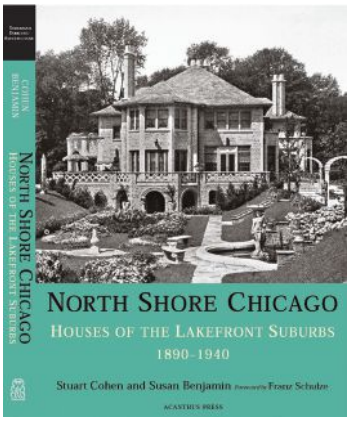
The group wanted to revive the kind of dialogue and camaraderie enjoyed by turn-of-the-20th-century architects including those of the Prairie School. Cohen and Tigerman created The Chicago Architectural Club (CAC), a new iteration of the Chicago Architectural Sketch Club. The Chicago Seven served as the first board of directors, holding meetings where they presented and critiqued each other's work, and publishing an annual journal. The group (now including Kenneth Schroeder; Jerry Horn; Helmut Jahn, FAIA; and Cynthia Weese, FAIA) eventually numbered about a hundred members. The CAC continues to this day, with current co-presidents Elva Rubio and Edoarda Corradi Dell'Acqua.

With a few exceptions, the Chicago Seven and CAC cohorts had small firms working on modest

"Whenever I wanted to understand something better, I wrote about it, and that helped me design."
Stuart Cohen, FAIA

AT RIGHT: House in Glencoe by Cohen Hacker Architects CREDIT: JON MILLER/ HEDRICH BLESSING





Cohen has worked collaboratively with historians throughout his career. Two books by Cohen and Susan Benjamin: *Great Houses of Chicago: 1871-1921* (Acanthus Press, 2008) and *North Shore Chicago: The Houses of the Lakefront Suburbs. 1880-1940 (Acanthus Press, 2004)*

projects. Suddenly this kind of practice was seen as an important part of the architectural dialogue. The apotheosis of this was the 1980 Museum of Contemporary Art exhibition, curated by Cohen and Tigerman, titled "Chicago Tribune Tower Competition and Late Entries." Like the original 1922 event, it drew submissions from all over the world, many from individual architects rather than large firms.

Stuart Cohen & Julie Hacker Architects is an exemplar of a small firm doing significant work. Throughout his career, Cohen has had an ideas-based practice. He uses the metaphor of inhaling and exhaling when talking about how his research and analysis inform his architecture, and vice versa. "Whenever I wanted to understand something better, I wrote about it, and that helped me design," he says. Like many architects, he began his practice with small residential additions; unlike most, he was inspired to write an article that looked at a wide variety of historical precedents. "On Adding On" appeared in the University of Illinois's 1985 journal, *Threshold*. Says former partner Anders Nereim, a firm partner from 1980-85: "The same brain was clearly at work in his architecture and his writing." He adds, "everything architectural had to be elevated to a clarified idea."

While many architects see small additions as springboards to larger multifamily or institutional projects, Cohen chose to focus on single-family houses. "I have a really short attention span," he says, and houses take only a few years from start to finish. Also, "I was raised on LeCorbusier and Frank Lloyd Wright, and their innovations were in the realm of residential work."

Open floor plans and overlapping spaces, characteristic of modernism, are executed in a traditional vocabulary. Spaces that flow into each other are defined by elements such as changes in ceiling height or treatment, partial walls, or cabinetry. Moldings are used to distinguish spaces from one another or to unify them — sometimes both. Floor plans show a complex relationship of axes and cross-axes. Wheeler says, "he is able to transform spatial ideas from abstract to historical language but not lose the spatial inventiveness of early modernists."

Cohen's best-of-both-worlds approach is exemplified by the ways in which glass is deployed. The sheer abundance of glass is modern, but the detailing is traditional with muntins in all windows to provide more of a sense of shelter and enclosure while maximizing light and views. Interiors have internal windows and French doors providing shared light and views. Cabinetry is often glazed on both sides, allowing views through the interior but sometimes placed against an exterior wall — a signature move of the firm. Nereim says, "the organization of windows and their relationship to the interior spaces is perfect." Both he and Wheeler emphasize the rewards of looking at the firm's work closely and carefully.

Cohen is as passionate about teaching as he is about other aspects of his practice. He has been an important teacher and mentor to many. He was a professor of architecture at the University of Illinois, Chicago, from 1973 to 2002 and now has emeritus status there. His colleagues and former students uniformly praise the clarity of his thinking. Kathryn Quinn, AIA, was a student and then employee. She says, "he could *demonstrate* what he meant by the term *context* …. When I worked in his office I continued to get professorial direction from him." She also praises the impact of his writing and says that "he is deeply rooted in the word *and* the object."

Whether teaching, writing or practicing, collaboration has been Cohen's modus operandi from his days at Cornell through his three decades of partnership with Julie Hacker, FAIA. He is quick to give credit to the professors, colleagues and historic architects whose work has inspired him. It is fitting that the most recent of his four books, *Frank L. Wright and the Architects of Steinway Hall*, is subtitled *A Study in Collaboration*. His life and work offer proof of the value of dialogue and shared exploration. CA

AIA Chicago | INNOVATIVE PUBLISHING

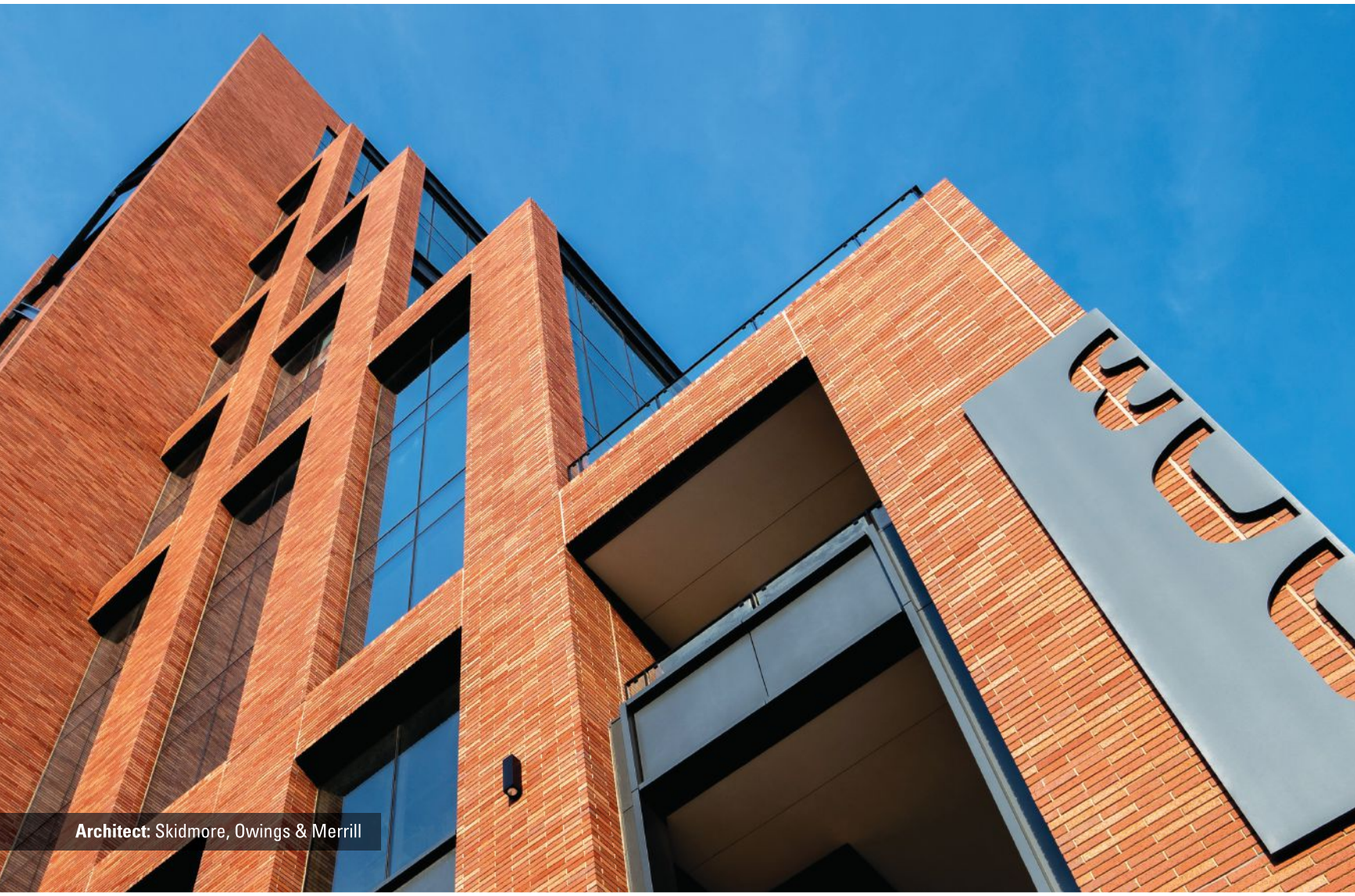
Chicago Architect is published four times a year by Innovative Publishing. Innovative Publishing specializes in association communications and messaging.

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

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

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

800 FULTON – FULTON MARKET DISTRICT
CHICAGO, IL



Architect: Skidmore, Owings & Merrill

DESIGN THE NEXT CHICAGO MASTERPIECE

To stand out in a field of great Chicago architecture, you need the best material to help you achieve your unique vision. Endicott has been giving Chicago architects the tools to build legacies for generations. Contact us to learn more.

FACE BRICK | THIN BRICK | CLAY PAVERS

Distributed by
BRICKS INCORPORATED

ENDICOTT
CLAY PRODUCTS

endicott.com