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Dear Members,

Cooler weather, football starting and schools in session — fall is here! Before jumping in, I wanted to spotlight Jen Masengarb, Assoc. AIA, and her diligent work over the past five months as Executive Director. Jen has begun her city-wide listening tour, visiting member firms and partner organizations to learn more about their priorities, ideas, and hopes for their businesses and for their AIA chapter.

PEOPLE — In this issue, we're highlighting some exciting Chicago Architecture Biennial (CAB) projects. This year's theme, *The Available City*, expands upon Artistic Director David Brown's work in understanding Chicago's vacant lots. In our *Façades* section, you'll read about three projects that reimagine vacant or under-programmed spaces. Each project is designed by an architect or group of architects with different relationships with Chicago. First, you'll read about a project by Outpost Office that uses ground-level grid paintings to activate public spaces with minimal waste. Second, you'll read about Germane Barnes of Studio Barnes, an award-winning architect whose CAB project will reimagine an empty lot as a space for our ubiquitous block parties. Finally, you'll learn about Chicago and Los Angeles-based Bittertang Farm and their forthcoming Living Room — an intimate, permaculture seating space at a North Lawndale educational garden.

PARTNERSHIPS — Our feature this issue wraps up a monthslong collaboration between AIA Chicago and City Open Workshop. Led by Paola Aguirre, Assoc. AIA, and Elle Ramel, City Open Workshop is a group of architects, planners, artists, data experts, and more, who meet annually to better understand and engage in issues in Chicago's built environment. In this collaboration, AIA Chicago and City Open Workshop addressed Madison Street

commercial corridor in East Garfield Park. Aligned with the *Available City* theme, this once-thriving community experienced decades of disinvestment and vacancy, with the help of the Chicago design and nonprofit community, is ripe for new ideas. What you'll see in this issue is a documentation process crafted by volunteer designers with diagrams, short narratives, and drawings to illustrate how City Open Workshop thinks collectively through problems, and to expose the importance of collaboration when designing for vulnerable communities.

PROMOTE HOPE — Finally, turn to the Chapter Report to read AIA Chicago's new mission and vision. We arrived on these statements from our yearlong Strategic Planning process that many of you took part in. Clearly defining our mission helps us know what opportunities to say "yes" to and which to say "no" to. By crafting a clear mission statement, we now have defined the parameters of what we will focus on as an organization. W. Clement Stone said "When you discover your mission, you will feel its demand. It will fill you with enthusiasm and a burning desire to get to work on it!"

Finally, AIA Chicago, in partnership with AIA National, has kicked off our 2022 Conference on Architecture planning! Helmed by past presidents Dawn Schuette, FAIA, and Scott Rappe, AIA, this will be an excellent opportunity for members to be involved as 20,000-plus architects from across the country will be descending on our great city and thirsting for in-person connections.

Jessica Figenholtz, AIA

CHICAGO ARCHITECT

EDITORS

Anjolie Rao
 editor@aiachicago.org

Liz Herrera Lauer
 liz@innovativepublishing.com

DESIGNER

Molly Dixon

ADVERTISING SALES

Innovative Publishing
 advertise@innovativepublishing.com
 844.423.7272



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.

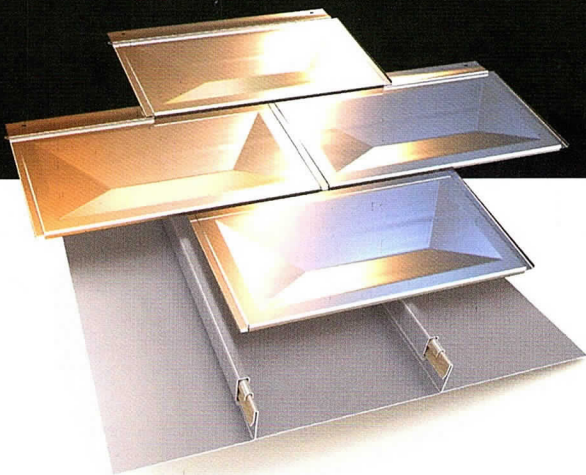
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Be Different



"I'm always looking to do something different. When I saw the cupped metal tiles, I said, 'Wow, I want to use this on my residence!'"

-Tom Deignan, Homeowner



Private Residence, PA Contractor: Mount Vernon Roofing Architect: 3GHC Architects
GC: Amicus Construction Photo: hortonphotoinc.com

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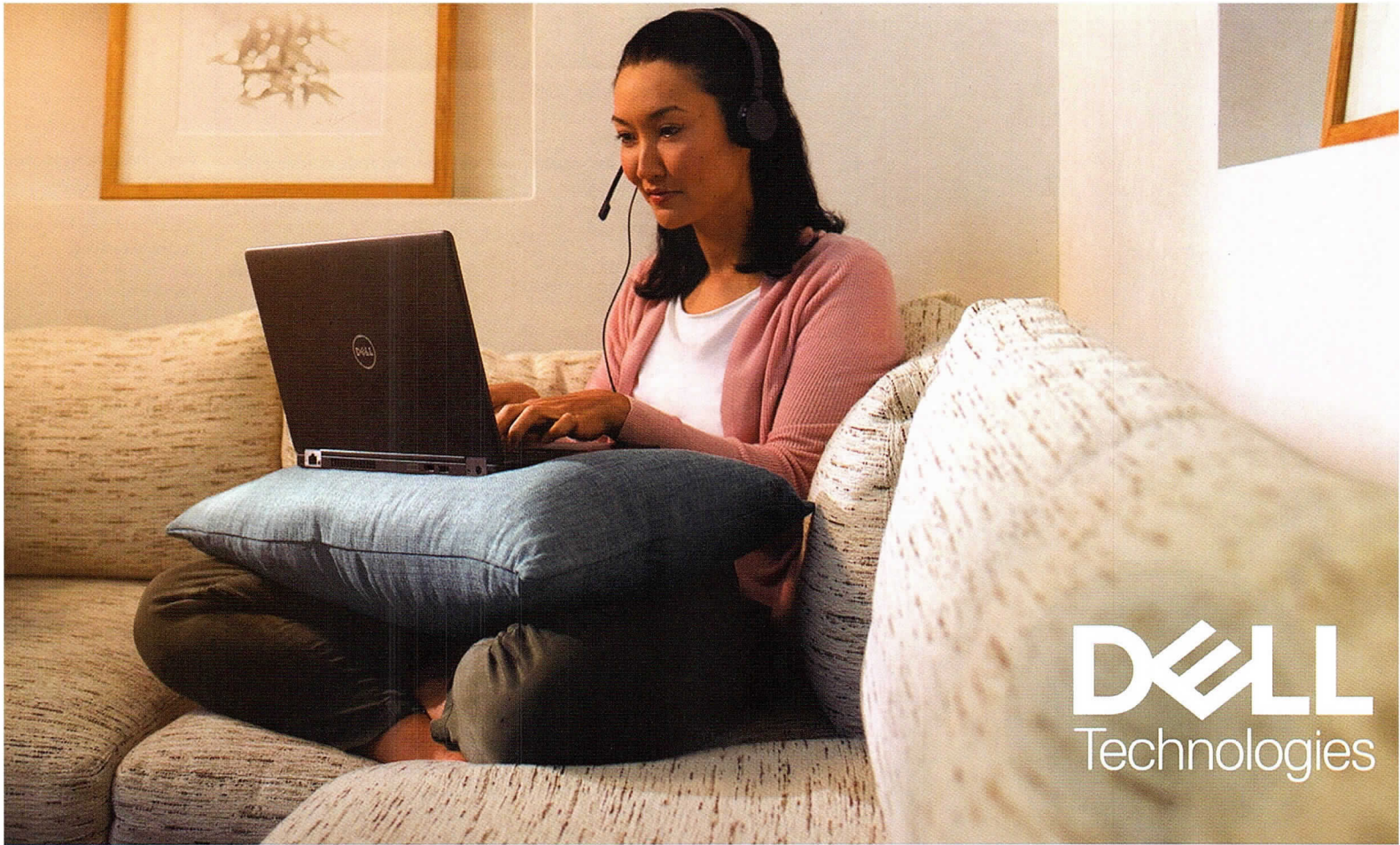
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Available Portraits

The concept of *The Available City* has been more than a decade in the making. Inspired by the potential of vacant lots in Chicago, 2021 Artistic Director David Brown undertook a research initiative to document and explore these spaces and to reimagine their potential.

The Available City will take place almost entirely around the city at sites located across roughly 10 neighborhoods. The former hub of the Biennial, the Chicago Cultural Center will serve as an information and orientation point to provide information about the 2021 program.


Taking over about 10 lots/sites across Chicago, the projects in *The Available City* will bring ideas for the use of these “collective spaces” to life, with contributors working closely with community organizations to create architectural interventions and related programming that will activate the space in ways

that will engage and enhance the community experience.

Read three portraits of three projects taking place at the 2021 Chicago Architecture Biennial:

- A Midwest firm visiting Chicago to activate community spaces with robotic ground paintings
- A native Chicagoan returning to his roots to re-create one

of his formative Chicago memories: the block party

- A Chicago- and Los Angeles-based duo that reimagines the conventional living room for other living beings 

The 2021 Chicago Architecture Biennial, The Available City, opens on September 17 and runs through 2021.

Cover the Grid

Outpost Office

Columbus, Ohio-based Outpost Office brings their acclaimed robot drawings to Chicago in *Cover the Grid*: a two-site installation of street paintings located at the North Lawndale Westside Association for Community Action (WACA) under the Central Park Pink Line stop, and Pilsen's El Paseo Community Garden.

The duo of Ashley Bigham and Erik Herrmann originally developed the concept of using a GPS-controlled field-marking robot, often used to paint lines in temporary sport fields, in their winning 2020 Ragdale Ring competition entry titled "Drawing Fields." Guiding the robotic painting device, Outpost created temporary painted designs on the Ragdale lawn, inviting members of the public to take turns operating the GPS device to create their own unique patterns.

"The robotic device allows us to minimize waste," said Bigham, "and we are always considering the lifecycle of materials. We are able to create these large-scale urban interventions as a high-visibility, low-waste project." The duo plans to use zero-VOC paints that will change with foot traffic and weather.

"We learned a lot from the Ragdale project and we were able to perfect our methods, and now we're bringing those methods to Chicago," added Herrmann.

At both sites, Outpost will create a series of line drawings that respond to constraints and existing infrastructure and amenities, particularly through color. The North Lawndale site, according to Herrmann, is abundant with grays due to the

asphalt plaza, while the El Paseo garden is characterized by verdant greens. The design team, working with those communities, has planned a series of drawings that complement those textures.

"We've based the design a bit on the way color is calibrated through photography. On the WACA site, we produced a spectrum that allows gray to become a color," said Herrmann. "We're not trying to superimpose a new rich color, but instead we're intervening in a way that gives new readings into the sites." The WACA ground drawings will also respond to and refresh the plaza's existing amenities, like a nonregulation basketball court that is frequently used by the community. "They don't have a 3-point line drawn, currently, so we will be able to define that as well as spaces for spectators," said Herrmann. Other drawing elements include defined distances for double Dutch and four square courts.

One important component of this project is improvisation; the team hopes that, while the project will be activated during myriad Biennial events, communities will be able to react to those drawings in unanticipated ways. Though the patterns might appear rigid, they are designed alongside community members who use



IMAGE AND PHOTO COURTESY OF OUTPOST OFFICE

these spaces for a variety of unprogrammed activity like casual gatherings and free play. "We want people to occupy the geometry," said Herrmann. "We see ourselves with a system with rules and protocols — there are certain things that the robot can do — but we're able to improvise ways those patterns work on each

site. We have a lot of confidence in our audience so we don't try to over-prescribe. Because we feel like sometimes, if you just need a space to do nothing, we'd love to provide that as well as these other kinds of activities. Programs are not framed by the designer but by interpretation and improvisation." **CA**

Block Party

Studio Barnes with Shawhin Roudbari and MAS Context

Architect Germane Barnes has been on a tear: The recipient of a 2021-22 Rome Prize, 2021 Wheelwright Prize winner, and exhibitor in the MoMA Reconstructions exhibition, Barnes has garnered attention through his Miami-based research and design practice.

At the 2021 Chicago Architecture Biennial, Barnes is returning home: born and raised in K-town (North Lawndale) with deep roots in Chicago's West Side, Barnes is designing a series of structures and programs to be included on the Westside Association for Community Action site.

Barnes is working with Craig Stevens, AIA, and Haman Cross III of Under the Grid, a North Lawndale-based organization that employs community youth to do local art and design projects. Working closely with those young people, they have created Block Party: a series of

functional and portable furniture pieces that can be assembled and reconfigured to fit programming needs throughout the year.

"Those boxes can be used for seating for an outdoor movie theater, and can be repurposed as 'obstacles' for an annual kindergarten go-cart race," said Barnes. Youth are co-designing and building these 2-foot pieces, alongside planter boxes and tables. The centerpiece of the site's installation will be a 14-foot play structure designed by Barnes. Painted pink in homage to the nearby Pink

Line, the structure will include climbable and crawlable spaces, with portholes to observe the train above. Reminiscent of a bounce house commonly seen at Chicago block parties, the structure continues the celebratory block party experience.

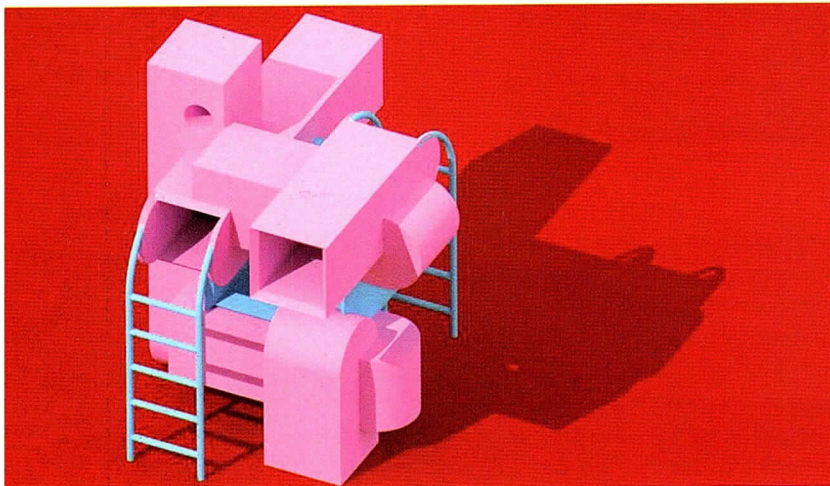
"The entire block party proposal was literally just born out of me thinking about being a kid in Chicago, thinking of families bringing out gifts for the school year, the basketball games and the barbecue, the jump rope. And that these things that we do — that we don't think anything of, because it's just something that we do, like sitting on the porch, going to a block party — are very important and interesting contributions to architecture," said Barnes.

Barnes and his team are planning monthly block parties to activate the site beginning in September, through the Biennial closing date in January 2022, but like Outpost Office, Barnes is banking on improvisation to carry the site's significance even when unprogrammed, and into the future. He hopes that the young people working with Cross and Stevens will become

interested in architecture and design through their work on the project, and that existing community frameworks like the Farm on Ogden and North Lawndale Christian facilities will help bolster the site's presence. "Our ambition is that once we get a lot of these collective events happening along the lot, this will push things forward. How can we get even bigger partners involved? And perhaps, if this goes really well, maybe the Chicago Bulls see what's happening and want to invest some resources, and then it can become something that's more sustainable," he said.

Ultimately, improvisation is a core of Barnes' practice.

"When you're doing community-oriented work, the one thing you have to learn very quickly is that realities change and they change immediately," he said. "These are vulnerable populations that a lot of times don't have consistency. You have to be free within the work and to remove a lot of the ego, which we typically don't as architects and designers. But in the end, if you are really a servant of the people, you have to be willing to alter your vision." **CA**



The play structure by Studio Barnes will invite children to see their neighborhood from different vantage points. IMAGE COURTESY OF STUDIO BARNES

Living Room

Bittertang Farm

In 2013, the Chicago Christian Alternative Academy, located near Pulaski and Roosevelt in North Lawndale, began a new holistic wellness program to introduce healthy lifestyles into their high school curriculum.

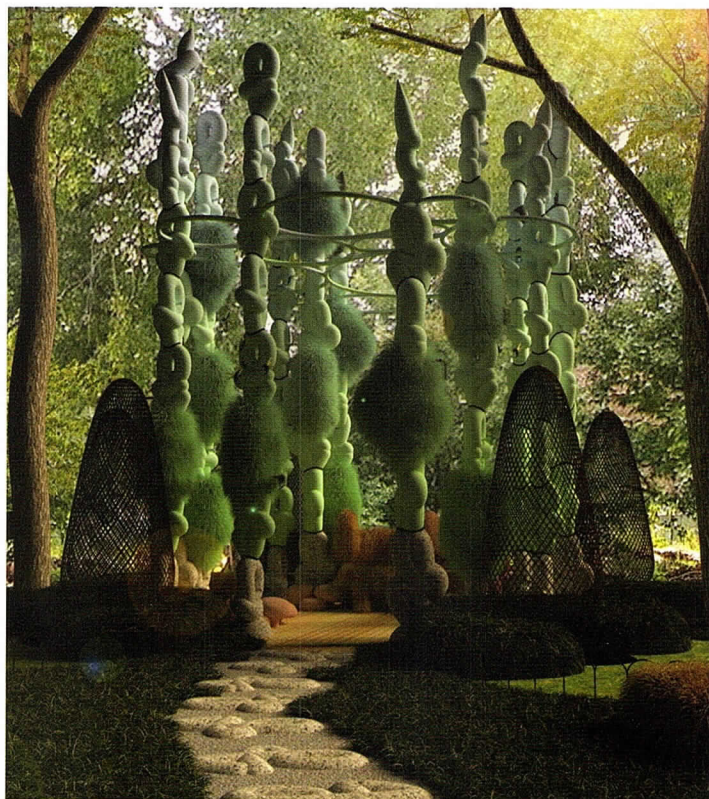
Over the years, the school partnered with the School of the Art Institute of Chicago to bring in designers to help cultivate a new permaculture forest, called the PermaPark. One block south of the school, students have worked with arborists, architects, community members and more to create a space that educates students about horticulture and healthy eating. As part of the 2021 Chicago Architecture Biennial, architecture firm Bittertang Farm — led by Chicago-based architect Antonio Torres (also a professor at the University of Illinois Chicago) and Los Angeles-based architect Michael Loverich — will create a new addition to the PermaPark: a permaculture Living Room.

The Living Room project began with the 2019 Biennial iteration, when Bittertang worked with 2019 participant and 2021 Artistic Director David Brown on a series of student workshops that deated around a community seating space within the garden. Brown invited the duo back in 2021 to construct a space that melds horticulture

and architecture.

“We were very interested in the way that permaculture organizes space; how it thinks about the sectional qualities of landscaping and gardening. And so we wanted to see if there are ways of incorporating some of those ideas from permaculture into architecture,” said Loverich. The team began thinking about the living room as a place for gathering or communing, laid out similarly to a domestic living room with a variety of furniture, but with a permaculture twist. “A domestic living room creates space for gathering and for people to communicate with each other, but what if we created a place for animals and plants to inhabit it, as well, so that you kind of get this combination of people, birds, and insects and plants?”

To create that type of permaculture-inspired domestic environment, the designers carefully considered materials and textures. Several vertical columns will enclose the living room space, each created by hand with an Illinois chainsaw artist, who will carve each column using hardwoods. To



create softer sculptural elements, the designers are weaving willow branches that, in later seasons, will incorporate live willow branches to create new habitats. As for seating, the team is looking to create “alive” seats integrated with the ground that allow for mushrooms to grow underneath, using shadows cast by the seats that create microenvironments.

“The project is going to be living, so we also imagine that it will transform from season to season, but it’s also going to be permanent. Over the years, it’s going to grow. So there is going to be not just human activity that is occurring here; we anticipate there to be birds and insects, too,” said Loverich.

The space will host programming for the Biennial and will live on to host those birds and insects — as well as students as an outdoor classroom and social space. Its proximity to Pulaski at a busy intersection will beckon passersby with its long vertical columns decorated in woven willows, increasing its presence and impact. “The project is responding to the natural ecosystem created within the park,” described Torres, “but we wanted to also create this vertical structure that races up from the park to become visible from Pulaski Road. And that could be something that starts to draw people that are passing by into this community space.” **CA**



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A Visionary Future for AIA Chicago

Over the last year, the AIA Chicago Board of Directors has embarked on a strategic planning process — one that has involved our members and stakeholders and guided by our partners at Executive Services Corp. We'd like to express our appreciation for all members and allied partners who contributed to our nine-month strategic planning process. Since that time, AIA Chicago has adopted a new logo and we are pleased to release our new Mission and Vision statements.

This is our first strategic plan in more than 25 years. With this guiding document we can establish an organizational direction and sharpen our focus, specifically over the next three years. We have implemented a system to evaluate and monitor our progress, and will continue to update members as we move through implementation.

With six areas of focus vertically, we have woven in two major threads horizontally: JEDI (justice, equity, diversity and inclusion), and climate crisis

AIA Chicago Mission:

AIA Chicago builds on our city's architectural legacy by advocating for the profession, sharing knowledge among members, and partnering with communities.

AIA Chicago Vision:

Fostering a culture of design excellence for equitable, sustainable places and spaces.

and sustainability.

Every decision we make as an organization, we will strive to ensure these guiding principles are a

prevalent and apparent.

Stay tuned for updates and the official roll out of the Strategic Plan to membership.

Announcing the 2021 AIA Chicago Foundation Diversity Scholarship Recipients

The AIA Chicago Foundation Board of Directors has announced two recipients of the annual Diversity Scholarship, an opportunity to attract and retain diverse, talented young professionals in Chicago and that recognizes the value of new and unique voices in the profession. One \$10,000 graduate scholarship and one \$10,000 undergraduate scholarship is awarded each year.



Graduate Award:

Hsu Myat Aung, AIAS, Illinois Institute of Technology

Hsu Myat Aung is a first-year graduate student at the Illinois Institute of Technology. She is a co-founder of the nonprofit organization Human Scale.



Undergraduate Award:

William Manzanilla, AIAS, Illinois Institute of Technology

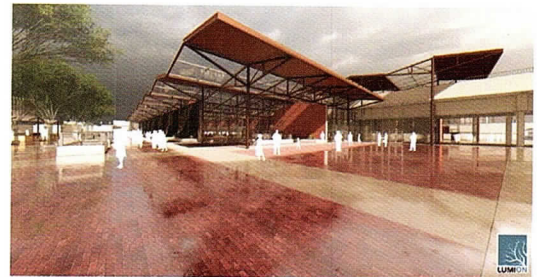
William Manzanilla is an incoming fourth-year student at the Illinois Institute of Technology and an alumnus of the ACE Mentor Program.

2021 Student Awards in Architecture

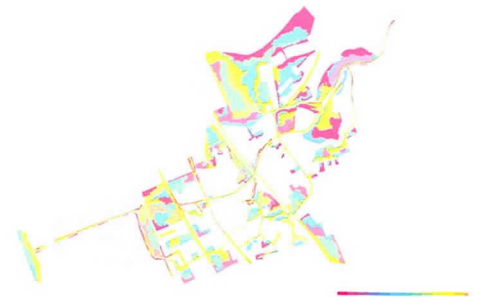
The AIA Chicago Foundation has announced its 2021 Student Awards in Architecture.



1st Place, Benn Johnck Award
Urban West Dance Center
 Yash Mehta
 University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee



2nd Place:
Lamination, A New Chinatown Market
 Noah Donica & Zhiqiang Shi
 Illinois Institute of Technology



3rd Place:
A Pantone Pixelscape: Negotiating Thresholds through Gradients
 Tasmia Kamal and Cesar Gomez
 Illinois Institute of Technology

HONORABLE MENTIONS:

The Sieve: Uptown Chicago Apartments
 Yiti 'Alice' Gao & Albert Santoso
 Illinois Institute of Technology

Adaptive Reuse as a Tool for Combating the Affordable Housing Crisis
 Amanda Fusion
 The School of the Art Institute of Chicago

Under the Umbrella: Chinatown Market Hall
 Rama Alsaïd-Souliman, Austin Bower and Lauren Tudor
 Illinois Institute of Technology

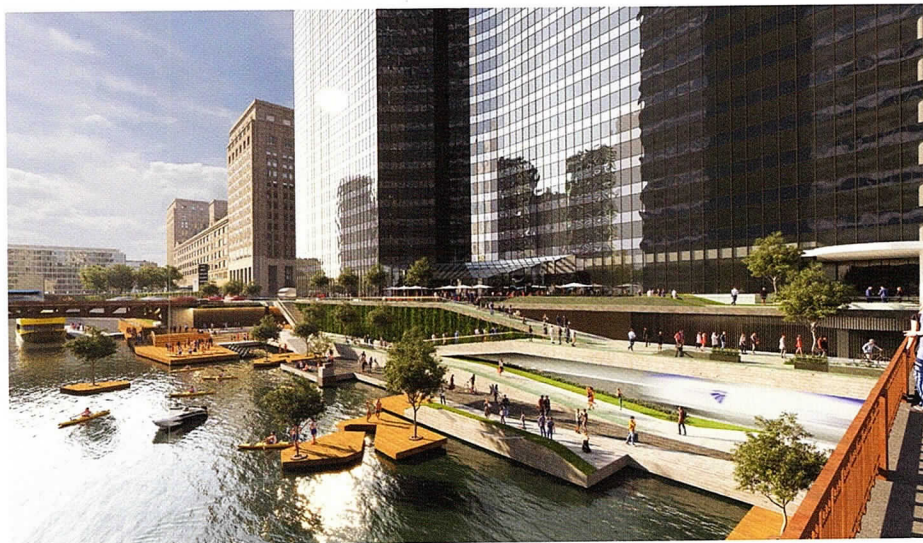
Open UpTown - Exploring Porosity
 Austin Bower, Spencer Goff, Pengbo Liao
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Woodhouse Tinucci Architects received a 2021 AIA national Small Project Award for their Gillson Park Beach House in Wilmette, IL.



DMAC Architecture has released their proposal for Riverwalk@300SRP—a reactivation of a dormant platform along a stretch of the Chicago River’s South Branch.



Two AIA Chicago members received the 2021 national AIA Young Architect Award: **Jennifer Park, AIA**, and **Danielle Tillman, AIA**. **Tiara Hughes, Assoc. AIA**, received a 2021 national AIA Associates Award.

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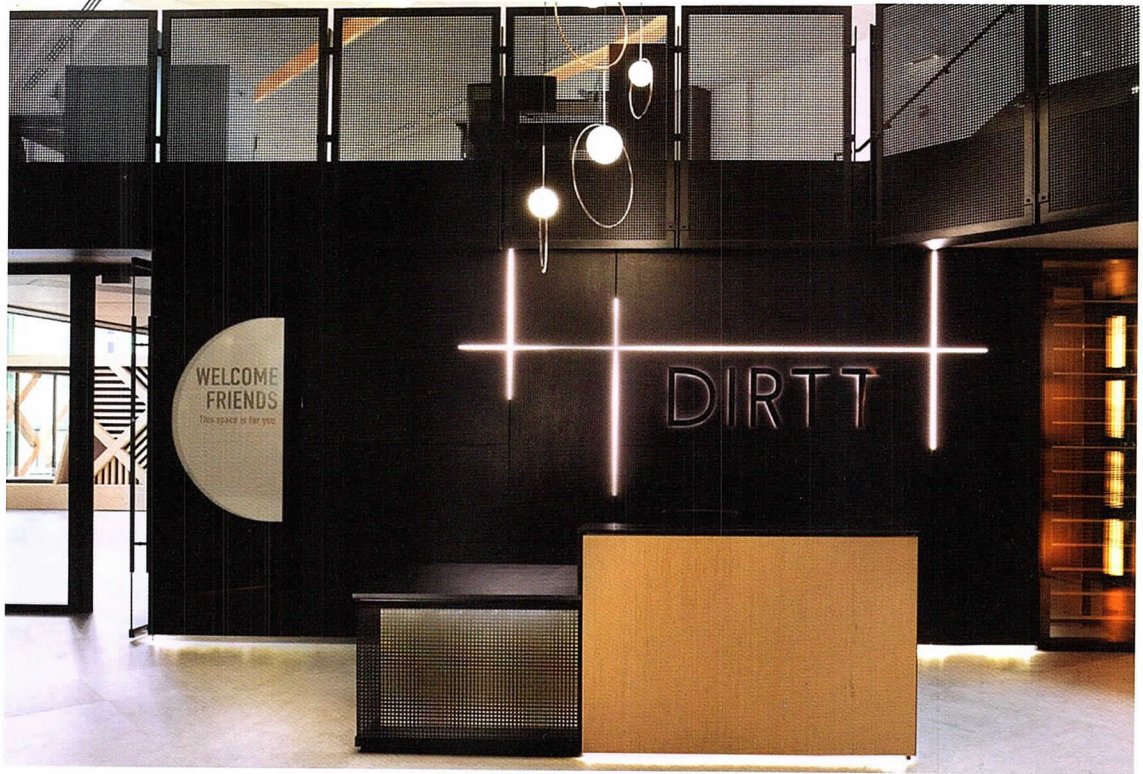
Kenneth Turner, AIA, has joined **DLR Group** to establish a tall buildings practice.



The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Award for Architectural Excellence in Community Design was awarded to three Chicago projects: first place went to **STL Architects** for Williams Park Fieldhouse; second place was awarded to **HED, JGMA, bKL, and Farr Associates** for Lathrop; and in third place was **Canopy/Architecture + Design** for Oso Apartments.

Simeone Deary Design Group recently merged with **KTGY Architecture + Planning** — which operates six U.S. offices — to create **KTGY Simeone Deary Design Group**.

John Vinci, FAIA; Tim Samuelson; graphic artist **Chris Ware**; and Urban Remains founder **Eric Nordstrom** co-curated Wrightwood 659's new exhibition, *Romanticism to Ruin: Two Lost Works of Sullivan and Wright*. The exhibition explores two long-demolished masterpieces: Louis H. Sullivan's innovative Garrick Theater and Frank Lloyd Wright's unprecedented Larkin Building, in Buffalo, New York.



Ware Malcomb has completed the Chicago DIRT Experience Center (DXC), an immersive experience center located at 325 North Wells Street in Chicago. In collaboration with DIRT, Ware Malcomb provided interior architecture and design for the project.

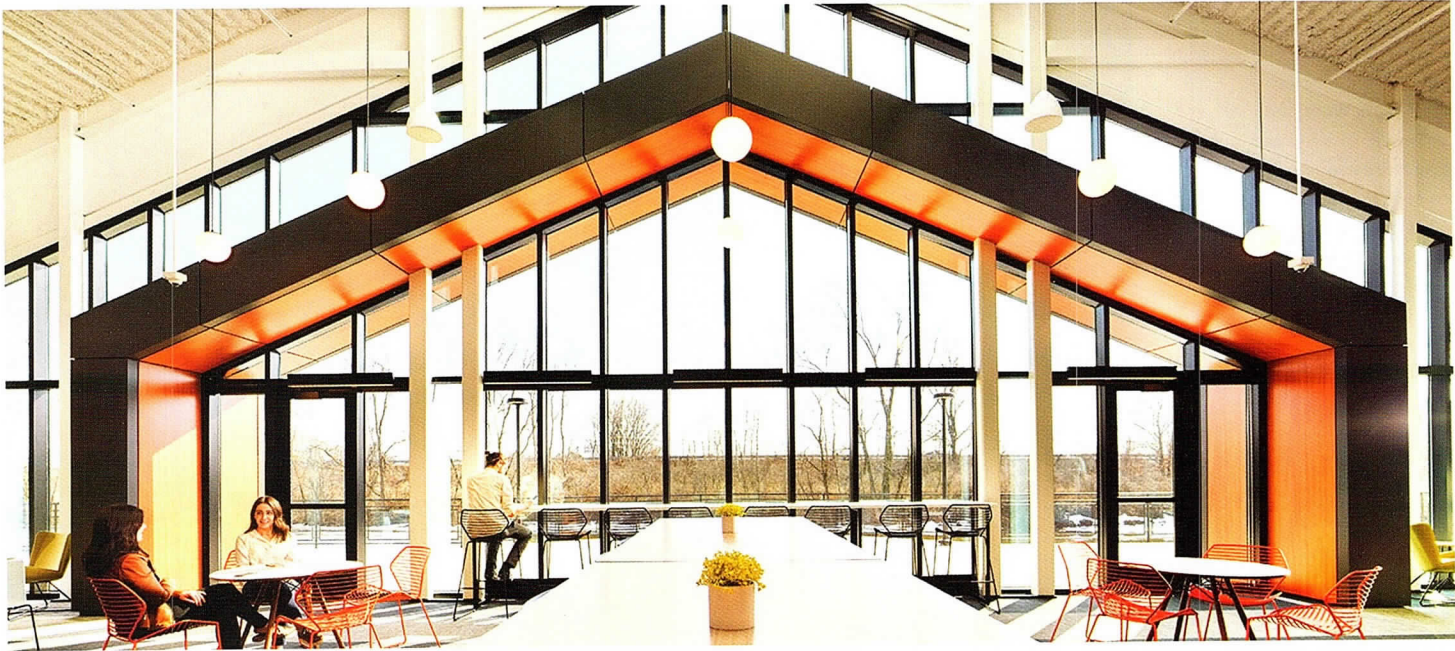
PEOPLE + PROJECTS



AKA Architects has completed a renovation of the Fertility Centers of Illinois, including design development, finishes, and construction administration.



Burhani Design Inc. and **Epstein** recently collaborated to present their ideas to renovate the Outdoor Recreation field for Talcott Elementary School and were successful in assisting them to secure additional funding to commence design for Phase 1 this summer. The renovation includes the addition of a new turf field, a running track, volleyball and basketball courts, and seating areas to conduct outdoor classrooms.

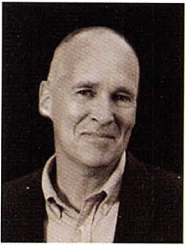


Ghafari Associates has completed the Northpointe Bank Operations Center in Grand Rapids, Michigan. This facility assumes the role of the national operations hub for Northpointe's growing residential lending and servicing groups.

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Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture's new Steppenwolf Theater Art and Education Center will open at the end of the summer. It is the largest permanent cultural asset opening in Chicago this year at 50,000 square feet, including a new 400-seat Round Theater (one of its kind in Chicago), two new bars, and Steppenwolf's first dedicated education center, which will provide programming for teens and the community.



Solomon Cordwell Buenz has opened a new office in Boston, Massachusetts, and will be led by Executive Director and Principal Clara Wineberg, AIA, LEED AP BD+C. Principal Bryan Irwin, AIA, LEED AP, is directing the East Coast office's campus environments studio.

Vorn Jerabek Wiltse Architects has been renamed as WJW Architects, marking their 10th anniversary.



Christopher Lawton and Micah Stanley of Lawton Stanley Architects have designed Ever, a Michelin-starred restaurant in Chicago.

COLLECTIVELY INVESTED

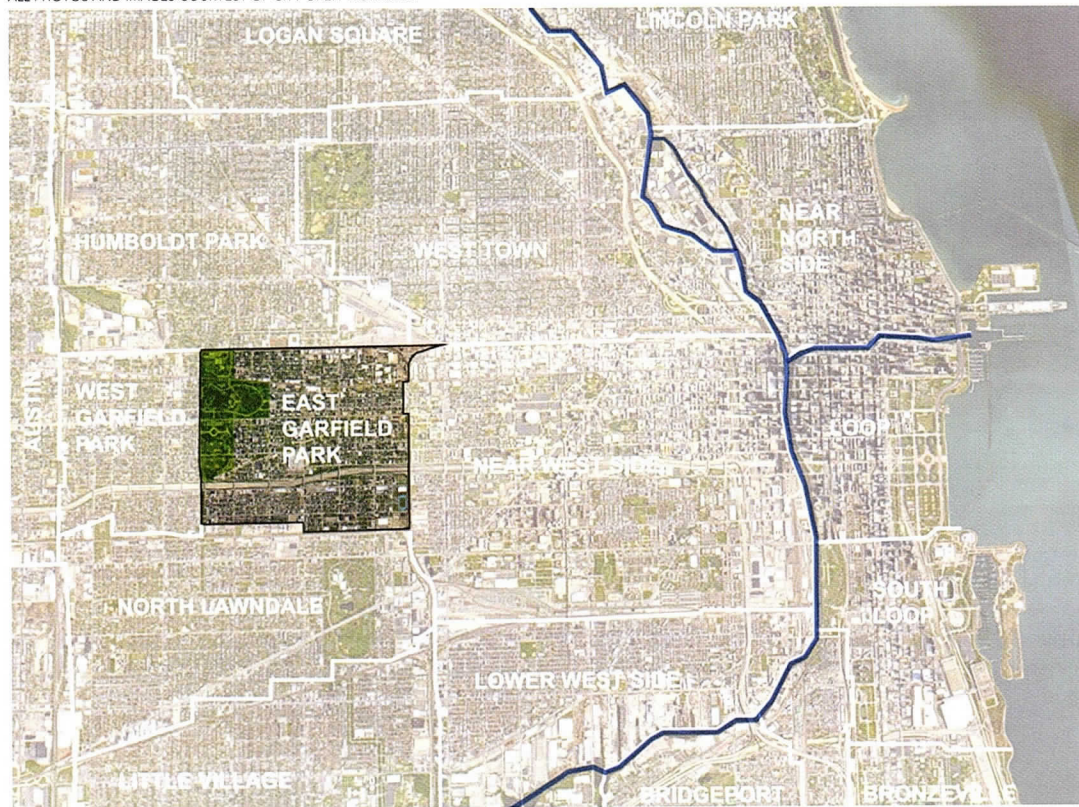
City Open Workshop Is Designing Processes for Community Engagement



Led by Paola Aguirre, Assoc. AIA, and Elle Ramel of GET Cities, City Open Workshop brings design processes to communities as a platform for citizen-driven change. Since 2016, the group of interdisciplinary volunteers ranging from architects to planners, nonprofit professionals to “big data” experts, has been meeting in three-month sessions to build meaningful collaborations between community partners, policymakers and the urban planning and design community to foster civic discourse about Chicago’s built environment and spark curiosity and investment in its communities. In the spring 2021 season, the group gathered to ask the question: How do we imagine more inclusive and meaningful planning and visioning processes for historically disinvested neighborhood corridors?

This season, City Open Workshop focused on the heavily disinvested Madison Street commercial corridor on Chicago’s West Side — East Garfield Park. Inspired by recent reporting from *ProPublica Illinois’* “Disinvested” that documents decades of targeted disinvestment and demolition in the East Garfield Park neighborhood, City Open Workshop dedicated its spring 2021 season to developing research, strategizing outreach and engagement methods — including individual and institutional storytelling — and exploring creative documentation, among others, to collaboratively frame a community visioning process for Madison Street. City Open Workshop, in collaboration with AIA Chicago, dedicated this season to studying

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City Open format: City Open hosts two types of meetups: regular biweekly workshops, which usually include a guest speaker and some breakout exercises, and working group sessions. Working group sessions are the “in-between” sessions (typically alternating with workshop weeks) that provide a “deeper dive” into planning and design discussions. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, these sessions were held virtually.

ProPublica Article: Disinvested: How Government and Private Industry Let the Main Street of a Black Neighborhood Crumble

1950's-60's

1970's

1980's

1990's

2000's

2010's

Post WWII
Second Great Migration
White flight
Fifth City formation
King and local activists picketed for fair wage
'68 riots (200 bldgs destroyed citywide)

1,600 buildings demolished from 1972-1979, incl. + 2,675 buildings in 1975.
Model Cities Program

By 1980, 32,000 people left in the neighborhood (less than 1/2 its population 20 yrs earlier).
Reagan elected, big-gov programs began shrinking.

Chicago increased demo spending from \$2.5 million in 1990 to ~ \$10 million in 1993.
United Stadium opens.

City = largest landowner of West and South sides: 11,000 lots across Chicago: 530 in E Garfield Park, 40 front Madison St.
Economic recession.
Madison St revitalization plan created but never fully realized.

Ward boundaries redrawn.
Mayor Rahm Emanuel launched Large Lots with looser restrictions. E Garfield Park and Englewood were pilot programs.
Garfield Park Chamber of Commerce drafts plan to reimagine Madison St.

and framing possibilities for a design and planning process that is responsive to the specific challenges of Madison Street.

In the following pages, you'll read more about their journey toward creating a design engagement

process; examining tools for outreach, documentation and communication; identifying community partners;

and collaboratively framing the most pressing issues faced by the corridor and surrounding neighborhoods.

Identifying the Research: Starting Point

BY GENEVIEVE WASSER, ARCHITECT AT VIA CHICAGO ARCHITECTS, AND LOUISA ZHENG, DESIGNER AT LATENT DESIGN, 2021 CITY OPEN WORKSHOP FELLOWS



This evening we examined the question through an art and historical research lens. Meida McNeal, artistic and managing director of Honey Pot Performance, and University of Chicago and Columbia College faculty member, presented on her research and performance project, *Fifth City Revisited*. Fifth City was located on Fifth Avenue, adjacent to East Garfield Park's Madison Street commercial corridor. Her work delves into the background

of the Fifth City Project. The project was formed in the early 1960s as a unique grassroots development project. Fifth City community members resisted a narrative of disenfranchisement, organizing around participatory self-autonomy and collective empowerment. While sociologists in the 1980s characterized four types of community (downtown, inner city, suburban or rural), Fifth City was born out of a fifth type: a decisional city that could be

whatever the residents wanted it to be.

After a lively, always-too-short Q&A with Meida following her presentation, we broke into three groups to map our collective knowledge and follow-up questions about the neighborhood. The prompts included:

- What should we know now?
- Who do we need to listen to/learn from?
- What would you like to learn about?

What we learned:

We examined Fifth City as a model and prototype for community care and self-determination in the 1960s and learned how that can help us in the current planning process to consider alternative models for community development.



Site Tour: A Guided Walk Through East Garfield Park

BY JUAN LUNA, OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT SPECIALIST AT LUCHA

In the middle of a large lot between two one-story-tall commercial businesses, the first stop of our guided tour of East Garfield Park is Western Union and Catfish Corner. As part of our strategic outreach and engagement methods, we participated in a guided tour of the community. Through his vast historical knowledge and connection to East Garfield Park, our tour guide, Jason Ferguson, provided firsthand insight into the ways community members interact and navigate the space that is the Madison Commercial Corridor.

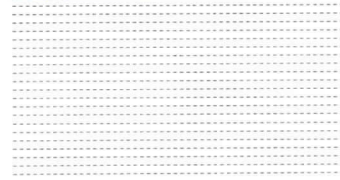


Jason is the coach of GOlympians at Marshall High School in the neighborhood. A lifelong resident of East Garfield Park and a prominent figure in the community, Jason gave us the pleasure of being our tour guide. As we walked down Madison Street, Jason continued on, effortlessly sewing the history of systemic racism East Garfield Park faced with the current state it is in. He noted the aftermath of the 1968 Chicago riots following the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. and the city's part in years of falsely promising to prioritize the rebuilding of Madison Street. The aftermath was large lots that lay empty, neglected or completely abandoned for years, decreasing the storefronts for local entrepreneurs to lease.

Along the way, Jason pointed out the various vacant lots and boarded-up windows,

highlighting remnants of the once-thriving corridor. Jason recounted the several businesses and services that once filled the stretch. He pointed to empty lots and parcels that once housed local businesses, specialized shops, small grocery stores, corner stores, restaurants, and social service offices and clinics.

Our tour then led us to the intersection of Kedzie and Madison. At this intersection, Jason stopped us to recenter our focus on the two buildings. We stood in front of a Dollar Tree with wooden boards blocking the windows. Facing directly across from the Dollar Tree is a historic greystone building. He noted the similarities between the two, referring to how both lost interest from outside as well as local businesses in returning. Although much time has passed since these businesses shuttered, no



organized plan from an institution has been put in place.

Jason guided the group down Fifth Avenue, a diagonal strip in East Garfield Park. As we crossed the street, we could see large empty lots with a few standing two-to-three-flat units along Fifth Avenue. As we continued our tour, Jason pointed out several examples of subsidized housing newly built on Monroe Street, which seems to have become a growing trend. However, as alluded to by Jason, the growth of the community won't happen so easily. Walking down Fifth Avenue, we saw more empty lots along with several buildings in poor condition, and Jason brought back our attention to the current issues the community is facing.

Jason informed the group of the avenue's history and how it has shaped the present. As a way to improve public safety, the City of

Chicago planned to demolish several of the buildings that were seen as blights after the 1968 riots. However, the properties that were demolished remained empty for a while. We paused at a large lot with a real estate agent's "For Sale" sign. Jason informed us more on how the vacant properties were then purchased by speculators, often from outside the community, who had little to no intention of developing the parcels following demolition.

We proceeded walking northeast, bound toward our final stop at the intersection of California and Madison. Here Jason provided the group with more insight into the community's current political issues regarding elected officials and developers, as well as the intercommunity tensions with West Loop expanding its development in the neighborhood. Once the conversation was over, the group continued walking north on Fifth Avenue, approaching the final stop.

Wrapping up the last part of the tour, we stood at the intersection of North California and West Madison. Jason pointed out two important spaces around this corner. The first was Catfish Corner, a once well-known barbecue restaurant in the neighborhood that was often a location where various events were held and groups would congregate. The second was the Fred Hampton Black Panther Party mural. Not so far from this intersection was Hampton's home and the site of his assassination. Jason concluded the tour by pointing out various murals, landmarks of the Black Panther Party, and the landmarks and place-makers acknowledged by local neighborhood residents.

TRENDing: A Look at Community-Serving Corridor Development

BY GENEVIEVE WASSER AND LOUISA ZHENG

This week we were thinking about collective mapping of resources within a neighborhood. Our guest speaker, Lyneir Richardson, co-founder and CEO of the Chicago TREND Corporation, spoke to City Open Workshop about his experience in community-focused residential and commercial corridor development. Lyneir's particular forte is communicating the value of overlooked commercial corridors to retailers. Since starting Chicago TREND in 2016, his projects focus on the central questions of "How can retail strengthen neighborhoods?" and "Can we use capital to empower entrepreneurs of color who lead, own and drive commercial corridor development?"

After Lyneir spoke, City Open Workshop participants raised the following questions, which were addressed in the following abridged Q&A.

Q: How are development sites determined? Is it based on parcels that are already purchased, or are they chosen based on where the residents live and believe they should be located?

A: The challenge with urban corridors is that parcels tend to be individually owned by different owners, each with their own goals and objectives for how they use the property. It often comes down to finding a synergy between what the community desires and a risk assessment on behalf of the investor.

Q: How do you work within a commercial corridor when the surrounding neighborhood is declining in population? Do you

look for services — healthcare, day care, etc.?

A: Part of Chicago TREND's work was to identify neighborhoods on the cusp of change. Look for the assets in a neighborhood that can serve as an anchor around which to strengthen a corridor. Can you find nontraditional anchors? It's not always about retail but strengthening the corridor. Services like health care or day care centers work really well for this.

Q: On misalignment of perception vs. reality of the economic development potential in a neighborhood, what approaches are used to mediate it?

A: I remember it was the first time I looked up the definition of ignorance. Ignorance is ignoring available information. I said this is a great neighborhood — there's density, but there's a

lack of grocery store competition. A lot of this is not just about information, it's about relationships. It's about building a relationship with people who

can help advocate and convince retailers beyond just using the data and the dollars. It's about deal-making and the relationship as well.

How can retail strengthen neighborhoods? How can we use capital to empower entrepreneurs of color that lead, own and drive commercial corridor development in neighborhoods?



Lyneir Richardson
Chicago TREND

What we learned: How retail can strengthen neighborhoods and how we can use capital to empower entrepreneurs of color who lead, own and drive commercial corridor development in neighborhoods.

What Do We Mean When We Say 'Community'?

BY GENEVIEVE WASSER AND LOUISA ZHENG



majority of housing stock is two-to-four-family buildings, and about a growing developer interest in the plethora of city-owned neighborhood lots, especially in East Garfield Park. GPCC is currently in conversation with the city on “near-West” development initiatives.

A handful of questions popped up in the chat during the presentation, including who is implied with the word “community” and what Mike sees as the major distinction between East and West Garfield Park. He clarified that, for him, the “community” refers to residents and that GPCC has a stronger presence of homeowners than renters, despite renters making up 70 percent of Garfield Park residents. In terms of East and West, Mike cited a 2008 study that revealed a desire for destination development in West Garfield Park but a clear preference for walkability in East Garfield Park. He acknowledged the study was old but suggested that things haven’t changed much where this question is concerned.

Mike Tomas, founding executive director of the Garfield Park Community Council (GPCC), joined us as guest speaker. GPCC has been an active community organizer in the area

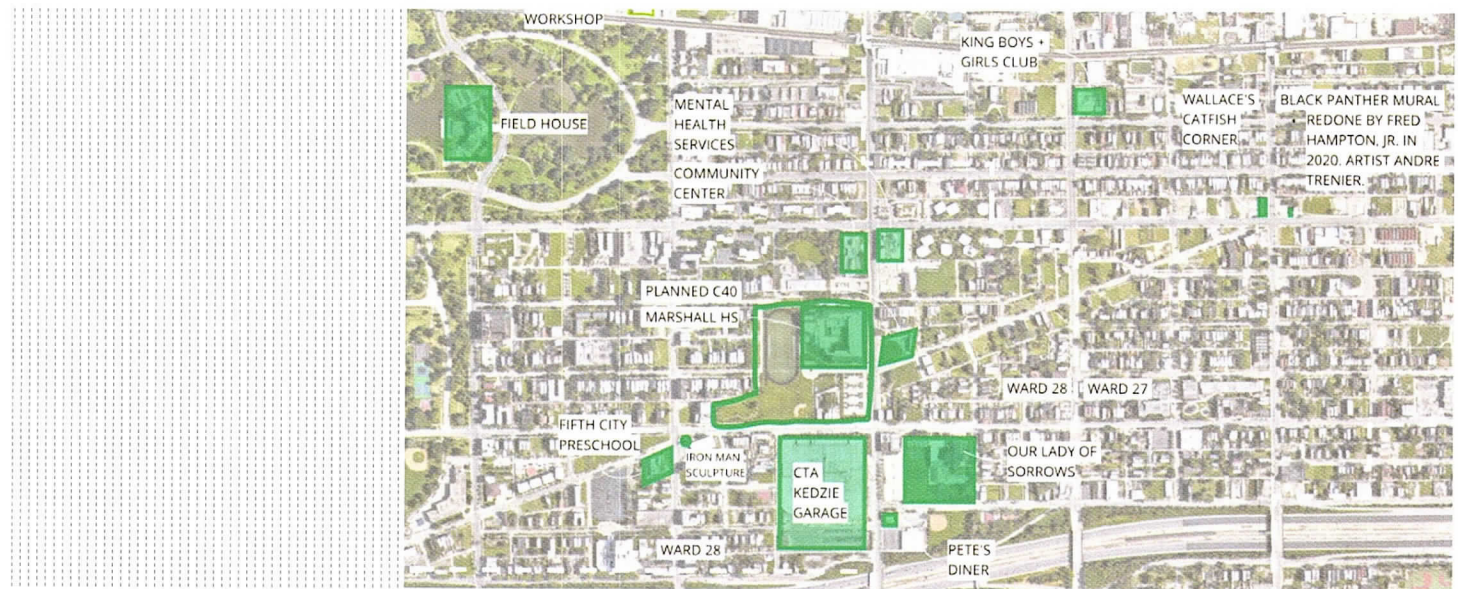
for more than eight years. While their most recent work has centered on COVID-19 relief efforts, over the years GPCC has focused on issues such as corridor development, crime

reduction, supporting legacy homeowners, and affordability, among others. We learned about a major increase (142 percent) in Garfield Park housing prices since the recession, that the

What we learned: East Garfield Park has many current community-based efforts to bring community together around health, wellness, housing and community development. Community corridor studies have been conducted in the past — how can we draw from those past efforts?

How Do We Engage (the) Community?

BY TOM MARTIN, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE ASSOCIATE AT THE LAKOTA GROUP



One guest speaker, Al Walker, a leader with Chicago Sustainability Leaders Network (CSLN) — an organization that “connects grassroots leaders from communities across Chicago to share resources, support each other’s work, collaborate, build a stronger collective voice, and nurture equitable and impactful relationships with policy makers” — helped City Open Workshop understand how to identify community assets.

Central to CSLN’s founding was the Institute of Cultural Affairs’ (ICA) accelerate77 program, which proposes to accelerate growth within Chicago’s 77 communities by

focusing on assets already present in a given community. For seven years, CSLN has carried out these initiatives, which have aided in the development of several more localized groups like the Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance, which aim to grow their community with a focus on their green space assets.

You may ask yourself — how do CSLN and affiliated groups identify assets within a community? Simply put: Ask the community. CSLN partners with these localized groups to host “Nourishing Community Events” where leaders and neighbors alike participate in a facilitated conversation regarding the

current issues facing their community and assets that may help in addressing these issues. CSLN’s access to municipal resources and city officials provides a framework for addressing these issues and furthering investment in community assets.

Common assets often in need of investment are burgeoning local businesses. Two Garfield Park examples shared were the Westside Bee Boyz, an organization that utilizes a holistic approach to beekeeping to improve community, and Inspiration Kitchen, an organization that helps train low-income and homeless Chicagoans in the

What we learned:
The community knows what their assets are and what is needed. We require tools to be able to capture the community’s hopes, needs, memories and visions.

foodservice industry. These businesses and organizations are essential to the vitality of a neighborhood. Al put it succinctly toward the end of the presentation by noting that “all communities have assets” — a crucial shift in perspective and approach for this season and beyond.

Reflections on a Season of Learning

BY THE CITY OPEN TEAM

Throughout the spring 2021 season, City Open Workshop heard from the above speakers, toured the East Garfield community and broke into working groups to distill what we learned from our guests, tours, research and analysis. Imagine how design and storytelling can contribute to making these stories visible and create opportunities for exchange — what is needed to make that possible? With a more comprehensive understanding of the people and assets that make up the neighborhood, City Open participants were able to generate ideas for analog and digital tools to gather that “soft” data.

The Postcard

City Open Workshop created a postcard: a prepaid, mailable postcard featuring historic photos of Madison Street. Residents can respond to a prompt, asking for short memories or hopes for their corridor. (See Figures 1 and 2)

The Voicemail Service

We also provided a voicemail service that residents can call to leave a message of their thoughts and ideas for Madison Street’s development.

Intercept Interviews

City Open Workshop generated a pop-up toolkit — folding tables, audio recording equipment, snacks, water and signage — that can be transported to community hubs (identified through research and guest speakers) to collect stories in person. (See Figure 3) The kit also includes the postcard to mail in, and business cards that have the voicemail service number in case passersby would prefer to mail in or call in their stories or visions.

After soft data collection, participants decided that sharing these stories and visions would be crucial to influencing any future design or development projects that occur in the area. Documentation and sharing are key to City Open’s practice. (See Figures 4 and 5)

Cultural Asset Mapping Project (CAMP)

CAMP uses digital visualization online to create interactive maps that pair storytelling with GES. Website visitors can peruse the neighborhood’s digital landmarks, reading stories attributed to each site. (See Figure 5)

Storycatcher

Similar to the intercept interviews, documentation of community vision can be taken to the streets in large-scale, public installations. There are opportunities to create temporary murals or structures that showcase individual stories and hopes for new development. Pairing community visionaries with design experts, these ideas can be translated into intimate visualizations. (See Figure 6)

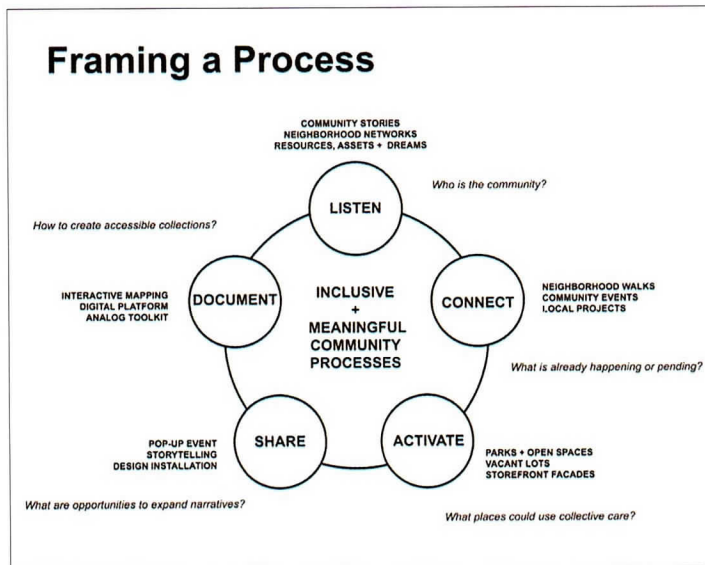




Figure 1

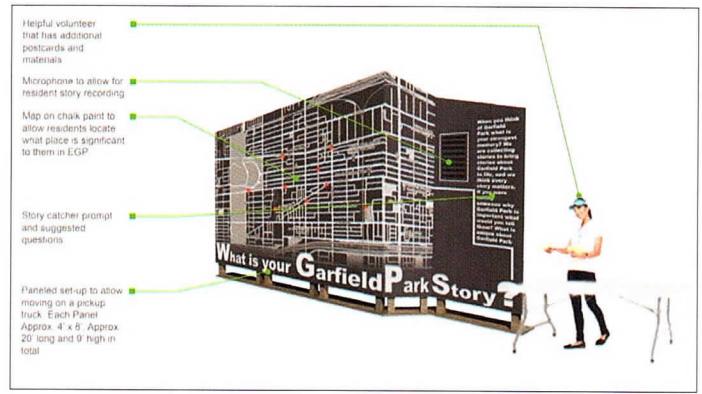


Figure 3

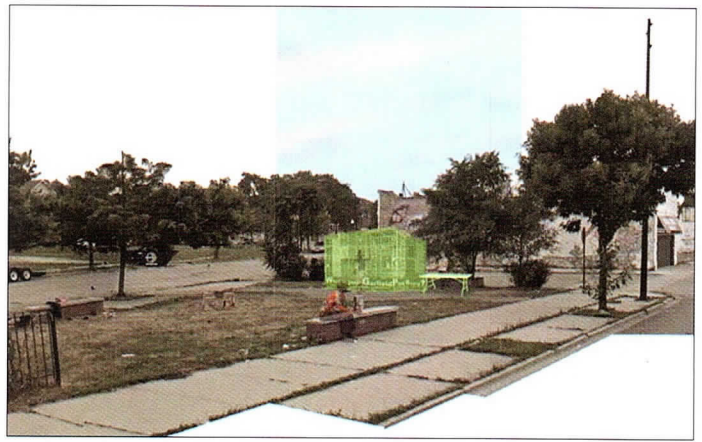


Figure 4

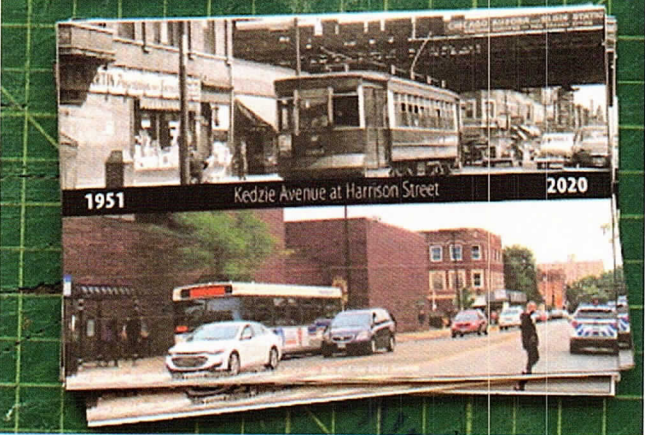


Figure 2



Figure 5



Figure 6

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ROMANTICISM TO RUIN: TWO LOST WORKS OF SULLIVAN & WRIGHT

OPENING IN CHICAGO
SEPTEMBER 24, 2021

Wrightwood 659 presents *Romanticism to Ruin: Two Lost Works of Sullivan and Wright*, a dual exhibition that brings to life two long-gone masterpieces: Louis H. Sullivan's innovative Garrick Theater, in Chicago, and Frank Lloyd Wright's unprecedented Larkin Building, in Buffalo.

Two distinct presentations—*Reconstructing the Garrick: Adler & Sullivan's Lost Masterpiece* and *Reimagining the Larkin: Frank Lloyd Wright's Modern Icon*—bring the essence of these titans of modern American architecture to life through 3D models and digital re-creations; salvaged architectural ornaments and artifacts; historical documentation of the design, construction, and demise of the buildings; and archival photographs taken by noted preservationist and photographer Richard Nickel, demonstrating how these iconic designs continue to resonate and remain relevant.



Reconstructing the Garrick: Adler & Sullivan's Lost Masterpiece

Curated by John Vinci with Tim Samuelson, Eric Nordstrom and Chris Ware



Reimagining The Larkin: Frank Lloyd Wright's Modern Icon

Curated by Jonathan D. Katz

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IMAGE CREDITS FROM TOP

Exterior Garrick Theater, 1960. Courtesy of HABS/HAER Collection, National Park Services. Photo by Richard Nickel. Interior Garrick Theater during demolition, 1961. Courtesy of Richard Nickel Archive, Ryerson and Burnham Art and Architecture Archives, The Art Institute of Chicago.
Exterior of Larkin Administration Building, 1934. L37, # 1-2a. Larkin Administration Building demolition, May 1950. L37, #2-75. Both images Collection of The Buffalo History Museum. Larkin Company photograph collection.

Support for this exhibition is provided
by Alphawood Foundation Chicago.


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Major Renovations, Energy Efficiency, and COVID-19

Over the past several months, engineers and contractors have collaborated on new technologies and strategies to mitigate the opportunities to spread COVID-19 in their facilities. Modifications to design standards are becoming more common in the market, including new types of air filters, new applications for UV lighting, and modifications to existing spaces for safer social distancing.

Buildings that are proactively designed to slow the spread of viruses have excellent potential to protect the safety and wellness of the general workforce. The COVID-19 pandemic is pushing many buildings to adopt more health-conscious strategies, and those benefits could last long after the pandemic fades. As offices reopen across the country, many companies are considering all

their options to promote a safe and healthy return to work. Improving air quality is another important component of many office “back to work” wellness programs. By upgrading HVAC systems with improved filtration methods, engineers can improve the indoor air quality and limit the spread of viruses by increasing the circulation of clean air while reducing the circulation of infectious particles.

Measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19, like increased ventilation and better filtration, can increase energy usage. If you are considering a major renovation of your space, consider working with the ComEd’s Commercial, Industrial, and Public Sector New Construction Offering to identify energy saving measures that can help offset these costs and help keep your energy

bills low. Measures like optimizing your building envelope, incorporating efficient lighting, and installing a building automation system can help offset the costs and increased energy use sometimes necessary for improved indoor air quality. New construction and major renovations projects can be costly. As a result, many buildings are taking advantage of ComEd’s

Case Study



On one such project ComEd’s Commercial, Industrial, and Public Sector New Construction offering partnered with Sterling Bay and DLR Group to identify energy conservation measures (ECM) for 311 W Monroe Office Renovation Project.

The ComEd team provided energy modeling services and calculated energy savings and incentives for implementing the following ECMs:

- Replaced Interior lighting power density.
- Implemented demand control ventilation system and installed high efficiency roof top air conditioning technology.

A result of the renovation, Sterling Bay and DLR Group will save an estimated \$30,611 in annual energy costs.

Commercial, Industrial, and Public Sector New Construction Offering. The program pairs a technical expert with your design team early in the process to assist and ensure that your building design is incorporating energy conservation measures. In addition to design assistance, we offer a one-time financial incentive to help with the cost of building beyond code.

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period with fewer annual operating costs.

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To apply, you will need to confirm the following eligibility requirements:

- Project is early in the planning process (preferably at concept development or schematic design phase).
- Scope includes significant upgrades to at least two of the following four building energy systems: envelope,

After working with the ComEd's Commercial, Industrial, and Public Sector New Construction offering, you end up with a more efficient, safer building that has a shorter payback period with fewer annual operating costs.

primary HVAC equipment, lighting, and qualifying refrigeration systems.

- Project will exceed the current Illinois Energy Conservation Code requirements for energy efficiency.
- Project is at least 5,000 square feet

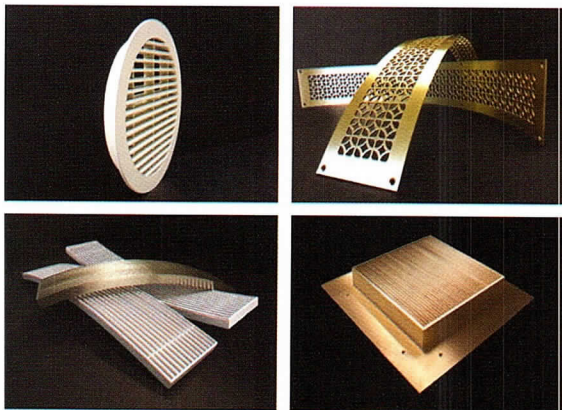
- Project is located in ComEd service territory.

To learn more about our program, visit comed.com/ewconstruction, email businesssee@comed.com or call 855-433-2700 and ask to speak with a New Construction representative. 



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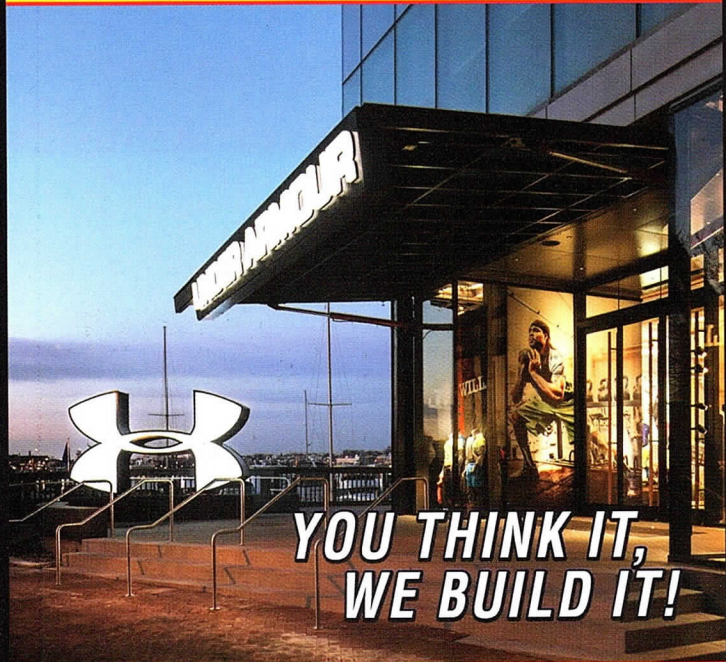
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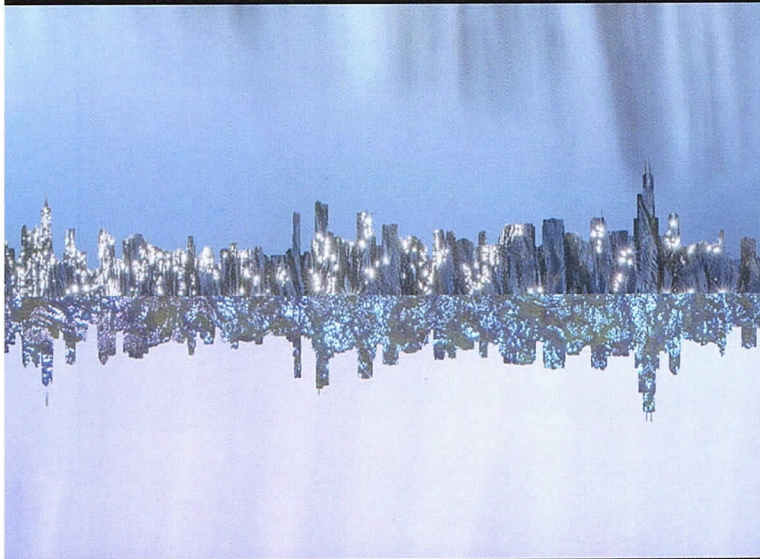
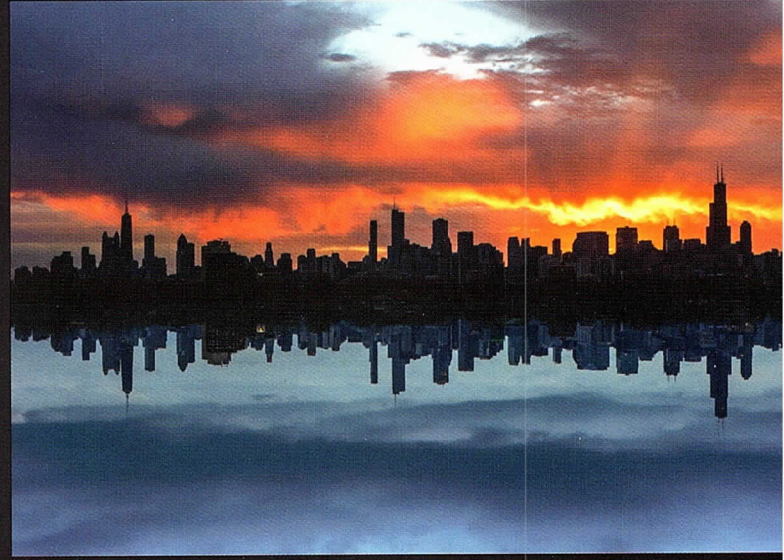
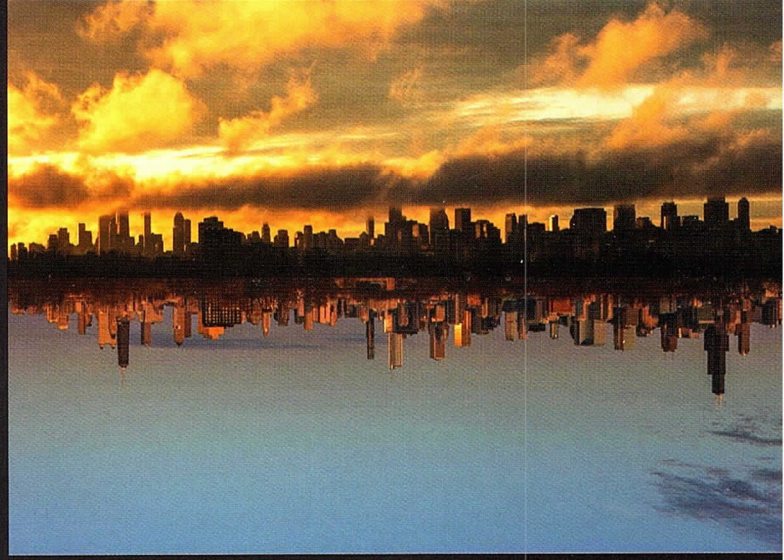
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ART IN ARCHITECTURE



Anthropocene Mountain

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People on the Planet

BY TOM ROSSITER, FAIA
ALL PHOTOS BY TOM ROSSITER


“I drink my tea; I drink my cloud,” Thich Nhat Hanh says. He explains if you look deeply at a cup of tea you can see the whole universe, including the clouds, the rain, the soil and much hard work.

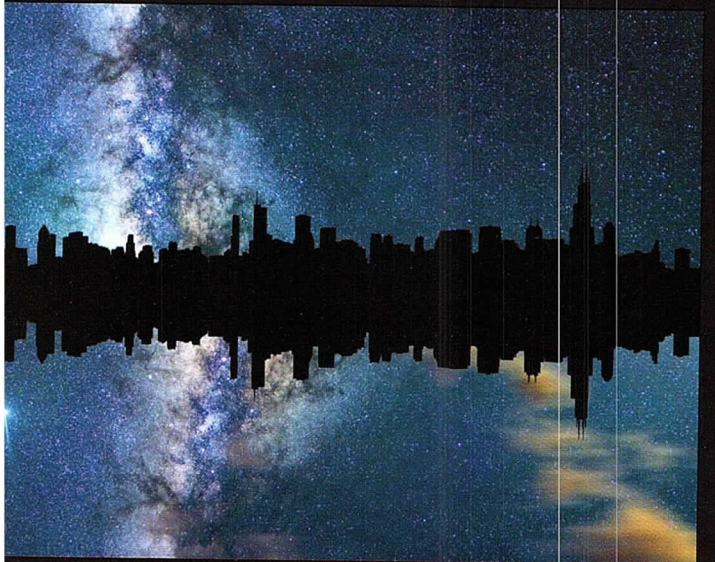
The *Anthropocene Mountain* meditation is a deep photographic look at one city, Chicago, as representative of major cities globally, considered in relation to the air, the water and the earth that it touches. It is photographed as so many have captured mountain ranges or vast forests. But this is human-made, as are most of the threats facing not only our civilization but our very planet. Scientists have discussed naming this the post-Holocene epoch, the Anthropocene era. This would signify that for the first time in the Earth's history, humans have inalterably impacted our planet's geology.

Still images reveal individual days comprising a sunrise-and-sunset-mirrored image combined. The video combines them into a moving painting that illustrates the passage of time: the sun and the moon, moving north to south and back again as the Earth rotates, depicting the seasons in a silent, endless loop. The city and sky occasionally dissolve into water, fire, stone, people, traffic, viruses and the Milky Way, illustrating the impacts of the way we live on the planet.

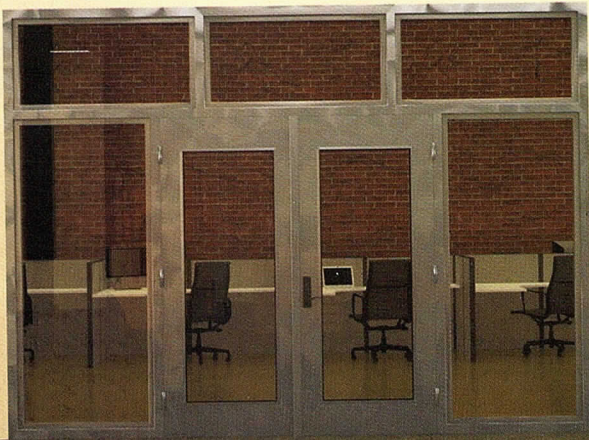
While critical action is necessary to address environmental change, the purpose of *Anthropocene Mountain* is to explore the interdependence of cities, people, cultures and wild places. To bring awareness to the relationship of all the elements on, in and around the planet.

It is meant to inspire reflection, thought and, ultimately, action. How do we build livable cities? Is this a significant part of the answer to sustainable life on the planet?

The project is a partner project with the Chicago Architecture Biennial 2021. An exhibition of the images and video will run concurrently with the Biennial beginning with an opening on October 8 from 5-8 PM at Primitive on 130 North Jefferson. Tom Rossiter will discuss the project at Primitive on Thursday, October 14, at 6 PM. RSVP to alison@beprimitive.com. 



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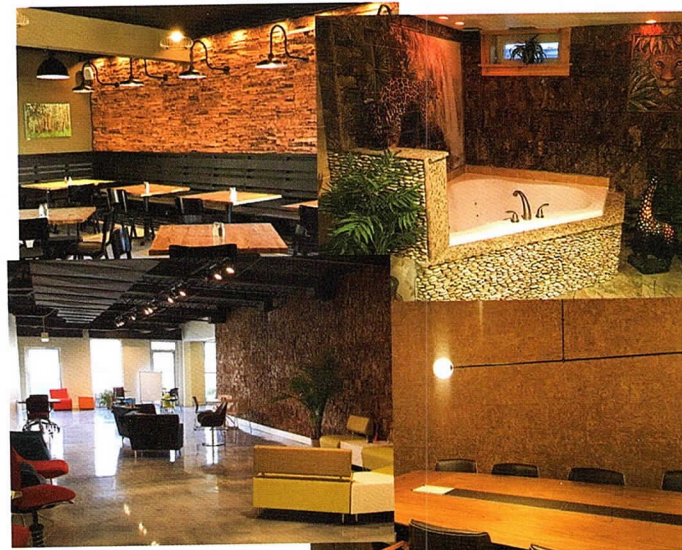


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**BRININSTOOL + LYNCH
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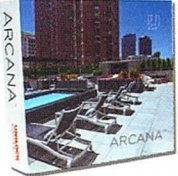
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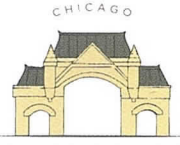
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EDITORS
Anjolie Rao
arao@aiachicago.org

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DESIGNING TOWARD SUSTAINABILITY

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

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

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

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

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

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

April Hughes, AIA



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

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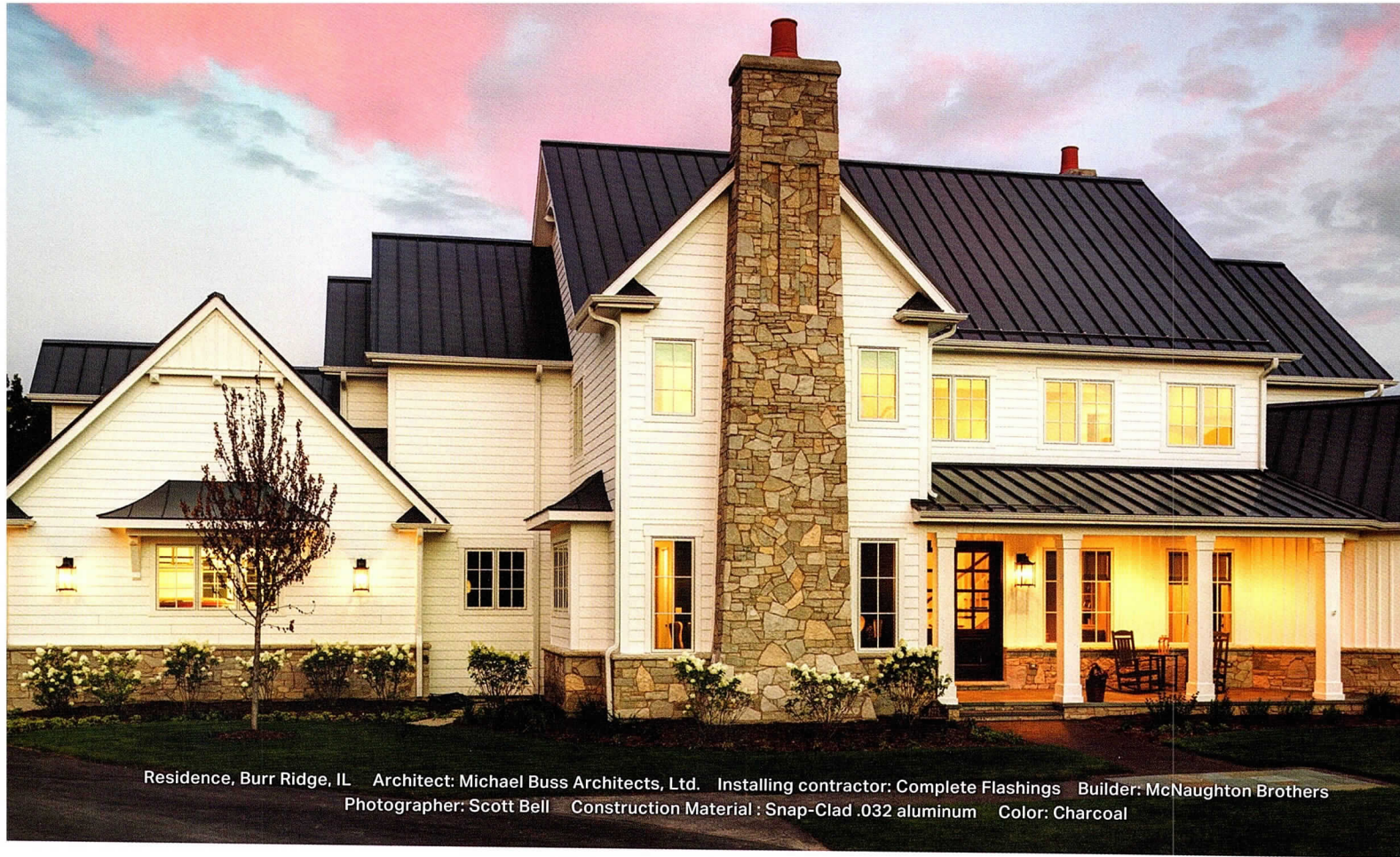


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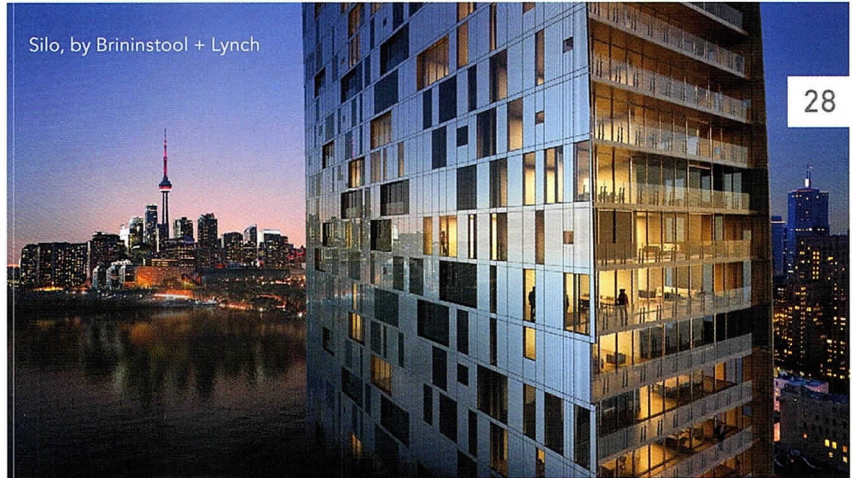


IMAGE COURTESY OF BRININSTOOL + LYNCH



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ON THE COVER
**Jennifer Park, AIA, 2019 Dubin Family
 Young Architect Award Recipient**
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AUSTIN GARDENS ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER



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

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

deliver a LEED Platinum certified community hub.

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

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

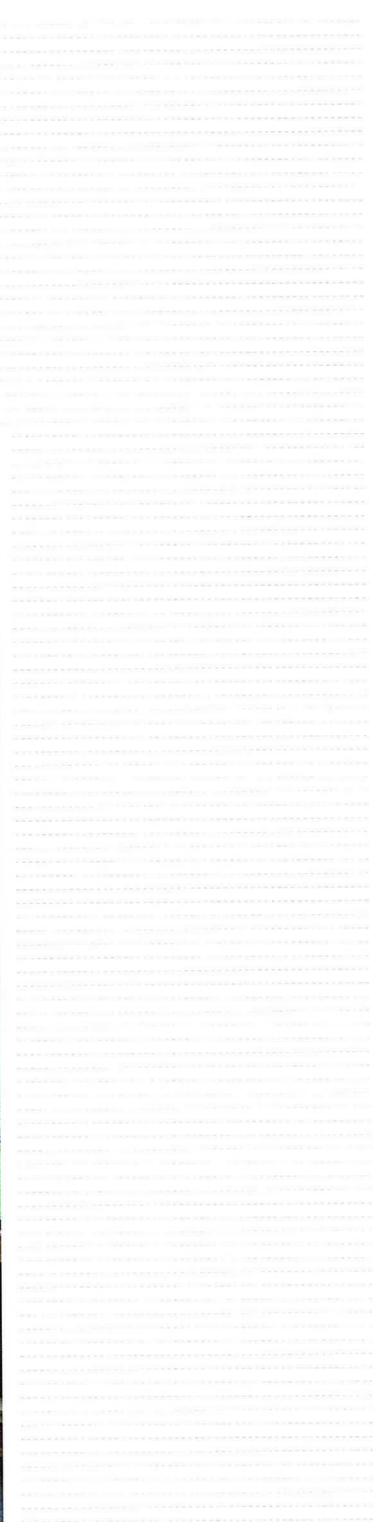
The thermal envelope was designed using Passive design strategies, like optimum insulation, thermal bridge avoidance, airtightness and

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

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

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

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

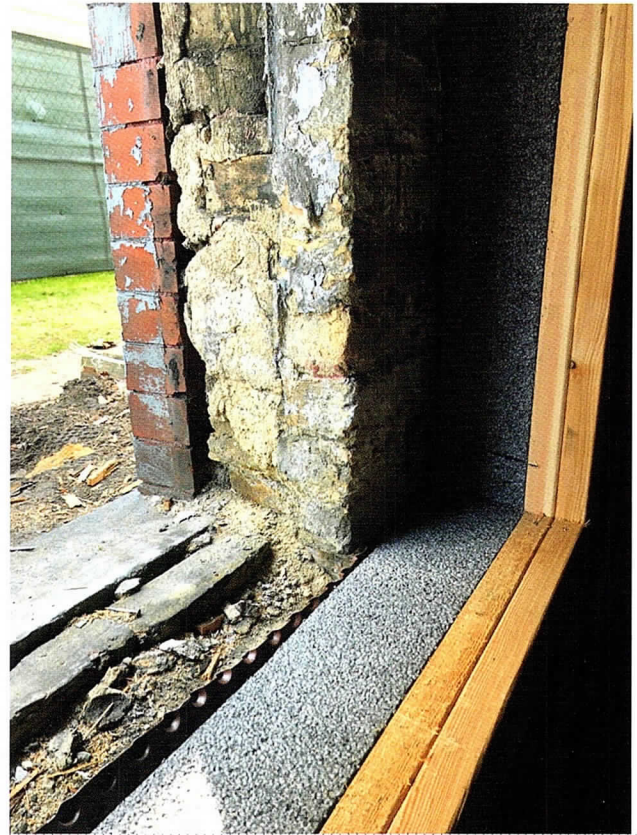
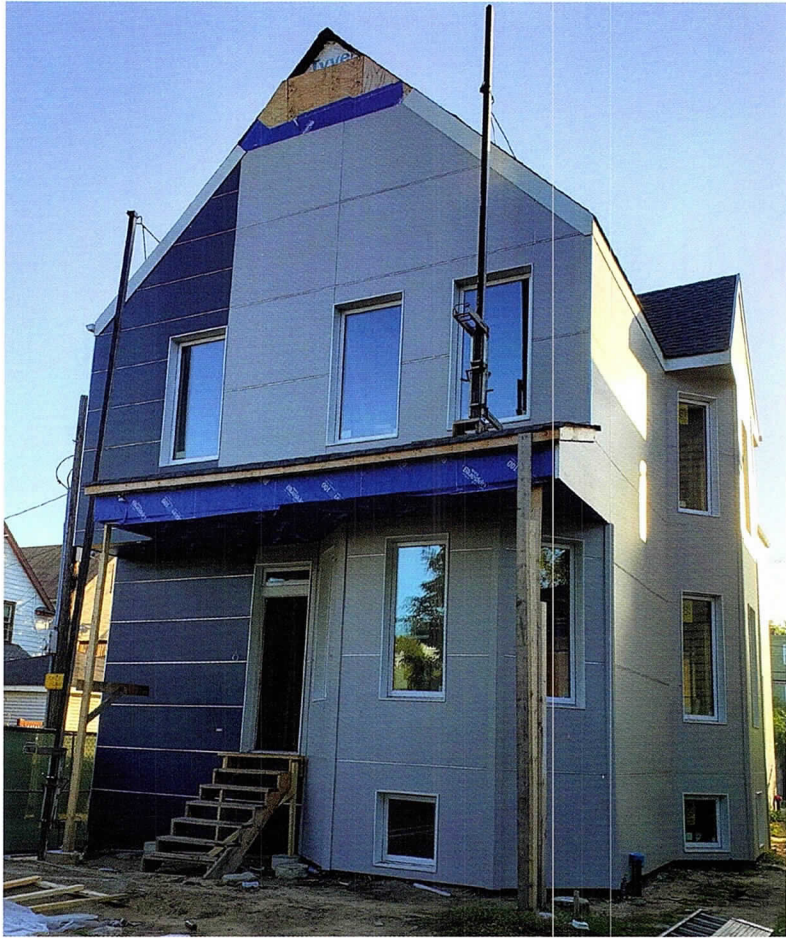


HPZS PASSIVE HOUSE RENOVATION



IMAGES COURTESY OF HPZS

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



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

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

HPZS is working with the client to determine the pro

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

— APRIL HUGHES, AIA

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

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

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

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

LEED MULTI-GENERATIONAL LIVING IN PILSEN

IMAGES COURTESY OF CANOPY ARCHITECTURE + DESIGN



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

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

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

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

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



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

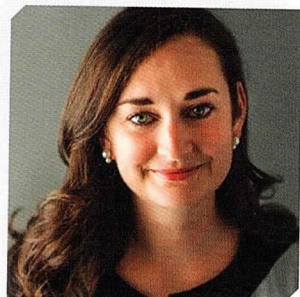
Canopy is a 2030-committed firm that, like this Pilsen client, sees sustainability as an inherent part of what they do. “It’s in our DNA,” he notes. They became committed in 2018, which means Torres plans

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

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

— JAIME TORRES, AIA

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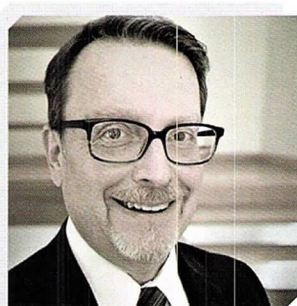
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DESIGNIGHT: 150 YEARS IN THE MAKING

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

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

ANNOUNCING THE ROBERTA FELDMAN SOCIALLY JUST DESIGN AWARD

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

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

ALL PHOTOS BY STEPHANIE JENSEN



Brininstool + Lynch, 2019 Firm Award recipient



ANNUAL MEETING AND HOLIDAY PARTY

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



SMALL PROJECT AWARDS RETURNS FOR ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY

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

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



TRANSFORM LEADERSHIP FOR AEC PROFESSIONALS RETURNS IN 2020

February 12-April 29, 2020
Harold Washington College

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

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



DESIGNERS AND ARCHITECTS TALK

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

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

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

Visit aiachicago.org to register. Members receive discounts on individual sessions and package rates.

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I'm sorry sir, is it under "Harris" or "Darris"? Sir, I don't see it under "Harris", could it be under a different name? This bag is overweight sir, that'll be an extra fee. You can just photoshop that, right? Remove that cost, and I'll be your assistant. Can we get photos tomorrow? Sir, no tripods are allowed in here. Sir, you cannot photograph a federal building. Look sir, I'm going to have to take your media card. Who's Jerry Uelsmann? JPG and RAW are the same, right? What's the best camera to get? Excuse me sir, where is Michigan Ave? Hey man, what kind of movie are you making? Excuse me sir, does that entrance go to Midway? I'm so sorry sir, all our cars are rented out at the moment. I'm sorry sir, we don't have a new departure time yet. Sure, there are plenty of local food options; McDonalds and KFC are just down the road. Wow, that's a lot of stuff just to take a photo. Why can't we do all the photos in one day? We're working with a... their services. The police have been called.

Sir, you have to move your tripod. Excuse me... Who's Richard Nickel? Oh, I never make prints, I just post them on Facebook. Why... the time? Nice camera; is that a Nikon or a Canon? Cool camera, how much did it cost... you shooting? All we have left are smoking rooms, is that ok? The only cars we have... that ok? The only seats left are middle seats, hope that's ok! Your estimate was the high... my iPhone; can you do this? Can we add a shot? Sir, why don't you come inside and answer a few questions. I'm sick of this sh*t, you're going to jail this time.

You don't appear to have photographed anything sensitive, so I won't take your film. Who's Alfred Stieglitz? Photoshop is too complicated, so I just use Lightroom. What's the best lens to get? Excuse me sir, can you spare some change? Hey, take a picture of me! This bag is oversized sir, that'll be an extra fee. Sir, is that a personal bag or a carry on? I'm sorry sir, security doesn't have you on the list. Every other photographer we work with does this. No other photographer we work with does this. Can we get something later today? I'm sorry sir, but there is no photography allowed in here. This is private property sir, I'm going to have to ask you to leave immediately. Very cool; so do you do weddings and stuff too? Wow, this is all you do, like you don't have a regular job?

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PHOTO CREDIT: TIM GRIFFITH PHOTOGRAPHY



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



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

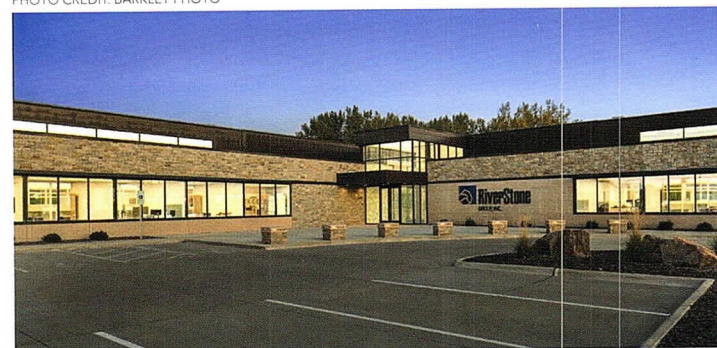
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PHOTO CREDIT: AJ BROWN IMAGING



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

PHOTO CREDIT: BARKLEY PHOTO



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

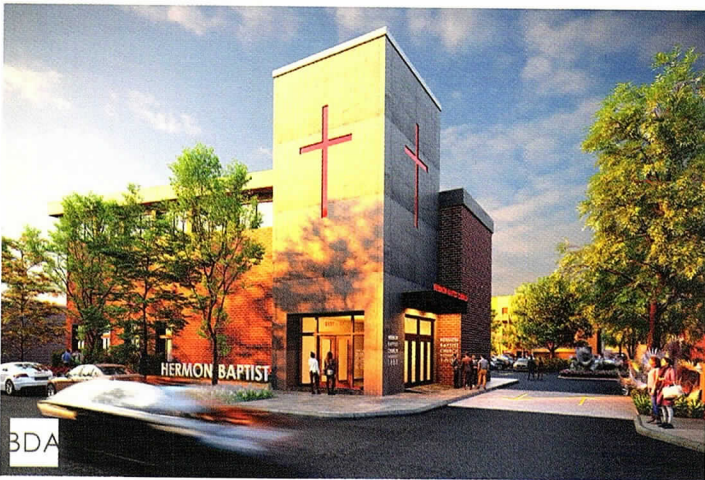
SmithGroup's Chicago office was ranked No. 32 in Chicago Tribune Top Workplaces 2019 in the small office category — the third year in a row that the firm has been recognized in this category.



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



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



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

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

PHOTO CREDIT: IGNACIO
ESPIGARES @ STL ARCHITECTS



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



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

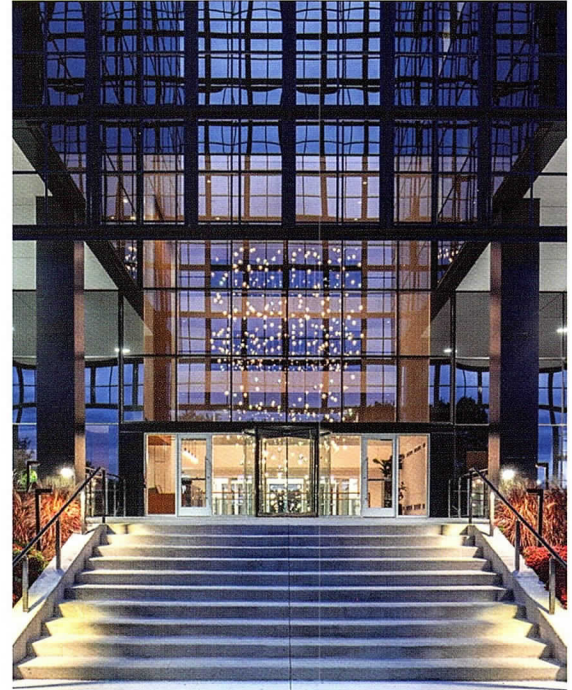


PHOTO CREDIT: JAMES STEINKAMP PHOTOGRAPHY

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



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

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



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



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



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

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

IMAGE COURTESY OF BRININSTOOL + LYNCH

AS A MEANS OF LIVING LIFE

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

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





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

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

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

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

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

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

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

— DAVID BRININSTOOL, AIA

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

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

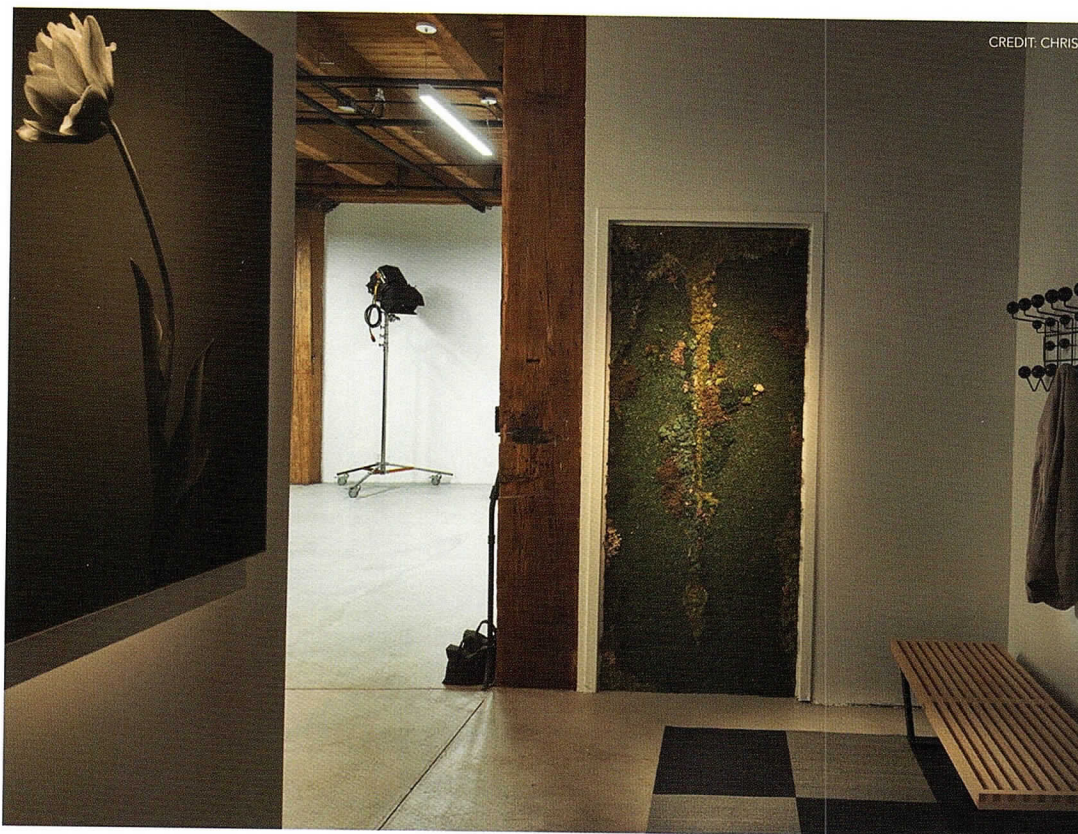
Lynch found himself in a similar situation: having grown up in a community influenced by Frank Lloyd Wright, restoring those buildings, he was less interested in architecture as a practice. “I was more interested in design-build and immersed in art history. Looking at Postmodernism in terms of art and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

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

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

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

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



Photographer Christopher Barrett’s studio.



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

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

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

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

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

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

While these two projects are very different in scope, scale

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CREDIT: IMAGE BY DILLER SCOFIDIO + RENFRO



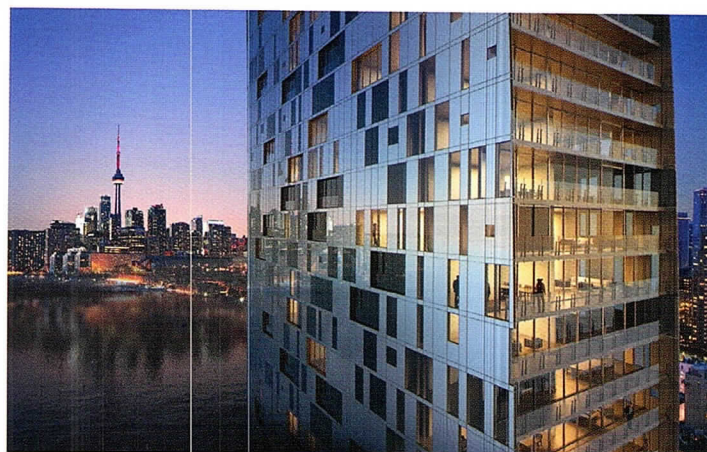
for the future. Park, alongside architects Dan Martus, AIA, Pablo Diaz, AIA, and Brad Fowler, AIA, will helm the firm as Lynch and Brininstool raise the flag. “We’re going to do new kinds of projects and continue to grow. I just want to maintain that design integrity that the founders built for 30 years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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

LORI LIGHTFOOT'S RESOLUTION FOR LGBT BUSINESS ENTERPRISES

BY DAN EARLES, AIA, LEED AP ID+C



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The views expressed here are personal and are not necessarily the views of the AIA nor of any committee.

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OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH DESIGN

AIA Chicago's Zurich Esposito, Hon. AIA, met with Jennifer Park, AIA, at the West Loop offices of Brininstool + Lynch, where Park, the recipient of the 2019 AIA Chicago Foundation Dubin Family Young Architect Award, is a principal.

Zurich Esposito: You recently joined Brininstool + Lynch as one of three newly announced principals who will lead the award-winning firm with founding principals David Brininstool and Brad Lynch. What do you bring to the team?

Jennifer Park: I bring a knowledge of the profession and the business of architecture, including its challenges, learned through my leadership of two small firms, most recently Jurassic Studio. That experience, combined with my teaching experiences, contributes to a very well-rounded set of leadership skills the entire group of five principals now brings to the table. I also think that being a woman co-leading the practice is a healthy and progressive element of my involvement. Together as a team of principals, we're well prepared to shape the next generation of the firm.

ZE: What opportunities will your role at Brininstool + Lynch bring to your career?

JP: Coming to a relatively larger firm with a legacy of doing great projects represents a deliberate big step for me: from my own small practice — having one or two employees doing small- and mid-sized projects or serving as a small part of a larger team — to being able to go after bigger, more complex projects. Having the opportunity to help shape the design thinking of the future projects we'll pursue at this firm is very appealing to me.

ZE: In addition to your leadership role at Brininstool + Lynch, you

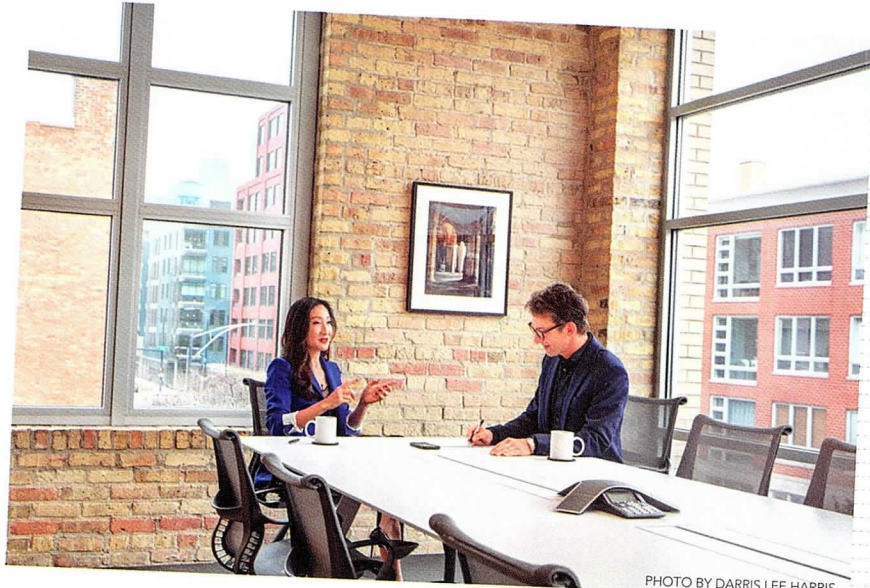


PHOTO BY DARRIS LEE HARRIS

teach the second-year studio at IIT's College of Architecture. What do you get from teaching, and what do you think your students get from your teaching?

JP: Teaching challenges me to think broadly about current issues — social issues in addition to ones related [to] building technology. I consider how to teach students in a way that resonates with them. I hope the students benefit from that. At the beginning of the year I always tell students to have fun and develop a passion for their work. Without finding enjoyment and passion — which will get you through the challenges — there's no way to sustain creativity.

ZE: Who have been mentors and role models in your career?

JP: In our local community, in addition to Brad and David, I've sought the advice and feedback

of Pat Natke on many occasions (Patricia Saldaña Natke, FAIA, founding partner of UrbanWorks). I'm inspired by her grit and grace. Her stories recounting the early years of leading a firm gave me hope and taught me to be patient. Tom Jacobs, a talented designer and educator, is someone I talk often with about practice and academics (Thomas Jacobs, AIA, principal at Krueck + Sexton Architects). I admire him for being so passionate and, at the same time, humble. Farther from home, I'm inspired by Toshiko Mori (Toshiko Mori, FAIA, founding principal of New York-based Toshiko Mori Architect). With a distinguished practice and influential teaching career, she wears many hats and is constantly challenging herself in her work and whose values about architecture are so sound.

ZE: As a representative of young architects, what do you consider to be the most pressing issue facing the profession at this time?

JP: The issues of sustainability, diversity and equity are the big-picture issues we talk about a lot in our industry. But the epidemic of violence in our world also is affecting the way we live. As architects, it's our responsibility to continually challenge ourselves to innovate in response to these problems. What inspires me is the level of energy and appetite for advocacy, this generation of emerging architects must help solve big problems through all kinds of strategies, including design. **CA**

Jennifer Park will deliver her Dubin Family Young Architect Award lecture on March 19, 2020. A reception will precede the talk. Visit aiachicago.org for more information and to register.

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