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**A'22**

AIA Conference on  
Architecture 2022 // 32

**AIA** Chicago

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# CHICAGO ARCHITECT

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## A City's Passion

Dear Members — and Chicago visitors:

I am proud to call myself a Chicagoan. I am proud to be an architect. I am even more proud to be a Chicago architect. The history of Chicago architecture is the history of Chicago. Many of the milestone events of this city are events that represent architecture and planning. Chicago architects have also spearheaded many of the key movements of architecture; from the modern skyscrapers to the prairie style homes, to modernism and postmodernism and supertalls. Chicago architects have made a far reaching impact on our city, the world, and to our profession. With the AIA Conference on Architecture 2022, A'22, in town, we hope that we can share our city's passion for architecture with guests and show all of the great things our city has to offer.

This summer we get to celebrate all of the great buildings and places that make up our great city. With this celebration we are including a special story by Laurie Petersen — editor of the *AIA Guide to Chicago* — in which you'll learn about the exciting new content included in our newest guidebook edition.

In this issue you'll read a profile of Arquitina, a group of Latina architects led by Alicia Ponce, AIA, who came together in the spirit of support and solidarity toward increasing the number of licensed Latina architects. In sharing her own story of getting licensed, she has amassed a collective of like-minded emerging professionals who not only support each other through exams and mentorship, but through storytelling. In other stories, you'll read about Chicago's "smartest" new building by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill.

You'll also read about "Green Revolution," a new exhibition co-curated by AIA Chicago

member Doug Farr, FAIA, and held at the Chicago Architecture Center (CAC). The exhibition showcases various green and renewable technologies that can support the drastic changes to building technologies required to alter climate change's trajectory. The story is a great inside peek into the exhibition's aspirations, but we encourage members and conference visitors to head over to CAC to check it out.

Our feature highlights all-things A'22: We've highlighted some exciting seminars taking place throughout the conference week and weekend, and we're thrilled to spotlight AIA Chicago's Open Studios night. Conference attendees can register to visit a group of three to four Chicago firms. See their studios, meet the architects, and enjoy snacks and drinks — each firm in a group is within a 20-minute walk and showcases the range of diverse practices Chicago has to offer. You'll also get a preview of the AIA Chicago lounge on the Expo floor, and see some fun recommendations and unique perspectives on all the great things Chicago has to offer, submitted by our AIA Chicago members.

In this issue's Q&A, AIA Chicago executive director Jen Masengarb, Assoc. AIA, talks with Lakisha Woods, CAE, AIA's new executive vice president and chief executive officer. Be sure to attend her keynote session on June 23 at 3:30 p.m., where she will be in conversation with Julia Gamolina, Assoc. AIA, of the podcast *Madame Architect*.

Drew Deering, AIA, LEED AP  
2022 AIA Chicago President



*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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# Strength, Beauty, Heritage



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**The façade features metal wall panels in a dramatic palette including a custom wood grain finish that ties the building to the tribe's historic home in a reservation in the woods of Northwest Minnesota.**

Mino-Bimaadziwin Apartments, Minneapolis | Installing contractor: Progressive Building Systems  
Architect: Cunningham Group Architecture | GC: Loeffler Construction & Consulting | Photo: alanblakely.com

**Flush Panel**  
Metal Wall System  
Custom Wood Grain, Matte Black

**7.2 Panel**  
Metal Wall System  
Bone White



View the  
case study  
and video



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 AIA Conference on Architecture 2022

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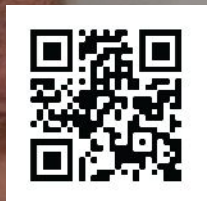
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We're excited to welcome new team members to AIA Chicago!



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Contact Kirstin Osgood at [kosgood@aiachicago.org](mailto:kosgood@aiachicago.org) to learn more and become an 1869Circle Partner!

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DESIGNIGHT  
2022

## DESIGNIGHT 2022

Monday, September 12  
Millennium Park

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- The 2022 Design Excellence Awards will recognize projects of all sizes, XS to XL, in one awards ceremony.
- DESIGNIGHT will be a free, public awards event where all are welcome: the entire firm, consultants, partners, clients, friends and family.
- It's a week of architectural celebrations! The Chicago Architecture Center (CAC) will also be hosting their Annual Gala on Wednesday, September 14. Sponsors that have committed to both AIA Chicago's DESIGNIGHT and the CAC Gala will be recognized as Champion Sponsors at both events, including pre- and post-event communications. Sponsors must give at the \$5,000 level or above to both organizations.

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# AIA Guide to Chicago Fourth Edition, by Laurie Petersen

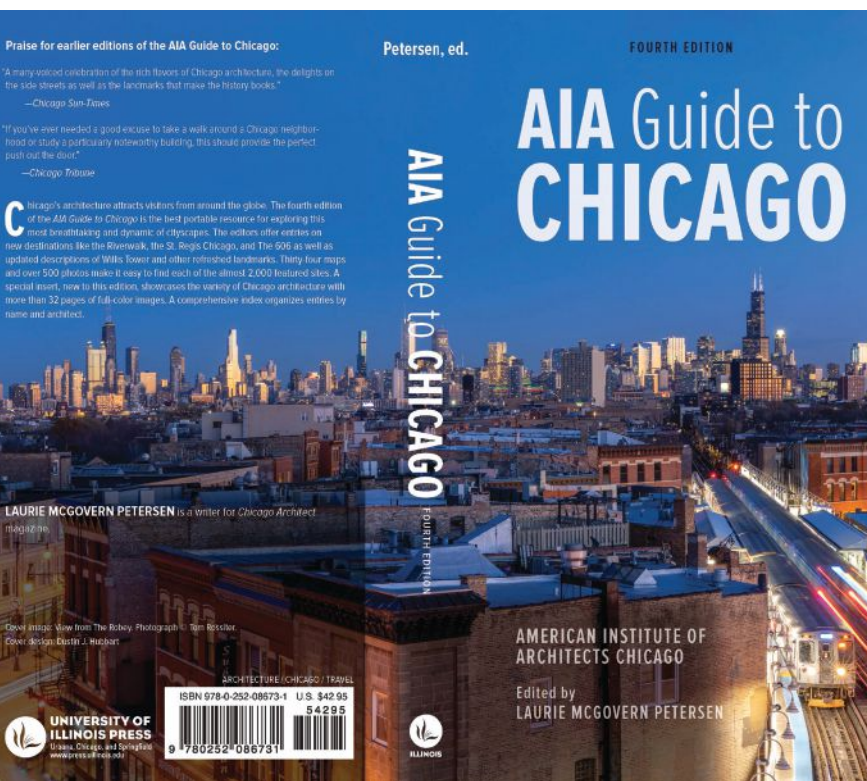
**T**he original *AIA Guide to Chicago* was published to coincide with the AIA Conference on Architecture’s return to Chicago after a decades-long absence. Ever since that time, a new edition has been released when the conference has returned: in 2004, 2014 and now 2022. Laurie Petersen worked as an associate editor on the first two editions with the book’s creator, Alice Sinkevitch, and was editor for the third and fourth editions. She tells us what to look forward to in the newly released volume.

Despite the adage that you shouldn’t judge a book by its cover, it’s important to have one that conveys the nature of the contents while standing out on a shelf of competitors. Tremendous effort went into creating a cover for the *Guide* that would convey its perennial strength: its coverage of the city’s neighborhoods as well as downtown. Architect and photographer Tom Rossiter, AIA, really went out on a limb — suspending his camera from the terrace of The Robey Hotel to get an image that foregrounds a typical Chicago neighborhood, even including an El train pulling into the station, while encompassing the skyline all the way from the Willis Tower to the north end of Michigan Avenue. To showcase the panoramic view despite the very vertical format of the book, Rossiter proposed wrapping it around the spine and back cover — making this a rare example of a book that looks as good on the back as on the front. So go ahead and judge this book by its

extraordinary cover!

Each edition’s overriding purpose is to update the book with a decade’s worth of development. So, there are dozens of new buildings, from skyline-changers such as the St. Regis Tower and River Point to small-scale gems like the Kaplan Center on the IIT campus. But a building doesn’t have to be new to make its first appearance in the *Guide*, and it doesn’t even have to be a building. From its inception, the book has taken a broad view of the built environment to include parks, infrastructure and cemeteries. (And yes, even the Graceland Cemetery entry has been updated to include the resting places of recently deceased architects.) Some of the most exciting developments of the past decade have been improvements to the public realm, the Chicago Riverwalk and The 606 being two prominent examples.

A slew of historic buildings have been repurposed; many were already in the book and



got updated descriptions, while others had not previously been included. The intersection of Milwaukee, North and Damen Avenues provides a good example: The former Northwest Tower got a new name and writeup as The Robey boutique hotel, and new entries were created for the converted storage warehouse that wraps around it, the historic bank that now houses a Walgreens and the Holabird & Root-designed Flatiron Building.

In addition to new construction and rejuvenated classics, we cast a fresh eye on buildings from the 1950s through 1970s, particularly those whose architects have been given new prominence. John Moutousamy, for example, has new entries that include his Michigan Avenue headquarters for Johnson Publishing and his own house in Chatham.

The fourth edition has a brand-new feature that puts a whole new spin on the entire book. A 32-page supplement of color photos illustrates representative buildings of all types throughout the city, grouped chronologically by style, from Italianate through Postmodernism. (A huge shout-out to photographer Eric Allix Rogers, whose wide-ranging portfolio made this possible.) The result provides a quick panorama of Chicago's architectural history. And instead of giving a detailed description of each style, it directs readers to buildings all over the city (those pictured as

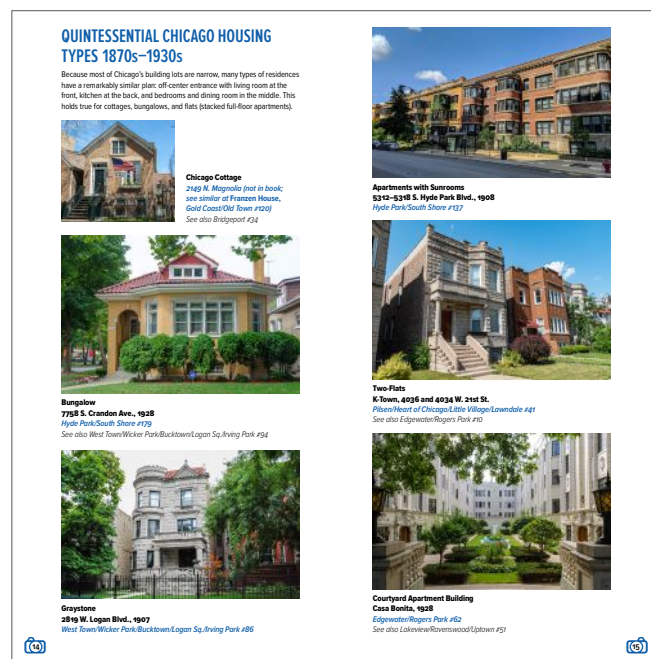


Ed Kaplan Family Institute for Innovation and Tech Entrepreneurship by John Ronan Architects (2018).

CREDIT: STEVE HALL

well as others) whose writeups provide insight into the style or material.

In the midst of the chronological march of styles are two double-page spreads of building types. For the residential spread, new entries were created (the South Shore Bungalow District) and others were rewritten to explain characteristic Chicago types such as the ubiquitous "flats" whose floor-through layout is found from two-flats to courtyard apartment buildings. The other non-chronological spread is called "Unexpected Delights." It alerts readers to the surprising beauty to be found in utilitarian structures across the city. CA



The fourth edition includes a 32-page supplement in full color.



Arquitina on the Chicago Riverwalk. ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF ALICIA PONCE, AIA

# The Founding of Arquitina

BY TAYLOR MOORE

Alicia Ponce, AIA, vividly remembers the moment she decided to become an architect. She recalls walking by a construction site in Chicago as a child. As the adults were talking, she felt “mesmerized by the big, yellow machines moving dirt and the smell of freshly poured concrete,” Ponce says. “As a 6-year-old, you don’t know what you were looking at, but I wanted to do that: I wanted to build something.”



Arqitina members meet regularly on Zoom.



Now the founder and principal of APMonarch, Ponce has become a go-to expert in sustainable

and LEED-certified architecture, spearheading projects for the University of Chicago, the Field Museum and other high-profile clients in Chicago and beyond.

But her ascent did not come without challenges. Like many architects, she struggled with obtaining her architecture license through the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB). And in a field lacking diverse representation, she was often the only woman, Latina or mother in the room. According to a 2021 NCARB report, fewer than one percent of licensed architects in the United States are Latina women.

That’s why, in 2020, Ponce founded Arqitina, a national nonprofit focused on preparing Latinas in architecture for the Architect Registration Examination (ARE). Due to the grueling nature of the exams — the density of information, the quantity and costs of tests — it takes an average of 12 years to pass all the tests. Ponce spent 15 years pursuing her license. “If I can make the path to licensure shorter for the next person, I have done my job,” says Ponce.

Arqitina pairs early-career Latina professionals with licensed women architects for 13 weeks of mentorship and seminars on topics like starting a business and leveraging professional organizations. Originally a Chicago-based pilot, the program has expanded to include architecture workers across the country and is now in its fourth cohort.

Arqitina is more than a career incubator. It’s also become a vital

**“If I can make the path to licensure shorter for the next person, I have done my job.”**  
**Alicia Ponce, AIA**

community space for Latina women to talk about culture and family — topics often discouraged in the workplace. Ponce believes she’s been able to attract many mentors into the program because “they remember how lonely their journey was” coming up in the industry.

Since the founding of Arqitina, two cohort members have achieved their licensure. Ponce has also self-published a “Latinas in Architecture” anthology with “stories of raising the one percent, one Latina at a time.” She is currently organizing a fundraising campaign to

sustain the volunteer-only organization. With more donations, she hopes to invest in more training resources, update web infrastructure and hire someone to administer the program full-time.

Sometimes Ponce fields questions from people who don’t understand why she pours hundreds of unpaid hours into Arqitina.

“It’s all in the numbers. Less than one percent, right? People ask me, ‘Why are you in such a hurry?’ [And I say] ‘What do you mean in such a hurry? Don’t you think it’s time?’” CA



ALL PHOTOS BY DAVE BURKE

# S(O)Marter Buildings

Skidmore, Owings & Merrill reveals a new building powered by smart tech

**S**kidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) recently completed 800 Fulton Market, located in the Fulton Market District. The 326-foot-tall mixed-use office tower includes seven landscaped terraces that allow for indoor/outdoor workspaces, assistive smart building systems and interiors that encourage collaboration. The project is certified LEED Platinum, WiredScore Platinum, SmartScore Platinum and targets WELL Building Standard certification, and is home to offices for leading companies such as The Aspen Group and John Deere.

“We set out to design a building that would feel like it had always been part of Fulton Market’s historic, industrial character, but also recognized the pressures and concerns of the new vibrant neighborhood,” says Brian Lee, FAIA, SOM consulting design partner.

The building utilizes a range of smart building systems that promote wellness, sustainability and energy efficiency. To best support tenants and maintain the building, property manager Thor engaged Buildings IOT to deliver cloud-based machine learning insights to the property team for resolution and observation. According to Thor, by using this technology, 800 Fulton Market can see how many people are in the building at any point in time, and monitor the use of the different spaces throughout the building.

The technology monitors spaces and circulates fresh air throughout the building — a feature of tremendous utility, considering the endemic anxieties of returning to in-person workplaces and events.

“The building is populated with VAV CO2 sensors that provide real time readings to inform demand for fresh air in the spaces they serve. This ensures that air is not only recirculating when there is



Exposed steel frames provide a landmark exterior for Fulton Market.

demand for heating/cooling, but also when occupancy changes and CO2 levels increase with the occupancy count,” says a representative from Thor. “This system ensures fresh air is always circulating through a space at an acceptable level, without any input from the operator. Atlasen IAQ

(indoor air quality) sensors are also installed throughout the space for additional monitoring, accounting for 15 metrics including temperature, relative humidity, sound level (dBA), particulate matter and more.”

The building is distinguished by its external steel X-braced frames. Engineered to withstand

Chicago’s harsh winters and strong winds, the frames are designed to contract in cooler weather and expand in warmer temperatures. Together with an offset core made of glass suspended along the north side of the building, this unique structural system enables large, open floor plans and flexible, light-filled workspaces. Through extensive analysis of the building’s life cycle and sustainable design program, the design team reduced its enclosure and structures embodied carbon by 65 percent when compared to an industry average commercial office, meeting the 2030 target reduction set by AIA.

Inside, a triple height main lobby is defined by a cantilevered staircase and mezzanine that create layered spaces of activity. “Our approach for the interiors is an extension of the building’s vibrant surroundings and material palette,” says Julie Michiels, AIA, SOM senior associate principal and interiors lead. The material palette of exposed concrete, wood and red brick matches the tower’s exterior and draws inspiration from the neighborhood’s industrial character. With its flexible seating and informal spaces for working and collaborating, the lobby becomes a place of exchange. 



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**Legat Architects'** Board of Directors has elected a new leadership team: **Berry DeSimone** (President and CEO), **Jeff Sandberg, AIA** (Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer), **Susan Jahn** (Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer), and **Michael Lundeen, AIA** (Treasurer).



John Hancock College Preparatory High School in Chicago received a 2022 Project of the Year Award from the Hispanic American Construction Industry Association (HACIA), as well as an Excellence in Community Engagement Award from Chicagoland Associated General Contractors (AGC). The design-build team includes **A.L.L. Masonry Construction Company**, **K.R. Miller Contractors**, **Legat Architects**, and **UrbanWorks**. PHOTO COPYRIGHT AJ BROWN IMAGING

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Construction has finished on Augustana College's (Rock Island, Illinois) Peter J. Lindberg, M.D., Center for Health and Human Performance, designed by **Legat Architects**. The 52,000-square-foot facility creates a home for both the college's new kinesiology program and its growing public health program.



**Civic Projects Architecture** has added three new team members (from left to right): **Smitha Vasan, RA, NOMA**, Architect, **Tiffany Bobbitt, NOMA**, Architectural Designer, and **Ian Miley, AIA, LEED GA**, Architect, with **Monica Chadha, AIA**, at center. Civic Projects' upcoming projects include the educational department at the National Museum of Mexican Art, programming for LancasterHistory (PA) Democratic Center, and the design of a new community center on Chicago's South Side.



**EYP** participated in the ribbon cutting of North Carolina Agriculture & Technical State University (NC A&T)'s Engineering Research & Innovation Complex (ERIC).



**Morlights** announced two new team members that joined the company at the beginning of the new year. **Deb Cohen** joins as Morlights' office manager and **Zahi Barajas** joins the team as a junior designer.



**HKS** announced the following promotions:

**Anthony Montalto, AIA**, Principal – Chief Design Officer

**Caroline Casper** – Associate

**Karl Gustafson, AIA, LEED AP BD+C** – Principal

**Janhvi Jakkal, AIA, ACHA, LEED AP** – Principal and Chicago Health Practice Leader

**Prince Ambooken, Assoc. AIA** – Vice President

**Rand Ekman, FAIA, LEED Fellow** – Shareholder Principal

**Nicholas Savage, Assoc. AIA** – Associate

**Victor Valadez Gonzalez, AIA** – Associate

**Dr. Tommy Zakrzewski, PhD, BEMP, CEM, CMVP, WELL AP, LEED O+M, LEED BD+C**, – Principal

///////  
 Please Send Your News To:  
 editor@aiachicago.org



One Chicago, designed in collaboration between **Hartshorne Plunkard Architecture** and **Goettsch Partners**, has welcomed its first residents. The 2.1-million-square-foot project delivers 812 residential units to the historic River North neighborhood, along with a flagship Whole Foods Market, the Life Time Athletic Resort and Spa, a restaurant, event venue, office and co-working space and a park.



**PALMA's R3 Towers** were unanimously approved by the Fort Lauderdale Planning and Zoning Board. The project will complete the next phase of the Riverwalk with a public walkway between R3 Towers with public art, restaurants, water features, an amphitheater, and a dock with a potential water taxi stop.

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



**Goettsch Partners (GP)** has promoted **Erik Harris, AIA**, and **David Lillie, AIA, LEED AP BD+C**, to principal. Harris is a senior project architect, and Lillie is a senior project designer.

In addition to Harris and Lillie, the following seven professionals have been promoted across the firm:

To Senior Associate: **Miguel T. Alvarez, AIA**; **Scott Brackney, AIA**; **Wenfei Chen**, Class 1 Registered Architect, LEED AP; **Ratima Pisalyaput, AIA**

To Associate: **Joe He**; **Logan Reed, AIA, CDT**; **Yi Wang**, Class 1 Registered Architect



**Raymond Hartshorne, AIA**, and **James Plunkard, AIA**, of **Hartshorne Plunkard Architecture (HPA)** have committed \$500,000 to the University of Illinois-Chicago's School of Architecture to create a fellowship aimed at increasing diversity among graduates of the school. The Hartshorne and Plunkard Fellowship will be awarded annually to a UIC architecture graduate student, who will receive guaranteed full funding for their master's architecture degree, academic and professional mentoring, and a paid summer internship at HPA. The first recipient is **Martina Cajodi Smith**, who is expected to graduate in 2024.



**En Masse Architecture and Design**, formerly Mike Shively Architecture, announced the firm's rebrand, which emphasizes the team's commitment to collaboration and inclusivity.

In addition to En Masse Architecture and Design's rebrand, founding partner **Mike Shively, AIA**, (right) recently announced **Lucas Goldbach, AIA**, (left) as the firm's newest partner. Goldbach is a chairperson for the AIA Chicago LGBTQIA+ Alliance, and in 2020 was recognized as one of Chicago's Notable LGBTQ Business Leaders' Entrepreneurs of the Year.



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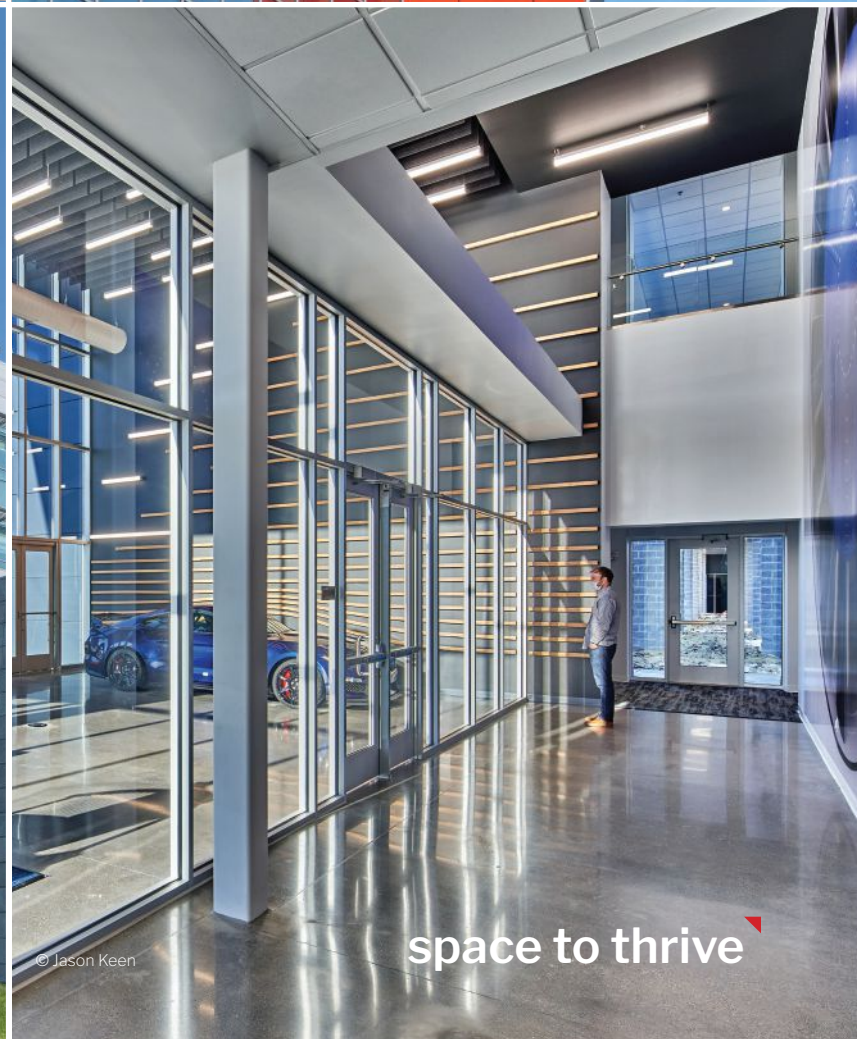
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# Energy Revolution Takes on Climate Change, Optimistically

A new exhibit at the Chicago Architecture Center aims to inject positivity in the conversation around climate change.

BY SARAH STEIMER

**T**he reality of climate change is bleak, but a new exhibit at the Chicago Architecture Center is offering a hopeful angle to visitors. By outlining the steps every individual can take to slow the rate of change at this pivotal time in history, the team behind Energy Revolution is providing a digestible guide to shifting behaviors.

“One of the themes we’ve tried to weave throughout the show is that this change doesn’t have to be a sacrifice,” says Eve Fineman, CAC director of exhibitions and co-curator of the exhibition. “And actually, in a way, can bring more joy and more positivity.”

Fineman and co-curator Doug Farr, FAIA, founder of architecture and design firm Farr Associates, say the decision to call it a revolution was made to convey that the movement can be energizing. Although it’s easy to feel helpless, the goal is for people to understand that there are steps they can take — and even some improvements already in place — that can inspire them.

“Mostly what we’re revolting against is business as usual, all of our ingrained habits, all of us as individuals and professionals,” Farr says. “The next time we design a building, or outfit our house or buy a car, it’s that moment in time where there’s new choices available.”

The exhibit, which opened April 9 and runs through October 17, starts out by describing the current state of affairs and what could happen should change not be implemented. The entrance walls provide a global overview of the climate emergency through maps, charts, written descriptions and other imagery. It sets the scene

for understanding that decisions made today have considerable impacts moving forward.

The core of the show strikes a positive note and centers on four actionable pillars — conserve, electrify, decarbonize and optimize — that coalesce on Chicago architecture. Each of the four sections includes interactive components, including samples of eco-friendly building materials, electric appliances and solar panels.

The team wanted to speak to casual visitors, young people and the architecture community with the show. For example, there are QR codes that provide more information for those architects looking to dive deeper. Workshops and other programs will also be provided throughout the run for children and teens.

At the center of the exhibit are window and wall assemblies from 19th, 20th and 21st century styles of Chicago architecture. Each illustrates the differing materials, heating elements and design styles, as well as the energy consumption of each. To further illustrate the point, an infrared projection onto the large-scale model of 875 North Michigan Avenue (formerly the John Hancock Center) shows energy loss common among mid-20th century designs.

So why focus the climate change conversation on urban architecture? Because it’s where



the biggest problems and the biggest solutions come together.

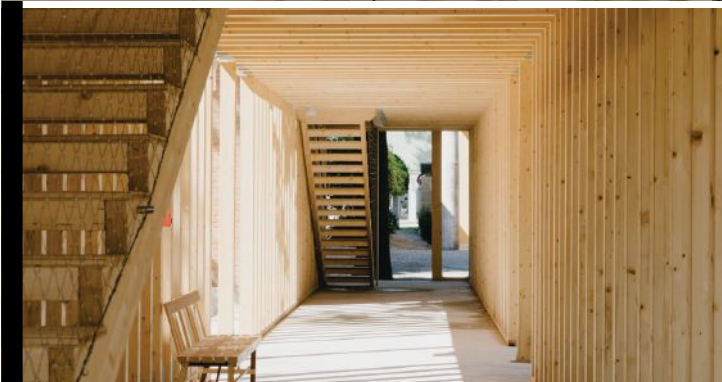
“It’s an architecture problem. It’s an urban problem,” Fineman says. “And as an architecture center in a big urban center, it is our responsibility to spread that message.” 

#### IN TOWN FOR A’22?

Receive a discounted entry to the Chicago Architecture Center (111 East Wacker Drive, [architecture.org](http://architecture.org))

"...we often explore how ordinary architecture might be a platform for new ideas and discourse."

— Paul Andersen, Co-Curator, American Framing



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SUPPORT FOR THIS EXHIBITION IS PROVIDED BY ALPHAWOOD FOUNDATION CHICAGO

American Framing is presented at Wrightwood 659 by AlphaWood Exhibitions in cooperation with the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC).

IMAGE CREDITS TOP TO BOTTOM: 1. American Framing. Addition to the Pavilion of the United States at the 17th International Architecture Exhibition at La Biennale di Venezia. Photography by Co-Curators Paul Andersen and Paul Preissner. 2. Installation view of American Framing. Courtesy the Pavilion of the United States at the 17th International Architecture Exhibition at La Biennale di Venezia. 3. Addition to the Pavilion of the United States. Courtesy the Pavilion of the United States at the 17th International Architecture Exhibition at La Biennale di Venezia.



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# A'22 AIA Conference on Architecture 2022 June 22–25, Chicago





# Welcome to A'22

A'22 in Chicago marks the exciting return of the AIA Conference on Architecture 2022 — the first national in-person conference since members gathered in Las Vegas in June 2019.

A great deal has changed in our city since AIA Chicago served as the host chapter for the 2014 Conference. Gathering together this summer with architects from across the country provides an exceptional opportunity to share both Chicago's rich architectural legacy and new innovative buildings.

For the past 10 months, more than 60 AIA Chicago members — in eight committees — have generously volunteered countless hours of their time with our staff. They've developed behind-the-scenes tours; lounge spaces; unique studio experiences; and interactive exhibitions that highlight our city, the work of our chapter's members, and other local allied organizations. We are grateful for their tireless creativity, complex problem-solving, outreach, and collaborations to make A'22 such a meaningful experience for all attendees.

With its elegant radial design, bKL Architecture's winning proposal for the AIA Chicago Host Chapter Lounge at the Expo draws inspiration from the 1909 Burnham Plan and Chicago's iconic architecture such as the Thompson Center, the Cultural Center domes, Marina City, and the ornament of Louis Sullivan. Designed as a place for visitors to reconnect, recharge and renew, the Lounge exhibition also celebrates one of AIA Chicago's most celebrated initiatives — the Bridge mentorship program, entering its 13th year.

A'22 also marks the highly anticipated release of the fourth edition of the *AIA Guide to Chicago*. The must-have guidebook, not updated since the 2014 conference, includes nearly 2,000 projects.

A warm welcome to fellow AIA members visiting from across the country. We look forward to exploring, networking, learning, and celebrating with you.

**Dawn Schuette, FAIA, AIA Chicago A'22 Co-Chair**

**Scott Rappe, AIA, AIA Chicago A'22 Co-Chair**

**Jen Masengarb, Assoc. AIA, AIA Chicago Executive Director**

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# AIA Conference on Architecture: Editor's Picks

*Chicago Architect* perused the roster of A'22 seminars to highlight just a few of the intriguing sessions offered throughout the three days of events. From sustainability to public art, urban design to practice management, these are some of the sessions we're most excited about!

## **Leading From Below: Advancing Decarbonization in Chicago**

Wednesday, June 22: 12-1:30 p.m.

Program Code: WE102

Speakers:

**Douglas Farr**, FAIA, Founding Principal, President – Farr Associates Architecture & Urban Design, P.C.

**Katie Kaluzny**, Associate Director – Illinois Green Alliance

**Angela Tovar**, Chief Sustainability Officer – Office of the Mayor, City of Chicago

Climate change is a shared challenge across the United States, and some areas are more equipped to take action than others. Activist architects have unique powers to accelerate building decarbonization in any city. This power to act is often the result of organizing campaigns rather than the position someone holds.

Join us to learn how architects can, through coordinated activism, be partners with cities in accelerating a decarbonization agenda. Together we'll explore three unique-to-Chicago case studies that illustrate architects' hidden power: Chicago's Building Decarbonization Working Group; the Badge Campaign of AIA Chicago 2030; and Carbon Free Chicago, a 30-year campaign to equitably decarbonize Chicago.

### **Editor's Comments:**

*In Chicago, community organizing and coalition building has been a powerful force in environmental justice. I'm looking forward to hearing how architects can organize within the profession, ally themselves with communities and relevant organizations to tip the scales toward decarbonization.*

**Editor's Comments:**

*Too often, initiatives that are designed to build equity in architecture occur in fits and spurts; I'm looking forward to learning from VORTEX leaders about how to build and sustain a coalition that works toward long-term goals.*

**The Legacy of Whitney Young: RIDING THE VORTEX (VORTEX)**

June 22: 2-3 p.m.

Program Code: WE214

Speakers:

Kathryn Prigmore, FAIA

Katherine Williams, AIA, Architect – Katherine R Williams

Kathy Dixon, FAIA, Principal – K. Dixon Architecture, PLLC

Melissa Daniel

Named for civil rights leader Whitney M. Young, Jr., this award distinguishes an architect or architectural organization that embodies social responsibility and actively addresses a relevant issue, such as affordable housing, inclusiveness or universal access. This session features the winner of the 2022 Whitney M. Young, Jr. Award, RIDING THE VORTEX (VORTEX).

For more than a decade, VORTEX, a collaboration of African American women representing the entire spectrum of practice, had endeavored to increase the number of people of color licensed to practice architecture in the U.S. Following its 2007 launch at the AIA Conference on Architecture in San Antonio, VORTEX has directly responded to Whitney M. Young, Jr.'s observations on the disheartening history of American architecture. Even today, through the first quarter of the 21st century, entry, success and progress in the profession remain dominated by white men, something VORTEX works tirelessly to change. This session highlights the work of VORTEX and its impact on the increased number of African American female architects.

**City Change Through Play**

June 23: 4-5 p.m.

Program Code: TH306

Speaker:

Ryan Swanson, Assoc. AIA, Founder/  
Creative Director – The Urban Conga

Play is universal. So why is the concept of play often absent from the dialogue around urban development and city change? In fact, play can be invoked as a powerful tool for developing more equitable, healthy and social spaces and places within our cities and communities.

Join this session to explore how a "Playable City" — an ecosystem of inclusive, multiscale, playable opportunities — can have a positive impact on the future development of our urban landscape.

**Editor's Comments:**

*If there's one thing we can take away from these years of pandemic-driven indoor living, it's the importance of bringing play back into our everyday lives — adults included. I'm excited for an urban future driven by design that encourages joy through inclusive activity and togetherness; I'm looking forward to learning about strategies to make that possible.*

**What is your favorite Chicago neighborhood and why?**



"Lakeview East! After happily living for many years in one of the Mies buildings in Streeterville, we moved to Lakeview East because we were attracted to the concentration of pre-war vintage apartment buildings in the area for their interior spatial complexity (and, with our apologies to Mies, for their ample thermal mass).

The neighborhood is incredibly diverse both demographically and, as we've discovered, architecturally, too. From Wrigley Field to the lakefront and Graceland Cemetery to North Pond, every block has a distinctive character that continues to surprise us every day."

— Tom Lee, AIA, Eastman Lee Architects



"My favorite neighborhood is the one where I spend the most amount of time, Bronzeville-South Loop. I love that it is steeped in much of Chicago's early history and that I can learn about the origins of this city by just walking around and taking in the architecture. I love the emerging art and food districts and the fusion of African American, Asian and Latino culture. And I especially love that new hospitality and entertainment venues are coming to fill in the gaps."

— RaMona Westbrook, AIA, NOMA, Brook Architecture

## Trauma-Informed Design: Designing Education Facilities for Families Experiencing Homelessness

June 24: 8-9:30 a.m.

Program Code: FR110

Speakers:

Gary Armbruster, AIA, Principal Architect/Partner – MA+ Architecture

Margaret Creighton, President/CEO – Positive Tomorrows

Families that are experiencing homelessness have a myriad of challenges, including how to access education. After all, education is one of the best pathways to a safe and secure existence. How can we support these families in crisis?

This session focuses on the issues surrounding the education of families experiencing homelessness. You'll learn about the components of trauma-informed design and how they were used to design a new elementary school for homeless children. Learn how trauma-informed design integrates the principles of trauma-informed care into design with the goal of creating education spaces that promote safety, well-being and healing.

### Editor's Comments:

*Addressing the crisis of unhoused people doesn't just mean building more homes; this session helps to clarify the layered challenges faced by these individuals and families, and how architects can design more supportive environments.*

## Architect as Entrepreneur: Lessons in Establishing a New Practice

June 25: 10-11 a.m.

Program Code: SA206

Speakers:

J. Robert Hillier, FAIA, Principal – Studio Hillier

Joshua Zinder, AIA, Managing Partner – JZA+D

A lack of familiarity with the risks, rewards and key success factors keeps many professionals from starting their own practice. What do you need to know before making the leap?

Join a discussion with two architect-entrepreneurs who have collectively launched three successful firms (JZA+D, Studio Hillier). You'll learn about the benefits of developing a multidisciplinary practice, identifying the right partner, managing growth, talent retention strategies and devising an exit strategy.

### Editor's Comments:

*Running an architecture practice is also running a small business — the mindset of architect and entrepreneur is critical. Learning the basics of running a small business, including building a team and predicting risks, should be a part of every architect's repertoire; attend this seminar if you have big dreams that require strategy.*

### Editor's Comments:

*Tapping into the talents of local artists can yield contextually and culturally responsive architecture while also supporting artists and bolstering your city's public art scene. Chicago loves its public art!*

## Honoring Community & Culture by Engaging Local Artists

June 25: 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Program Code: SA310

Speakers:

Elizabeth Carmichael, AIA, Principal Architect – ECOhouse

JoAnn Carter-Wells, PhD, Director of Education – ECOhouse Architecture, Professor Emeritus & Founding Director of the MS in Instructional Design and Technology Program – ECOhouse Architecture, and California State University-Fullerton

Encouraging local art to extend through neighborhoods adds character and originality, as artists interpret the history of the area and society through a unique lens. Join us to experience their passion and learn more about their approach.

You'll hear from renowned muralist Victor Ochoa and the women entrepreneurs of Arte Atolondrada to gain a deeper understanding of their community. Seasoned developer Robert Ito will exemplify a commitment to housing equity. Additionally, you'll learn how incorporating cultural context through artists' color and texture choices stimulates human connection and well-being, and how you can weave an artwork's palette into a project.



## What's in your bag? Tell us what you plan on packing with you to A'22.

- Sketchbooks
- Pens, Faber-Castell stub mechanical pencil
- Sanitizer, wipes, Lysol spray, KN95 masks
- Stone talisman for good luck
- A wristband honoring the late Barbara G. Laurie, AIA, NOMA, that reads, "b.g.laurious!"
- Funky spare socks
- Spare glasses
- Business cards
- Point and shoot camera
- Notecards

— Walter D. Street III, AIA, NOMA, Walter Street Architecture



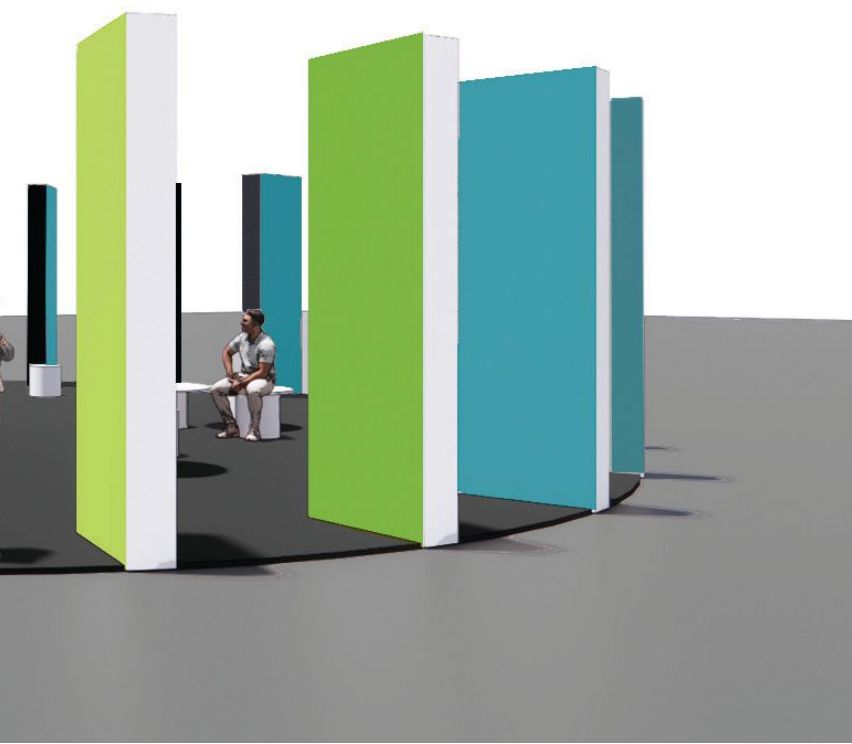
# Connect & C at The Chapter Lounge

**A**IA Chicago is thrilled to host conference attendees at our Chapter Lounge, located on the Expo floor. Designed by bKL Architecture in collaboration with Studio J9, the lounge reflects the tenets of AIA National's Strategic Goals through a local Chicago lens. The radial plan draws inspiration from the 1909 Burnham Plan that envisioned a system of encircling transportation routes, parks and cultural enhancements, transcending the city grid with green space and broad avenues which cut diagonally through the city. Radiating panels will display photos and quotes from AIA Chicago's groundbreaking Bridge Mentorship program, and monitors within the space will display quotes from members that respond to issues of the past, present and future of the profession.

Featuring flexible seating, the lounge is also a playful space where members can partake in the Blueprint for Better card game, a fun sketching activity, or build creatively with Plus-Plus blocks. Reflect, connect, recharge at the Chapter Lounge — find us in the northwest corner of the Expo floor in the Museum Campus neighborhood!



# hill



## *What is your perfect summer day in Chicago?*



"On a summer evening, after dusk, I would take you to Dairy Star Ice Cream. It's a longtime, family-owned soft serve place with a crazy variety of choices, but we go for the old-school vibe and the people-watching. We'd share the outdoor tables with people of all ages and all origins, families, slow-pitch softball players and little kids in their PJs watching from their car windows for their treats. Technically, it's across the street from Chicago, but look for the sign with a punny dad-joke on Devon."

— Holly Gerberding, FAIA



"For me, a perfect summer Chicago day starts with an early morning run down historic Logan Boulevard or around the wooded trail in Palmer Park. On the way back home, grab a coffee and a pastry (walk-up window at Necessary and Sufficient). Then, bike as transportation for the rest of the day. Ride downtown to the Art Institute of Chicago and hit a few galleries (two or three tops — don't overdo it! But do hit the Tadao Ando gallery), and lunch in the sun in the museum courtyard. Early afternoon, head back to Logan Square and stop in at local shops (Wolfbait, Lost Girls or Dial M for local and vintage) and grab some fresh bread at the Logan Square Farmers Market. That evening, hit a bar along Milwaukee Avenue for a cocktail (Whistler or Estereo) before arriving fashionably late to see live music (Empty Bottle or Thalia). Finish the day with a late night bike ride home!"

— Jessie LaFree, AIA, En-Masse Architecture and Design

**What place in Chicago is most “quintessential” to Chicago—its culture or its history—and why?**

“I’d say the lakefront embodies everything that is Chicago. Over the years the city has flexed its notorious political muscle to protect it, but also used the same power to build a convention center on it. The lakefront hosted the 1893 World’s Columbian Exposition — the fair that made Chicago — but was also ground zero for the 1919 race riots, an event that complicates the city’s racial landscape to this day. The lakefront is our gathering spot, a point of civic pride. It is indeed Chicago.”

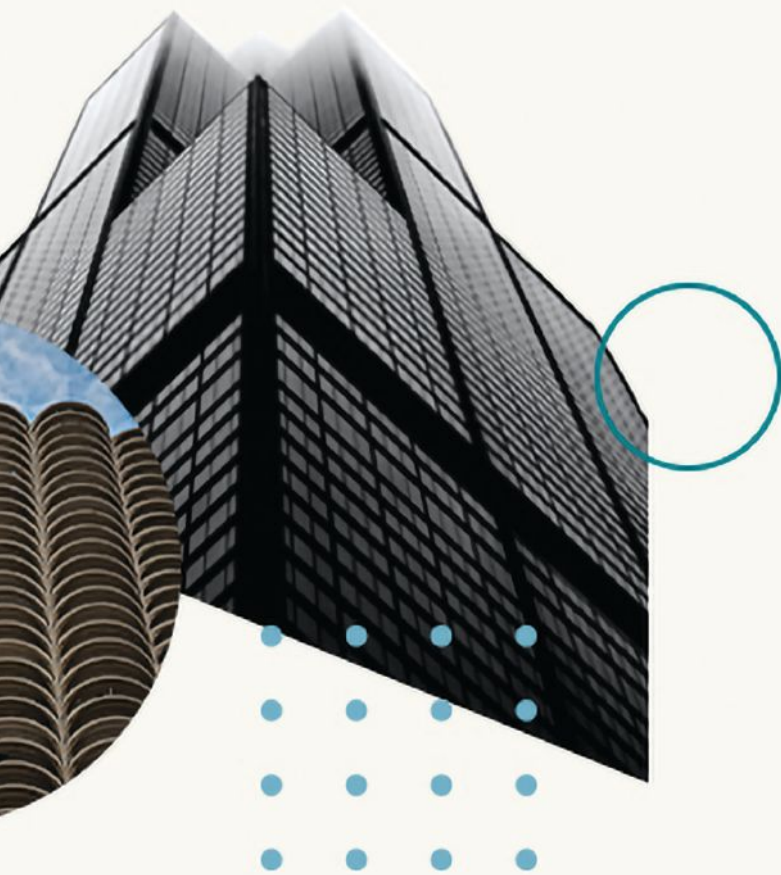
— Lee Bey, Adjunct Professor, Illinois Institute of Technology, *Chicago Sun-Times*



# AIA'22

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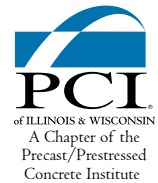
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# Chicagoland Millworkers

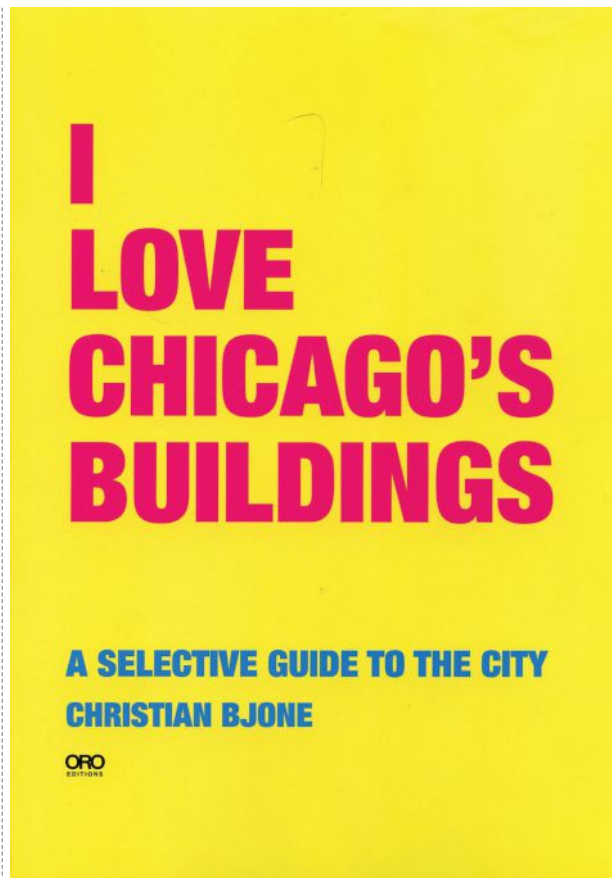
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## *I Love Chicago's Buildings (2022)*

by Christian Bjone  
144pp. Softbound, \$29.95.  
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REVIEW BY STUART COHEN, FAIA

**R**eading books about architecture is often dull. Like most architects I confess that most of the books I own, I bought for the pictures. Years ago, a teaching colleague of mine confessed that reading the architectural (theory) journal *Oppositions* hurt his head. *I Love Chicago's Buildings* is a fun read. Although it does include ideas about architecture, it will not hurt your head. The writing is accessible, amusing and sometimes intentionally controversial. While the book is subtitled "A Selective Guide to the City" and includes maps to all the buildings discussed, the format is not one of individual building entries but the discussion of buildings the author has paired together for comparison. (Remember dual screen slide lectures before PowerPoint?) The selection is personal, idiosyncratic and as the author suggests includes, "the famous, the infamous, the profound and the absurd, the beloved and the forgotten, the monstrous and the minuscule." Bjone self-describes his book as being "like the Trojan House," because "it takes a traditional genre (the guidebook) and with a bit of stealth inserts various subversions: unusual juxtapositions, intentionally shocking provocations, deranged metaphors, critical ideas and comments ... while contradicting historical dogma." Yes, it does all that.

Every profession or discipline has its own jargon. At its best, jargon can function as a useful shorthand for an entire complex of ideas or concepts. At its worst, jargon obscures the lack of understanding on the part of those who invoke it. Architects are great abusers of language both written

and graphic, from the meaning of words to the idea that every line they draw should represent something in the real world. Bjone takes aim at architects labeling the jargon he includes as "architect-speak." He takes the time to explain these terms and concepts to a lay audience and architects alike. I am reminded of my favorite children's author Lemony Snicket (Daniel Handler), and the way he introduces and defines new vocabulary in his book, *A Series of Unfortunate Events*.

This book begins small with the author's favorite Chicago doorways, which includes Louis Sullivan's elevator doors from the Chicago Stock Exchange (now in various museums). He writes about the doorway at 200 E. Pearson, noting that every day Mies van der Rohe — who lived there — passed through a miniature reenactment of the doorway to the Palazzo Farnese in Rome. While architects have wondered why Mies didn't choose to live a block away in one of his Lake Shore Drive apartment buildings, the author speculates — tongue in cheek — that Mies knew better than to live in a building he designed where he might have to listen to his neighbors complain to him about their plumbing problems. Bjone's discussion of the Stock Exchange elevator doors and of Sullivan's ornament points out the overlooked fact that Sullivan's ornament seemed independent of any sense of materiality (truth of material) and was the same when rendered in terra cotta, cast iron or when carved in wood or stone. This leads him to wonder if the filagree design could be by his apprentice Frank Lloyd Wright who departed

Sullivan employ while this building was being designed. (The Stock Exchange was completed in 1894, Wright was let go by Sullivan in 1893.) I've always thought these elevator doors had a remarkable resemblance to the graphic page borders in the edition of *The House Beautiful* that Wright designed. "Ornament as delightful schizophrenia" is a consideration of the ornament that was typically included in most Chicago school frame buildings. We are invited to understand the disjunction between the ground floor and the expressed structure of the upper floors of Sullivan's Carson Pirie Scott and Company building as "delightful schizophrenia," a disjunction that the author confesses drives him "C-R-A-Z-Y." Equally schizophrenic for Bjone is the top of the Chicago Public Library. While both these buildings are "warehouses" in plan, Bjone objects to Tom Beeby's giant green owls (wise guys?) as a newly invented icon of the library, derived from Beeby's fascination with "fairy tales," but unrelated to any representation of the civic nature of the library.

In a chapter titled "The Colonnade, A Most Useful Invention," Mies' Lake Shore Drive apartments are compared to Carol Ross Barney's Chicago McDonald's Flagship store on N. Clark Street. After presenting a brief history of the stoa, Bjone concludes that, "The colonnade is both a dumb shelter from the rain and profound emblem of the public realm ..." without commenting on the public-private nature of his examples.

Under the rubric "Mannerism or Mistakes," Walter Netsch's Galvin Library (1962) at IIT and Crown Hall are compared. Is

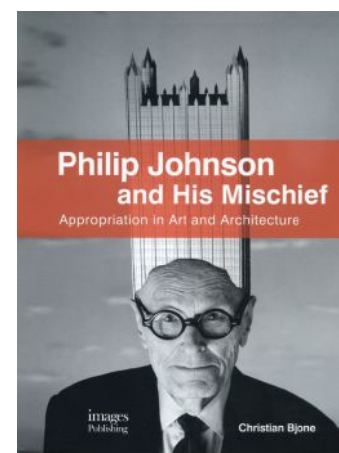
Galvin Hall an homage to Mies or a profoundly inept reinterpretation of Crown Hall where giant roof top girders are visually supported by the thin mullions in the curtain wall they appear to sit atop? If shockingly unsupported elements were a feature of 16th century Italian Mannerism, Bjone writes that perhaps Galvin Hall is not, "an intricate manipulation of an existing Miesian system ... but just a series of mistakes," (Mies Takes?) with the ultimate insult of not being "pretty enough" to be included in the encyclopedic *AIA Guide to Chicago*. For the real thing, Bjone writes about Hugh Garden's Chapin and Gore Building (1904) at 63 E. Adams which he compares to Sullivan's Gage Building façade which here plays the "straight man." On Adams Street the column lines carry down and intentionally disappear in the voids of the building's ground level entrances. A comparison of Stanley Tigerman's Piper Alley Mall and Parking Garage (1977) with its paper-thin facade of brickwork and circular cut-outs (a homage to Louis Kahn in Dhaka?) and the Moody Church (1925) just around the corner, invites us to reconsider the incipient mannerism of Tigerman's building. Bjone saves it from architectural oblivion through the time-honored art historical device of the comparative method.

Perhaps the closest the book comes to arguing architectural theory is the "Impossibility of Additions." Should buildings reflect the zeitgeist (the spirit of their time) or their context? The author who clearly loves Chicago modern buildings nonetheless writes that we have an obligation to establish a link with our past, extending the

scale and perhaps other selective characteristics of our "beloved building and neighborhoods," concluding "architects who can't understand this are destructive egomaniacs or just plain evil." He continues, "Unfortunately, the context as an idea can be used to justify the most banal and retardataire buildings." The additions that are compared as strategies for adding to buildings are the Adler Planetarium whose addition wraps the existing building while deferring to the building's domed volume; 222 North LaSalle which extends the architectural language of the building both laterally and literally while adding a curtain wall clad Mansard roof addition to the building's top; and lastly the idea of the addition as a miniature of the original (think momma bear and baby bear) as seen in Helmut Jahn's (1980) addition to the Board of Trade. Here the addition is a curtain wall clad (zeitgeisty) version of the original building's massing and pyramidal top.

The book's conclusion, labeled "Conclusion," is hardly one at all but shifts gears to look at images of Chicago in the form of kitsch souvenirs, postcards and urban architectural proposals. They are a lens for judging how well we have built or mis built Chicago. (Mies-built?)

So, who is Christian Bjone? (Pronounced Be-you-knee.) An expat architect and author who grew up (he tells us) in a bungalow on Chicago's far west side. He studied architecture at the University of Illinois Chicago in the late 1970s and then at Princeton. (Full disclosure he was a student in one of the earliest design studios that I taught at UIC). He is the author of four previous



books on architecture and art. He worked as an architect in New York City for the firm of Johnson/Burgee Architects and is the author of *Philip Johnson and His Mischief: Appropriation in Art and Architecture* (2014). Bjone evaluates Johnson's eclectic use of images from the worlds of art and architecture as acts of connoisseurship. For Johnson, Bjone suggests that appropriation was a form of originality, although this method hardly assures good architecture will result. Rife with anecdotes, Bjone tells us that when he identified a building's feature derived from an obscure garden pavilion by Frederick Persius (a contemporary of Shinkel's), Johnson replied, "You caught me! And now we can begin." Two of Bjone's books, *Art + Architecture, Strategies in Collaboration* (2009) and *Almost Nothing, 100 Artists Comment on the Works of Mies van der Rohe* (2019) examine the reciprocity between the world of contemporary art and architecture. All of these books abound in original observations. Read Christian Bjone. In my opinion he is one of the most interesting authors writing about the relationship of architecture and culture today. CA

# We Need a Safe Place to Address Our Mental Health

BY PETER EXLEY, FAIA, GREGG GARMISA, ESQ., AND KOREY WHITE, AIA

A deluge of recent articles in *Architect* magazine (“The Burnout Problem in Architecture”), *Architect* (“Debunking Architecture’s Mythological Work Culture”), *Crain’s Chicago Business* (“Crisis Point”), and others have elevated conversations about mental health in the architecture profession and, more broadly, in our workplaces. That’s a good start but we can and should dig deeper — individually, in our offices and more broadly within the profession.

There are models for how this could look. Take, for example, the Lawyers’ Assistance Program (LAP).

You may have noticed that one of the authors of this article is an attorney. Gregg is grateful to belong to a profession (all lawyer jokes temporarily aside) that has, for decades, actively worked to help lawyers, judges and law students (and their families) in crisis, through a fully functioning and robust program known as the Lawyers’ Assistance Program (LAP). LAP helps those who are

“concerned about alcohol abuse, drug dependency or stress related issues like anxiety, burnout, depression and many others. [Its] services include individual and group therapy, assessments, education, peer support and intervention.”

Gregg has personal experience with that support structure, and shares how important the professional network was for him and his family:

“More than 20 years ago, I was in desperate straits. And LAP was there to guide me toward



an off-ramp from a self-destructive cycle involving alcoholism that, quite certainly, would have ruined my career and family life. Today, through that support, which helped me take essential recovery measures, I consider myself the luckiest person around, not simply because of the incredible good fortune I have experienced career-wise, but because my family and social relations are stronger and healthier than ever.”

The difficult times of the past two years have been challenging for all of us, especially those of us who struggle with mental health, addiction and substance abuse. It made us realize that architecture doesn’t have a

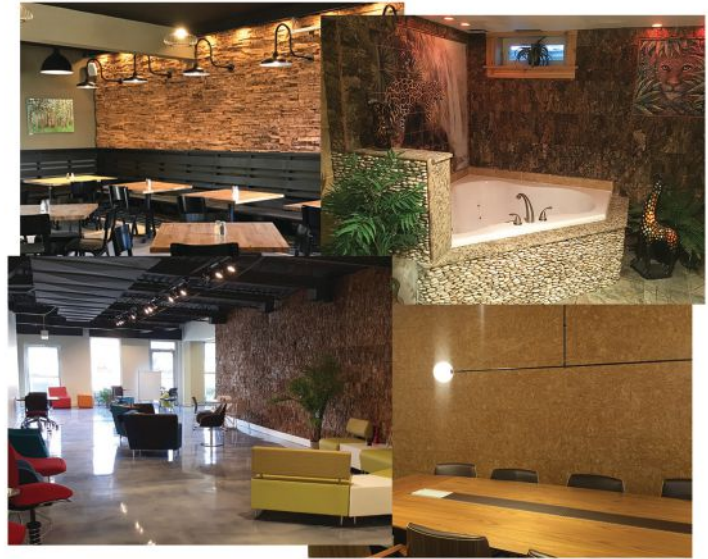
corresponding program to LAP. This is a shame, because both professions share many of the same traits: demanding clients, high stakes, driven personalities, self-imposed and often unattainable goals, etc.

As the industry continues to transform and grapple with inequities, workforce diversity, labor challenges and climate change, among other current issues, we challenge our colleagues to join in a collective and inclusive commitment to expand mental health support throughout our profession.

Individual architects and firms are currently navigating their respective ways forward and it seems reasonable to conclude

**“The difficult times of the past two years have been challenging for all of us, especially those of us who struggle with mental health, addiction and substance abuse. It made us realize that architecture doesn’t have a corresponding program to LAP.”**

**Gregg Garmisa, Esq.**



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that, in many respects, work life as we knew it in the pre-pandemic time is going to have to adjust. What that will look like in each case is beyond the scope of this short treatment. What we propose here is, instead, to offer a few suggestions that might pave the way for a healthier path into the future for the profession, from both a micro- and macro-level.

We as humans and members or allies of the architecture profession, and the profession more broadly, must prioritize the importance of mental health and destigmatize the ways in which we think, talk and act when the subject is mental health and the myriad ways in which life crises manifest themselves.

We all know that it takes a village, and in these uncertain times, as we each strive for professional excellence, let's also commit to habits of self-care and, equally important, look out for our colleagues, our peers, our classmates and our families, whether chosen, genetic or otherwise.

The time to act is now.

The collective action of our profession can have a strong impact. We may not yet have our own version of LAP, but we can certainly do more collectively through AIA and other formal and informal channels to support one another. And, fortunately, there are many more outlets available to support those in crisis than ever before, whether it's through a company-sponsored EAP (employee assistance plan), or more robust mental health insurance benefits, a growing societal recognition that mental and emotional ordeals are "real,"

or 12-step-type programs.

Let's contemplate the mechanisms that might affect positive change. In the same way that we encourage mentorship to nurture leaders, let's consider how we can talk about the challenges, pressures and constraints that weigh on us in our practices. It is time to utilize the lever of mental health to enhance the culture of architectural practice.

We propose investigating the creation of a model akin to the LAP for architects, architecture students and colleagues in the AEC industry. We propose serious conversations at every level of our profession that work to the universal adoption of the AIA's Guide for Equitable Practice.

For sure the practicalities might benefit from our expertise in design-thinking to iron out the details. For sure any actions will outweigh continued inaction.

We create safe and healthy places for our clients to live their best lives. Let's redouble our efforts to build those places for ourselves too. **CA**

*Peter Exley, FAIA served as the 2021 president of AIA. Gregg Garmisa, Esq., is principal and general counsel at Studio Gang in Chicago. Korey White, AIA, was elected as AIA's 2022 Strategic Council moderator. The authors plan to meet in the coming months to formulate a draft action plan for mental health. AIA Chicago will convene a series of member-led conversations and programs. We welcome collaborators. If you're interested in joining this group, email [membervoices@aiachicago.org](mailto:membervoices@aiachicago.org) for more information.*

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# Building Resilience

An interview with Lakisha Ann Woods, CAE, EVP/Chief Executive Officer, AIA

Earlier this year, AIA members across the country welcomed Lakisha Ann Woods as the new leader of our association. Woods has a long and rich background in the built environment: She has served as the president and CEO of the National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS), which convenes experts from the building industry, design industry, government, and regulations to identify and develop solutions to critical issues, including climate action, natural disasters, and inequity. Prior to NIBS, Woods served as the senior vice president and chief marketing officer with the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB). She and Executive Jen Masengarb, Assoc. AIA, spoke about her priorities and plans for AIA and its membership.

## Climate change



**Jen Masengarb:** Your background at the National Institute of Building Sciences was

heavily focused on climate resilience and disaster management. How will those experiences at NIBS influence your perspective, work, and priorities at AIA?



**Lakisha Ann Woods:** One of the main lessons I took with me from NIBS was recognizing the critical

importance of the entire architecture, engineering, and construction industry working together to make the built environment resilient and sustainable, because it will require a collaborative effort. That was a central idea behind the Resilience Building Coalition, which has accelerated resilience efforts across more than 53 organizations representing nearly 2

million design and construction professionals. That coalition was originally created through a partnership between NIBS and AIA. In the coming months, AIA will be sharing new resources and education to help project teams consider resilience across a project's lifecycle and demonstrate the economic and social benefits of more resilient design. We'll also continue to train architects and allied professionals to assist state and local components with disaster response through the California Office of Emergency Management Safety Assessment Program. In 2021 and so far in 2022, AIA has trained 163 individuals, but we'll need more as hazard events increase in frequency and intensity.

## Equity, diversity, inclusion

**JM:** AIA has a new MOU with the National Organization of Minority Architects, which was recently shared with the components/chapters as many are looking to craft their own agreements at the local level for collaborations. What can you tell us about that? What aspects of this partnership and

agreement are you excited about? Any new EDI initiatives in development at the national level that you'd like to share?

**LW:** We are excited that local momentum is growing. The AIA has had a long-standing relationship with the National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA). Beginning in 2020, the boards of NOMA and AIA decided to expand their engagement, which is essential to furthering equity, diversity, inclusion and belonging initiatives in the profession. Our commitment is to advance the goals and objectives identified in the AIA Strategic Plan. We're working collaboratively on behalf of our members to foster a culture of equity, diversity, inclusion and belonging in the profession of architecture. We're also creating space for important conversations and implementing both new and existing programs, such as Next to Lead, to diversify the pathway to AIA leadership. AIA is also expanding the EDI knowledge base with the release of two new equitable practice resources — Justice in the Built Environment and Higher

Education, coming out soon — which are supplementary editions to our Guides for Equitable Practice. I also want to note AIA's upcoming Women's Leadership Summit, the largest event for women leaders in architecture and design in the country. The event focuses on firm leadership, advancing business knowledge, targeted networking, proactive career management, and personal empowerment for the purpose of preserving and growing the network of women leaders who are at the forefront of architecture and represent the profession more broadly.

Our strategic plan is also guiding how we work within our organization. We are implementing recommendations from two internal equity assessments, to enhance our Honors and Awards programs, so that the Framework for Design Excellence will better reflect EDI principles. As it relates to member engagement, we're taking steps to expand volunteer opportunities for members who want to participate.

By furthering a culture of EDI and belonging internally and externally, we're empowering both our

staff and our members to cultivate a culture of EDI and belonging in all that we do. Our work is evolving and energizing, but we recognize that we have only just begun and there is a lot of work ahead to see true diversity in leadership within the profession.

**JM:** Late in 2021, AIA issued *The Elephant in the (Well-Designed) Room: An Investigation into Bias in the Architecture Profession*. The report identified ways in which architecture firms can improve their diversity metrics and foster a culture of belonging and make progress toward eliminating bias in the workplace. Are there new AIA strategic plan initiatives which will build on the report? How can firms and AIA components best utilize this tool? What would you say to those firms or practitioners who are hesitant to have these conversations?

**LW:** *The Elephant in the (Well-Designed) Room: An Investigation into Bias in the Architecture Profession* is as much a research report as it is a resource. The report is intended to be a conversation starter.

The data suggests some members of the profession are having different experiences based on their gender, race, and ethnicity. These are business imperatives, and there is plenty of supporting data that says businesses, schools, organizations, and workplaces of all types are more effective when they have a diverse composition. Employee satisfaction is a marker of profitability and there's research supporting this in architecture as well as other sectors — it's a workplace issue.

Broadly, we want to overcome the hesitancy to have difficult conversations. Further, we contin-

**“Broadly, we want to overcome the hesitancy to have difficult conversations. Further, we continue to provide firms with additional tools that prepare everyone, all along the career continuum, to prepare for these conversations and to take action to make the changes that are required in their businesses to advance and reinforce a culture of equity, diversity, inclusion and belonging.”**

**Lakisha Ann Woods, CAE, EVP/Chief Executive Officer, AIA**

ue to provide firms with additional tools that prepare everyone, all along the career continuum, to prepare for these conversations and to take action to make the changes that are required in their businesses to advance and reinforce a culture of equity, diversity, inclusion and belonging.

Another tool to help all of us create a better workplace culture by interrupting biases in real time are AIA's Guides for Equitable Practice. They are an important resource to help tackle issues of inequity in the workplace and are crucial to making the practice of architecture more equitable for everyone.

AIA's role and goal are to create resources that are rich and informative and that empower the profession, as individuals and leaders, to do the hard work necessary to make a sustained and meaningful difference. These resources, among others, equip members to continue to advance meaningful change in society and within their firms.

#### **Residential design**

**JM:** AIA Chicago has a very strong CRAN® (Custom Architecture

Residential Network) Knowledge Community. How can we as a component and as an organization at large continue to promote and support meaningful design work and conversation around residential design? How have your experiences at the National Association of Home Builders changed the way you think about residential design?

**LW:** Custom residential design is such an important part of the architectural profession. It's how so many people engage with an architect. Housing prices are skyrocketing right now, which reflects the fact that a record number of people are moving while many others are investing in their homes. Architects are a vital part of satisfying both consumer needs. Our custom residential architects are telling us that their businesses are booming, some with backlogs of over six months.

As an organization, both nationally and locally, we need to continue to develop knowledge and information to benefit architects who are engaged in, or who are interested in learning more about custom residential

practice. Continuing to support CRAN®, at all levels of the AIA, and the important work that our volunteer members do is critical. Engagement within CRAN® provides our members access to information and facilitates the exchange of knowledge and expertise to promote the professional development of our members via discussion forums, national symposia and conventions, publications, and local activities.

CRAN® has also been a great partner in our Home Design Trends Survey research. Every quarter, residential architects share different aspects of what they are seeing in residential design. Residential architects are at the forefront of these trends, and they are closest to the homeowners that they work with. This is highly impactful at telling us where home design is going.

It's also worth noting that the annual CRAN® Symposium will be held from September 8-11 in the great city of Chicago. The event will allow attendees to hear from industry experts, tour local homes, engage with building product manufacturers, and network with peers.

**A'22 Conference — Looking back and looking ahead**

**JM:** We are so excited to be serving as the host city/chapter for the AIA Conference on Architecture 2022 here in Chicago. Preparing for the Conference has also given us the opportunity to reflect back to 2014 — the year that Chicago last hosted. Much has changed in the profession and in AIA over these past eight years. When the AIA Conference returns to Chicago in another eight to 10 years, how do you envision a future AIA in 2030? What are your hopes and goals for this future?

**LW:** Eight years from now will be 2030, a critical milestone toward decarbonizing the building sector. Building on the leadership AIA Chicago members have demonstrated toward our 2030 Commitment goals, I hope that by the AIA Conference on

Architecture 2030, we've collectively eliminated operational carbon emissions and significantly curbed embodied carbon emissions in buildings. Today, more than 1,000 companies — representing a large number of projects and square footage — have joined the 2030 Commitment program. But there are still many architecture, engineering, and consulting firms we need to engage with reporting progress towards decarbonization. AIA programs and resources, including the Design Data Exchange, Framework for Design Excellence, Architecture & Design Materials Pledge, and building codes advocacy are helping make progress possible. If those goals are achieved, I guarantee we'll be celebrating in Chicago.

**Chicago**

**JM:** We were delighted to read

in a recent *Architect* magazine interview that you're a big fan of Chicago's architecture — specifically the Tribune Tower (1923, Hood & Howells). What is it that you love about the building? Where did this love/obsession come from?

**LW:** I have an appreciation for many styles of architecture. However, something about seeing that building when I visit Chicago takes me back in time. The gothic style and intricate detail in the design always makes me feel like I am transported to Europe and am touring French castles. I am impressed by the craftsmanship and attention to detail for all that must go into designing and developing such a beautiful building. CA

*Resources*

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