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EDITOR IN CHIEF

Jen Masengarb
editor@aiachicago.org

INTERIM EDITOR

Dillon Goodson
editor@aiachicago.org

EDITOR

Liz Herrera Lauer
liz@innovativepublishing.com

DESIGNER

Molly Dixon

ADVERTISING SALES

Innovative Publishing
advertise@innovativepublishing.com
844.423.7272



Highlighting Design Excellence

Dear Members and Friends,

As our thoughts turn to fall, we're reflecting on the AIA Conference on Architecture 2022 we hosted this past June as thousands of AIA members explored dozens of neighborhoods and the Loop, highlighting the newest design work of our members and Chicago's rich architectural legacy.

This issue includes highlights from some of our favorite moments from A'22 made possible through the volunteer service of 90-plus members like you who served on planning committees, led sessions, organized and led tours, and provided logistical and welcome support throughout the four days. We're thankful for bKL Architecture and Studio J9's elegantly designed Host Chapter Lounge, which provided the ideal space to gather again with local friends and national colleagues after such a long time apart. We're also incredibly grateful to Dawn Schuette, FAIA, and Scott Rappe, AIA, for their tireless efforts serving as AIA Chicago's A'22 co-chairs this past year.

Our feature this issue highlights the diversity of recent residential design projects from AIA Chicago members. From smaller first homes on a tight budget to large second homes; neighborhood infill and adaptive reuse to new construction; city and suburban homes to rural getaways — the projects highlight the creativity and design excellence of our member firms. This September, Chicago also hosted the 2022 CRAN® (Custom Residential Architecture Network) Symposium, which brought together AIA members from across the country.

Speaking of residential design, you'll also read about the latest updates on the City of Chicago's Additional Dwelling Units (ADU) Ordinance and

the contributions from AIA Chicago members in advocating for and shaping the new pilot program approved by the City Council in late 2020. A story on Stantec Chicago's new Pullman Artspace Lofts — the first residential development within Pullman in more than 60 years — continues the residential theme of this issue.

Chapter updates include the latest initiatives from AIA Chicago's member-led EDI (Equity, Diversity, Inclusion) Committee and news of the Foundation's scholarship winners. You'll also hear from the chapter's five newest Fellows elevated to the AIA College of Fellows at a special ceremony during A'22. And, AIA Illinois shares a legislative update from Springfield on statewide advocacy efforts for the profession.

We're also shining a light on two members: Sharon Samuels, AIA, and her work in designing sets for some of the most popular movies and TV shows filmed in the city; and Chris Carpenter, Affiliate AIA Chicago, of Pella Corporation.

Finally, on behalf of the entire organization, I want to extend our deepest gratitude to Anjulie Rao, who served as editor of *Chicago Architect* magazine for nearly seven years, producing 37 issues. As the first woman of color in this role, she brought an important editorial voice and vision for the publication, both commissioning stories from writers of color and highlighting local BIPOC architects across the city. She will be missed.

Our last issue of this year will celebrate many of our 2022 award winners. Watch for that issue of the magazine to hit your mailboxes in December.

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.

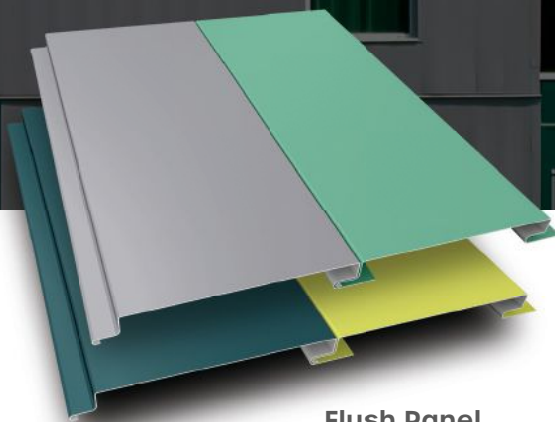
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Healthy Dose of Color



PAC-CLAD Flush panels provide pops of playful color: Stripes of Patina Green, Teal and custom Parakeet Yellow against a field of neutral Cityscape Gray create a cheerful backdrop for an outdoor courtyard where guests can relax and play.

Ronald McDonald House, Cincinnati | Installing contr. (walls): Neiheisel Steel | Architect: GBBN Architects
General contractor: Messer Construction | Photo: hortonphotoinc.com



Flush Panel Metal Wall System

Patina Green, Teal, Cityscape
and custom Parakeet Yellow



View the
case study
and video



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HORIZON HOUSE BY DSPACE STUDIO. PHOTO BY TONY SOLURI, SOLURI PHOTOGRAPHY

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Credit: Medill House by UrbanLab,
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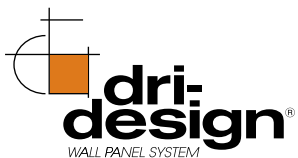


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A'22 Recap and Highlights

In late June, AIA Chicago was honored to welcome thousands of architects and designers from across the country to our hometown for the AIA Conference on Architecture 2022. It was an energizing four days filled with countless events, engaging sessions, world-class keynotes, and an expo floor filled with numerous vendors and nonprofits.

Here's a quick look at what we accomplished together:

- Led more than **4,000 guests** on **78 tours** in four days
- Welcomed over **700 guests** to **33 firms** as part of Open Studios

- Nearly **30 AIA Chicago members** presented at A'22
- Celebrated **five Fellows from AIA Chicago** invested into the College of Fellows
- Showcased the participants of our Bridge Mentorship Program in the Host Chapter Lounge, designed by bKL Architecture and Studio J9
- **740 AIA Illinois and AIA Chicago members** in attendance
- More than 90 volunteers serving in over 200 volunteer positions

“The intensity, duration, and sheer size of A'22 made this a particularly exciting and memorable experience. Stationed at our tour desk for much of the event, I was struck by our visitors' enthusiasm for Chicago and their genuine appreciation for our volunteers' local knowledge and assistance.”

Scott Rappe, AIA, AIA Chicago Steering Committee Co-Chair

“The most rewarding aspect of A'22 was getting to know our great AIA Chicago staff, Board, and members. Everyone poured their energy and hearts into making this a great experience for all that joined us here in Chicago. I treasure the time we spent together and the friendships made and strengthened.”

Dawn Schuette, FAIA, AIA Chicago Steering Committee Co-Chair

Top Right: AIA Chicago's A'22 co-chairs, committees, Board, staff, and members gather in the Host Chapter Lounge, designed by bKL Architecture and Studio J9.
Photo by Ben Lipowitz

Bottom Right: Tours Departure Lounge and AIA Guide to Chicago pickup in the main concourse of McCormick Place during the AIA Conference on Architecture 2022.
Photo by Jen Masengarb



Tour Highlights

Below: More than 80 tours across the city explored collections of buildings and neighborhoods, including Humboldt Park, University of Chicago, and the Loop. Photos: Ben Lipowitz



“The hard work and dedicated service of our A’22 Tours Committee and AIA Chicago was rewarded with glowing reviews and gratitude from over 4,000 tour attendees for a proper showcase of our beautiful city filled with world-class architecture.”
Kelly Moynihan, AIA, Tours Chair

Host Chapter Lounge Highlights

“I loved seeing the Host Chapter Lounge come to fruition and connecting with friends that I haven’t seen for eons during the pandemic.”
Lori Day, AIA, Host Chapter Lounge Design Lead, bKL Architecture



Top: AIA Chicago Host Chapter Lounge, designed by bKL Architecture and Studio J9. Lounge photography by Annkathrin Murray. Photo by Chris Carpenter, Affiliate AIA Chicago

Middle: AIA Chicago members enjoy the Host Chapter Lounge during the Expo's Block Party. Photo by Jen Masengarb

Bottom Left: Carl Sergio, AIA, and Jessie LaFree, AIA, alongside their exhibition panel in the Host Chapter Lounge showcasing AIA Chicago's Bridge Mentorship program. Photo by David Cordaro

Volunteer Highlights

“Attendees crossed paths with our 90+ volunteers in a number of locations, including on the tours throughout the city, at the tour bus departure zone, at the AIA Chicago Host Chapter Lounge, and at the info desk near registration.”

**Patrick Keeney, AIA,
Volunteer Committee Co-Chair**



Volunteer Alzira Maldonado Protshishin, AIA. Photo by Ben Lipowitz

Sponsorship Highlights



AIA Chicago Foundation treasurer and A'22 Sponsorship Committee co-chair Grant Uhler, FAIA, with sponsor Eric Singer from the law firm of Ice Miller.

“My highlight was seeing the AIA Chicago Board of Directors, members of A'22 Steering Committee, and staff come together in the host chapter lounge Thursday evening, surrounded by the logos of our AIA Chicago sponsors. Despite an extremely busy day, the team took a moment to celebrate our sponsors, whose support helped make the conference a tremendous success for the chapter.”

Kirstin Osgood, AIA Chicago Director of Development and Sales

AIA College of Fellows Highlight



Five AIA Chicago members were elevated into the AIA College of Fellows. **Left:** Craig Brandt, FAIA; Charles Smith, FAIA; and Abigail Clary, FAIA. *Photo by Ben Lipowitz*
Right: Mark Schendel, FAIA; and Robin Randall, FAIA. *Photo by Jen Masengarb*

Day 3 Speaker Highlight



Jen Masengarb, Assoc. AIA, AIA Chicago executive director, met with former President Barack Obama, and presented him with the fourth edition of the *AIA Guide to Chicago*, signed on behalf of the membership. *Photo by David Cordaro*

Open Studios Highlight

As part of the Open Studios night, 33 AIA Chicago firms welcomed more than 700 A'22 Conference attendees, including this group at Booth Hansen. *Photo by Jen Masengarb*



AIA Chicago Foundation Announces Martin Roche Travel Scholarship Recipient



Ethan O'Kane, a Master of Architecture student at the University of Illinois at Chicago, has been named the 2022 recipient of the AIA Chicago Foundation Martin Roche Travel Scholarship.

O'Kane's research will focus on the Pearling Path, a 3.5-kilometer pathway that winds through the old city of Muharraq, Bahrain, and has been undergoing conserva-

tion and restoration work since 2011. The work will center on how protected sites are carefully renovated, examine how new buildings incorporate historic typologies or genres, and identify political motivations in emerging preservation practices.

In 2012, the site was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site for its globally significant single-product island economy and social system, becoming the second World Heritage Site of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Established in 1926 by architect Martin Roche, FAIA, and administered by the AIA Chicago Foundation, the Martin Roche Travel Scholarship gives a student the opportunity to independently study architecture abroad. A grant of \$6,000 is available to students enrolled in a National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) accredited architecture program at the University of Illinois at Chicago, the Illinois Institute of Technology or the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

To view O'Kane's proposal and learn more about the scholarship, visit www.aiachicago.org.

AIA Chicago Foundation Announces 2022 Diversity Scholarship Recipients



Mallikarjun Gudoor

The AIA Chicago Foundation, the independent charitable organization dedicated to supporting activities that benefit the Chicago-area architecture community, has announced the 2022 Diversity Scholarship recipients.

The AIA Chicago Foundation Diversity Scholarship is an opportunity to attract and retain diverse, talented young professionals in Chicago, recognizing the value of new and unique voices to the profession. Two \$10,000 scholarships are awarded each year to students studying architecture at the Illinois Institute of Technology, the School of the Art Institute of Chicago or the University of Illinois at Chicago.



Mistika Jimenez

Each awardee will also be paired with an AIA Chicago member to receive guidance and ongoing mentorship throughout their educational tenure.

This year's scholars are Mallikarjun Gudoor and Mistika Jimenez, both students at the Illinois Institute of Technology.

"I am elated and honored to be chosen as the 2022-23 recipient for the AIA Diversity Scholarship," said Gudoor. "It is reassuring that I have the support of the AIA community as I begin the next phase of my education and my professional career. I hope to do my best to aid the growth of the professional chapter while giving back to the people and environments that have nurtured me thus far."

"Every day I'm reminded how powerful and important our communities are and the impact they have," said Jimenez. "I'm excited to one day make a difference in communities around Chicago, as I have learned the significance and meaning they give to minorities."

To learn more about the scholarship, visit www.aiachicago.org.

AIA Illinois Legislative Recap

BY STACEY PFINGSTEN, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, AIA ILLINOIS

As an AIA member, you receive membership and all related benefits at the national, state and local chapter levels. These entities work together to advocate on behalf of the architectural profession and the practitioners within.

AIA Illinois This past legislative session was unusually short yet busy, ending much earlier on April 8 rather than May 30. The abbreviated session was due to the change in the election calendar, pushing the primary elections back to June. As always, AIA Illinois took an active role in Springfield, advocating as the voice of all AIA members located within Illinois.

One item that was debated this legislative session was HB 4715, which amends the Registered Interior Designers Act. Due to recent activity in interior design legislation on behalf of AIA National, AIA Illinois was on notice that a bill could be filed this legislative session. We established an interior design task force, worked closely with our industry coalition partners and had several conversations with our AIA colleagues in Iowa and Wisconsin on similar bills that passed in their respective states.

The result was a compromise bill that provides a reasonable balance between projects

requiring the skill and expertise of an architect versus those that have no impact on the safety of a building or its structural capacities. The latter, which occurs in limited situations, can be handled by interior designers. AIA Illinois asked that interior designers in Illinois also expand their education and Health, Safety, and Welfare requirements in this legislation, which was agreed to between both parties. The new law also specifies that decisions on whether to accept stamped drawings rest with local municipalities or other regulators.

Another key initiative for AIA Illinois is HB 4268. This bill amends the school code to encourage project modifications that have a direct link to energy savings with a quick payback without sacrificing expert guidance or public accountability. Guaranteed Energy Savings Contracts should not be used to do projects that offer no energy savings, nor should they be used to bypass the competitive bidding process. After months of work and a good faith effort with our education task force, coalition, and school organiza-

tions, we failed to move this bill out of the House committee. Modifying the current legislation remains a priority of AIA Illinois.

Looking ahead at the 2023 legislative session, another priority is the extension and expansion of the State Historic Tax Credit. This program provides a state income tax credit equal to 25 percent

of a project's Qualified Rehabilitation Expenditures (QREs), not to exceed \$3 million, with an overall cap of \$15 million for the entire program. This economic investment tool creates jobs, stimulates local economies, and revitalizes historic downtowns, and we look forward to advocating for its extension and expansion. **CA**

PHOTO BY GETTY IMAGES



Prairie Grassroots 2023

AIA Illinois' coordinated lobby day, "Prairie Grassroots," is tentatively scheduled to be in person in Springfield this spring. More information will be available at the beginning of the year at www.aiaill.org.



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Jackie Wilcox, AIA, LEED AP, IIDA, has joined **BKV Group** as director of interior design and an associate partner in the company's Chicago practice site.



Solomon Cordwell Buenz broke ground on a new addition to the Chicago Jesuit Academy (CJA) in the Austin neighborhood on Chicago's West Side.



Jahn announced a new visual identity and voice as Jahn/. The virgule – or slash mark – following the name is open-ended, signifying the firm's optimism for what comes next.



Cam Twohey, AIA, NCARB, WELL AP, has joined **Kahler Slater** as associate principal and senior project architect supporting the firm's healthcare market.



James Zheng, AIA, LEED AP, has been named CEO of **Goettsch Partners**, and **Paul De Santis, Assoc. AIA, LEED AP**, joins **James Goettsch, FAIA**, as co-design director for the practice.

Goettsch Partners recently won the design competition for the new eight building Shanghai Lujiazui Roncheng Changyi Project in the Pudong area of Shanghai. Developed by Shanghai Lujiazui Development, the new mixed-use complex features two office towers, five residential towers, and a cultural/office building.



Goettsch Partners has opened a new office in Denver. The office brings support to five local projects in design and construction.





The redesigned American Airlines Admirals Club lounge at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA) opens this fall. It is the first **DMAC Architecture & Interiors**-designed lounge to open, with lounges in Newark Liberty International Airport (EWR), Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (AUS) and Denver International Airport (DEN) currently in the works.



Kahler Slater and **Ennead Architects** unveiled the design for the new 200,000-square-foot Milwaukee Public Museum building, set on a 2.4 acre site in the burgeoning Haymarket neighborhood of Milwaukee.



Solomon Cordwell Buenz is the design architect for Bally's Chicago, a \$1.7 billion mixed-use entertainment development.



Nicole Semple, AIA, is now an equity principal of Semple+Rappe Architects, with **Scott A. Rappe, AIA**.

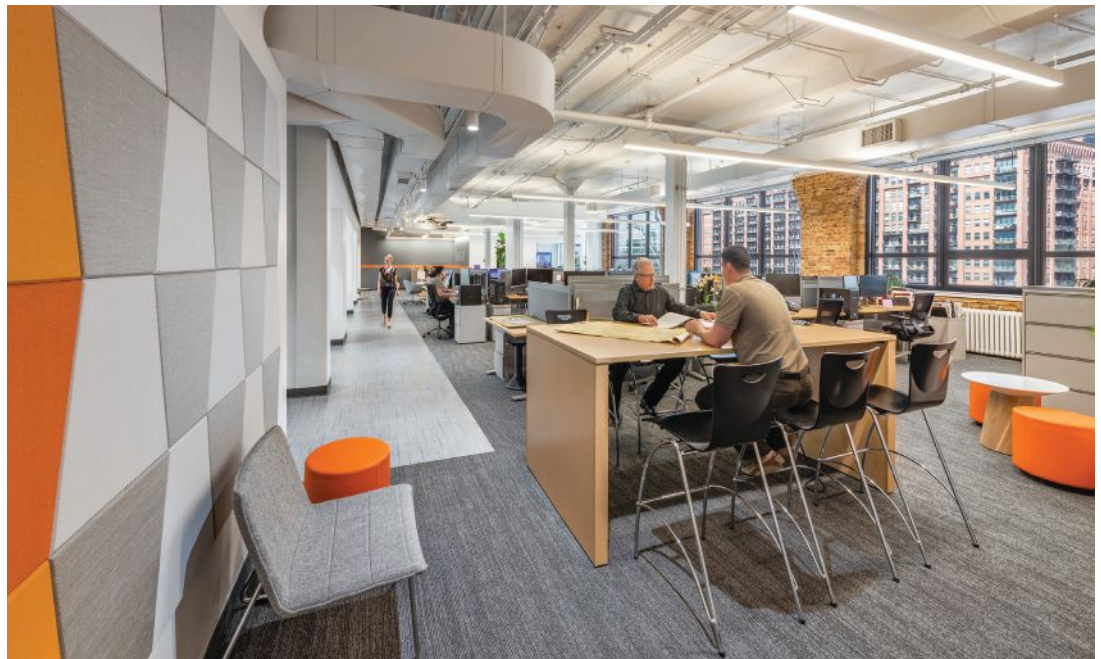
PEOPLE + PROJECTS



Solomon Cordwell Buenz announced that **Jonathan Orlove, AIA**, and **Sara Beardsley, AIA, LEED AP**, have joined the firm's Chicago office as associate principals.



Gensler Chicago has welcomed **Andrew Obendorf, AIA, NCARB**, as an architect supporting large-scale, developer-led projects and **Michael Lubbers, AIA, LEED AP**, as a workplace design director.



Legat Architects transformed vacant space in a 110-year-old office building into its new West Loop studio at 549 W. Randolph Street. The design celebrates some of the original architectural nuances.



Tom Harrison, AIA, SE, PE, has joined **Muller2** as chief structural engineer. In addition to architecture, M2 now offers structural engineering design.

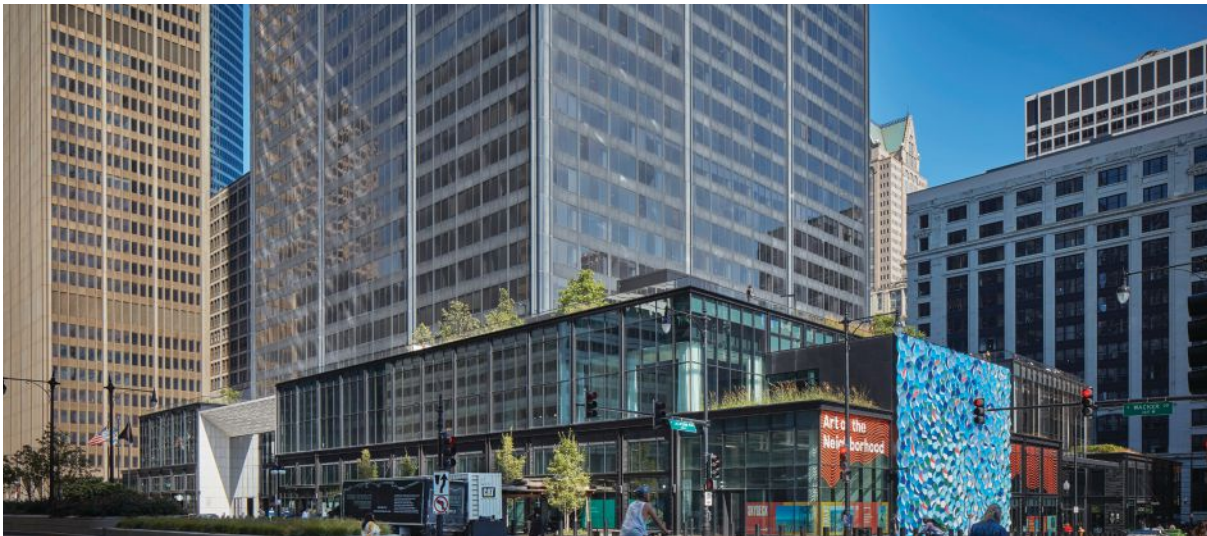


Safe streets and transportation advocacy organization **Better Streets Chicago** joined **Legat Architects** to host a bike safety station at **Waters Elementary School**. The event united students and **Lincoln Square** community members to encourage safe bicycle transit in Chicago neighborhoods.

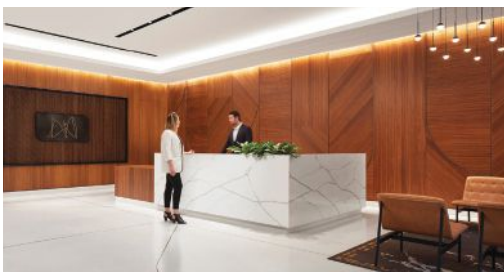
Eastlake Studio, a Chicago-based architecture and interior design firm, has been acquired by consulting firm **geniant**.



Chicago Plan Commission has approved **Gensler**-designed 360 North Green, a mixed-use development located in Fulton Market featuring amenity, retail, and Class A office spaces. Boston Consulting Group was announced as the anchor tenant.



The repositioning of Willis Tower has won an Architizer A+ Architecture+ Workplace People's Choice Award and was a ULI Awards for Excellence Finalist. The design team was led by **Gensler** with project partners **SKB Architects** and **OLIN**.



Eastlake Studio led the interior design of a renovated seven-floor interdisciplinary office building, working with design partner **AMDG Architects**.



Angela Spadoni, AIA, has joined **bKL Architecture** as the firm's newest principal and owner. She joins **Juan Robles, AIA**, principal, **Thomas Kerwin, FAIA**, founding principal, **Jon Gately, AIA**, principal, and **Danielle Tillman, AIA**, managing principal.

STATE OF RESIDENTIAL ARCHITECTURE

Showcasing Five Projects by AIA Chicago Members

BY ZLATA KOZUL NAUMOVSKI

In the Chicago region, where modern skyscrapers command most of the architectural attention, it may be hard for residential architecture to get the spotlight it deserves. But these structures, built for Chicago's professionals, families, and seasonal residents, are as nuanced as their magnanimous counterparts.

They possess proportion, balance, light, and materiality. They maximize space, facilitate strong indoor-outdoor connections, and employ clever design solutions to help homeowners get the most out of their homes.

They're varied, too. "In Chicago, we are fortunate to have a wide range of architectural styles, from classic bungalows to cutting-edge contemporary and from urban to suburban," said Kevin Toukoumidis, AIA, founding principal, dSPACE

Studio. Celeste Robbins, AIA, principal and founder, Robbins Architecture, also noted the range and richness of the built environment reflected within this complex city. "Chicago residential architecture is broad," she said.

Residential architects from across the country took in the region's architectural diversity during the AIA's national Custom Residential Architects Network (CRAN) conference in September through iconic home tours, invaluable seminars by industry experts, and networking

opportunities. AIA Chicago CRAN Co-Chairs Robbins and Scott Crowe, AIA, principal at Thomas Shafer Architects, applauded the conference for bringing the residential architecture community together to share experiences and promote collaboration. "The CRAN conference broadens our experience and expands our network," said Crowe. "Most architects specializing in custom residential have small firms with limited contact with other professionals in the field. Where else can you listen to the best

practitioners in our field and see an expo of new inventive products under one roof?"

Recognizing the important contributions of architecture firms of all sizes, *Chicago Architect* is showcasing five projects designed by AIA Chicago member firms that represent the state of residential architecture today. The projects delight and surprise, and, most of all, improve the lives of their inhabitants. As Toukoumidis put it, "Great residential architecture enables people to live their best lives better."

GORE RESIDENCE, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Level Incorporated, Chicago, Illinois
Amelia Tabeling, AIA

Firm Size: 1-10 people

In McKinley Park on Chicago's Southwest Side, Level Incorporated designed a modern, single-family home for a young couple's inaugural venture into homeownership. A simple structure with a gabled roof and cantilevered second floor, the home's minimal style contrasts with its neighbors' traditional

brick façades. Yet, at 1,979 square feet, it fits seamlessly into the community. Raised streets in the community made the house appear below grade, with a basement that was half under and half above ground. Responding to this unique condition, Amelia Tabeling, AIA, associate principal and project architect, dropped the entry to the historic building grade and eliminated the basement entirely.

This move saved costs and allowed her to focus on quality of space versus quantity of square footage.

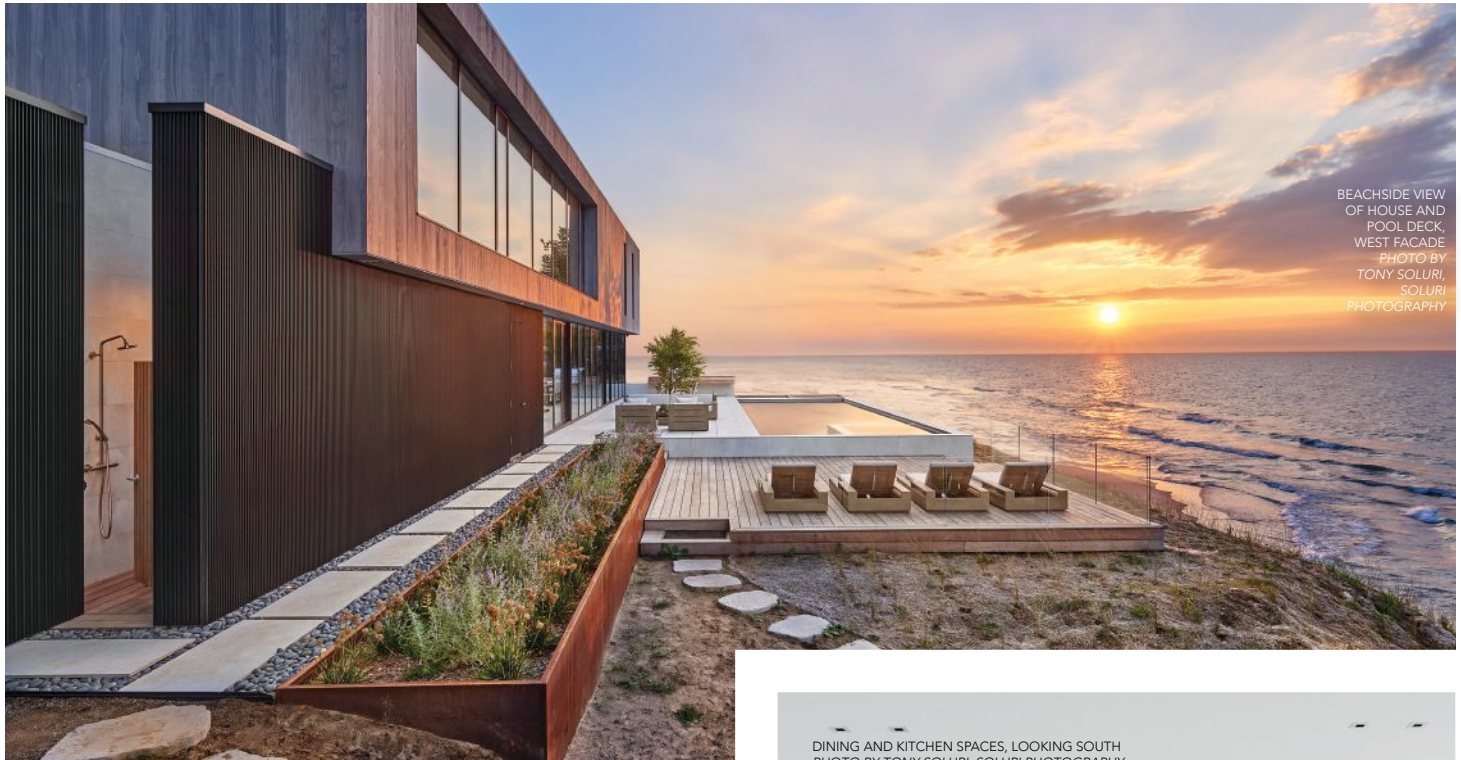
The client's modest budget was met with equally modest room sizes. A wood-clad box in the center of the first floor separates a home office from the more spacious living room. Space is carved out of the box to create integrated countertops for both areas while the sides of the box discreetly house a powder room,

coat closet, and pantry. "A small footprint saves construction costs, material, and operating expenses, which is also an environmentally responsible agenda," Tabeling said. "The [client's] choice of a neighborhood with affordable land prices presented a challenge of designing modestly to not overpower their neighbors with an overbearing and expensive structure."



ABOVE: EAST FAÇADE; PHOTO BY SCOTT SHIGLEY

HORIZON HOUSE, NEW BUFFALO, MICHIGAN



BEACHSIDE VIEW OF HOUSE AND POOL DECK, WEST FACADE
PHOTO BY TONY SOLURI, SOLURI PHOTOGRAPHY

dSPACE Studio, Chicago, Illinois
Kevin Toukoumidis, AIA
Firm Size: 11-25 people
With a minimalist aesthetic and strong connection to the outdoors, the Horizon House in southwest Michigan is set on a bluff overlooking Lake Michigan. Kevin Toukoumidis, AIA, founding principal, dSPACE Studio, and team were challenged to fill it with natural light while simultaneously preserving the privacy of the young family that weekends there.

They lowered the grade of the site, nestling it into the dune and allowing for a sunken courtyard in the front of the house. Parallel expanses of glass and a black

aluminum rainscreen on the east and west façades define the first level. A low retaining wall constructed of textured concrete and placed in front of the glass expanse streetside hides the courtyard while providing privacy for the family indoors. Despite the glass windows, “the first level remains private even while appearing transparent from the street,” Toukoumidis said. Passersby enjoy views of the lake and horizon through the structure.

The second floor is clad in Accoya wood, which will develop a patina over time. Against the black aluminum cladding on the first floor, the second floor appears to hover over the horizon.



DINING AND KITCHEN SPACES, LOOKING SOUTH
PHOTO BY TONY SOLURI, SOLURI PHOTOGRAPHY

MEDILL HOUSE, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

UrbanLab, Chicago, Illinois

Martin Felsen, FAIA, and Sarah Dunn

Firm Size: 1-10 people

UrbanLab designed a sculpturally carved Chicago residence with a series of linked indoor and outdoor spaces for a couple with two children. It is a mere 17 feet wide. The first floor is raised above grade and set back. Tall, operable glass sliding doors run the full width, allowing natural light, air, and outward views to penetrate this level and dissolve its mass. X-shaped steel columns made possible the large expanses of operable glass and the open plan.

Tight spaces in the interior are designed with either sculpted surfaces or encased operable windows. The kitchen, for example, is flanked by a large, open wood-shelving system, which also serves as a guardrail for the main stair. On the second floor, the partners created an open courtyard off the primary bedroom. The courtyard separates this bedroom from the other rooms and is accessible only from the main bedroom. The partially below ground level houses a workspace and, through glass doors, maintains a direct connection to the garden landscape of grass and concrete steps.



ABOVE: VIEW LOOKING
NORTHEAST AT THE FRONT
ENTRANCE AND SIDE
ELEVATION CLAD WITH FLUSH
MOUNTED INTERLOCKING
PAINTED METAL PANELS
PHOTO BY BOB COSCARELLI

RIGHT: VIEW LOOKING
NORTH AT THE FIRST FLOOR
KITCHEN AREA
PHOTO BY
BOB COSCARELLI



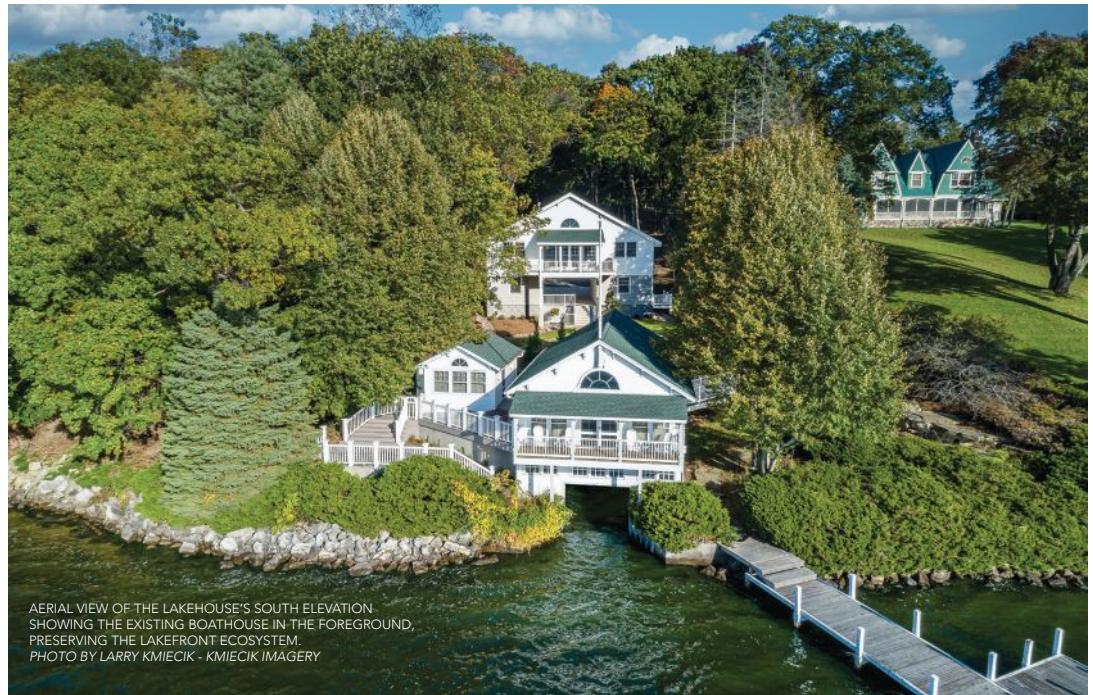
OVER/UNDER LAKEHOUSE, DELAVAN, WISCONSIN

W. Steven Gross Architectural Associates, Chicago, Illinois
Steven Gross, AIA

Firm Size: 1-10 people

On a historic lakefront estate in Delavan, Wisconsin, architects designed a primary residence to accommodate an extended family as it aged. Steven Gross, AIA, principal, W. Steven Gross Architectural Associates, sited the new lakehouse above and behind an existing boathouse, preserving the lake frontage and its ecosystem. The boathouse, which consists of a residential apartment over an enclosed boat mooring, was previously permitted as an ancillary structure. However, new zoning requirements required building a primary residence.

Gross designed the new lakehouse with living quarters and a balcony on the second floor to maximize views of the forested lakefront. In addition to native flora and fauna, homeowners get to enjoy a combination of sun, wind, and



AERIAL VIEW OF THE LAKEHOUSE'S SOUTH ELEVATION, SHOWING THE EXISTING BOATHOUSE IN THE FOREGROUND, PRESERVING THE LAKEFRONT ECOSYSTEM. PHOTO BY LARRY KMIECIK - KMIECIK IMAGERY

waves for an integrated sensory experience of being up in the trees and over the lake. A gable roof form and cottage-style details tie the structure to the boathouse aesthetic.

Clapboard siding, railings, and decks are built using maintenance-free PVC materials that recall wood. Like the boathouse, the lakehouse has coffered ceilings and an open floor.

An open carport area organizes access to both residences from a shared parking area in addition to facilitating storm drainage downstream.

MIDWEST SANCTUARY, DEERFIELD, ILLINOIS



VIEW OF WEST ELEVATION OF MIDWEST SANCTUARY HOUSE AT GREAT ROOM - EXTERIOR PHOTO BY ROGER DAVIES

Robbins Architecture, Winnetka, Illinois
Celeste Robbins, AIA

Firm Size: 11-25 people

Tucked within a Chicago suburb, this H-shaped home is a sanctuary for homeowners who return every year in the summer. Materials of metal, glass, and stone fortify a sense of belonging and permanence. Soaring glass window walls create a delicate separation between the inside and outside of the home and capture nature incorporated into the front and back courtyards. The strong indoor-outdoor connection was paramount for this summer retreat and informed the design of the home

at all scales, from the profile of mullions to the placement of steel columns outside of the glass wall for an uninterrupted expanse. “The careful thread that connects nature to a home is as much science as art,” said Celeste Robbins, AIA, principal, Robbins Architecture. “Accomplishing a balance between these elements demanded an exceptionally high level of detailing.”

Designed to accommodate guests of all ages — from young grandchildren to aging parents — the house has few steps at the front entry, ramps in the garage, an elevator to the lower level, and motorized openings for easy access to exterior living spaces. CA



GOLDBERG GENERAL CONTRACTING, INC.

Photography: Steve Hall © Hall + Merrick



Architect: Robbins Architecture Inc.



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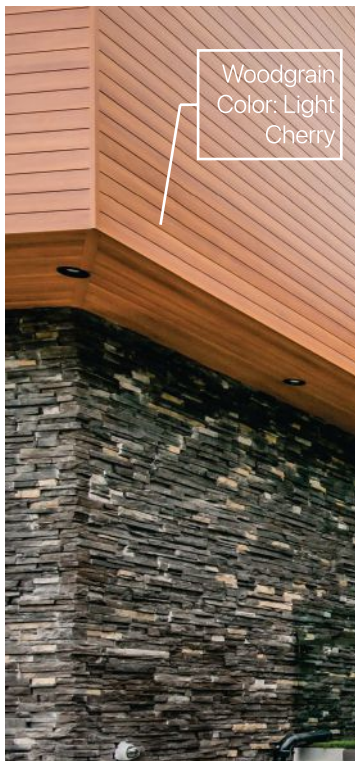
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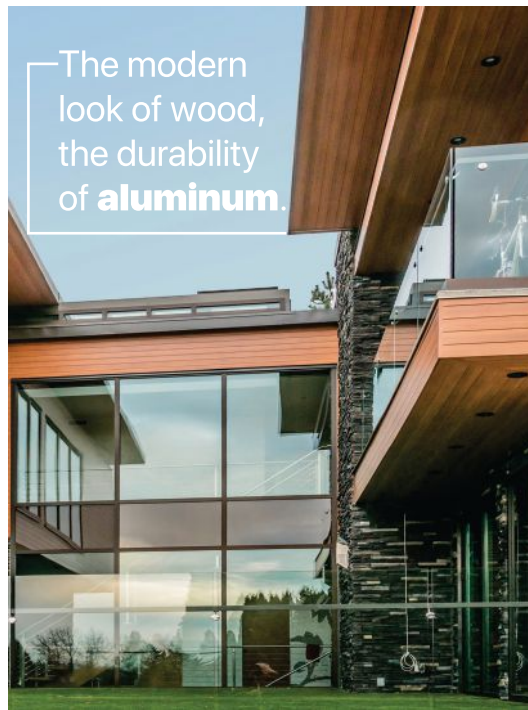
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Checking In with AIA Chicago's EDI Committee

BY ANNIE HOWARD

Like countless other professions, the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and the uprisings sparked by the police killing of George Floyd in May 2020 pushed many within the architecture field to reflect on the profession's shortcomings. As in other disciplines, the underrepresentation of marginalized communities has prevented the field from reaching its full potential and kept it from serving those populations effectively. While the sustained work to change architecture will stretch on well into the future, members of AIA Chicago understood the need for self-reflection and change, kicking off a multiyear process that's now emerging with the creation of an anti-racism pledge for firms.

While similar initiatives have sprung up in AIA chapters around the country, the approach taken in Chicago is unique, according to David Mulder, AIA, associate principal at Brininstool + Lynch. Mulder co-chairs the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Committee of AIA Chicago along with Natalie Hicks, AIA, technical leader and senior project manager at HPZS. Though the initiative is

still in its early stages, the committee has begun beta testing an anti-racism pledge that will allow firms to proactively address long-standing biases and shortcomings within their practices. The pledge outlines possible steps that firms can take and commit to in addressing inequality.


One of the most glaring issues facing the profession is clear racial and gender pay gaps, with disparities that leave women and people of color underpaid relative to their peers. The committee is also developing a firm self-assessment tool, which calculates both gender and race pay gap figures, taking inspiration from pay gap determination models developed by the United Kingdom government. This

approach was also inspired by a 2018 op-ed in *Fast Company* by Jeanne Gang, FAIA, who self-disclosed the pay imbalances within her firm Studio Gang as a prod to other organizations to do the same. Participation in the anti-racism pledge is a prerequisite for firms wishing to utilize the self-assessment tool.

While the pledge is still in its early stages, about a dozen firms have signed up for the anti-racism pledge beta test. The committee has also hosted panel discussions and is planning more events, which are open to all AIA Chicago members, to help share information about their efforts. More information about these events will be made available via the AIA Chicago newsletter.

Although the necessary changes will take significant commitment from Chicago firms to become tangible, Hicks argues that doing a self-assessment is a critical first step for firms interested in addressing these underlying issues.

"It's difficult to work towards fixing inequity in any industry (or an individual firm) without doing a self-assessment first," Hicks said. "You can't measure progress without first establishing the benchmark of where we are today."

Those interested in learning more about the project or joining the EDI Committee can find out more at www.aiachicago.org/edi or contact edi@aiachicago.org. 



FURTHER READING

In December 2021, the AIA, in partnership with the University of California Hastings College of the Law, released a new report that sheds light on the impacts of bias in the workplace: *The Elephant in the (Well-Designed) Room: An Investigation into Bias in the Architecture Profession*. Visit <https://bit.ly/AIAbiasreport> to read the full report.

VIA CHICAGO "THE SNUG" RENDERING

Not Your Granny's Granny Flat

How, and how well, are Chicago's ADUs reemerging after 65 years of hibernation?

BY F. PHILIP BARASH

Dwight Eisenhower began his second term in the White House. Elvis Presley appeared on television from the waist up, behind a nationwide modesty panel. Responding to calls for racial justice, the Commission on Civil Rights first convened. Ford Edsels rolled off the factory line and straight into infamy. From orbit, Sputnik emitted faint beeps that struck terror into American households. The year was 1957, the last that Chicago homeowners could legally build a coach house.

Now, these boomers are poised for another housing boom. Coach houses are making a return to Chicago's single-family communities as part of a pilot program approved by City Council in late

2020. The Additional Dwelling Units (ADU) Ordinance marks a turning point in the story of this humble dwelling type, once ubiquitous in Chicago's working-class neighborhoods. Throughout the early 20th century, families often added on a coach house, or "granny flat," to the back of a typical 125-foot lot. The extra space helped to choreograph generational cycles: new immigrants, growing families, aging relatives. But postwar zoning caused them to become nearly extinct.

Following two decades of polemics and politicking, the ordinance is a compromise. Housing advocates favor ADUs as a tool that organically builds density in residentially zoned neighborhoods and has the

potential to supplement incomes of residents who might otherwise be displaced by rising housing values — and costs. The language of the new ordinance explicitly addresses this rationale, alluding to "homeowners needing extra income, or those who wish to create separate spaces for multi-generational families." And it recognizes that accessory dwellings come in multiple sizes and shapes: basement and attic conversions alongside free-standing structures. Indeed, Managing Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Buildings Grant Ullrich, Assoc. AIA, envisions that the largest impact of the ordinance will be "bringing into compliance, bringing into the sunlight," existing unpermitted units, and creating ADUs in

attics and basements of single- and multi-family houses. Still, the pilot program is limited to certain areas of the city and confined by requirements around size, setbacks, parking, and affordability.

AIA Chicago Department of Buildings Working Group members shaped the ADU Ordinance, advising the department alongside partners from the real estate and housing sectors. In drafting the ordinance, Ullrich said, the city was guided by the design ambitions of architecture and building professionals. "If the zoning only let them," he asked hypothetically, "what would they build, and how?"

As if in a sci-fi movie script, coach houses awoke from a 65-year hibernation to find

themselves at the center of a cultural and architectural zeitgeist. In the popular imagination, compact living stands for boundless mobility, financial independence, and thoughtful design. Together, #tinychome and #tinychouse account for 4.2 million Instagram posts, lending small footprints the cachet of big celebrities. Beyond their Instagrammable cuteness, however, ADUs are the unlikely protagonists of intersecting cultural threads: the movement to age in place, the desire for intentional community, the rise of a mobile workforce, and — threading it all together — the unrelenting pressure of real estate markets. This is why ADUs are at once so associated with freedom (Save money! Declutter! Live your best life!) and so burdened with expectations.

For the design community, ADUs represent a significant opportunity. Via Chicago Architects is among an emerging cohort of architecture firms that are translating the new ordinance into built projects. Via co-founder Marty Sandberg, AIA, said that the city's phased pilot approach is iterative: It allows architects, builders, and residents the flexibility to test and adjust the new model. As design evolves, so does policy. At an AIA Chicago event, Sandberg pointed to Portland, Oregon, whose experience with accessory dwelling units dates to the late 1980s. Along with Via co-founder Cristina Gallo, AIA, Sandberg has been "tracking how they progressed with ADU ordinance over the years," from cautious first steps to a robust housing program that issues some 200 permits annually. With each new design, architects respond to and refine rules: "we also realize that this isn't just an overnight process."

In the first year of the pilot program (applications opened in May 2021), firms grappled with the

constraints and contradictions inherent in this typology. Lot dimensions are among frequently cited constraints: Although the code allows free-standing units to reach 700 square feet, most are squeezed into 500. Construction costs can be prohibitively high, with AIA Small Firm Exchange members reporting that \$300,000 is typical for a new build; specifying compact, energy-efficient systems adds cost, and required infrastructure, such as sewer and water, can sink a project. Given these challenges, the value proposition of building an ADU is far from clear, said Goran Simic, AIA, principal of Chicago-based Deconstruct Architecture. Homeowners, he observed, hold unrealistic expectations about design and construction budgets. Likewise, developers who build spec homes are unsure that the investment is worthwhile. This is why, Simic said, the firm's clients so far are "typically adding extra space for already large and expensive single-family homes."

The city's ambitions to enlist ADUs into the service of affordability and density — particularly in neighborhoods vulnerable to displacement — are yet to be realized. In a statement on the website of Wheeler Kearns Architects, Larry Kearns, FAIA, suggests ways the city can incentivize the types of development that both civic leaders and residents envision for the future of ADUs: rebates for extending street utilities, for example, or sizing alley utilities "to serve future front residences, obviating future redundant drops."

City officials also recognize that, in the context of a pilot program, architects have extraordinary creative freedom to redefine the typology and, consequently, the built fabric of neighborhoods. According to Ullrich, some 320 preapprovals

COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, SECOND YEAR FINAL REVIEW, DECEMBER 5, 2021. STUDENT: SUBI LEE. SECOND YEAR PROFESSORS FOR FALL 2021: JENNIFER PARK (DIRECTOR), MICHAEL GLYNN, VINCENT CALABRO, ANNABELL REN, AURA VENCKUNAITE, DAVID RADER AND KRISTEN JONES.



COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, SECOND YEAR FINAL COACH HOUSE PROJECT BY GEMMA BRIZZOLARA.

have been granted and 80 permits issued in Chicago to date: not exactly transformative, but consistent with expectations for the pilot. Ullrich is unequivocal about the need for "gentle density" in neighborhoods. Along alleys and astride driveways, behind genteel Victorian homes and beside new developments, above garages and below grade, Chicagoans are making space. The best-case scenarios are reminiscent of Portland, whose evolving framework for building accessory spaces now incorporates financial incentives and lending mechanisms. "Chicago is pretty unique — it's got a long history of coach houses," Jen Park, AIA, principal at Brininstool + Lynch,

said. Park led an IIT studio that explored the cumulative effect of ADUs. Rather than rebuilding family compounds of a century past, she imagines alleys where children can safely play and families meet. "[ADUs] have a potential to not only densify, but the whole back-of-house of our neighborhoods can change."

Chicago's program, like its subject, is still modestly scaled. But its full potential — scaled up to meet the city's demand — is yet to be tested. At the conclusion of Park's Illinois Institute of Technology studio, students conducted a thought experiment: What if they lined up all of their different design ideas next to one another? "Ultimately," Park said, "it's like a micro-city in the backyard." CA

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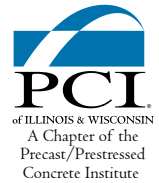
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Making Space *for Pullman Artists*

BY ALAINA GRIFFIN

Located 13 miles south of downtown Chicago, the Pullman neighborhood was built in 1880 to attract the most talented railroad workers from across the United States. More than 100 years later, the original intent of attractive, livable design, and community resilience, is again playing out in Pullman Artspace Lofts — the first residential development in Pullman in more than 60 years by Stantec.

Pullman began as an industrial company neighborhood planned by George M. Pullman of Pullman Palace Car Company and built and inhabited by his employees. What followed was a tumultuous, groundbreaking, and self-actualized history that is ingrained in the very fabric of the neighborhood and resonates in its present-day developments.

The original infrastructure of Pullman included everything a community would need on 4,000 acres: housing, community space, markets, churches, and parks, all equipped with indoor plumbing and gas and designed to maximize fresh air and sunlight. The idea that good design would not only draw the best employees to the area, but that it would uplift their daily lives and make them more productive, was core to the mission of the neighborhood.

This idyllic community was soon turned on its head when Pullman lowered wages in the wake of an economic depression in 1893, sparking a railroad strike that was bolstered by the American Railway Union and nearly halting the national economy before ending violently with the deployment of federal troops. A divestment from the area soon followed, and Pullman was systemically relegated to the back burner of economic and development support.

The recent resurgence of investment in the Pullman neighborhood is thanks to years of activists' collective work and local and national historic designations. After



ETITI AYENI IS A JEWELRY DESIGNER AND RESIDENT AT PULLMAN ARTSPACE LOFTS.

suffering neglect and population loss following the decline of the railway industry, Pullman was in danger of being largely demolished. In response to the looming destruction of the 1960s, the residents of the majority Black, working-class neighborhood formed the Pullman Civic Organization, and not only halted the demolition, but secured its status as a National Historic Landmark in 1970. While this helped to stabilize the existing infrastructure, it wasn't until 2015, when President Barack Obama designated the Historic Pullman District as a national monument within the National Park Service, that an influx of funding and development was

brought to the area.

With industry giants like Amazon, SC Johnson and Gotham Greens all opening facilities in the neighborhood, Chicago Neighborhood Initiative, PullmanArts and Artspace began to plan for much-needed affordable housing to prevent the displacement of local residents. As such, the housing needed to be historically and culturally sensitive and to serve as a long-term solution for the Pullman neighborhood rather than a profit-driven proposal. After extensive community engagement that included 80 public meetings and 380 surveyed artists and residents, a design competition sponsored by the Driehaus Foun-

dation determined that the affordable housing would serve as a cultural hub to maintain the vibrancy of the community, with artists' lofts, studios, and galleries to be held in existing but neglected housing blocks from the original Pullman neighborhood.

The Pullman Artspace Lofts are made up of three buildings hosting 38 affordable units located on the historic Langley Boulevard. Stantec, the winning architecture firm of the Driehaus Foundation competition, emphasized respecting historic status, local talent, and neighborhood fabric when designing and renovating the existing tenement housing blocks A



access to sunlight, and unadorned walls and floors for artistic expression. Special attention was paid to ensure that the units were sound-proof and made of durable materials for high-impact mediums, such as welding, dance, or music production. With studio and one- and two-bedroom units available, the apartments are available for small and large tenant arrangements and are open to artists of any medium.

For one resident, a jewelry designer by the name of Eteni Ayeni, the building's design has created new opportunities for creating — and promoting — work. "The space itself also is just so open and sunny most of the time," Ayeni said. "I'm able to conduct my jewelry photography, which is a very important part of marketing what I do, or just putting it out there and showcasing it in the best light."

Frugality without sacrificing quality was also at the forefront of Stantec's strategy. The simplified interiors marry economy with artistry, aiding in achieving a 30-year agreement with Chicago Housing Authority that every unit will be rented to a tenant making 30 - 60 percent of the median income. Not only does this help to keep valuable, emerging artists in the community, but the project also engages the larger Pullman community with 2,000

square feet of collective exhibition space, working studios, classrooms, and meeting spaces, all of which are accessible and available to the public.

When describing the final design, Ketcham explained, "It's modest in its architectural aspirations: it's calm, it's respectful, it's quiet. There's no ego there; it's just about doing solid work that's good design [and] that's respectful and historically connected, both socially and architecturally."

The social connection and impact the Pullman Artspace Lofts made was not only in the design process or the final buildings themselves, but in the work that went into them. To continue the strong investment in the neighborhood, 47 percent of the hired

labor was composed of locals while 20 percent of the construction contracts went to minority- or veteran-owned contractors. Thus, the commitment to self-sustaining revitalization and collective contribution is literally built into the structures themselves and casts the project as a model for community renewal.

Ultimately, the success of the project can be found in its vacancy rate: The apartments are at 100 percent capacity, with a long wait list of applicants hoping to get in. While these lofts may be intended to house artists rather than railway workers, the grassroots, neighborhood organizing efforts that came to define Pullman in the 20th century are the same motivations stimulating the neighborhood today. CA

and C, and the newly built housing block B.

Bill Ketcham, AIA, principal architect at Stantec and leading designer for the Pullman Artspace Lofts, explained the design approach: "We're not trying to replicate. What we're trying to do is be evocative of and take clues from the details of the whole." This includes a total restoration of the exterior façades of the existing buildings while maintaining roof lines and details, window proportions, material palettes, and massing for the new building.

The interior spaces are designed to be conducive to the creative process: open floor plans, high ceilings,



"It's modest in its architectural aspirations: it's calm, it's respectful, it's quiet. There's no ego there; it's just about doing solid work that's good design [and] that's respectful and historically connected, both socially and architecturally." Bill Ketcham, AIA, principal architect at Stantec



AFFILIATE MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: **Chris Carpenter, Affiliate AIA Chicago**

BY DILLON GOODSON

Ever since he was a child growing up in Plano, Illinois, Chris Carpenter, Affiliate AIA Chicago and member of AIA Chicago’s Board, knew he wanted to work with architects. The son of an artist and an architect, his life has always been shaped by design.

In 1961, not long after the Edith Farnsworth House was completed just a couple miles down the road, Carpenter’s father, Bob, completed his own modernist masterpiece to serve as the family’s home. Growing up in the era of The Brady Bunch, the young Carpenter quickly realized

there is more to the profession than TV architect Mike Brady might have you believe.

“The big unrecognized component about being an architect is all of the business side of it,” Chris observed, noting how architects are required to possess knowledge about a diverse set of topics like public

safety, economics, engineering, and sustainability.

Unlike his father, whose expertise in structural steel helped buildings like the original Crate & Barrel store on Michigan Avenue achieve their unique shape, Carpenter is not a trained architect. Instead, he opted for business school,

graduating in 1981 from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

That hasn’t stopped Carpenter from working in the family business.

In 2001, he took a job with Pella Corporation, the lowa-based window and door manufacturer-installer. A decade later, he became one of the company’s lead architectural consultants, placing him in familiar territory alongside the kinds of designers and architects who surrounded his family when he was young.

Carpenter’s role is equal parts design and execution. A self-proclaimed problem solver, he views himself as an extension of his clients’ teams rather than as an outsider looking in. He described getting involved early in the design process — often before an architect has put pen to paper — to help clients fully take advantage of Pella’s capabilities.

“We work to assist architects and to be that trusted advisor to help in their design process, as a real partner, all



PHOTO BY TOM HARRIS



PHOTO BY TOM HARRIS



PHOTO BY KIM ROBINSON



GREEN LINE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
CHICAGO, IL



the way through the process for them and for their customers," he explained. "We really work to provide them with solutions — not just treating our product as a commodity."

According to Carpenter, getting involved with AIA has been a critical part of his journey. Since joining shortly after he stepped into his current role with Pella, he has readily volunteered his knowledge and passion for architecture through AIA's lectures, tours and conferences. In recognition of his service, AIA's Northeast Illinois Chapter, to which he belonged before joining AIA Chicago, awarded him with the 2018 Architects-in-Action Service Award.

More recently, you could find Carpenter roaming the streets of Chicago with fellow attendees of A'22, AIA's

annual conference on architecture. Together, they spent part of the day hopping from site to site viewing the city's Ludwig Mies van der Rohe treasures, in what felt like a full-circle moment for Carpenter. At one point, during an unexpected lightning storm partway through the tour, he took on the role of traffic enforcer, helping the bus reach its next site.

For Carpenter, it's all in a day's work. As he explained, it's not enough to serve in name only — you have to dig in and get involved to fully take advantage of AIA membership.

"All of us have to sell something," he said. "When you have a job to do every day, to me, it's really important to get something out of it too and feel like I'm really in a position to earn [people's] trust." CA

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BY TAYLOR MOORE

4400 BAR. PHOTO BY SHARON SAMUELS



SHARON M.
SAMUELS, AIA,
NOMA

Sharon M. Samuels, AIA, NOMA, never expected to make it big in Hollywood. But in just six years, this Chicago native has created sets for some of the most popular movies and TV shows filmed in the city.

From the 2018 heist film *Widows* to the coming-of-age series *The Chi*, Samuels knows

how to bring out the best of Chicago.

Born and raised on the South Side, Samuels knew she wanted to pursue architecture early on. To her, it was a happy medium that bridged her creativity with her mother's desire for her to become an engineer. Samuels started her own firm, SolQuest Design

Unlimited, in 2008 after earning her licensure and is perhaps best known for designing Boxville, a shipping container marketplace in Bronzeville that helps local entrepreneurs get their start.

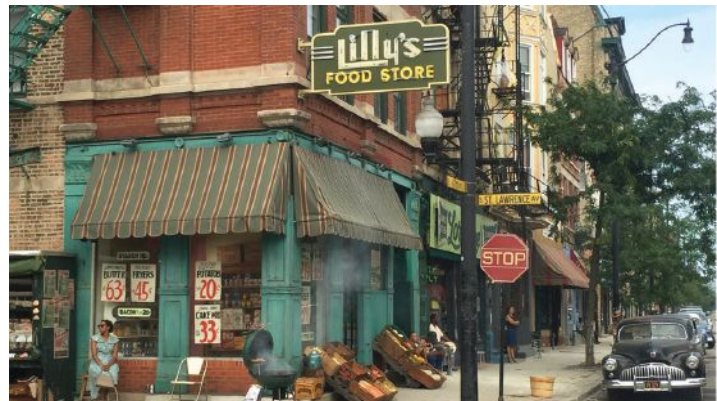
But in 2016, Samuels was approached by a friend to design for the Amazon series *Patriot*. After working there for



LOVECRAFT COUNTRY BLOCK MODEL BY SHARON SAMUELS



LOVECRAFT COUNTRY BEFORE AND AFTER. TOP PHOTO BY SHARON SAMUELS; BOTTOM PHOTO SCREENSHOT, COURTESY OF HBO



THE CHI PERRY'S PIZZA DINING ROOM: SCREENSHOT COURTESY OF SHOWTIME

a season, creating sets like the main character's apartment and a grand hotel in Luxembourg, she was hooked. She now works full time in the film and TV industry, with occasional architecture projects here and there.

The industry uses the same fundamental skills as architecture, such as drawing plans and

crafting construction budgets. But while architecture is often burdened by bureaucracy, film and TV move at a much faster pace. Sometimes, all it takes is 10 days to build a set on a soundstage completely from scratch. She currently works as an art director on productions — essentially the film equivalent of a project manager.

One of her most memorable projects was the pilot episode of the HBO horror series *Lovecraft Country*. To film a scene, the crew transformed the corner of West 18th Street and South Laflin Street in Pilsen into a 1950s block party, complete with hat stores, pharmacies, and billiard rooms. Samuels' team borrowed design elements from archival photos of the South Side.

While working on a season nine episode of *Chicago Fire*, Samuels staged a stunt scene of an ambulance flipping over. To pull it off, she constructed four ambulances at different stages of the accident — two that were driven, one to be crashed, and another displaying the aftermath of the crash. But some elements cannot be predicted. "It was weird

because we decided how we wanted it to crash and it didn't crash that way," so they had to alter the post-accident vehicle to match the one that was actually damaged. "I learned more about making stuff look real that day than any other," she said.

Samuels is currently working on the set of the feature film *Heist 88*, which will tell the true story of Armand Moore, a criminal mastermind who tried to steal nearly \$70 million from the First National Bank of Chicago in 1988. To any architects on the fence, she recommends getting in contact with those who have made the jump.

"I think the creative process works better for my brain," Samuels said. "You're working in days [instead of] years." CA

AIA Chicago's Newest Fellows Share Origin Stories, Camaraderie

BY DILLON GOODSON

This June, during a formal ceremony held beneath the historic lights of the Auditorium Theatre in downtown Chicago, the American Institute of Architects officially welcomed five architects from the AIA Chicago chapter to the prestigious College of Fellows.

The event was a highlight of A'22, AIA's annual conference on architecture, which was hosted in Chicago this year.

Investiture in the College of Fellows represents AIA's highest membership honor — a distinction conferred upon only 3 percent of all AIA members. Each year, the Fellowship program elevates architects who have achieved a standard of excellence in the profession and made a significant contribution to architecture and society on a national level. Architects who have been elevated to Fellowship can be identified by the designation FAIA after their name.

This year's AIA Chicago members elevated to Fellow include Craig D. Brandt, FAIA; Abigail L. Clary, FAIA; Robin R. Randall, FAIA; Mark Schendel, FAIA; and Charles T. Smith,

FAIA. They join approximately 400 Chicago architects who have achieved the distinction of Fellow in the 165-year history of the AIA.

The idea of AIA Fellowship dates as far back as the founding of the organization in 1857, when the term was used interchangeably with "Professional Member," suggesting that it was not originally intended to convey an esteemed category of membership. The term gained added meaning over time, however, and in 1953, the first investiture ceremony in Seattle formally welcomed 30 Fellows into the newly formed College. Throughout the history of the AIA, renowned architects like H.H. Richardson (1867), Ludwig Mies van der Rohe (1954), and even Louis Sullivan (1889), legendary architect of the landmark

building in which the 2022 investiture ceremony took place, have all received designation as Fellows.

To celebrate this year's class of Fellows, AIA Chicago recently hosted a virtual dialogue with its newly invested members, giving the architects a chance to reflect on their impressive careers and share their unique design perspectives with AIA Chicago members. The hourlong event, which was moderated by Robert Theel, FAIA, chairman of AIA Chicago's 2022 Fellowship Committee, included brief presentations by the architects followed by a Q&A session with attendees. In welcoming members, Jen Masengarb, Assoc. AIA, executive director of AIA Chicago, reflected on the extraordinary opportunity of the event, noting, "It's not

very often that you get to pull together a group of distinguished architects and have them tell you their origin stories."

Although they originated from different places, their work has made a profound impact on communities across Chicago and beyond.

As principal in charge of the design team that developed the flagship location of the Shirley Ryan AbilityLab in downtown Chicago, Abigail L. Clary, FAIA, pointed out how the AbilityLab building houses one of the country's first rehabilitation centers specializing in the practice of translational medicine — a term that describes an approach in which researchers work alongside therapists to bring innovative care to patients and translate research into positive patient

outcomes faster. The challenge of combining research and treatment within the same space was central to the design and also influenced the ultimate outcome, according to Clary. "If the researchers are in the same space, literally in the same space, working with the therapists, working with the clinicians and seeing the outcomes of their research through the lens of the patient, they will have empathy and potentially improve their approach to their research," she explained.

Craig D. Brandt, FAIA, spoke about his exploration of how architecture could gain more visual connection and impact in the public realm, starting in his early career and up through recent design work. He presented on the renovation of the 93-year-old Sterling Chemistry Laboratory at Yale University, citing the university's wishes to synthesize modern classrooms, high-technology teaching laboratories and interactive public spaces while considering the rich historical legacy of the building, much of which had been built up or severely altered throughout its history. "Besides the practice in academic work itself, collaborative methods and relationships are part of my career experiences," said Brandt, noting how close collaboration with technical experts and artisans helps breathe life into projects like the Yale laboratory. The building, which reopened in 2016, also achieved LEED® Gold certification.

Congratulations to the five AIA Chicago members who were elevated as AIA Fellows in 2022. The following statements were provided by each of the Fellows in their original applications.



Craig D. Brandt, FAIA
Craig Brandt Architecture

Object 2: Practice (Technical Advancement)

Craig D. Brandt integrates the contextual with the technological through collaborative approaches. He designs and executes public projects which transform historic buildings and elevate new buildings in sensitive and diverse contexts.



Abigail L. Clary, FAIA
CannonDesign

Object 2: Practice (Management)

Abigail L. Clary can master complex information and translate it into clear strategies. Her range of skills facilitates impactful strategies and designs. She assembles multidimensional teams with integrated approaches that demand design be a catalyst for better.



Robin R. Randall, FAIA
Legat Architects

Object 2: Practice (Technical Advancement)

Robin R. Randall is re-imagining architecture for learning through national leadership in educational design. Provoking learning through dynamic educational planning. Impacting communities to change outcomes, she advances discourse creating a culture of inquiry through research-driven design.



Mark Schendel, FAIA
Studio Gang

Object 2: Practice (Management)

Mark Schendel has developed a management model based on design excellence and innovation, mentorship and collaboration, and greater equity and stronger communities that has led to an internationally recognized architecture practice.



Charles T. Smith, FAIA
CannonDesign

Object 2: Practice (Management)

Focused on pushing for radical innovation in education, Charles T. Smith has dedicated his career to harnessing strategy, planning, and design to reimagine education environments achieving better outcomes for students and communities.

Charles T. Smith, FAIA, whose career has spanned more than 35 years, imparted how it's critical for architects

to achieve the "technical execution of great ideas." Leaning on his experience designing buildings for the

universities of Chicago, Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Texas Rio Grande Valley and others, he described how growing up in

MEMBER VOICES

a small farming town in northwest Illinois before moving to Chicago as a newly minted architect in the 1980s helped him gain perspective that benefits his work in places small and large. In Chicago, he added, "If you are looking up and you're an architect, you're learning."

Sharing her experience designing spaces for elementary and secondary education institutions, Robin R. Randall, FAIA, relished in an architect's ability to shape the imaginations of young minds.

"Architecture can inspire curiosity, which is the fountain of youth," she said. Randall's portfolio includes the Community Consolidated School District 59 Early Learning Center in Mount Prospect, a 57,000-square-foot center that combines in one building all early learning programs, which were previously dispersed at facilities throughout the district. After the project was completed, the district director called Randall and explained how students used to cry when they were

"Architecture is a team sport. And so is achieving Fellowship."
Robin R. Randall, FAIA

dropped off at school, but now they were crying because they had to leave the new facility, a sign of how the project impressed even the youngest critics.

Closing out her remarks,

Randall summarized a feeling that seemed to be shared among AIA Chicago's 2022 Fellows. "Architecture is a team sport," she said. "And so is achieving Fellowship." CA

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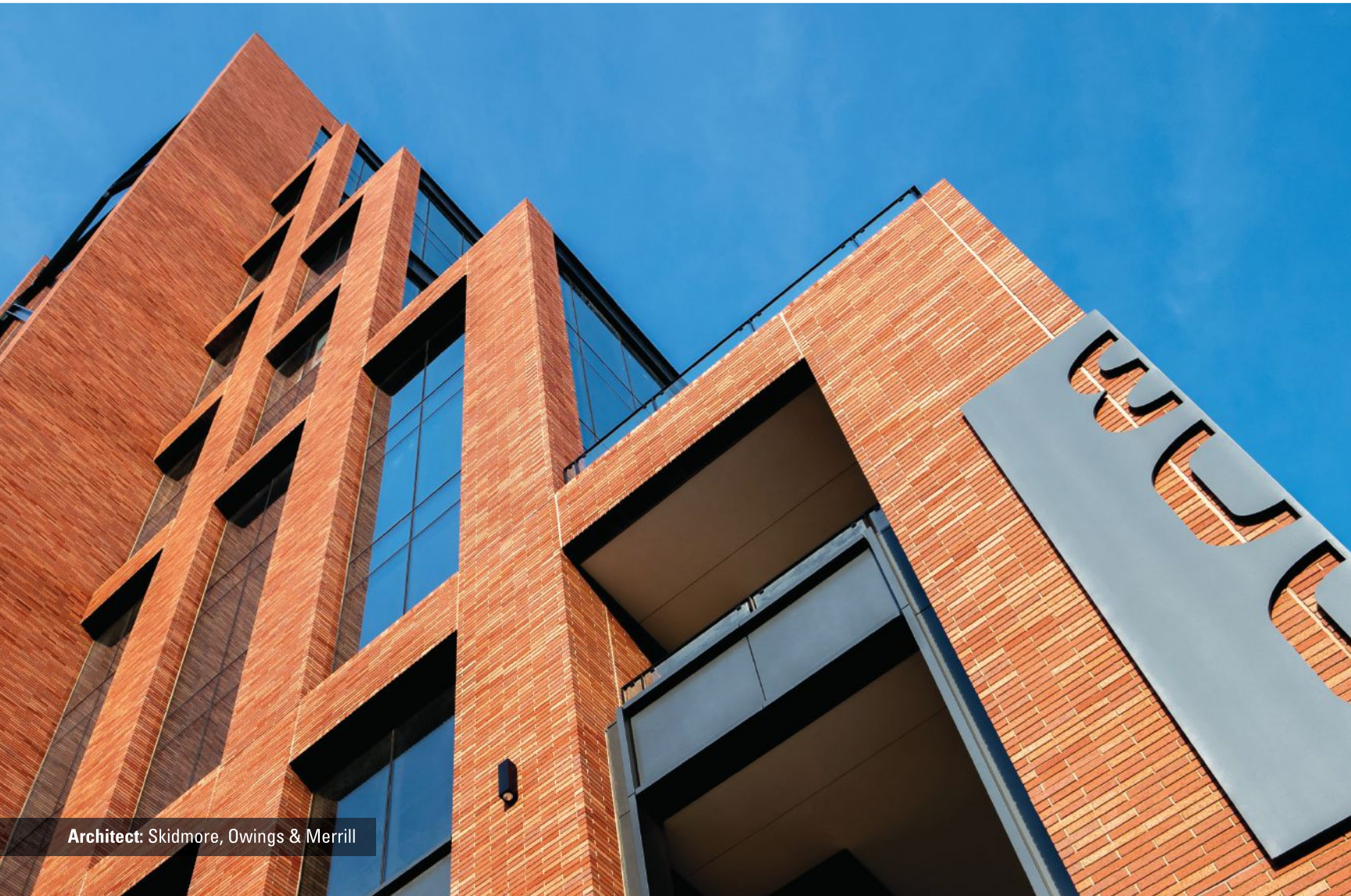
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