

A R C H I T E C T U R E

THE POWERFUL, IMPRESSIVE AND MODERN CITY OF CHICAGO

- Millennium Park – a 24.5-acre park featuring the work of world-renowned architects, artists and designers
- From the Great Fire to dramatic skyline in little more than a century
- Celebrated architects Mies van der Rohe and William Le Baron Jenney
- The Sears Tower – one of the world’s tallest buildings
- Frank Lloyd Wright – founder of the Prairie Style

In 1871, one of America’s most promising urban centres was devastated by a catastrophic fire that reduced more than 2,000 acres of bustling city to charred, smoky rubble. While some lesser cities would have simply given up after such a devastating event, Chicago used the Great Fire of 1871 as an opportunity to start with a blank urban landscape, and build itself from scratch into a powerful, impressive and modern American city.

Since the Great Fire, hundreds of celebrated architects have put their mark on the dramatic Chicago skyline, from ‘father of the skyscraper’ *William Le Baron Jenney*, to Modernist legend *Ludwig Mies van der Rohe*. 2009 marks the 100th anniversary of the Burnham plan, an essay that proposed the physical beautification of Chicago through city planning. Today Chicago is an architecturally rich mix of impressive buildings old and new, and truly one of the world’s supreme collections of architectural treasures. Thousands of visitors flock to Chicago every year to see some of the most famous, innovative and beautiful architecture in the world.

CHICAGO’S ARCHITECTURAL MARVELS

Millennium Park

As the architectural and artistic centerpiece of the city, the 24.5-acre public park is located in the heart of downtown and includes the Jay Pritzker Pavilion, a state-of-the-art outdoor performance space designed by renowned architect *Frank Gehry*. This sparkling new band shell and music and dance pavilion occupies a key corner of Chicago’s new **Millennium Park**, and features *Gehry*’s signature curved metal forms, an intricate lattice of steel tubing that extends over an expansive lawn and multiple winding bridges. Onlookers should also check out Cloud Gate, a 66-foot long, 110-ton stainless steel sculpture by British artist Anish Kapoor.

The Sears Tower

One of the world’s tallest buildings since its construction in 1974, and still the U.S.A.’s tallest building, the **Sears Tower** is an impressive Chicago landmark. Standing 1,450 feet (443 metres) high, it totals 1,707 feet (520 metres) including its twin antenna towers. On a clear day, you can see for miles from the **Sears Tower Skydeck** – 1,353 feet (412 metres) above ground.



The John Hancock Centre

Visitors can experience spectacular views spanning four states (Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin and Michigan) from **John Hancock Observatory** with an open air sky deck on the 94th floor and a multimedia “Sky Tour” narrated by David Schwimmer. With 100 floors stretching up to 1,127 feet (343.5 metres), the **John Hancock Centre** is recognised for the steel ‘cross bracing’ that makes huge ‘X’s on each side of the black aluminium building. Its gourmet **Signature Room at the 95th** restaurant and bar are located on the building’s 95th and 96th floors.

Chicago Cultural Centre

The first stop on any visit to Chicago should be the **Chicago Cultural Centre**, home of the city's official Visitor Information Centre. This remarkable beaux-arts landmark features both Greek and Roman styles and was completed in 1897 as the city's first permanent main library. It is most notable for two spectacular Tiffany stained-glass domes that are well worth a visit in their own right.

Wrigley Building

One of America’s most picturesque office buildings and home to the namesake chewing gum company, the gleaming white **Wrigley Building** occupies a beautiful triangular lot at the southern end of Chicago’s famous **Magnificent Mile™**, right on the **Chicago River**. Built in stages between 1920 and 1931, the **Wrigley Building** is known for the 250,000 terracotta tiles that cover the exterior, and for the bright colours shone upon it during the city’s annual holiday festivities.

Tribune Tower

Inspired by the Butter Tower of the French cathedral at Rouen, the 463 foot (141 metre), 34-storey gothic style **Tribune Tower** was designed to house the *Chicago Tribune* newspaper. The tower has all of the traditional elements of a skyscraper, but also includes classical elements such as flying buttresses, spires, grotesques, and more. Amazingly the tower’s base contains 120 stones from important locations all around the world, including the Parthenon in Greece, the pyramids in Egypt, the Taj Mahal in India and the Great Wall of China.

Illinois Institute of Technology Campus

Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, one of the leading figures of 20th century modern architecture, left his indelible mark on Chicago’s business and education communities with stark, boxy and revolutionary designs. Perhaps his greatest contribution to the city lies just south of downtown, on the campus of the **Illinois Institute of Technology**. *Mies* designed 202 buildings for the campus in his renowned ‘International Style’, which incorporates little ornamentation and structural elements that clearly recall construction techniques.

Macy’s On State Building



Home to a world-class Tiffany glass dome – the largest glass mosaic of its kind and the first-ever built in iridescent glass – is housed in **Macy's On State**. Previously Marshall Field's, Macy's made its historic debut in Chicago. Shop Chicago – a collection featuring top Chicago designers – makes its way into departments throughout the store offering fresh accessories, original clothing and more.

James R. Thompson Center

The controversial **Thompson Center**, designed by Chicago's most prominent living architect – *Helmut Jahn* – in 1985, has been likened to a spaceship by some and a village by others. The startling design houses the offices of the Illinois State government, and features a tremendous lobby atrium, as well as liberal use of glass, exposed mechanics and blue and salmon-coloured steel.

Art Institute of Chicago's Modern Wing

Opening 16 May 2009, the Art Institute of Chicago's new Modern Wing is designed by American Institute of Architects Gold Medal recipient Renzo Piano. In addition to transforming the look and feel of the Art Institute of Chicago, the Modern Wing will be a model of design, technology and green architecture.

FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT

The works of *Frank Lloyd Wright* clearly demonstrate why the founder of the Prairie Style of architecture is a true legend. The world's largest collection of *Wright*-designed homes is clustered in the Chicago suburb of **Oak Park** and nearby **River Forest**, including his **Home & Studio** complex and the **Unity Temple**. The **Robie House** in Chicago's **Hyde Park** is also a design gem, and has been called 'the cornerstone of modern architecture'.

HOW TO EXPLORE CHICAGO'S ARCHITECTURE

Chicago's architectural tours have become one of the most popular activities among visitors, with tours to fit every interest, area and budget.

Chicago by Boat

Visitors can marvel at the soaring towers of the Chicago Loop business district while enjoying sparkling river views. The Chicago Architecture Foundation's (CAF) **Architecture River Cruise** is narrated by experienced docents, and spotlights more than 50 historic and architecturally significant sites from a unique perspective. Guests simply purchase tickets, and board the 90-minute cruise on Chicago's First Lady or [Chicago's Little Lady](#) at the northeast corner of Michigan Avenue & Wacker Drive at the Michigan Avenue Bridge. Cruises run seasonally, with advance reservations highly recommended.

Chicago From The Lake's 200 passenger boat at **North Pier** also features a 90-minute lakefront tour of over 100 skyscrapers, guided by experts in architectural history. This is a very popular cruise, so advance booking is recommended to avoid missing out.



Chicago by Foot

The CAF offers a great selection of tailored walking tours on a variety of architectural themes, including Historic Skyscrapers and Modern Skyscrapers. For a two-to-four hour informal, insider tour to Chicago's sights, try **Chicago Greeter**, a free, volunteer-based service that shows the city to visitors. To find a friendly, enthusiastic and knowledgeable local for a personalised tour by foot and public transport, just register online at www.chicagogreeter.com for a greeter that will match your interests. Please allow at least seven business days to match and confirm your visit. The visits start at the **Chicago Cultural Centre Visitor Information Centre, 77 East Randolph Street.**

Chicago by Bus

One can also discover the exciting diversity of Chicago's finest buildings on CAF's wide-ranging trip, **Highlights by Bus**. Trips cover 30 miles of Chicago architecture, including the **Loop, Hyde Park and Gold Coast areas**, as well as historic districts, university campuses, parks and residential neighbourhoods.

So whatever the reason for visiting Chicago, visitors are sure to be dazzled by the diversity of the city's spectacular architecture.

ENDS

For more information or to obtain a brochure, call the Chicago & Illinois Tourist Office's Freephone Brochure Line on 08700 503410 or visit online www.gochicago.com

For further information on the city of Chicago's ongoing initiatives, please contact Jackie Cooper PR:

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Editor's notes:
Please see building details below.

BUILDING DETAILS

Today's architectural marvels

The Sears Tower

233 South Wacker Drive
Tel: +1 312 875 9696
www.searstower.com
www.the-skydeck.com

John Hancock Centre

Robie House

Tickets & tour starting point:
Robie House bookshop
5757 South Woodlawn Avenue
Hyde Park (on the campus of the University of Chicago)
Tel: +1 708 848 1978 / 1976



875 N. Michigan Avenue
Tel: +1 312 751 3681
www.johnhancockcenterchicago.com
www.hancock-observatory.com

Chicago Cultural Centre
78 East Washington Street
The Tribune Tower
435 North Michigan Avenue

Macy's On State Building
111 North State Street
Tel: +1 312 781-1000
www.visitmacyschicago.com

**Frank Lloyd Wright Home & Studio
and Unity Temple**
Tickets & tour starting point:
Ginkgo Tree Bookshop
951 Chicago Avenue
Oak Park (open daily 10am - 5pm)
Tel: +1 708.848.1978
www.wrightplus.org

www.wrightplus.org/robiehouse/robiehouse.html

Art Institute of Chicago
111 South Michigan Avenue
Tel: +1 312 443 3600
www.artic.edu

How to explore Chicago's architecture

CAF's Architecture River Cruise
Michigan Avenue Bridge Dock
Ticketmaster, +1 312 902 1500 or
www.architecture.org

CAF's Walking & Bus Tours
For tickets and tour starting points:
CAF Shop & Tour Center
Santa Fe Building
224 South Michigan Avenue
Tel: +1 312 922 3432
www.architecture.org

Chicago Greeter
Chicago Cultural Centre
Visitor Information Centre
77 East Randolph Street
Tel: +1 312.744.8000
www.chicagogreeter.com