

CHICAGO ARCHITECTURE CENTER

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Chicago Architecture Center continues CAC Live programming with new talks, virtual tours; [What's Next](#) series goes online

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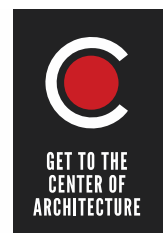
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CHICAGO – The [Chicago Architecture Center](#) (CAC) is pleased to extend a broad spectrum of opportunities for public engagement through and beyond its [temporary suspension](#) of in-person activities. [CAC Live](#) continues with one-time-only events featuring architecture experts, design practitioners, acclaimed authors and industry leaders, while also engaging the organization's corps of more than 600 docents and volunteers. Events are promoted via free public and CAC member-exclusive versions of [CAC@Home](#), the organization's digital mini magazine sent every Thursday and archived online at architecture.org/athome.

Building upon the [What's Next](#) series of events for industry leaders in the Center's Joan and Gary Gand Lecture Hall, select CAC Live events focus specifically on the coronavirus, such as a panel discussion on **The Future of the Office**, at noon Central Time Wednesday, May 6; **An Energy Revolution to Spark Chicago's Post-COVID Recovery**, at noon Central Time Friday, May 8; and **Rethinking Green Space for a More Resilient Chicago**, at 3pm Central Time Wednesday, May 13. The CAC participates in International Museum Day 2020 with the panel discussion **Advancing Equity through Partnership: Cultural Nonprofits and Industry Stakeholders**, available Monday, May 18 at imd.icom.museum and afterward via [the CAC's YouTube channel](#).

Upcoming [CAC@Home](#) and CAC Live events are as follows; all start times listed are Central Time and all events are hosted online via [Zoom](#) unless otherwise noted. New events are added on an ongoing basis; register online at architecture.org/caclive.



Calendar of Events: May 2020

[CAC Live: The Future of the Office](#)

Wednesday, May 6 at noon, part of the CAC's ongoing series [What's Next](#)
\$8, **FREE** with registration fee to CAC members

The office environment, collaborative by nature, presents distinct challenges in a world still recovering from a pandemic. To instill confidence and ensure public health, it will take imaginative redesign to reopen many workplaces under spatial distancing restrictions. Hear how architects, designers and their clients are exploring creative solutions.

Host Cheryl Durst, Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer of the [International Interior Design Association](#), facilitates this timely discussion with **Todd Heiser**, Co-Managing Director of the Chicago Office of [Gensler](#); **James Ludwig**, Vice President of Global Design and Product Engineering at [Steelcase Inc.](#); and **Debra Moritz**, Head of Strategic Consulting at [Cushman & Wakefield, Inc.](#)

[CAC Live: Women of the 1893 World's Fair](#)

Wednesday, May 6 at 7pm
\$8, **FREE** with registration fee to CAC members

The World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago's famous fair held in 1893, was a triumph for architect and planner Daniel Burnham—but it was also a showcase for women, and many more than just the celebrated Bertha Honoré Palmer. Learn about some of the artists, activists and achievers who were so compelling that we still discuss them, and their work, 127 years later.

Host Kathleen Carpenter has been a CAC docent since 2006. She has served as Director of Development and Alumni Relations at the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business, Vice President of the Museum of Science and Industry, and Executive Director of the Three Arts Club of Chicago. Born in Chicago, Carpenter is a graduate of Northwestern University.

[CAC Live: An Energy Revolution to Spark Chicago's Post-COVID Recovery](#)

Friday, May 8 at noon, part of the CAC's ongoing series [What's Next](#)
\$8, **FREE** with registration fee to CAC members

Join architect and urban planner Doug Farr as he introduces Carbon Free Chicago, a 30-year campaign to equitably decarbonize our region's economy. Farr will also illustrate strong parallels he sees between what is needed to restart the economy post-COVID and what we need to do to tackle our climate emergency. This talk previews the CAC's upcoming exhibition, "ENERGY REVOLUTION: Creating Our Carbon-Free Future," made possible by exhibit sponsors ComEd and the Illinois Science Energy and Innovation Foundation, and developed by CAC staff in partnership with Farr Associates and Doug Farr.

Host Doug Farr is the founding principal and president of [Farr Associates Architecture and Urban Design](#), a Chicago-based firm of optimistic architects and urban designers who plan and design lovable, aspirational buildings and places. He is the author of “Sustainable Nation” and “Sustainable Nation: Urban Design Patterns for the Future” and lectures widely on the topics of urbanism and sustainability. A native Detroiter, Farr was the founding chair of the U.S. Green Building Council’s LEED-ND Core Committee and has served on the boards of several urban sustainability organizations.

[CAC Live: The Vision of Illinois Center](#)

Saturday, May 9 at 1pm

\$8, **FREE** with registration fee to CAC members

Learn how an abandoned railway freight yard was transformed into an important urban development called Illinois Center—home since 2018 to the Chicago Architecture Center. CAC docent Lorie Westerman shares how Illinois Center was designed for people to “work, live and play,” along with interesting facts gathered through her extensive research into the history of one of the Office of Mies van der Rohe’s last Modernist projects. Discover the promises and controversies it generated at the time it was envisioned, improvements beyond the buildings that were included in the project, and the ongoing transformation of this once-unremarkable patch of land, where the Chicago River meets Lake Michigan and where the city was born.

Host Lorie Westerman has been a CAC docent since 2006. She leads several CAC neighborhood tours and serves as Tour Director for the CAC’s pedway tours, including the Illinois Center Pedway tour.

[CAC Live: Art Deco Tour](#)

Sunday, May 10 at 1pm

\$8, **FREE** with registration fee to CAC members

Get out while you stay in! Design-themed walks led live by CAC docent Mike McMains continue with an overview of period influences that led to Art Deco and its defining characteristics, exemplified by buildings of the ‘20s and ‘30s along the Chicago River and around the Loop.

Host Mike McMains has been a CAC docent since 2005. He is certified to lead 10 different CAC tours and has created several others, including Elevated Architecture: Downtown “L” Train, Elevated Architecture: North Side Art and Must-See Chicago. Mike’s professional background is in real estate investment management. Chicago has been his home for the last 20 years.

[CAC Live: Mid-Century Modernism Tour](#)

Tuesday, May 12 at 5:30pm

Sunday, May 17 at 1pm

\$8, **FREE** with registration fee to CAC members

When skyscrapers began to rise again after a long hiatus during World War II, a new style of architecture emerged: Mid-Century Modernism. CAC docent Mike McMains leads this live, 45-minute tour highlighting buildings of this era in downtown Chicago.

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CAC Live: Rethinking Green Space for a More Resilient Chicago

Wednesday, May 13 at 3pm, part of the CAC’s ongoing series [What’s Next](#)

\$8, **FREE** with registration fee to CAC members

Rarely has demand for green space been so great, with people seeking reprieve from their homebound lives. Neighborhood parks have been carrying this load while many of Chicago’s largest parks remain closed. Leading landscape architect and urban designer Ernest C. Wong outlines the tensions that spatial distancing will continue to impose on parks and public spaces. Drawing upon his work with site design group, ltd., Wong also offers insights toward approaching open space design for the benefit of all users and better preparation for the next public health crisis. Learn about efforts to improve existing parks and landscapes and create vibrant new green space in equitable ways.

Host Ernest C. Wong, Founder and Principal of [CAC Industry Council](#) member [site design group, ltd.](#), has been instrumental in the evolution of the firm into a multicultural, cutting-edge design entity fostering the landscape architecture profession in the City of Chicago. Over more than 30 years, site has established a reputation for finding creative design solutions and developing thoughtful, community-oriented urban spaces. An advocate of contextually designed open spaces and urban parks, Wong has directed numerous acclaimed projects including Mary Bartelme Park, Henry Palmisano Park (formerly Stearns Quarry) and Argyle Shared Street. Through professional and service leadership, Wong has advocated for and helped revitalization efforts in numerous Chicago neighborhoods, including its Chinatown, which has evolved through transformative, community-oriented projects including the multi-phase Ping Tom Memorial Park, Wentworth Avenue Streetscape, the Chinatown Vision Plan, the Chinatown Branch Library, and the ongoing Wells and Wentworth Connector. A strong

proponent of civic and community engagement, Wong serves on the boards of numerous service organizations and professional juries including the Driehaus Award for Architectural Excellence in Community Design, the Chinese American Service League, the Near South Planning Board and the Chicago Landmarks Commission. In addition, Wong is a frequent speaker at universities as well as design, business and diversity conferences. Wong served as keynote speaker at the Chicago Loop Alliance Foundation's 2020 Annual Meeting, discussing the future of retail and public spaces.

[CAC Live: Chicago Public Art Stories](#)

Wednesday, May 13 at 7pm

\$8, **FREE** with registration fee to CAC members

Due to the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, Chicago's public art legacy is younger than Boston's or New York City's. Its vast collection of public art, however, is star-studded, widely varied, endlessly interesting—and still growing. CAC docent Ed McDevitt leads this engaging introduction to some of Chicago's greatest public art treasures.

Host Ed McDevitt has been a CAC docent for ten years. He has developed or co-developed numerous walking tours for the CAC, including two public art tours. McDevitt is the founder of Public Art Chicago, established to document Chicago's vast collection of public art online. McDevitt lives in River Forest, where he enjoys studying the remarkable architecture and homes of the Illinois village.

[CAC Live: The Rise of the Skyscraper](#)

Saturday, May 16 at 1pm

\$8, **FREE** with registration fee to CAC members

Why is Chicago often considered the birthplace of the skyscraper? Explore the history of these tall buildings and discover how Chicago became a global center for high-rise design, innovation and engineering.

Host Leslie Clark Lewis has been a CAC docent for more than ten years. She is Tour Director for Historic Treasures of Chicago's Golden Age, which features some of Chicago's most iconic historic buildings (and stories). Before becoming a docent, Lewis worked for 25 years in marketing and communications. The first thing she did after retiring was apply to become a CAC docent.

Advancing Equity through Partnership: Cultural Nonprofits and Industry Stakeholders

A discussion for International Museum Day 2020, led by the International Council of Museums Produced by the Chicago Architecture Center in partnership with Chicago Museum Exhibitors Group and Chicagoland Alliance of Museums with Pride

Monday, May 18 online at imd.icom.museum, available afterward via the CAC's YouTube channel

FREE

Many cultural nonprofits have identified and worked to advance their goals toward greater inclusion, diversity, equity and accessibility. How are these efforts further amplified and supported by coalition-building with key stakeholders in related for-profit industries? The Chicago Architecture Center, a national leader in design appreciation and education, leads this timely discussion about its efforts to engage area partners in architecture, construction, engineering and design around shared goals.

Host Patricia Lara Garza, Director of Corporate and Institutional Relations at the Chicago Architecture Center, facilitates this timely discussion with **Kimberly Dowdell**, Director of Business Development at [HOK Architects](#) and 2019–20 National President of the [National Organization of Minority Architects](#) (NOMA); **Juan Gabriel Moreno**, President and Founder of [JGMA](#) (Juan Gabriel Moreno Architects); and **Ernest C. Wong**, Founder and Principal at [CAC Industry Council](#) member [site design group, ltd.](#)

[CAC Live: Brutalism and Postmodernism Tour](#)

Tuesday, May 19 at 5:30pm

Sunday, May 24 at 1pm

\$8, **FREE** with registration fee to CAC members

Modernism was the dominant style of high-rise architecture from the 1960s through the 1980s—but not everyone was a fan. Learn about two styles that emerged as reactions, Brutalism and Postmodernism, on this live, 45-minute tour through downtown Chicago.

Host Mike McMains has been a CAC docent since 2005. He is certified to lead 10 different CAC tours and has created several others, including Elevated Architecture: Downtown “L” Train, Elevated Architecture: North Side Art and Must-See Chicago. Mike's professional background is in real estate investment management. Chicago has been his home for the last 20 years.

[CAC Live: A Tale of Two Fairs](#)

Wednesday, May 20 at 7pm

\$8, **FREE** with registration fee to CAC members

We often hear about the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 but rarely about Chicago's “other” world's fair, held 40 years later. While little remains of A Century of Progress International Exposition, we can still compare the two—and explain why one is talked about so much more often than the other is today.

Host Ellen Shubart has been a CAC docent since 2006, leading many tours on land, on the Chicago River and from the top of an open-air bus. Prior to becoming a docent, Shubart worked in journalism for 20 years, followed by land planning and public policy advocacy.

[CAC Live: If the Walls of Farnsworth House Could Talk](#)

Saturday, May 23 at 1pm

Wednesday, June 10 at 7pm

\$8, **FREE** with registration fee to CAC members

A brief encounter at a dinner party led to one of the most intriguing and beautiful design collaborations of the 20th century—and sparked a firestorm of society gossip. When Modernist architect Mies van der Rohe met accomplished physician and polymath Dr. Edith Farnsworth, the resulting house he designed for her was a structure so simple, so elegant, and in such defiance of conventional wisdom, that it revolutionized domestic architecture forever.

Host Bobbi Pinkert, a self-described “archiholic,” has been a CAC docent since 1999. She is currently Tour Director for five tours and leads many others, including the Chicago Architecture Foundation Center River Cruise aboard Chicago’s First Lady. A former President of the CAC Docent Council, Pinkert was named “Outstanding Docent” by her peers in 2010.

[CAC Live: Contemporary Tour](#)

Tuesday, May 26 at 5:30pm

Sunday, May 31 at 1pm

\$8, **FREE** with registration fee to CAC members

Chicago has seen a lot of new construction in the 21st century, and there are several recurring themes. Architectural styles are often terms defined by historians looking back on an era, so since we are living in this period today, we call it Contemporary design. This live, 45-minute tour with CAC docent Mike McMains describes influences on this Contemporary style, defines its characteristics and profiles several wonderful buildings—and the architects who designed them—from the last 20 years.

Host Mike McMains has been a CAC docent since 2005. He is certified to lead 10 different CAC tours and has created several others, including Elevated Architecture: Downtown “L” Train, Elevated Architecture: North Side Art and Must-See Chicago. Mike’s professional background is in real estate investment management. Chicago has been his home for the last 20 years.

[CAC Live: “The Kitchen” Book Talk](#)

Wednesday, May 27 at noon

\$8, **FREE** with registration fee to CAC members

Join Canadian architect **John Ota** as he revisits his quest to uncover great historic kitchens of North America in his new book, "The Kitchen: A journey through time—and the homes of Julia Child, Georgia O’Keeffe, Elvis Presley and many others—in search of the perfect design." On a mission to design a perfect kitchen of his own, Ota visited—and cooked in—the kitchens of Louis Armstrong, Thomas Jefferson, Georgia O’Keeffe and other famous figures, as well as the more humble abodes of pilgrims and turn-of-the-last-century tenement families. Along the way, Ota discovered the origins and evolution of the kitchen, its architecture and its appliances.

Host John Ota has worked in design since 1978 in architecture offices in Toronto, New York and Vancouver, and holds degrees from the School of Architecture at Columbia University and the University of British Columbia. The author of articles on architecture and design for major newspapers and magazines across Canada, Ota has served as a juror and chaired the awards committee of the Ontario Association of Architects, as a board member on the Toronto Historical Board, and has worked on major art gallery, museum and courthouse projects for Ontario’s government. In 2004, he was lead curator on a touring exhibition titled "Living Spaces, 21 contemporary houses." Ota has acted as a guest critic at the Ryerson University School of Architecture and as an advisor to the Architecture Gallery at Harbourfront Centre in Toronto. He is an active member of the Culinary Historians of Canada.

CAC Live: Chicago Architecture, Page by Page

Wednesday, May 27 at 7pm

Saturday, May 30 at 1pm

\$8, **FREE** with registration fee to CAC members

Chicago’s distinctive architecture illustrates the works of numerous writers, from novelist Theodore Dreiser to poet Carl Sandburg to graphic novelist Chris Ware. This visual presentation explores the intersections between Chicago architecture and literature, revealing how each art form continues to enrich the other.

Host Leanne Star is a CAC docent, a professional writer, and a former professor of literature at Beloit College in Wisconsin and Colby College in Maine.

Calendar of Events: June 2020

CAC Live: Chicago’s Downtown Theatre District

Wednesday, June 3 at 7pm

Saturday, June 13 at 1pm

\$8, **FREE** with registration fee to CAC members

Concentrated along Randolph Street in Chicago’s Loop and home to landmark venues including the Cadillac Palace Theatre, the Chicago Theatre and the James M. Nederlander

Theatre, this bustling strip has evolved in concert with changes to trends and preferences in live performance. Learn about the architecture, history and famous people that have made Chicago's Downtown Theatre District a global destination for entertainment, from the mid-19th century to today.

Host Robin Simon has been a CAC docent since 1997 and is a lifelong theater fan. She leads 12 different walking tours in the Loop and neighborhoods and is Tour Director for Razzle Dazzle: The Loop Theater District. Her favorite building types are department stores, hotels, train stations and "big old theaters." Simon also serves as a Community Educator for the Illinois Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. When not volunteering, she consults with consumer products firms on forecasting and marketing analytics. She graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a BA / BS and has an MBA from the University of Chicago.

CAC Live: Graceland Cemetery

Saturday, June 6 at 1pm

Wednesday, June 17 at 7pm

\$8, **FREE** with registration fee to CAC members

Beautiful and serene, Graceland Cemetery is an oasis in the center of the bustling global city of Chicago. Notables interred include Chicago movers and shakers of the late 19th and early 20th centuries such as Daniel Burnham, Marshall Field, Potter Palmer and George Pullman, and their monuments were designed by famed architects and sculptors of the era, too: Daniel Chester French, Louis Sullivan and Lorado Taft, to name a few.

Host Dick Clark has been a CAC docent since 2008. He gives eight different tours and is co-director of the CAC tour Lincoln Park: from Cemetery to Sculpture Garden. A native Chicagoan, Clark is a proud graduate of St. Ignatius College Prep. Prior to becoming a CAC docent, he practiced law in Chicago.

Many CAC Live events are free to current CAC members at all levels, with nominal processing fees. CAC members also receive the *CAC@Home: Members' Edition* mini magazine weekly and exclusive access to the complete *CAC@Home* archive online. Non-members are welcome to join most CAC Live events for just \$8 plus fees. Subscriptions via email to *CAC@Home* are free; visit architecture.org to sign up today. Visit architecture.org/join to become a member today starting at just \$80 per year and architecture.org/donate to make a tax-deductible contribution to the Chicago Architecture Center—where the stories of the city begin.

While the CAC Call Center remains closed to support employee safety, voicemails at 312-922-3432 are monitored daily. The CAC responds within 24 hours to all inquiries sent via email to tickets@architecture.org, boxoffice@architecture.org and info@architecture.org. Visit

bit.ly/CACUPDATES for the latest information regarding the cancellation and postponement of CAC activities and programs to best support efforts to limit the transmission of COVID-19.

About the Chicago Architecture Center

The Chicago Architecture Center (CAC) is a nonprofit organization founded in 1966, dedicated to inspiring people to discover why design matters. A national leader in architecture and design education, the CAC offers field-leading tours, programs, exhibitions and more that are part of a dynamic journey of lifelong learning.

Opened to the public in 2018, its riverfront location is in the heart of the city, where Michigan Avenue meets the Chicago River, featuring nearly 10,000 square feet of exhibition space filled with super-sized models—and views—of iconic skyscrapers built over the course of more than a century. Exhibitions focus on Chicago’s diverse neighborhoods, housing types, leading architects and future projects, and include the largest scale model of the city, with more than 4,250 miniature buildings, interactive touchscreens, and a cinematic backdrop animating key moments in its history. Highly knowledgeable, enthusiastic CAC docents guide visitors and residents through more than 75 walking tours with more than 7,000 annual departures, plus the Chicago Architecture Foundation Center River Cruise aboard Chicago’s First Lady.

Through partnerships with schools and youth-serving organizations, the CAC reaches approximately 30,000 K–12 students annually, while teacher workshops provide educators with tools and resources they need to advance STEM curricula in their classrooms. Committed to increasing access for populations historically under-represented in ACED (architecture, construction, engineering, and design) professions, the CAC offers many of its education programs—and all of its programs for teens—at no cost to participants. CAC programs for adults and members include talks with acclaimed authors and practicing architects, in-depth presentations on issues and trends in urbanism, and classes unlocking a wide range of subjects with connections to the built environment.

Proceeds from programs, tours and the CAC Design Store, as well as from grants, sponsorships and donations, support its educational mission. Visit [architecture.org](https://www.architecture.org) to learn more and follow @chiarchitecture and #chiarchitecture on social media.

