

# CHICAGO ARCHITECTURE CENTER

EXHIBITS • CRUISES • TOURS • PROGRAMS

## Chicago's First Lady Cruises and Chicago Architecture Center to host three exclusive "An Evening with an Architect" river cruises

Each Thursday-evening September departure features a special guest whose firm designed buildings along the Chicago River

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High-resolution images and video available upon request

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CHICAGO – Chicago's First Lady Cruises and the Chicago Architecture Center (CAC) are pleased to announce "An Evening with an Architect," a new cruise series offering guests a unique immersion into Chicago's world-class riverfront architecture. The special series includes three premier, 90-minute evening river cruises, each featuring dialogue with an esteemed architect from a firm behind one or more modern marvels seen during the Chicago Architecture Foundation Center (CAFC) River Cruise aboard Chicago's First Lady.

Guest architects include **Adam Semel**, Managing Partner, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill; **Joachim Schuessler**, Principal and Senior Project Designer, Goettsch Partners; and **Thomas Kerwin**, Founding Principal, bKL Architecture. Together with a CAC volunteer docent expertly trained to lead CAFC River Cruises, each architect will share commentary and answer questions for a uniquely exclusive architectural experience on the Chicago River.

To comply with recommendations from public health officials and promote sufficient social distancing, capacity for each cruise experience is strictly limited, in addition to other new measures to protect guest and staff safety. Tickets are now available via Ticketmaster and expected to sell quickly due to high demand and capacity restrictions, so reserve your spot now for these open-air architectural adventures.

[An Evening with An Architect: Adam Semel](#)  
[Managing Partner, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill](#)

Departs Thursday, September 10 at 6pm  
\$78 per person, CAC members \$68

Adam Semel, AIA, is a managing partner in the Chicago office of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM), where he serves as a leader of the firm's strategic growth and client engagement across all regions. He plays an integral role in the management and delivery of large-scale, complex projects with an extensive, multi-billion-dollar portfolio that includes projects in Chicago, across the United States and overseas. Semel's expertise extends to several practice areas including commercial, residential, cultural and educational, plus interior and urban design at all scales. Semel is highly experienced in navigating public agency approvals and zoning regulations, and in facilitating meaningful conversations with local communities. Semel plays a key role in SOM's commitment to Chicago and serves as an advocate for the city's continued growth. In 2016, Semel was named a Fellow of Leadership Greater Chicago and, in 2019, he joined the Chicago Architecture Center's Board of Trustees. Semel holds degrees from the Harvard University Graduate School of Design and Wesleyan University.

[An Evening with an Architect: Joachim Schuessler](#)  
[Principal and Senior Project Designer, Goettsch Partners](#)

Departs Thursday, September 17 at 6pm  
\$78 per person, CAC members \$68

Joachim Schuessler is a principal and senior project designer at Goettsch Partners, either leading or collaborating in the conceptual design efforts for projects and continuing to articulate and evolve designs through all phases. He has worked on a range of office, hotel, mixed-use, institutional and government projects, and he is particularly experienced with international assignments, having worked on projects across Asia, Europe, the Middle East and North America. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Architecture from Leipzig University of Applied Sciences in Germany and he received his Master of Architecture from the Illinois Institute of Technology.

[An Evening with an Architect: Thomas Kerwin](#)  
[Founding Principal, bKL Architecture](#)

Departs Thursday, September 24 at 6pm  
\$78 per person, CAC members \$68

Founding principal of bKL Architecture, Thomas Kerwin, FAIA, LEED AP, leads a team of talented architects based in Chicago, Shanghai and Washington, D.C. who share Kerwin's passion and determination for creating places which positively contribute to shaping the urban environment. His breadth of knowledge and leadership skills have grown bKL exponentially since its inception in 2010 and, in a relatively short time, Kerwin has established bKL nationally and internationally with an impressive portfolio showcasing a variety of project types and scales. bKL projects viewable from the CAFC River Cruise route include 200 N. Michigan, 300 N. Michigan (under construction), Cascade (under construction), Cirrus (under construction), Coast, GEMS World Academy Lower School, GEMS World Academy Upper School (under construction), Parcel I at Lakeshore East (approved and in design), Renelle on the River and Wolf Point West.

### **Ticketing Information**

Purchase tickets at [Ticketmaster.com/rivercruise](https://www.ticketmaster.com/rivercruise) by selecting the exact date and the 6pm departure time. Each cruise is \$73.44 plus tax for the public; CAC members can redeem discounted pricing at \$64.03 plus tax by calling 312-922-8687. Each ticket includes time for Q&A with the guest architect and one complimentary glass of Champagne. A full-service bar is available to purchase additional beverages. While there is no food offered aboard, guests are encouraged to visit one of the many Riverwalk cafés before or after their cruise experience.

### **Boarding Location**

Cruises depart from Chicago's First Lady's dock at the southeast corner of the Michigan Avenue Bridge at E. Wacker Dr. on Chicago's Riverwalk. Guests will be welcome to board the vessel at 5:15pm for choice of seating. Cruises will depart at 6pm and return at 7:30pm.

### **About Chicago's First Lady Cruises**

Docked on Chicago's vibrant Riverwalk, Chicago's First Lady Cruises is a critically acclaimed Chicago experience that connects Chicago locals and visitors alike to the city's rich architectural history and breathtaking beauty through the official Chicago Architecture Foundation Center River Cruise and as a first-class venue for private events. This year marks the 27th anniversary of the Chicago Architecture Foundation Center River Cruise, the only private public partnership on the Chicago Riverfront. All vessels are operated by a U.S. Coast Guard-licensed captain and crew. For more information and for cruise schedules, visit [CruiseChicago.com](https://www.cruisechicago.com), call 847-358-1330 or follow @cflcruises on social media.

## 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](http://architecture.org) to learn more and follow @chiarchitecture and #chiarchitecture on social media.

