

CHICAGO ARCHITECTURE CENTER

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Chicago Architecture Center Reveals Homes Designed to end Housing Crisis

New CAC exhibit and June 3 virtual program with experts in design and urban planning provide new designs for affordable, accessible and flexible housing

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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[CAC Digital Media Kit](#); Interviews available with Scarpa, Cox, architects from Canopy, UrbanLab, Landon Bone Baker, Brooks + Scarpa and CAC content experts who created the new exhibit.

CHICAGO – The [Chicago Architecture Center](#) (CAC) is leading a national conversation about exciting new home designs to help end today's housing shortage. The CAC has helped Chicago neighborhoods and cities around the world discover how design and urban planning can make communities more livable for all stages of life. CAC's new exhibit, Housing for a Changing Nation, funded by AARP Illinois and AARP Foundation, opened on May 22nd to showcases affordable, accessible and flexible home designs.

CAC's reopening spring 2021 season includes programming on design solutions to the housing crisis. On Thursday, June 3 at 6pm CT, the CAC is hosting a virtual event featuring two national experts on affordable home design and urban planning. Maurice Cox, Commissioner of the City of Chicago Department of Planning and Development, and Lawrence Scarpa, founding partner of Brooks + Scarpa, who will share innovative solutions.

[Housing for a Changing Nation Exhibit](#) is an entirely new installation, sponsored by AARP Illinois and the AARP Foundation, that explores how architects are replacing outdated 19th and 20th century housing with homes designed for fast-changing, diverse, multi-generational communities that need flexible, accessible and affordable housing:

- **100 YEAR LOT - a multi-generational home in Mexican and European influenced Pilsen by Canopy** neighborhood splicing together a Chicago two-flat with a new two-story structure;
- **MAKERS SPACE - a five-lot, live/work, micro-housing complex with shared community kitchen by Landon Bone Baker** and retail marketplace and cottage-industry scaled workspace for South Chicago's "maker" community;
- **FLIP THE STRIP - strip malls and vacant storefronts transformed into flexible live/workspaces by UrbanLab**—a contemporary update on the old concept of "living above the store"—for a new generation of small business entrepreneurs
- **A NEW COURTYARD – a compact, pedestrian-orientated, affordable apartment building in Los Angeles that updates a familiar, sprawl-fighting California style by Brooks + Scarpa**—a design that shares elements familiar to Chicagoans whose Chicago courtyard apartment buildings provided affordable housing to residents in the early 20th century.



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CAC Live: Architect Talk: Lawrence Scarpa With Planning Commissioner Maurice Cox During the June 3, 6pm CT virtual event, Brooks + Scarpa founding partner Lawrence Scarpa will present the firm's large body of site-specific work in affordable and supportive housing—in Los Angeles, Detroit and elsewhere. Scarpa will share [filmed segments of conversations with Cox and Scarpa as well as interviews with residents of the affordable housing developments](#) that highlight the firm's collaborative approach, which emphasizes community dialogue through early phases of concept development.

Scarpa and Chicago Department of Planning Commissioner Maurice Cox will discuss the impact of select projects in their respective cities, the promise of innovative design in tackling our nation's housing shortage, and the once-in-a-generation opportunity for new housing models to take hold in Chicago's underserved communities, through Chicago Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot's INVEST South/West initiative.

Other CAC housing programs in spring 2021 include a May 13 film screening and discussion of **[Bruce Orenstein's new documentary series, The Shame of Chicago](#)**, exploring predatory contract home sales in Chicago after World War II.

This new exhibit and programs on housing cap CAC's spring 2021 reopening that began with the April launch of new CAC Walking Tours and the Chicago Architecture Foundation Center (CAFC) River Cruise aboard Chicago's First Lady. Both walking tours and the cruise have been popular options for Chicagoans and visitors eager to rediscover the beauty and inspiration of Chicago architecture.

OTHER CAC EXHIBITS OPENED IN MAY INCLUDE

- **[BRAND NEW FOR MAY 2021: The City in Change: Chicago Neighborhoods Exhibit](#)** introduces visitors to Chicagoans from some of the city's 77 diverse, architecturally distinct and constantly changing communities.
- **[Chicago City Model Experience](#)**, featuring more than 4,250 buildings, returns with **thirty new models of buildings under construction in 2020 and 2021—including St. Regis (Vista) Tower and Bank of America Building (110 North Wacker)**. Features a seven-minute video summarizing the city's dynamic history, fascinating present and promising future.
- **[Current Chicago Projects Exhibit](#)** opens with **new, cutting-edge Chicago projects and all new scale models**

THE DRAKE FAMILY SKYSCRAPER GALLERY featuring "Building Tall" reopens with **seven new scale models of towers from Bangkok, Chicago, New York, Taipei and Tianjin** and other skyscrapers from around the world.

CAC TOURS INCLUDE

CAFC RIVER CRUISES departures **Thursday through Monday starting May 22**

On April 17, the #1 boat tour in Chicago based on [TripAdvisor user reviews](#) and the only Chicago finalist for [Best Boat Tour](#) for USA Today's 10Best Readers' Choice Award, **Chicago Architecture**

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Foundation Center (CAFC) River Cruise aboard Chicago's First Lady (CFL) launched its 2021 cruise season along Chicago River's canyon of architecture. Reservations are recommended and tickets are available at cruisechicago.com.

CAC WALKING TOURS, both downtown and in Chicago's neighborhoods depart Thursday through Monday starting May 22

CAC BOX OFFICE & DESIGN STORE Thursday through Monday 10am to 5pm starting May 22

On April 17, the **CAC Box Office and CAC Design Store reopened for guests** wishing to book in-person walking tours and the CAFC River Cruise and shop one of Chicago's favorite design venues. Both spaces limit capacities and require face coverings. Masking policy below.

For updates on offerings visit architecture.org or call 312-922-8687.

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 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 with views of a century of iconic skyscrapers. 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 serving under-represented communities in 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 subjects related 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 to learn more and follow @chiarchitecture and #chiarchitecture on social media.

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