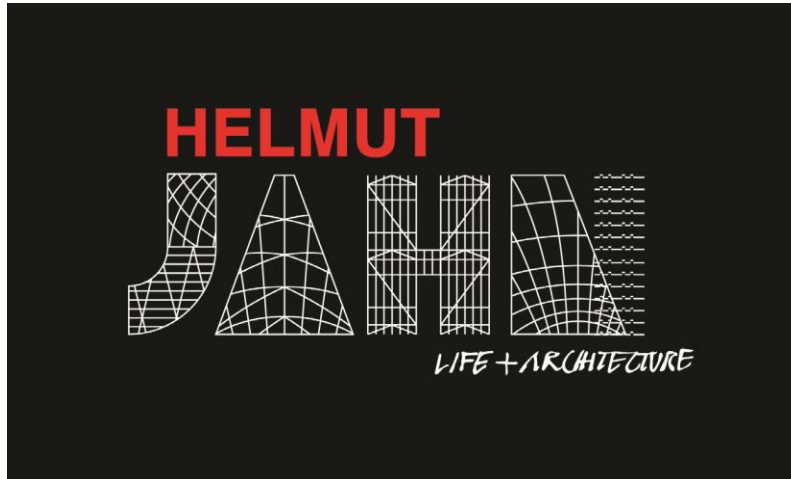


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OPENING OF HIGHLY ANTICIPATED EXHIBIT HELMUT JAHN: LIFE + ARCHITECTURE

Design Retrospective Opens this Friday July 23 in CAC's Skyscraper Gallery

New exhibit announcement garnered global interest amid an international outpouring of appreciation for Jahn's design legacy following his death in May

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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[Helmut Jahn: Life + Architecture Digital Media Kit](#)
[CAC Digital Media Kit](#)

MEDIA SNEAK PEEK Thursday, July 22, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.; register [here](#)
FINAL VIDEO & PHOTOS SETS coming July 22, after 6 p.m.; request [here](#)

CHICAGO – This Friday, July 23 at 10 a.m., the Chicago Architecture Center (CAC) opens its first, major limited-run exhibit, **HELMUT JAHN: LIFE + ARCHITECTURE**, the eagerly anticipated career retrospective of Helmut Jahn's innovative architectural designs. The July 8 announcement of the new exhibit garnered global interest for the pathbreaking architect whose bold building designs can be found in virtually every major metropolis—from adopted home of Chicago to Bangkok to Berlin to New York to Shanghai to Tokyo—buildings which are one of Jahn's enduring legacies. The exhibit, organized after Jahn's death in May, includes numerous



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scale models of Jahn's pathbreaking designs throughout his career and will run through October.

"Helmut Jahn and Chicago were made for one another," said Lynn Osmond, President and CEO of the CAC. "Helmut's larger-than-life persona and his inventive and surprisingly original buildings remade Chicago in the 1980s. His brash designs and relentless pursuit of excellence invigorated Chicago, helping the architectural community move confidently beyond mid-century modernism. Helmut was, in turn, embraced by 'the city of big shoulders.'"

HELMUT JAHN: LIFE + ARCHITECTURE includes personal and professional items generously loaned by Helmut Jahn's family and firm. Visitors to CAC's Skyscraper Gallery will see scale models of some of Jahn's most recent designs, including 1000M (Chicago) and [Pritzker Military Archives](#) (Somers, Wisconsin) currently under construction. Visitors will also see scale models of buildings designed at key points in Jahn's career, including [Post Tower](#) (Bonn, 2002), [Sony Center](#) (Berlin, 2000) and the [James R. Thompson Center](#) (Chicago, 1985). Together, these buildings, represented by scale models in the exhibit, introduce visitors to Jahn's enduring design legacy.

"With a burst of shattering, curving and bulging glass in a rainbow of colors, Helmut Jahn danced onto the international architecture scene in the 1980s, translating the discipline of Chicago Modernism into new programs and forms while melting and fragmenting its grids into a post-disco delight of shaped buildings," said Aaron Betsky, Director of the School of Architecture + Design at Virginia Tech. "We better save the Thompson Center, which is not only one of his greatest designs, but one of the few true celebrations of government as a public good."

The Thompson Center, an example of innovative post-modern design, is in the news as it is currently to be sold by the State of Illinois without protection for its historic design. A nomination to the National Register of Historic Places seeks historic tax credits for incentivizing adaptive reuse, but this process is still ongoing. To support a debate on the future of The Thompson Center, the CAC and the Chicago Architectural Club created [the James R. Thompson Center Design Competition](#) that challenges architects to envision a new future for Jahn's post-modern masterpiece. The winning designs will be exhibited at the CAC in late summer.

The exhibit was curated by Zurich Esposito in close collaboration with the CAC exhibits team. Official credits for the exhibit that reflect the contributions of a number of firms and institutions are forthcoming.

Pritzker Archives & Memorial Park Center is presenting sponsor. Clayco is lead sponsor. Sponsors include Francisco and Gergana Gonzalez-Pulido of FGP Atelier, David and Eileen Hovey, Joe and Rika Mansueto, James Goettsch and Nada Andric, Goettsch Partners, Time Equities, Inc.



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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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