

5th Grade Chicago Architecture Tour

Exit Union Station on the north side of station and walk east on Adams Street to LaSalle

In 1912 Daniel Burnham with other business and cultural leaders created a vision for the future of Chicago. Chicago grew and changed using this vision plan as a guide to the Mayors, developers and architects of the city. This vision included the creation of our lakefront parks, our boulevards, our park system, our plazas, and our public buildings. Daniel Burnham once said, "Make no small plans." With that legacy in mind today we will see how architecture recognized around the world came to be Chicago today.

1. 190 South LaSalle Street

- 1986 John Burgee Architects with Philip Johnson of New York
- 42-story office tower with concrete core and steel frame.
- Pink granite and gray tinted glass.
- Lobbies are **5 stories tall**. Barrel vaulted ceilings, **gold leaf** (yes it's real gold), **No commercial space**. Unusual in modern buildings – emphasizes wealth of this financial district building.
- Fluted columns with **Corinthian capitals**. LaSalle Street lobby is 180-feet long, 40-feet deep and 55-feet tall. The lobby can only be viewed from the south end due to security concerns. Look at the large sculpture called "Fugue". Note the size and how well it works in the lobby.
- The lobby features a wall hanging depicting Daniel Burnham's vision for Chicago. There has not been a plan as visually compelling as this one done almost a century ago. Everything you will see today grew out of this vision and the legacy Burnham left to Chicago. It all started here and this is where our tour will begin.



Tour groups can enter this building. If your group running a bit behind or the train was late arriving at Union Station, skip for now. If there's time your group can enter on the way back to Union Station at the end of the tour.

2. The Rookery: 209 South LaSalle Street

- 1886 John Wellborn Root – Burnham and Root
- **1907 Inner Lobby Redesigned by Frank Lloyd Wright**
- This was the site of a temporary City Hall in 1872 and also the site of a metal water tower, which was not destroyed in the fire, although the city reservoir building was destroyed. The water tower was used to store 8,000 books donated to the city by Queen Victoria until a permanent library could be built.
- Does this remind you of any buildings you are familiar with? Like Central School in Riverside, the Rookery is built in the Romanesque style, which is characterized by stone and brickwork, strong lines, and towers or balconies. There are also rounded arches framing the windows and doorways, details and elaborate decorations such as gargoyles and medallions.

What does the name Rookery mean?

- There are a few ideas – rooks are similar to crows, and crows liked to roost in the water tower that used to be on this site. Birds are incorporated into the design – look for the rooks around the doorway. Also, a rook is a chess piece, also known as a castle, and Romanesque architecture is thought to resemble a castle by many people. Politicians in Chicago in the late 19th century were considered to be “crooked” or unethical by many people, and a slang term for cheating is “rook,” so “rookery” may have been a reference to the denizens of that temporary city hall.
- The Rookery is interesting architecturally in that Root combined the new technology of the steel frame with traditional load bearing construction. The exterior walls are load bearing and account for the mass and solidity of the building. Inside, there is a light well supported by steel frame construction, allowing for the openness of the atrium and providing the maximum of natural light. The delicate iron work of the balconies and stairwell reflect this type of construction. Note the two glass ceilings on the atrium, one at roof level and the other lower down. Notice the stairway and the glass tile floor of the balcony. The stairway extends beyond the west facade of the building and is enclosed in its own partial tower. They may have seen the famous Richard Nichol photograph of this stairway taken from above, you can discuss Nichol and his contribution to preservation in Chicago.

- Tour groups can enter this building. If so, mention the following.
 - Point out the Frank Lloyd Wright redesign of the lobby; the students may recognize his style from their trip to his studio in fourth grade. The white marble is incised intricately and painted with gold leaf gilt. He replaced the light fixtures. The urns at the bottom of the stairs are typical of Wright's work. Find the place where the column is open to reveal the original appearance of the lobby.



3. Chicago Board of Trade: 141 West Jackson Boulevard

- 1929 Holabird and Root
- Addition 1979-1982 Murphy and Jahn
- A second Art Deco building situated in a commanding location at the foot of LaSalle Street, on Jackson. It forms the bottom of the LaSalle Street Canyon that can be seen from Randolph Street on the north.
- The structure is 45 stories tall. At the top is a 32-foot statue of Ceres, the goddess of grain, executed by John Stoors, holding grains and symbolizing one of the chief commodities traded on the board. The statute is in the Art Deco idiom, with long strong lines, made of aluminum. The building employs characteristic art deco features such as the vertical piers, and the massing of the building into its throne-like shape is particularly appropriate to its location and its function. The nine story base is occupied by the trading room – section underneath the clock. Two 13-story symmetrical projections rise above the base and create a deep setback. Horizontal lines are minimal – spandrels are recessed and discontinuous.
- The 3-story lobby is a masterpiece of art deco design. It is finished in several varieties of contrasting marble, demonstrating art deco fondness for sleek polished surfaces. Also used are translucent glass and nickel. Severely rectilinear ornament is characteristic of the art deco style.



This is a good time to look south on LaSalle Street to note how this wall of buildings forms the famous canyon immediately recognized as part of Chicago. This area is unlike the wall of buildings we will see on Michigan Avenue which is open on the east. This is also a good point to view the statue of Ceres on top of the Chicago Board of Trade.

Walk back to the corner of Adams and LaSalle and continue walking east on Adams to Dearborn.

4. Federal Center and Plaza: Between Jackson and Adams, Dearborn and Clark

- 1964-1975 Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, Schmidt, Garden and Erikson, C.F.
- Murphy Associates; A. Epstein and Sons.
- Stand in the plaza near the Calder Stabile, Flamingo, 1974
- The three buildings that comprise the federal center are important for their relationship to one another as well as for their exemplification of the "International" Style. Elements of this style include very tall, rectilinear structures, with steel frames. The buildings appear to be made only of steel and glass. Mies' motto was said to be "less is more."
- Almost one half of the total building site is plaza. This was done in part to give the workers in the tall buildings open space to look at from their windows and make them more productive.

- Another maxim of Mies was "God is in the details." He was involved in the design of the buildings and their surrounding plaza to the extent of the lines on the concrete of the plaza. If you stand on one of those lines and follow it with your eye, you will see how it lines up with the pillars and the vertical beams of each building. The concrete of the plaza is an enormous grid; it is as if we are standing on Mies' graph paper. The buildings themselves are steel and glass slabs, one flat against the ground, one tall and one wide. The Dirkson courthouse and office building and the 45-story Kluczynski office building share a basement. The one-story post office has a tall lobby which relates to those of the other buildings.
- The sculpture flamingo contrast the dark, geometric curtain walls of the buildings in it's free form shape and red color.



5. Marquette Building: 140 South Dearborn Street

- 1894, Holabird and Roche
- The building is faced with terra cotta tiles.
- Enter the building through the Dearborn Street entrance. The main doors are crowned by bronze panels that tell the story of the French explorer Pere Marquette. The bronzes are designed by Kemys, who also did the Art Institute Lions.
- The lobby of the Marquette building is a memorial rotunda in honor of Marquette. (Stay away from elevators.)
- J.A. Holzer designed the mosaic panels, which are of Tiffany glass. The mosaics depict the scenes of the French exploration of Illinois. The sculptured heads above the elevators depict members of the French expedition and important Indian chiefs of the Mississippi Valley. These are by Kemys as well. Go to the second level for a closer look at the mural, and point out the Doric column in the

center of the lobby. Light bulbs are used as a decorative element, which is typical of this period when electric lighting was relatively recent.



Discuss these points of the Marquette Building from across the street in the Federal Center Plaza where you can view the whole building:

- Point out the Marquette building from the Federal Plaza. It is across the street to the north. It is an excellent example of the "Chicago Style" of architecture.
- Characteristics of this style include:

A base that is easily distinguishable from the shaft of the building. The base houses the public areas of the building.

The rectangular shaft houses the office or other private areas of the building. This is characterized by strong vertical piers and longer spandrels allowed by the steel frame construction that forms the support of the building. "Form follows function" as the geometry of the supporting frame is expressed in the facade. Within the frame of pier and spandrel, are the characteristic "*Chicago Windows*." These are composed of a large fixed pane flanked by movable sashes that permit ventilation and allow the building to take advantage of all possible natural light. In many Chicago-style buildings, these windows are also bayed as we saw in the Reliance Building.

Recently replaced on this building is the characteristic cornice at the roof that typically finishes off a Chicago-style building. It was once removed to permit the construction of an unsightly top floor.

Continue walking east on Adams to Michigan Ave. The Art Institute will be in front of you. We need to use the student / group entrance which is on the corner of Columbus Dr. and Monroe St. So walk one block north on Michigan Ave. to Monroe St. Turn right and walk one block east to Columbus Dr.

We will tour the Art Institute and then have lunch before continuing our architecture tour on our way back to Union Station.

Continuing architecture tour en route back to Union Station

Exit the Art Institute and make your way into Millennium Park.

6. Millennium Park

- Classical in style, following the Daniel Burnham and Edward Bennett original Grant Park plan.
- 24.5 Acres bordered by Monroe, Randolph, Columbus Drive and Michigan Avenue.
- First planned in 1998 and opened in 2004
- Was once unsightly railroad tracks and parking lots. Rededicated to public enjoyment Millennium Park provides formal and relaxed open space for cultural programs, an indoor and an outdoor theatre, beautiful gardens, a 300 space heated indoor bike station complete with showers, an ice rink in winter a unique fountain in summer. Sculpture by Anish Kapoor, entitled *Cloud Gate*, lovingly called *the Bean* by Chicagoans.
- We first come to Crown Fountain – two 50' glass block towers with a reflecting pool between them designed by Spanish sculptor Jaume Plensa.
- Continue north on Michigan Avenue and come to the *Cloud Gate* sculpture by Anish Kapoor, loving called the *Bean* by Chicagoans.
- Behind the Bean and further to the north is the Jay Pritzker Pavilion – the most sophisticated outdoor concert venue of it's kind in the United States.
- Designed by Frank Gehry we see a 120' high theatre with a billowing headdress of stainless steel ribbons. The overhead trellis of criss crossing steel pipes defines the seating space. Gehry also designed a bridge connecting Millennium Park to the Grant Park across Columbus drive to the east. This is the first bridge ever designed by Gehry.
- At the corner of Randolph and Michigan is the Millennium Monument – a peristyle – a graceful semi-circular row of 40' Doric style columns that is nearly a full sized replica of the original that stood in this same location between 1917 and 1933.

- The city's motto "City in a Garden" played an important part in the planning of Chicago's parks and places even up to and including the planning of Millennium Park.
- Millennium Park contains a wonderful garden as well. Considered a roof top garden as it's built on top of the underground parking garage. It contains native plants that can survive on rain water as the park doesn't have an irrigation system.
- Point out the wall of buildings on the west side of Michigan Ave. This area is famous because of this wall of buildings, which forms a backdrop to the west of Grant Park. ***This collection of buildings is a historic landmark.*** When recognized it is immediately attributed to Chicago

Cross Michigan Ave. and enter the Chicago Cultural Center on the Washington St side – south side of building

7. Chicago Cultural Center: 78 East Washington

- 1897 – Shepley Rhutan and Coolidge (Boston)
- This firm also did the Art Institute of Chicago
- Extending a full block along Michigan Avenue from Washington to Randolph is the former main building of the Chicago Public Library, which is now the Chicago Cultural Center.
- Though the structure is not at all in the style of the Chicago schools of the time in which it was built, it is an impressive example of revivalist architecture, not only on the outside but throughout the interior as well
- 3-foot thick masonry walls faced with Bedford bluestone on granite base. Neoclassic architecture reflects both Greek and Roman influences. Built to service as city's central library and to house the museum of Grand Army of the Republic. Planned as "an enduring monument worthy of a great and public spirited city.
- Enter through Washington Street entrance. "Roman" side of the building. Deeply arched Romanesque portal. Ascend the grand staircase of white carrera marble. Note literary quotations on the frieze. Stairway is lined with marble and mosaics.
- Preston Bradley Hall contains 28-foot Tiffany glass dome and white carrera marble walls inlaid with mosaics of colored stone, mother of pearl and small pieces of glass. The dome was executed by J.A. Holzer for Tiffany. Glass is set at slight angles for a sparkling effect. Graceful arches bear names of great writers.
- Three of the four large piers supporting the dome bear the symbols of famous printers of the 15th and 16th centuries.

- On the 4th pier is the Y-shaped emblem of Chicago, representing the Chicago River and its two branches.
- In the wings to the east and west in green marble panels, in praise of books and reading.
- More inscriptions decorate the frieze around the stairwell, beneath an elaborately coffered ceiling.
- Ascend staircase to fourth floor. Stairway is built to resemble the Bridge of Sighs in Venice.
- Take Garland Court corridor (East side of building) to Sidney R. Yates Gallery. Coffered ceilings.
- GAR Rotunda and Memorial Hall. Stained glass dome by Healey & Millet. Enclosed in copper and backlit. Note 2 drapery glass Tiffany windows displayed.
- Randolph Street stairway – bronze sconces and balustrades – leaves and other organic forms. Light court contains statue "Mother Earth" by Chicago artist, critic and scholar Vittore Bacchetta. Mother Earth appears to have been modified by time and erosion. Their expressiveness is largely owed to the utter elimination of detail.
- Randolph Street exterior - Greek revival. Doric columns, laurel wreath above.
- Elements of the walls are wainscoted with wood or marble.
- Mosaics and marble last forever and are made brighter by frequent polishing.
- The Randolph Street part of the Library is as imposing as the Washington section but more subdued.



Walk west on Washington to State Street and view the Reliance building from the northeast or northwest corner of State and Washington.

8. Reliance Building: 36 North State Street

- 1895 – D.H. Burnham and Company
- The Reliance was very advanced for its time. The use of steel frame construction freed the exterior walls from their load-bearing function, so glass could sheath almost the entire exterior.

- Steel frame construction was one of the elements that allowed the development of tall buildings, called skyscrapers. The others were the development of a reliable elevator and the discovery of fireproof materials.
- The Reliance Building has *Chicago Style Windows*, which have a large fixed pane of glass flanked by 2 moveable sashes. The bays and the large windows let in lots of natural light, and the moveable sashes allowed for ventilation in the days before air conditioning.
- The building has narrow spandrels (horizontal supports) and piers (vertical supports) which gives it a delicate look. It is covered in white glazed terra cotta. Note the base, shaft and cornice characteristic of Chicago school architecture. The Reliance Building also has the base, shaft and cornice form that is characteristic of Chicago style buildings. This shape is reminiscent of classical columns, which also feature a base, shaft and capital. The lobby is interesting with its restored staircase and photographic depiction of the building and restoration of this gem. Once horribly neglected, it has recently been completely restored.

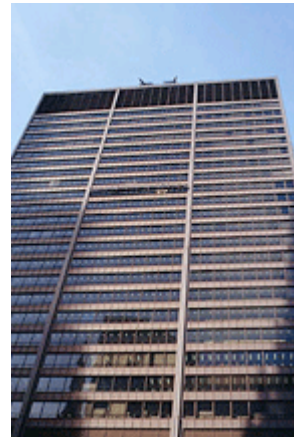


Walk west one block to Washington and Dearborn to Daley Plaza.

9. Richard J. Daley Center and Plaza: Washington and Randolph, Dearborn and Clark

- 1964 – C.F. Murphy Associates; Loeb, Schlossman, and Bennett; Skimore, Owings and Merrill
- This is the First building we will see in the International style of architecture.
- Focal point of city and county government activity. Vast open space with fountains and trees dominated by the sculpture we have come to know as the "Picasso." Like the Daley Center building, it is executed in cor-ten steel, which does not rust, but weathers until it reaches its distinctive dark russet color.
- The Daley Center Building covers the north end of the plaza. It is an example of the International School of architecture. The vertical piers are few, and the spandrels are extremely long, allowing for broad bands of windows. It houses courthouses, offices and a law library.

Across Clark from the Daley Center is the City Hall/County Building. Built in 1911, it was designed by the firm of Holabird and Roche. This is a Neoclassical building that was actually built in 2 sections. The City functions are on the West and the County on the East. The Mayor's office is on the 5th floor. Note the columns (Corinthian), and the decorated cornice. A domed center was designed, but never constructed for reasons of cost.



Chicago's City Hall



Look across the street to the south to view the 8-story spire on the Chicago Temple. Next to the Temple is a statute by Joan Miro. It is 30 feet tall in concrete, bronze and ceramic.

10. Chicago Temple: 77 West Washington

- Holabird and Roche
- This is a combination Methodist Church and office building. It is 21 stories plus an 8-story spire, and is the only Gothic Revival building on our tour. Note the gargoyles over the entrance.



Leave Daley Plaza by walking south on Dearborn to First National Bank Building. Stop in front of Chagall mosaic.

11. First National Bank Building and Plaza (now "Chase"): Between Monroe and Madison, Dearborn and Clark

- Perkins and Will Partnership and C.F. Murphy Associates
- Building 1969
- Plaza 1973
- Walk down to the lower level and over to the building. The A-shaped structure is 60 stories tall. The shape results from functional planning – the lower floors, where the public banking takes place, have greater floor area. Further up, where offices are located, the building narrows and lets in more light to each office. The elevator shafts, pipes, and ductwork are housed in cores at either end of the building, allowing for maximum open space in the center. Walk up to the building and look up one of the granite clad piers. The building appears to flare out at the top, but this is an optical illusion.
- The plaza has two levels, and numerous small spaces that invite people to sit and linger.
- Walk up the stairs on the Dearborn Street side to the Chagall Mosaic. The massive architectural mosaic measured 70 feet long, 14 feet high and 10 feet wide. It has more than 3,000 square feet of surface. Marc Chagall designed it as a gift to the people of Chicago.
- The format of the mural is an extension of Chagall's lyrical style of painting. It is entitled "The Four Seasons." The seasons represented are not just the meteorological seasons but those of a human life, with spring, summer, autumn and winter depicted as well as childhood, youth, middle and old age. On top of the piece is a mosaic of flowers, which is now covered with a roof, since the weather in Chicago took a toll on the artwork.



12. Inland Steel Building: 30 West Monroe Street

- 1957 Skidmore, Owings and Merrill
- This building was the first major building to be built in Chicago after the depression and the second world war. It was built for the Inland Steel Corporation which provided much of the structural steel for it, but the company does not make stainless steel, so the material for the shining skin in which the building is clad had to be purchased from a rival company. The strongly vertical piers and the large amount of glass mark it as a building in the International Style. It is really 2 rectangular boxes side by side – the east portion houses the plumbing, electrical and elevators, while the east contains the office space. It was the first building to utilize this type of design, which allows for great flexibility in floor plan in the office section. No interior supports.



This concludes the architecture tour. Walk south to Adams turn right and walk west on Adams back to Union Station.

Schedule

8:25 am	Parents meet at Central outside main entrance
9:11 am	Train departs Riverside
9:47 am	Train arrives at Union Station
9:50 am	Begin Architecture tour
11:10 am	Arrive at AIC – Columbus Ave. Student Entrance
11:30 am	AIC tour begins
12:30 pm	Lunch in AIC educational center lunch rooms
1:15 pm	Continue Architecture tour
2:20 pm	Arrive at Union Station
2:34 pm	Train departs for Riverside