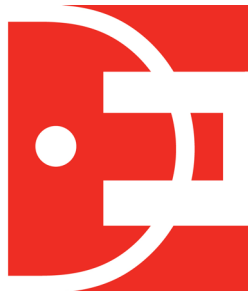


Design Evanston

Advocating for Good Design
in Evanston for 35 Years

1980-2015



Design Evanston

Design Evanston is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit advocacy organization promoting good design in Evanston, Illinois.

Membership dues and gifts are tax deductible.

Design Evanston attracts a wide range of professionals living or working in Evanston, including architects, planners, graphic designers, landscape architects, web designers and industrial designers.

Introduction: Robert Teska

Research, writing & design: Jack Weiss

Editing: Heidrun Hoppe

This book and the 35th Anniversary Celebration event held on March 10, 2016 were sponsored, in part, by the City of Evanston Arts Council Community Support Fund, Evanston Art Center, Robert Teska, Design Evanston and The Copy Room.

For a complete unedited chronology of Design Evanston, and to see current activities and upcoming events, visit our website at designevanston.org.

Introduction

Design Evanston, a volunteer organization of design professionals, was created in 1980, the result of “an idea whose time had come.” The guiding principle: all communities benefit from good design in both the public and private sectors.

The Place: A community with a legacy of resident design professionals and design firms, including the following highly acclaimed architects and coauthors of the 1916 Plan of Evanston:

Daniel Burnham, chair of the 1893 World’s Columbian Exposition and author of the 1909 Plan of Chicago

Daniel Burnham, Jr., oversaw design and construction of the Century of Progress International Exposition of 1933 and served as President of the Chicago Regional Planning Association

Hubert Burnham, designed the War Memorial installed in Fountain Square in 1949

Dwight Perkins, the “father of Cook County forest preserves,” who also served as President of the Chicago Regional Planning Association

Thomas Tallmage, designer of Evanston’s historic street lights

The Timing: The 1970s, which were highlighted by a surge of real estate development investment in downtown Evanston, the 1976 dedication of a new Fountain Square and downtown streetscape designed by urban planning, transportation engineering and landscape design firm Barton-Aschman Associates, City Council action to create Certified Business District No.1 (Downtown), appointment of a Business District Redevelopment Commission, creation of the Evanston Preservation Commission, the City Council commitment to redevelop the 1800 block of Sherman Avenue and the 22-acre area referred to as Downtown II, and the Evanston Chamber of Commerce initiative to encourage revitalization in all Evanston business districts (led by Executive Director Ira Golan).

Good design became an imperative.

The Result: In 1980 Robert Teska, president of the planning firm Teska Associates, strongly supported by Ira Golan, sent out an invitation to over 100 local design professionals in urban planning, architecture, landscaping, engineering, graphic design, development economics, governance and related arts to meet and discuss how they could contribute voluntarily to good design in Evanston. The result: Design Evanston.

The key objectives identified then, and still applicable to Design Evanston today, were:

1. Encourage private, municipal and institutional investment in good design
2. Enhance public awareness of the commitment to good design
3. Increase synergy and fellowship between design disciplines

Robert Teska

Overview



*September 1981
Design Evanston brand
designed by Hayward
Blake*

We have much to celebrate to honor our 35th Anniversary.

Former Design Evanston president David Galloway and current president Jack Weiss have summarized the many contributions Design Evanston has made, and continues to make, to Evanston's planning and design history:

Hosts Design Evanston Awards that acknowledge private, municipal and institutional investment in good design in Evanston.

Provides pro-bono design services to economically challenged clients.

Provides creative input during the early states of design development for public projects, business district facades, building adaptive re-use, street and park landscapes, signage, window displays, and store and restaurant interiors.

Researched binding appearance review guidelines and advised the Plan Commission on the formulation of such guidelines.

Assisted the city in drafting the design and competition guidelines for the Evanston Public Library design competition.

Assisted the city in creating and facilitating design charette sessions for the Church Street Plaza development.

Participated in the city's "Visioning" process for the downtown, as a precursor to drafting a new Comprehensive Plan for the downtown.

Investigated means of visually connecting disparate areas of the downtown.

Testifies before city commissions, committees and the City Council on important design-related projects.



*April 2006
RoundTable publishes full
page feature on Design
Evanston Awards*

Overview, continued



Design**Evanston**

February 2009

*Design Evanston brand
redesign by Jack Weiss*

Contributes articles to local newspapers that seek to inform the public about good design principles and practices.

Sponsors lectures by prominent design professionals.

Hosts public “Quality Design” forums with invited design and development professionals to address issues that affect the built environment in Evanston.

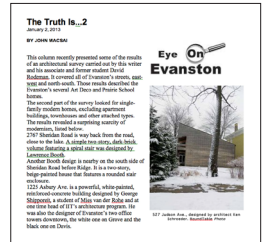
Established Design Evanston as a 501c3 tax exempt organization to permit tax-deductible contributions and to seek grants to sustain our mission to assist the city and educate the public.

Hosts tours of design-related places that inspire good design.

As a tribute to Evanston's 2013 sesquicentennial, published the book: *Evanston: 150 Years, 150 Places*, a summary of Evanston's important architectural history, authored by five Design Evanston members.

Hosted Open House Chicago in Evanston, the first time the Chicago Architecture Foundation featured a neighboring community in its annual event.

As individuals, Design Evanston Members volunteer on the Plan Commission, Preservation Commission, Sign Review Board and other city boards, commissions and special committees.



January 2013
John Macsai contributes
"Eye on Evanston" essays
to the RoundTable.

Leadership



*Robert Teska, Founder
Design Evanston*

Design Evanston was founded in 1980 by Robert Teska, who led the organization for five years as president.

His mission, at the time, was to address issues that challenged how downtowns—Evanston in particular—could successfully move beyond status quo and become an inspiration to those who believed, as former chairman of IBM Thomas Watson, Jr. proclaimed, “Good design is good business.”

Design Evanston Presidents:

1980 Robert Teska

1985 Hayward Blake

1986 Bennett Johnson

1992 Federico Vidargas

1993 David Galloway

2009 Jack Weiss

Design Evanston Awards

One of Design Evanston's first goals was to recognize notable contributions by those who invest in good design in Evanston. We determined that honors should go to individuals and others who commission the work, not to our own design professionals.

Award categories have included everything from new construction to renovation, interior design, landscape design, urban planning, graphic design, merchandising and a 25-Year award.

In May 1981 Design Evanston presented its first Design Evanston Awards at a Chamber of Commerce luncheon. Eight awards were presented. In November an additional seven awards were presented.

Since 1981, nearly two hundred awards have been presented to those responsible for supporting good design projects in Evanston.



*June 2015
Design Evanston Awards
given to 21 recipients.*

The 25-Year Award

A feature of many Design Evanston Awards has been the 25-Year Award given in recognition of the enduring quality of excellent architectural design. Recent 25-Year Award winners include:

Evanston Terrace

Booth Hansen
Awarded 2010





**State National Bank
Plaza**

Schipporeit-Heinrich
Associates
Awarded 2010



Schipporeit House

George Schipporeit
Awarded 2015

Design Assistance



2007

Evanston Tower

(photo: evanstonnow.com)

Within months of our founding Design Evanston began providing design assistance to city departments and commercial interests:

1982: Arts Council, Virag Jewelers and construction of Custer/Washington Park.

1983: Signage for YWCA, Preservation Commission, Video Adventure, Central Street, City of Evanston for Noyes parking lot and CTA viaduct at Howard Street, JeRon Camera.

1984: Chamber of Commerce, Dewey School playground, City Planning Department for lakefront pathway system, site planning at Noyes Street and Noyes Court, landscape planning for 1800 Sherman and site planning at 2652 Green Bay Road.

1985: Parking and landscape plan for Noyes Cultural Center.

1987: Former Marshall Field's building condo development plans.

2007: Master plan for West Evanston project and proposed "Evanston Tower" in downtown Evanston.

2012: Trader Joe's Chicago Avenue project.

2014: Main and Chicago mixed use project.

Civic Engagement

Over the years, Design Evanston has collaborated with the city and Chamber of Commerce to address specific design and planning challenges.

1984: Co-hosted Illinois Downtown Development Association's annual conference, hosted meeting with civic and business organizations about the need for design review on public and private development.

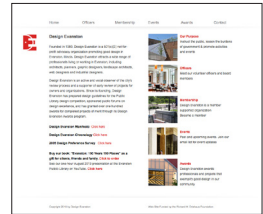
1987: Held a well-attended design charette at the Civic Center to review the Research Park master plan.

1991: Established the public library design competition guidelines and hosted Richard Whitaker, competition jury chairman, to speak about the competition.

1992: Sponsored a design charette focusing on the future of the Dawes House.

1998: Sponsored a design charette that resulted in changes to the Church Street Plaza development.

2006: Provided recommendations to the city on ways to improve the development review process.



*September 2009
Website launched with a
grant from the Driehaus
Foundation.*

Public Outreach



October 2004
First Quality Design
program

Design Evanston's purpose has always been to advocate for the best possible design of our built environment. To further that goal, our 2008 revised by-laws added the mission of "Instructing the public on architectural topics." Public events have been a regular feature of our programming.

1982: Hosted Filmfest. Over 70 people attended to see six award-winning films that addressed architectural and planning issues.

1984: Co-hosted a public forum to discuss the implications for Evanston if the 1992 World's Fair were to be held in Chicago.

1988: Hosted a lecture by AIA Fellow and Evanston resident, Larry Perkins.

2004: Sponsored QD1: A panel discussion on what constitutes "Quality Design." Panelists included noted Chicago architect Carol Ross Barney.

2005: Sponsored QD2: A panel discussion on what constitutes "Quality Design" moderated by Evanston resident and *Chicago Tribune* columnist John McCarron.

2011: Presented a design film series featuring films about architecture and design. Sponsored QD3 on the topic of "Realistic Sustainable Design" for Evanston.

Member Tours

In more recent years Design Evanston members and guests have enjoyed visits to many sites of architectural and landscape design interest.

2008: Crabtree Farm, Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation synagogue, marketing showrooms for The Chicago Spire

2009: Crown Fountain at Millenium Park, Farnsworth House.

2010: “Green” Evanston homes, Ragdale, Illinois Holocaust Museum.

2011: DE Award winning buildings on Northwestern University’s Evanston campus, Farnsworth House.

2012: Lakeside, an SOM master-planned community on the former U.S. Steel South Works plant, South Quads on Northwestern University’s Evanston campus.

2013: Walgreens Net Zero Evanston store.

2014: McCormick Place rooftop garden

2015: Aqua Towers rooftop garden & Maggie Daley Park, The 606 Trail.

2016: Stone Terrace B&B.

DesignEvanston
The Chicago Spire

Tuesday, November 18 @ 10am
A tour of The Chicago Spire building's achievement in the NBC News.

The Chicago Spire by Santiago Calatrava is a unique collection of 1000 windows and the tallest of Lake Michigan. Standing by one of the world's most water used structures. The Chicago Spire is the most significant architectural development in the world. [View More Information](#)

Join for \$25 members. \$50 for guests & non-members.
RSVP to Jack Weiss: jack@designevanston.com or 847 886 7665



EVST to Jack Weiss: jack@designevanston.com or 847 886 7665

*November 2008
Chicago Spire Tour*

Design Evanston
Walking Tour of the 606 Trail
11:00am Saturday, 16 October 2015



Join Design Evanston members and friends for a last-hour walking tour of the 606. This tour takes place at 11:00am on Saturday, October 16, 2015. The tour will start at the 606 Trail at the intersection of the 606 Trail and the 606 Trail. The tour will end at the 606 Trail at the intersection of the 606 Trail and the 606 Trail.

Address: Northwestern, 606 Trail at the intersection of the 606 Trail and the 606 Trail. The tour will start at the 606 Trail at the intersection of the 606 Trail and the 606 Trail. The tour will end at the 606 Trail at the intersection of the 606 Trail and the 606 Trail.

Cost: \$25 for members, \$50 for guests. **RSVP:** jack@designevanston.com or 847 886 7665

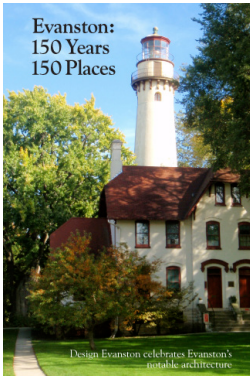
The tour is free for DE members! \$25 for non-members.

Please register by October 15th at designevanston.com

*Check availability of the Chicago Spire building, transportation, etc. for your own responsibility to arrive. If you cannot attend, please let us know at least 48 hours before the tour date.

*October 2015
606 Trail Tour*

Evanston 150



June 2013
Design Evanston
publishes *Evanston: 150
Years 150 Places*

In response to the city's request for projects to highlight Evanston's 150th anniversary, Design Evanston proposed a book on Evanston's architectural history.

In 2013 we published *Evanston: 150 Years, 150 Places*. DE members Stuart Cohen, Kris Hartzell, Heidrun Hoppe, Laura Saviano and Jack Weiss spent nearly two years reviewing nominations, researching, writing, photographing the sites and designing the book.

At the book launch on June 27 Mayor Elizabeth Tisdahl, City Manager Wally Bobkiewicz and State Rep Robyn Gabel were in attendance. Nearly three years after the launch, the book, now in its third printing, has generated over \$10,000 in sales on our website, Amazon, the Chicago Architectural Foundation and through many local booksellers.

All profits are used to support Design Evanston activities.

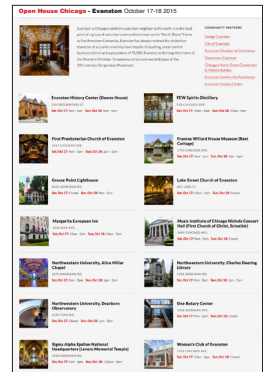
Open House Chicago

As the result of the success of our book *Evanston: 150 Years, 150 Places* we lobbied the Chicago Architecture Foundation (CAF) to consider adding Evanston to its annual event featuring Chicago architectural and cultural places.

We formed a collaboration with the City of Evanston, Evanston Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Evanston, Evanston Community Foundation, Evanston History Center, North Shore Convention & Visitors Bureau, Northwestern University and others to promote the idea.

CAF accepted the challenge and Design Evanston realized a landmark victory in our goal to inform the public about “architectural topics” in our city.

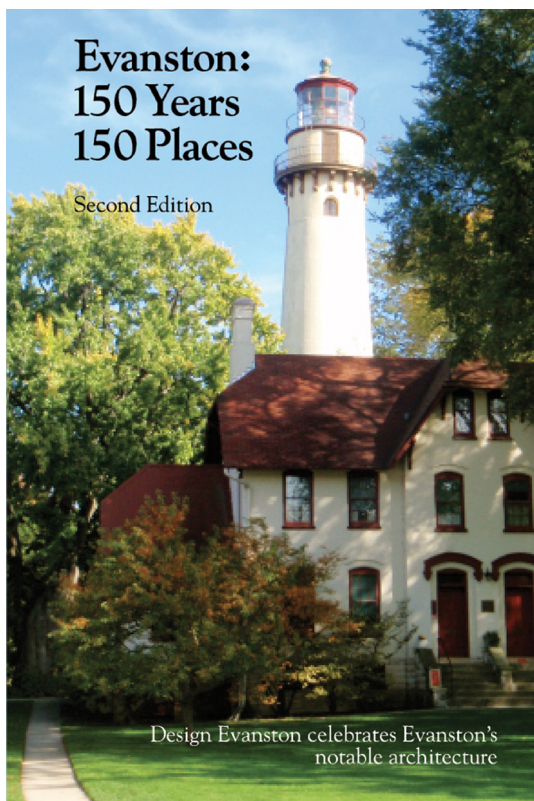
On October 17 & 18, 2015, Evanston saw over 16,400 site visits at the fourteen places the planning group had identified, including ten from our book. Of the nineteen neighborhoods featured in OHC only downtown Chicago and Lincoln Park had more site visits.



*October 2015
Open House Chicago
expands to include
Evanston*

“Good design is good business.”

Thomas Watson, Jr. (1973)



Evanston: 150 Years 150 Places can be purchased in softbound or hardbound editions on our website: designevanston.org, or at Amazon, Bookends & Beginnings, Chicago Architecture Foundation, Downtown Evanston, Evanston History Center and Chicago-Main Newsstand.