

# THE CHICAGO RIVER ARCHITECTURE TOUR

## SOME THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW



### THE FIRST SKYSCRAPER

The first skyscraper called the **HOME INSURANCE BUILDING** was built in 1885 and rose 9 stories or 138 feet. An additional two stories were added on later.

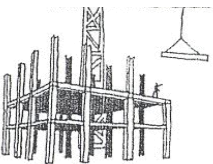


The building, designed by Wm. Le Baron Jenney was the first building that was not made of bricks and mortar, but instead had a metal frame. This reduced the weight of the building by one third. It was torn down in 1931.

### Terms to Know

#### **Skeleton Frame:**

Free-standing frame of metal that supports the weight of a building and on



which the floors rest and the outer covering of the building is hung. This could be glass, aluminum or a variety of other materials.

### THE GREAT CHICAGO FIRE

Chicago was devastated by a terrible fire on October 8, 1871. It took 250 lives, left 100,000 people homeless and destroyed more than 17,000 homes and buildings.



*What STYLE is it?*

### Chicago School of Architecture Style

High rise commercial buildings built in Chicago from the mid-1880's until 1910.

The design of the building often consisted of three parts: a base, floors on top of a base and a decorative top. *Wrigley Building*



*TERMS to Know*

**Façade:** The front of a building.

**Curtain Wall:** A lightweight wall attached to the skeleton frame. Often it is glass.

**Masonry Construction:** Made of brick, terra cotta or stonework.

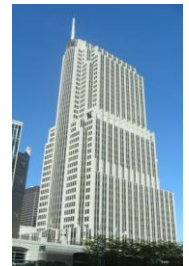
**Skyscraper:** A tall building

**Footprint:** The outline of a building on the ground.

#### **Setback:**

An architectural element in which the upper stories of a tall building are stepped back from the lower stories to permit more light.

*NBC Tower – Skidmore, Owings and Merrill.*



### International Style

made famous by architect, Mies van der Rohe whose philosophy was "Less is More." Buildings used a lot of machine made materials including glass and steel. Architectural ornamentation was at a minimal.

*330 N. Wabash (formerly IBM)*



### Art Deco Style that uses a lot of vertical lines.

Sometimes the floors are set-back to allow for more light and ventilation. Geometric designs often applied for architectural ornamentation. Popular in the 1920's.



*Merchandise Mart*

### Post-Modern Style that

rejected the simple design of the International style. Borrows ideas from older styles like the Greek and Roman architecture and interprets them in a new and modern way. Glass curtain walls became popular with Post-Modernism.



*333 W. Wacker*

#### **Belvedere:**

A rooftop pavilion from which a vista can be enjoyed.

*Jewelers Building*



**Bundled Tube:** Especially appropriate when discussing Sears Tower. Closely spaced columns tied together for strength. (110 stories, Designed by: Skidmore, Owings and Merrill. Tallest building in world for 25 years. Completed in 1974).



**Plan of Chicago:** Prepared by Daniel Burnham and Edward Bennett. First document of the city that laid out boulevards, monuments, transportation and civic improvements. It was created in 1909.