

CHICAGOISMS

Art Institute of Chicago, Kurokawa Gallery, April 5, 2014–January 4, 2015

This exhibition revisits the characteristics, attitudes, and mentalities that made Chicago to propose five principles of architectural action and urban engagement that we call Chicagoisms: Vision Shapes History, Optimism Trumps Planning, Ambition Overcomes Nature, Technology Makes Spectacle, and Crisis Provokes Innovation. For over a century after its incorporation in 1837, Chicago captivated people across the globe as a harbinger of the urban world to come. Projects such as the Ferris wheel at the Columbian Exposition of 1893, the reversal of the Chicago River, and the construction of the Circle Interchange demonstrated the city's openness to experimentation and drive to reinvent itself in search of progress. While some of these dreams turned into nightmares, their ambitious and often uncompromising nature was widely seized as a model for other cities. Today, Chicago bears little of the restlessness and ambition to imagine new urban conditions that made it one of the earliest and most vital examples of the modern metropolis. Mined from the history of the city, via the archives of the Chicago History Museum, the Chicagoisms are also deployed here as springboards for new experiments. Nine teams of contemporary architects have conceived visions inspired by the city that project as models from an array of historical imagery, and together these elements construct a panorama of alternative urban worlds. Simultaneously exploring the attitudes that made the city while offering views of possible futures, this exhibition aims to revive Chicago's constructive potential and spark a renewed boldness to engage the city today.

Curators: Alexander Eisenschmidt and Jonathan Mekinda

Art Institute Curator: Karen Kice (Neville Bryan Assistant Curator, Department of Architecture and Design, The Art Institute of Chicago)

Exhibition Design: Alexander Eisenschmidt (architecture) and Matthew Wizinsky (graphic design)

Production Team: Boris Angelov, Desmond Naranjo, and Danyah Subei with Jessica Kreis and Belem Medina

Sponsor: Architecture & Design Society at the Art Institute of Chicago

Additional Support: Chicago History Museum

Design Contributions:

Bureau Spectacular (Chicago, USA); Jimenez Lai with Kevin Pazik, Alex Culler, Jacob Waas, and Jacob Comerci

Dogma (Brussels, Belgium); Pier Vittorio Aureli and Martino Tattara with Luciano Aletta and Hubert Holewik

MVRDV (Rotterdam, Netherlands); Winy Maas, Jacob van Rijs, and Nathalie de Vries with Jeroen Zuidgeest, Elien Deceuninck, Hortense Goupil, and model by Made by Mistake

ORG Organization for Permanent Modernity (Boston, USA and Brussels, Belgium); Alexander d'Hooghe, Luk Peters, and Natalie Seys with Larisa Ovalles, Yoon Young Cho, Yaacov Ruthenberg, Myung Duk Chung, Birgit Clottens, Wim Francois, Sanne Peeters, Steve Swiggers, Rolf Vanderleeuw, Aaron Weller, Griet Kuppens

PORT A+U (Chicago, USA); Christopher Marcinkoski and Andrew Moddrell

Sam Jacob Studio (London, England); Sam Jacob

Sean Lally / WEATHERS (Chicago, USA); Sean Lally

UrbanLab (Chicago, USA); Sarah Dunn and Martin Felsen with Jeff Macias, Amanda Bryant, Nasifa Virani, Brian Schmitt, Catlan Fearon, Preston Welker.

WW (Houston, USA); Ron Witte and Sarah Whiting

Related Event: Gallery Talk, 6PM on April 24, 2014

Related Publication: *Chicagoisms: The City as Catalyst for Architectural Speculation* (Zürich: Scheidegger & Spiess/Park Books, 2013).

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