

Chicago School of Architecture 1900

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Abstract : At the turn of the 20th century, Chicago faced a large real estate boom and technological advances through industrialization that led to the rise of the commercial skyscrapers. Focusing on creating a Midwest regional character and new functional meanings of structural art, architects like Sullivan, Adler, Burnham, and Root dominated the first Chicago School of Architecture. After they spearheaded the arena of modern skyscrapers, other cities in the United States like New York soon followed the trend. While battling with eclecticism and Beaux-Arts beliefs in decorative style, Chicago architects adapted Classical monumentality into their modern expressions that emphasized organicism and functionalism. With various experiments of material possibilities in the steel-framed constructions, Chicago architecture succeeded in forming humanitarian aesthetics alongside fulfilling functional requirements of the new generation.

Keywords : Chicago school, modernity, monumentality, skyscrapers, Sullivan

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