



## Underscoring 2017 Chicago Architecture Biennial theme, “Make New History,” Mana Contemporary presents pop-up exhibition *SOM: Engineering x [Art + Architecture]*

Presented in partnership with the Chicago Architecture Biennial  
Special Programming in partnership with Ace Hotel Chicago  
Sponsored by Sterling Bay and Terry Dowd, Inc.



*Sky's the Limit: The Engineering of Architecture.*  
Photo: Niels Fabaek. © Utzon Center

September 10, 2017–January 7, 2018

CHICAGO, IL, August 18, 2017—For more than eight decades, SOM has explored the poetics of structure through continual examination and experimentation. The exhibition *SOM: Engineering x [Art + Architecture]* reveals the concepts and forms that stem from SOM’s integrated practice of engineering, art, and architecture. Through hand-drawn sketches, interactive sculpture, immersive video, and a lineup of more than 30 structural models at 1:500 scale, the exhibition gives insight into SOM’s practice, past and present, as it seeks to address physical and environmental challenges with concise and honestly expressed solutions.

The exhibition surveys SOM’s long tradition of collaboration with visual artists and showcases models, drawings, and ephemera from projects created by Pablo Picasso, James Turrell, Jaume Plensa, James Carpenter, Janet Echelman, and Iñigo Manglano-Ovalle. Presented with Mana Contemporary in partnership with the Chicago Architecture Biennial, *SOM: Engineering x [Art + Architecture]* explores the idea that engineers, architects, and artists alike practice a poetry of inquiry, experimentation, and ingenuity.

### PUBLIC OPENING

Sunday, September 10, 2–6PM  
345 N Morgan St., Chicago, IL 60607

### OPENING DAY PROGRAMS

3–4PM

Building Tall with Everyday Materials: SOM Structural Research Gang and SOM Black Box Group

Architects and engineers from SOM lead an interactive structure-building workshop with everyday materials. This workshop is open to the public and is intended for a general audience of all ages.

4–5PM

Structural Origami Workshop: SOM Structural Research Gang and SOM Black Box Group

Architects and engineers from SOM lead an interactive workshop that explores structural ideas found in origami. This workshop is open to the public and is intended for a general audience of all ages.

### OPENING DAY EVENING ARTIST TALK WITH JAUME PLENSA AND SOM AT ACE HOTEL CHICAGO

6–8 PM

Ace Hotel Chicago

Mahoney Room, 311 N Morgan St., Chicago, IL 60607

Immediately following the public opening, Program Partner Ace Hotel Chicago hosts Jaume Plensa and SOM where they will discuss the process of collaboration behind *World Voices* at the Burj Khalifa, an installation composed of 196 cymbals representing the 196 countries of the world. Symbolic of the Burj Khalifa being a collaboration of people from across the globe, the installation befit the building’s global iconic status.

[RSVP HERE](#)

CHICAGO ARCHITECTURE BIENNIAL ACCREDITED  
PRESS AND VIP PREVIEW BREAKFAST  
Wednesday, September 13, 9–11AM

[RSVP HERE](#)

CHICAGO ARCHITECTURE BIENNIAL COCKTAIL  
RECEPTION  
Thursday, September 14, 5–8PM

[RSVP HERE](#)

OPEN HOURS  
Friday, September 15, 6–9PM  
Saturday, September 16–Sunday, September 17, 1–4PM

ACE HOTEL CHICAGO PANEL DISCUSSION:  
COLLABORATIONS IN ART + ENGINEERING  
Thursday, November 30, 6–9PM  
Ace Hotel Chicago  
Mahoney Room, 311 N Morgan St., Chicago, IL 60607

Moderator: Caitlin Mueller  
Panelists: William Baker, Alessandro Beghini, Iñigo  
Manglano-Ovalle, and Janet Echelman

This panel focuses on the history of collaborations between artists and SOM engineers. A diverse panel of engineers, artists, architects, and thought leaders discuss how these interdisciplinary collaborations can inform new ideas for art work and architectural projects. The discussion intends to reveal that engineers and artists alike practice a poetry of inquiry, experimentation, and ingenuity.

[RSVP HERE](#)

ONGOING EXHIBITION HOURS  
Open Hours every  
Saturday and Sunday until January 7, 2018, 1–4PM

\*Exhibition tours also available by appointment.

CLOSING WEEKEND  
Sunday, January 7, 2018, 1–4PM

TO REQUEST AN EXHIBITION TOUR OR FOR ANY  
MEDIA INQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT:  
Danielle E. Campbell  
PR Specialist  
Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP  
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ABOUT SKIDMORE, OWINGS & MERRILL (SOM)  
Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP (SOM) is one of the leading architecture, interior design, engineering, and urban planning firms in the world. Since its founding

more than 80 years ago, SOM has earned a reputation for design excellence with a portfolio that includes some of the most important architectural accomplishments of the 20th and 21st centuries, and has been a leader in the research and development of specialized technologies, new processes, and innovative ideas, many of which have had a palpable and lasting impact on the design profession and the physical environment. The firm's longstanding leadership in design and building technology has been honored with nearly 2,000 awards for quality, innovation, and management. The American Institute of Architects has recognized SOM twice with its highest honor, the Architecture Firm Award—in 1962 and again in 1996. The firm maintains offices in New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., London, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Dubai, and Mumbai.

ABOUT MANA CONTEMPORARY CHICAGO  
Mana Contemporary Chicago is a community-led art center located in Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood. Designed by noted Chicago architect George Nimmons, the landmark building is now home to dozens of artists' studios, exhibition spaces, classrooms, a library, and more. Mana serves as a nexus for many of the strongest artists and organizations in the city and fosters experimentation, collaboration, and mutual inspiration.

ABOUT ACE HOTEL CHICAGO  
Ace Hotel Chicago makes its home in Chicago's West Loop neighborhood in a stoic, industrial concrete and glass building, once home to an Italian-American cheesemaking company and, before that, a pair of mysterious brothers. We're proud to throw down roots in the Most Forward-Thinking City there is, and now, in the midst of a cultural renaissance. The vision for the hotel is inspired by the ever-evolving design history of the city and the heroes that emerged from it, as well as the idea that we'd hand over our public spaces to the city they were built for. We have guest rooms with skyline views, event spaces big and small, a really great restaurant called City Mouse, a top floor bar named Waydown and a café by Stumptown Coffee Roasters—their first outpost in the Midwest. For more information, visit [acehotel.com/chicago](http://acehotel.com/chicago).

ABOUT THE 2017 CHICAGO ARCHITECTURE BIENNIAL  
The 2017 Chicago Architecture Biennial will be open to the public and on view from September 16, 2017 to January 7, 2018. Press and professional previews will take place September 14 and 15. The opening of the 2017 Chicago Architecture Biennial will align with the sixth annual EXPO CHICAGO, the International Exposition of Contemporary and Modern Art, which will run September 13–17 at Navy Pier. The hub of the 2017 Chicago Architecture Biennial will once again be the Chicago Cultural Center, located in downtown Chicago.

The manifestation of Mayor Rahm Emanuel's vision for a major international architectural event and an outcome of the comprehensive cultural plan developed

by Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events under the leadership of Michelle T. Boone, the inaugural 2015 Chicago Architecture Biennial was presented through the support of BP, and in partnership with the City of Chicago and the Graham Foundation. Joseph Grima and Sarah Herda, Co-Artistic Directors, curated the 2015 Chicago Architecture Biennial, entitled "The State of the Art of Architecture."

The Chicago Architecture Biennial's mission is to provide a platform for groundbreaking architectural projects and spatial experiments that demonstrate how creativity and innovation can radically transform our lived experience. Through its constellation of exhibitions, full-scale installations, and programming, the Chicago Architecture Biennial invites the public to engage with and think about architecture in new and unexpected ways, and to take part in a global discussion on the future of the field.

SOM

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ARCHITECTURE  
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**ace hotel  
chicago**