



**WHERE IT'S AT**

**An Insider  
Design Guide  
from IIDA CEO  
Cheryl Durst**

**IIDA**



# You may have been to Chicago...

but you haven't really been to Chicago until you've checked out **IIDA CEO Cheryl Durst's** secret spots to enjoy a hit of design in the Windy City.



## THE LIST

# Mural Magic

### RIVER NORTH/LOOP

One of Chicago's best pieces of public art is tucked away on a quiet side street, adorning the back of the Chicago Cultural Center. "**Rush More**," by MacArthur fellow and superstar artist **Kerry James Marshall**, recognizes some of the powerhouse women who shaped Chicago's culture, and it's a great chance to pause and appreciate.

 **130 N. Garland Ct.**



# Home Sweet Home

## RIVER NORTH/LOOP

**IIDA** makes its home in an elegant skyscraper completed by the Office of Mies van der Rohe in 1970, just one year after Mies' passing. Stop in and see us: our offices, designed by **Gensler**, are an exquisitely welcoming example of workplace design. Also well worth a visit: the Chicago Architecture Center, on the ground floor.

 [111 E. Wacker Dr.](#)



# Beauty of a Bridge

## RIVER NORTH/LOOP

Chicago's most famous span, the 1920 DuSable Bridge, crosses the Chicago River at Michigan Ave. The Beaux Arts bridge was designed to resemble a Parisian bridge; the bas reliefs depict four key moments in Chicago history. And if you remember the movie *The Untouchables*, visit the lower level of the bridge, where Kevin Costner's character met Sean Connery's for the first time.

 [Michigan Ave. and the Chicago River](#)



# Poetic Space

## RIVER NORTH/LOOP

Poetry and Chicago have a long love affair, and the headquarters of the Poetry Foundation, designed by **John Ronan Architects**, was created to elegantly unfold like a poem. The hidden, tree-lined courtyard is open to the public daily; the contemplative interior, which features a poetry library and a gallery, is open Wednesday through Saturday.

 **61 W. Superior St.**



# Deco Details

## RIVER NORTH/LOOP

If you're looking for a bit of Art Deco design in Chicago, look no further than **the Mart**, one of our best-known examples. My favorite glimpse of the Deco style is one you can't miss: during your inevitable wait to ascend from the lobby, check out those gorgeous elevator doors.

 **222 W. Merchandise Mart Plaza**



## Meditative Moment

### RIVER NORTH/LOOP

If you're in need of a restful break, enjoy the Chicago River from its quietest vantage point. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial, on the south bank, offers a memorial fountain flanked by wide stairs perfect for sitting in the sunshine with a cool iced tea.

 **Chicago Riverwalk, between Wabash St. and State St.**



## Designer View

### RIVER NORTH/LOOP

Hidden atop another 1920s skyscraper, the rooftop bar at the LondonHouse hotel (with interiors designed by **Simeone Deary**) is the best view in the city, with all of Chicago's riverfront architecture arrayed for your enjoyment. The gang's all here, from Mies to Bertrand Goldberg to Jeanne Gang.

 **85 E. Wacker Dr, 22nd Floor**



## Art (with Cocktails)

### RIVER NORTH/LOOP

A favorite place to sneak away: the Langham Hotel lobby, designed by **Lauren Rottet**, features a glittering modern setting punctuated with astounding art. It's like design nirvana, with a gallery mixed in, with delicious cocktails. Any takers?

 **330 N. Wabash Ave.**

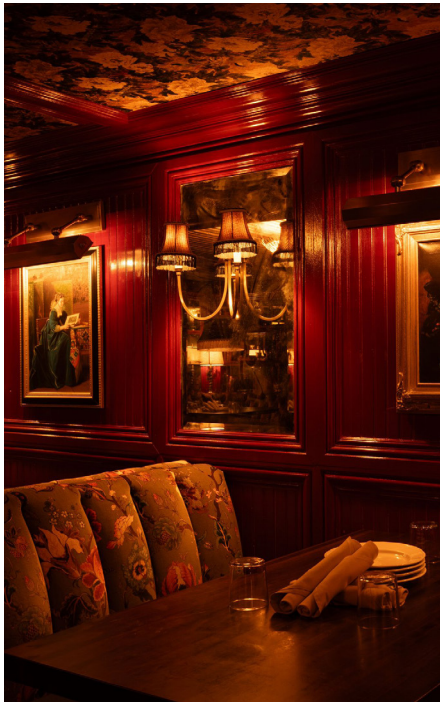


# Cool Kid Bookstore

## RIVER NORTH/LOOP

Two irresistible words: secret bookstore. **Exile in Bookville** is an indie bookstore with a rock vibe (90s kids will get the Liz Phair reference ...) and connections to the city's music scene, all tucked into the second floor of Chicago's historic Fine Arts Building.

 **410 S. Michigan Ave. Suite 201**



## Speaking of Libraries

### RIVER NORTH/LOOP

We weren't really, but I can talk books anytime. And if you'd like your books with a side of speakeasy, just step into the Library at Gilt Bar. It's a Mart-adjacent hideaway that will give you that vintage speakeasy feel ... with books.

 [230 W. Kinzie St.](#)



## Winner, Winner

### FULTON MARKET

A must stop as you make the Fulton Market rounds: the public spaces at 800 Fulton Market, a winner in IIDA's 2023 Interior Design Competition. Designed by **SOM**, the soaring lobby makes inventive use of a material deeply associated with Chicago: brick.

 [800 W. Fulton St.](#)



# Streetwear Surprise

## FULTON MARKET

**Notre** combines curated fashion (including vintage pieces) with interior design that levels up to incredible. How cool is the “stramp” entry by **Norman Kelley**?

 **118 N. Peoria St.**



## Bespoke Basement

### FULTON MARKET

The glossy, seductive interiors at the Hoxton are a highlight of a hospitality-focused neighborhood. Designed by **AvroKo**, the spaces sing with saturated color that extends all the way down into the basement, where Lazybird provides a modern take on a speakeasy, with meticulously designed cocktails.

 [200 N. Green St.](#)



## Architectural Art

### FULTON MARKET

There's plenty of street art out there, but the understated, soulful portrait of West side streetwear pioneer Joe Freshgoods by Portuguese artist **Alexandro Farto** (**Vhils**) on the side of a building on Morgan St. is something else. Vhils' technique employs construction tools to chip and grind away portions of the wall, creating a relief effect when paint is applied. The result is unique, arresting art.

 [301 N. Morgan St.](#)



## Have it Their Way

### FULTON MARKET

A visit to McDonald's HQ, with gorgeous lobby interiors designed by **Studio O+A**, is also a chance for an international fast-food snack. Check out the global menu, and you might get a taste of how they McD's in Malaysia (Criss Cut Chips, here we come!)

 **1039 W. Randolph St.**



## Take the El

### FULTON MARKET

You haven't been to Chicago until you've ridden the el, and the Green Line CTA Morgan station allows you to ride with a side of cool modern design by **Ross Barney Architects**. Created around an industrial materiality that includes glass and perforated metal, the bold, contemporary station is notably artful — right down to artist-designed bike racks.

 **958 W. Lake St.**



## Design Pioneer

### FULTON MARKET

Morlen Sinoway was the birth of the cool in Fulton Market — he brought high design to the warehouse district with **Morlen Sinoway Atelier**, pioneered a design street fair, and continues to deliver a deliciously curated selection today. Hint: check out the jewelry.

 [1052 W. Fulton St.](#)



## Yes, Chef

### FULTON MARKET

Restaurant design is a high stakes game in Chicago, and the immersive atmosphere at Ever, chef Curtis Duffy's fine dining destination, was created by **Lawton Stanley Architects** as a moody, modern masterpiece. Next door is cocktail lounge After, which includes (yes!) another secret library room hidden behind the coat closet. Bonus points: the kitchen was featured in "The Bear."

 [1340 W. Fulton St.](#)



## Secret Street


### FULTON MARKET

Gin Alley — named after female Fulton Market real estate pioneer Sue Ling Gin, not the juniper-based booze — is a hidden cobblestone alley that reads “European vacation.” Food (such as BBQ from Green Street Smoked Meats) and drink are available down the alley, and you don’t need a passport to be transported.

 114 N. Green St.



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