

CHICAGO ARCHITECTURE CENTER



architecture & design film festival

2025 REPORT

architecture & design film festival

JANUARY 29 – FEBRUARY 2, 2025

OVERVIEW

In 2025, the Architecture & Design Film Festival expanded its presence across the city, bringing 13 feature-length films to two iconic downtown venues—the Chicago Cultural Center and the Gene Siskel Film Center. Presented by the Chicago Architecture Center, this international festival showcased compelling stories of design innovation, creative vision and the human connections within architecture. With

a thoughtfully curated selection, ADFF:CHICAGO engaged industry professionals, design enthusiasts and documentary fans alike. Many screenings featured filmmaker Q&As, offering deeper insight into the creative process. This immersive cinematic experience highlighted the profound impact of architecture and design on our world.





**TOTAL
SCREENINGS:
13**

**TOTAL
ATTENDANCE:
1,768**



“The Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events is proud to continue supporting the Chicago Architecture Center in their mission to inspire, educate and engage the public in the rich architectural heritage of our city, reflecting our shared dedication to strengthening creativity and community through the arts.”

– DCASE COMMISSIONER, CLINÉE HEDSPETH

PROGRAMMING

Feature Films	Year	Country
Schindler Space Architect	2024	United States
E.1027: Eileen Gray and the House by the Sea	2024	Switzerland
Arthur Erickson: Beauty Between the Lines	2024	Canada
DEPOT - Reflecting Boijmans	2023	Netherlands
This is Not a House	2023	United States
The House: 6 Points of Departure	2024	United States
The Pavilion on the Water	2023	Italy
Sitting Still	2024	United States
Stardust: The Story of Robert Venturi and Denise Scott Brown	2024	United States
Living Together: The Story of De Warren	2023	Netherlands
Where We Grow Older	2023	Canada
Green Over Gray: Emilio Ambasz	2024	Italy
Ada - My Mother the Architect	2024	Israel, United States

“What makes ADFP different is that they are storytellers who are telling the stories of our built environment. The style is different, and honestly it makes me want to make films about architecture.”

– CHICAGO FILMMAKER



Block Club Chicago

Architecture And Design Film Fest Bridges Chicago To World With 5 Days Of Film

The traveling fest based out of New York is back for its third consecutive edition with the Chicago Architecture Center. It kicks off Wednesday with 13 screenings across five days.



By Leen Yassine January 29, 2025



Audience members at the Architecture and Design Film Festival in 2024. Credit: Provided/Architecture Design and Film Festival

LOOP — From Downtown skyscrapers to neighborhood bungalows, from Louis Sullivan to Frank Lloyd Wright, Chicago has long been a hub of innovative architecture. The Chicago Architecture Center is honoring that legacy with the Architecture and Design Film Fest — a five-day event that spotlights architects and design philosophies from around the world.

Kicking off Wednesday, the fest gives architecture enthusiasts the opportunity to attend 13 feature-length films "dedicated to the creative spirit of architecture and design," plus Q&A sessions with filmmakers.



MEDIA & COMMUNITY IMPACT

Earned media

- Impressions: 6,952,321

Social media

- Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn Impressions: 71,711
- Post link clicks: 892

Media promotion highlights

- **Design Feast:** Three LinkedIn posts
- **Colossal:** Chicago newsletter listing
- **Chicago Reader:** Two Chicago Daily Reader email ads
- **FlakPhoto Digest:** Festival feature
- **Bad at Sports:** Podcast coverage and partnership
- **Chicago Graphic Design Club:** Podcast coverage and partnership



Promotional Partnerships

CAC's outreach to local arts, design and architecture organizations resulted in individual ticket sales and festival promotion from the following partners:

- AIDS Foundation Chicago
- AIGA
- ASID
- Chicago Art Deco Society
- Chicago Design Archive
- Chicago Filmmakers
- Chicago Loop Alliance
- Columbia College Chicago
- Connect Gallery
- Hyde Park Art and Music Community
- CreativeMornings/Chicago
- Design Museum of Chicago
- Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS (DIFFA) Chicago
- Farr Associates Architecture & Urban Design
- Forward Fruit
- Guild Row
- Gensler
- Holly Hunt
- Institute of Design at IIT
- IIT College of Architecture
- International Women's Association (IWA)
- Lake Forest Showroom
- Marwen
- Northwestern Master of Product Design and Development Management
- Renee Price Interiors
- R Titus Designs
- Salesforce
- School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC)
- Society for Experiential Graphic Design (SEGD) Chicago
- Spertus Institute for Jewish Learning and Leadership
- Studio Gang
- UIC

“It's easier than ever to find inspiration online and on streaming services. However, for me, the most resonant and memorable experiences always come from live, in-person events.”

– ADFF ATTENDEE






THANK YOU TO OUR 2025 PARTNERS

AXIOS Chicago

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Confederazione Svizzera
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The Partner You Want


Switzerland.

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THANK YOU TO OUR HOST COMMITTEE

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