

Strand 1: Art Nouveau Cities: between cosmopolitanism and local tradition

Definitive abstract for paper presentation at the *coupDefouet* International Congress

Chicago as an Art Nouveau City

The city of Chicago is widely recognized as a seminal location for modern architecture in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. This paper examines the art nouveau philosophy surrounding both architectural innovation and the associated developments in the decorative arts in Chicago. The art nouveau philosophy of unifying diverse creative disciplines, utilizing industrial technology, and embodying the values of contemporary society are at the heart of Chicago's art nouveau period. In rejecting Beaux-Arts and Victorian styles, Chicago designers sought a fresh design vocabulary rooted in natural forms, and processes that could meet the needs of a changing social structure.

Keywords

Chicago
art nouveau
architecture
Louis Sullivan
Chicago School architecture
Kalo Shop
Teco Pottery

Curriculum Vitae

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Janet L. Whitmore (Ph.D., University of Minnesota) teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in the history of art, design and architecture at Harrington College of Design in Chicago. She has authored numerous articles on late nineteenth and early twentieth century art for both professional journals and exhibition catalogues.