

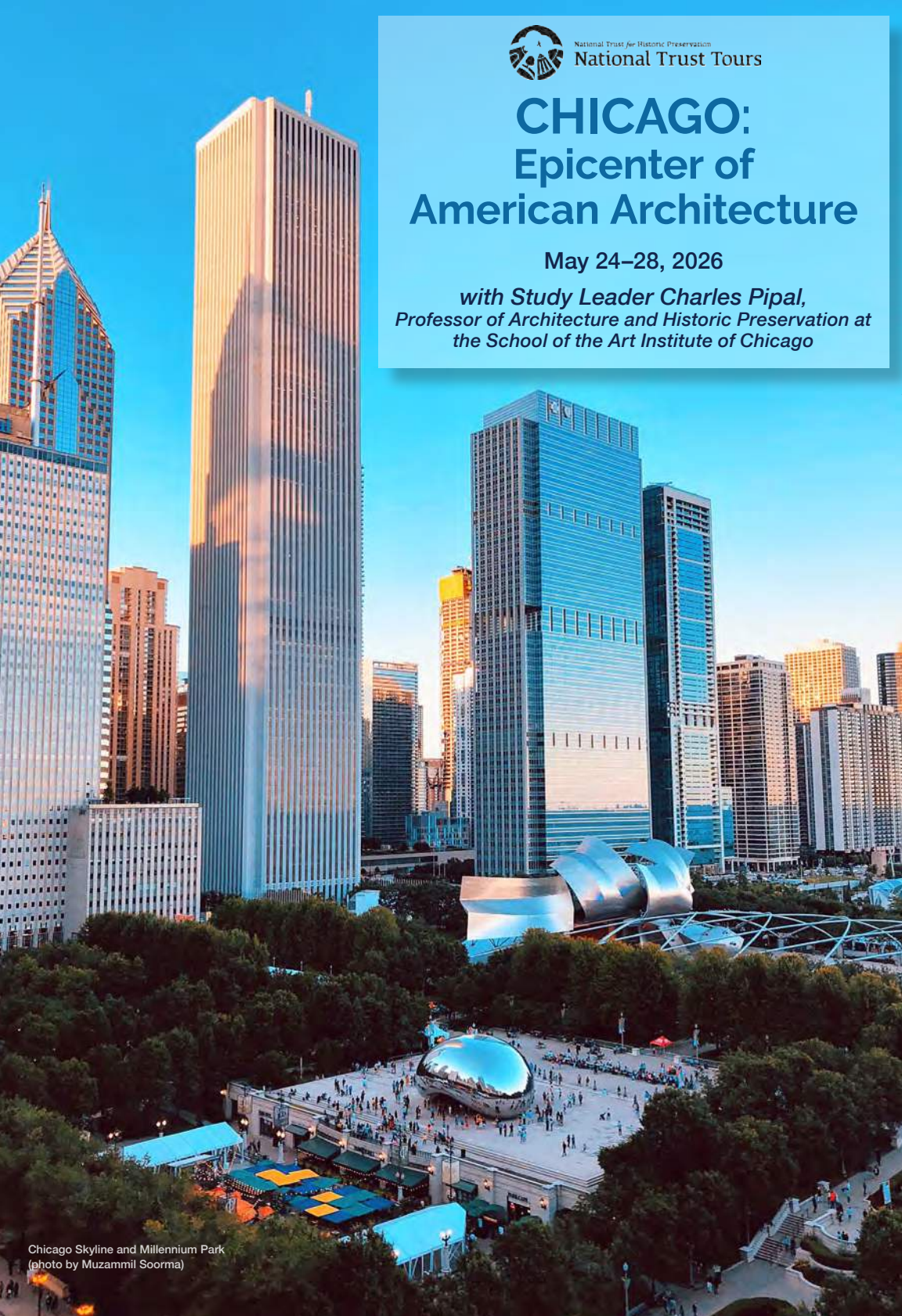


National Trust for Historic Preservation  
National Trust Tours

# CHICAGO: Epicenter of American Architecture

May 24–28, 2026

*with Study Leader Charles Pipal,  
Professor of Architecture and Historic Preservation at  
the School of the Art Institute of Chicago*



# CHICAGO: Epicenter of American Architecture



Rookery Building (photo by Warren Lemay)

National Trust Tours returns to Chicago—a quintessential destination for architecture lovers—brought to you as only the National Trust can. Take an architectural cruise along the Chicago River, highlighting the many innovative and historically important architectural designs that were born in Chicago. See several Frank Lloyd Wright-designed buildings, including his own home and studio in Oak Park, Unity Temple, and the iconic Robie House. Enter Ludwig Mies van der Rohe’s Edith Farnsworth House, a masterpiece of design and elegant Modernist simplicity. Enjoy one of the finest private collections of decorative arts from the American and English Arts and Crafts Movements, showcased in the renovated farm buildings of a private estate. And take guided explorations of some of Chicago’s most intriguing and dazzling sites.

## Travel with Charles Pipal

Charles Pipal is a practicing architect, lecturer, architectural historian and award-winning professor in Architecture and Historic Preservation at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, where he has taught since 1999. He holds a Bachelors degree in Landscape Architecture and a Masters degree in Architecture, both from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, with a concentration in Historic Preservation. He is a past board member of Landmarks Illinois, the state’s premier preservation advocacy group. Prof. Pipal’s particular professional and academic focus has been on the documentation and rehabilitation of historic buildings and the interpretation of historic sites. His professional projects include the Chicago Historic Resources Survey and the restoration of the Walt Disney Birthplace. In addition to his teaching and architectural practice, he is also a member of the Chicago Tour Guide Professionals Association and the founder and director of the Summer Scholars Program, an open enrollment, immersive week for high school students using London as a laboratory for learning about art, architecture, science, literature, history and theater.



Lobby at the Palmer House Hilton

## Stay at the Palmer House Hilton

An icon of downtown Chicago for over 150 years, the Palmer House is a member of the Historic Hotels of America and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. With an ideal location in the Loop, just two blocks from the Art Institute of Chicago and Millennium Park, the hotel boasts a two-story gilded lobby with a formal staircase, marble-topped tables, velvet seating, and an elaborate ceiling mural depicting Greek mythology. The Palmer House has hosted a long list of prominent figures, ranging from U.S. presidents to Charles Dickens to Oscar Wilde. The hotel’s Empire Room has a history as one of Chicago’s liveliest social centers, where legendary entertainers performed, including Frank Sinatra, Judy Garland, Ella Fitzgerald, Harry Belafonte, Louis Armstrong, Liberace, the Supremes, and many others.



Frank Lloyd Wright's Robie House  
(photo by Warren Lemay)

#### **SUNDAY, MAY 24**

##### *Welcome to Chicago*

Upon arrival in Chicago, transfer independently to the Palmer House Hilton, a revered landmark in the heart of Chicago's Loop and a member of Historic Hotels of America. The Palmer House boasts a fascinating history and an excellent location within walking distance of the Art Institute of Chicago and Millennium Park. In the late afternoon, join fellow travelers and walk to the Chicago River for a special architectural riverboat cruise. An expert guide highlights dozens of Chicago's architecturally significant sites, including numerous landmarks of Modern American architecture. Following the cruise, enjoy a welcome dinner at an excellent Chicago restaurant near the hotel. (*Dinner*)

#### **MONDAY, MAY 25**

##### *In the Footsteps of Wright*

Drive to Oak Park, the Chicago suburb where Frank Lloyd Wright lived for two decades and grew from a young draftsman into one of America's most promising and influential architects. Tour Wright's home and studio, a National Trust Historic Site, and see where the Prairie style was born. Then take a stroll through the surrounding neighborhood to see the exteriors of several Wright-designed residential properties and end at the recently renovated Unity Temple, one of the most significant projects from Wright's early career and an icon of Modern architecture. Following lunch, drive through the charming Hyde Park community en route to the University

of Chicago campus, studded with remarkable architecture including Wright's Robie House. Tour the Robie House with a docent and learn why the American Institute of Architects designated it as one of the 10 most significant structures of the 20th century. (*Breakfast, Lunch*)

#### **TUESDAY, MAY 26**

##### *Arts and Crafts & the "Cemetery of Architects"*

Spend the morning at Crab Tree Farm, a privately owned farm on Lake Michigan, and examine one of the most important private collections of Arts and Crafts furniture and decorative arts, highlighting major works of Gustav Stickley. Following lunch at a local restaurant, stop to see the exterior of Wrigley Field and learn about its designation as a

National Historic Landmark in 2020. Continue to Graceland Cemetery—known as the “Cemetery of Architects”—where many of Chicago’s most outstanding architects lay in rest, including Louis Sullivan, Daniel Burnham, and Mies van der Rohe. Take a walking tour of the tranquil grounds and see Sullivan’s elegant Getty Tomb as well as other stunning monuments designed by famous sculptors such as Daniel Chester French and Lorado Taft. Return to the hotel, driving along the city’s famed Magnificent Mile. *(Breakfast, Lunch)*

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 27**  
*The Farnsworth House & the Art Institute*

Drive to Plano, Illinois, for an exclusive viewing of Ludwig Mies van der Rohe’s Edith Farnsworth House, an icon of 20th-century Modern architecture and a National Trust Historic Site. Experience its elegant simplicity and compelling coexistence with the surrounding landscape. After lunch at a local restaurant, continue to the Art Institute of Chicago for independent exploration of its renowned collection of American Art. In the evening, take a guided stroll through Millennium Park—an urban space combining

cutting-edge architecture, art installations, and landscape design—ending at a popular Chicago restaurant for a festive farewell dinner. *(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)*

**THURSDAY, MAY 28**  
*Landmarks of the Loop*

Spend the morning on a walking tour of the historically significant architectural gems surrounding the hotel, including the Rookery, the Marquette Building, the Monadnock Building, and the Chicago Federal Center. Return to the hotel for check-out before 11:00am and transfer to the hotel independently for return flights home. *(Breakfast)*



Edith Farnsworth House  
(photo by Paul R. Burley)



# CHICAGO: Epicenter of American Architecture

## May 24–28, 2026

### Tour Cost:

Land Package ..... \$3,695  
Single Supplement ..... \$725

*Tour price is per person based on double occupancy, with a minimum of 15 paying participants.*

**Activity Level:** Moderate, good overall mobility required.

**Deposit & Final Payment:** A deposit of \$1,000 per registrant is required to reserve space on the tour, of which \$500 is nonrefundable for ISDI's registration and planning fee unless the tour is cancelled due to low enrollment. This deposit may be paid by check or by Visa, MasterCard, or American Express. Final balance will be invoiced and is due on February 13, 2026, payable by check or bank transfer (ACH, wire, or Zelle) to International Seminar Design, Inc. Credit cards are not accepted for final balance. Registrations are accepted after this date on a space-available basis with payment in full by check only.

**Flights:** Airfare is not included in the tour price. Participants are responsible for their own air arrangements. Please do not purchase airline tickets until the operation of the tour is confirmed by ISDI.

**Tour Inclusions:** 4 nights at the Palmer House Hilton; breakfast daily, 3 lunches, 2 dinners; 2 glasses of wine or beer at included dinners; land transportation by private coach; entrance fees to sites and visits listed in the itinerary; services of an ISDI Tour Manager; expert local guide; gratuities for local guides and drivers and at included meals; bottled water on coach; service charges and taxes.

**Tour Exclusions:** Airline tickets, airline taxes and surcharges, and baggage fees; airport portorage; airport transfers; meals other than those specified in the itinerary; gratuities for hotel housekeeping; personal items such as telephone calls, room service, valet service, à-la-carte orders, specialty wines and liquors, laundry charges, travel extensions, or tour deviations; travel insurance; any other items not specifically included in the itinerary.

**Terms and Conditions:** Upon receipt of registration, ISDI will send registrant a Participant Tour Agreement detailing the full terms and conditions for this tour. This document must be signed and returned to ISDI before participant's registration is considered complete and any arrangements can be confirmed. ISDI will send all documents pertaining to the tour by email unless specifically requested otherwise.

**Cancellations & Refunds:** Cancellation by participant must be made in writing to ISDI and is effective only upon acknowledged receipt by ISDI. There is a non-refundable registration and planning fee of \$500 per person regardless of cancellation date. Written cancellation received by ISDI on or before February 13, 2026: full refund minus \$500 per person registration and planning fee. Written cancellation received by ISDI between February 14 and April 9, 2026: full refund minus \$1,850 per person cancellation fee (includes registration and planning fee). Written cancellation received by ISDI on or after April 10, 2026: no refund. Tour registration is non-transferable. In the case of cancellation, substitutions are not allowed. After the tour has commenced, no refunds will be issued for any reason including, but not limited to, unused portions of tour. If the tour is cancelled by ISDI or National Trust Tours due to low enrollment, active registrants will receive a full refund of all tour payments.

**Travel Insurance:** Travel Insurance is not included in the tour cost, but participants are strongly encouraged to purchase a travel protection plan in conjunction with this tour, including coverage of trip cancellation, trip interruption, emergency evacuation/repatriation, medical expenses, lost or damaged baggage, and other expenses and/or losses incurred due to unexpected situations. Should a participant cancel at any time after registering for the tour, ISDI must strictly abide by the cancellation policy outlined herein. Travel insurance information will be sent upon tour registration. For additional information, please contact National Trust Tours at 888-484-8785.

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**TO REGISTER ONLINE:**

Visit  
<https://nationaltrusttours.com>

**TO REGISTER BY PHONE:**

Call National Trust Tours at  
888.484.8785

**TO REGISTER BY EMAIL:**

Email National Trust Tours at  
[info@nationaltrusttours.com](mailto:info@nationaltrusttours.com)



National Trust for Historic Preservation  
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## Upcoming Close-to-Home Getaways with National Trust Tours & ISDI

### **Miami: Deco and Beyond**

*November 16–21, 2025*

### **Private Houses and Gardens of Bermuda**

*December 2–7, 2025*

### **A Lowcountry Sojourn in Savannah**

*March 22–27, 2026*

### **Pittsburgh: Art & Architecture in the Steel City**

*September 15–19, 2026*

### **Architecture, Art & Craft in Asheville**

*October 5–9, 2026*

### **An Ode to New Orleans**

*November 15–19, 2026*

***For more information, visit [nationaltrusttours.com](https://nationaltrusttours.com)***

*Travel with National Trust Tours is open to members of the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP), a privately-funded non-profit organization, works to save America's historic places. Membership is \$20 for individuals and \$30 for families. To learn more about the NTHP, visit [www.savingplaces.org](https://www.savingplaces.org).*