



edra42chicago

Conference Proceedings

Editors: Daniel Mittleman, PhD, and Deborah A. Middleton, PhD



Make No Little Plans...

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Editors: Daniel Mittleman, PhD and Deborah A. Middleton, PhD

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Chicago is the intersection of people and place. The history of Chicago is marked by seminal events intertwining people and place—from the rebuilding after the great fire of 1871, to Pullman’s company town, to a diaspora of Southern rural Blacks in the 1930s, to the riots of 1968. Interspersed among these events were ambitious inventions including Olmstead’s design of Riverside: the first planned suburb, the floating foundation that enabled the first steel skyscraper, the first hotel elevators, and the first Ferris wheel. Design history continues to be made in Chicago—from the sophisticated tools used by Studio Gang on the Aqua Tower, to the floating roof on the Modern Wing of the Art Institute of Chicago (Renzo Piano) that floods the structure with sunlight, to Mayor Daley’s programs for public greening and bicycle paths, to the innovative public sculptures in Millennium Park that encourage user interaction..

Today Chicago is the home of great museums; significant civic and neighborhood parks; public and art and sculpture. It is a city of ethnic neighborhoods, wide boulevards, botanical gardens and forest preserves. It is a city that has protected almost all of its shoreline for public use.

Chicago is the incubator of great plans and urban invention. And for this reason, EDRA borrowed Daniel Burnham’s charge for its 2011 conference theme: Make No Little Plans.

EDRA42Chicago is a new generation of EDRA conference, fully integrating its theme. We’ve made no little plans here. EDRA42Chicago retains the association’s traditional focus on research and practice that enhance human experience, both inside and outside structures, in spaces that are man-made and those that

bear only the lightest human imprint. But this conference also grows EDRA’s missional commitments in several directions.

- The paper submission and refereeing process has been revamped for EDRA42Chicago toward the delivering the highest level of conference quality possible. Delivery on this goal has been supported by receiving and processing over 450 program submissions, a 33 percent increase over the DC conference.
- EDRA42Chicago has extended the track of Design Practitioner sessions begun last year in DC. We offered nine sessions explicitly designed to transfer research knowledge to design practice.
- Mobile sessions, created this year, are an extension of the traditional EDRA tours with an intentional focus of providing *in situ* academic content.
- This year, for the first time, Display Posters images appear in the proceedings. This provides you with a post conference view of these visual presentations.

This EDRA program is large, varied, and robust. It represents the broad array of environment and behavior interests research and practiced by our members. It includes topics that have been grist for EDRA conversation for over four decades, as well as cutting edge—cyberspace—issues, non-existent a decade ago. EDRA members’ diverse interests and their dedication to enhancing the lives of others are EDRA’s greatest strengths. As you read through the pages that follow you will see that the mission of EDRA’s founders, first articulated 42 years ago, retains its vigor.

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