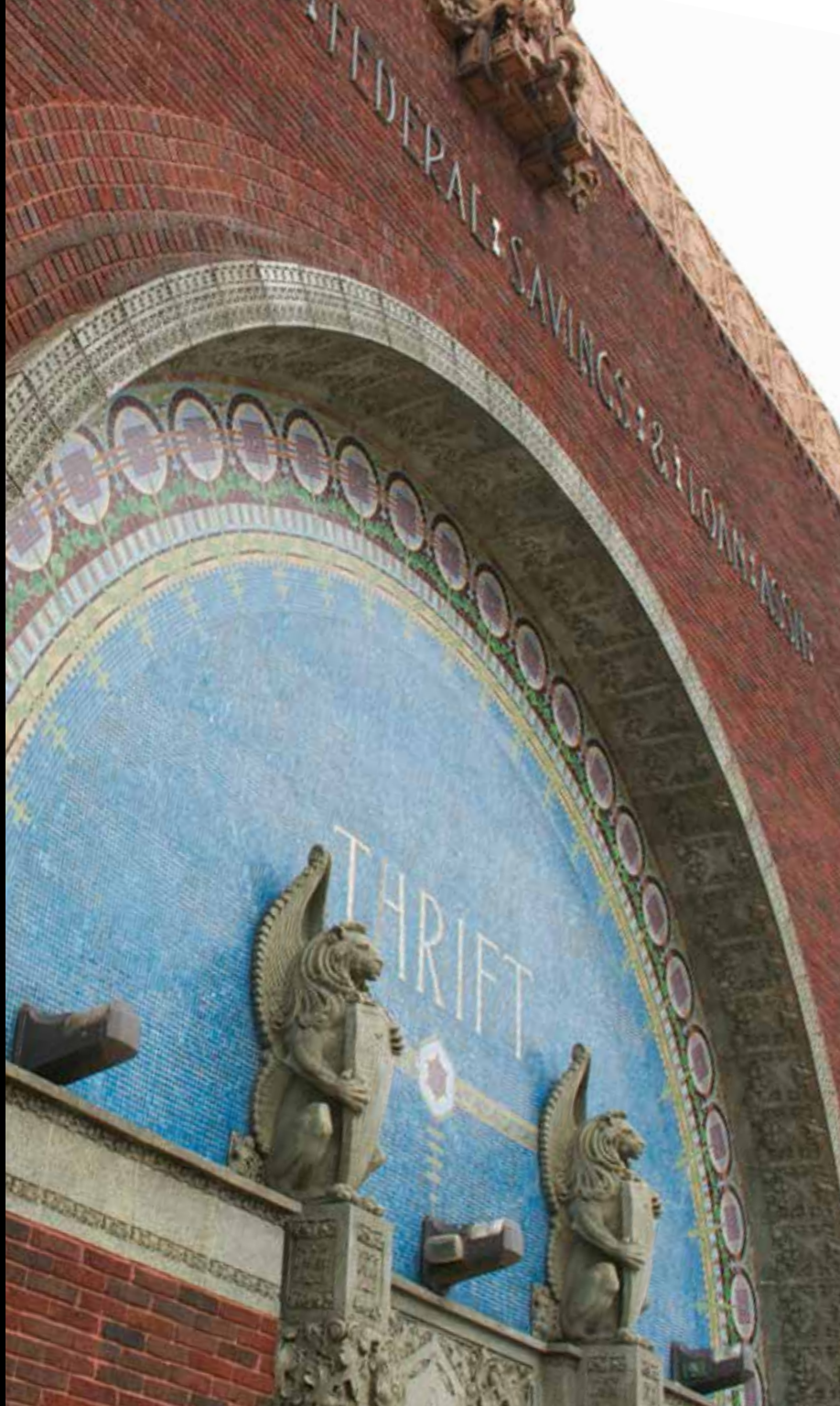


# MIDWEST ARCHITECTURE JOURNEYS

Edited by Zach Mortice with an introduction by Alexandra Lange



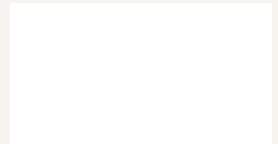
# MIDWEST ARCHITECTURE JOURNEYS

Have you ever discovered a unique building or a special place and asked: why have I never heard of this before? This enthralling collection is a reminder to all of us that art and culture can be what happens when people get up day after day and simply get to work. Together, these essays radically expand our idea of what American architecture is, and send us out on the road with our eyes wide open.

—Micheal Beirut, Pentagram partner and Cleveland native

There's poetry in these descriptions of our flat, fertile places, and reading them is a meditative way to wallow in Midwesternness. These stories are both a fantastic guide for lazy weekend road trips, and invitations for much deeper study into the Midwest's singular architectural legacy.

—Carol Ross Barney, founder, Ross Barney Architects



# MIDWEST ARCHITECTURE JOURNEYS

Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright may be the Midwest's (and the nation's) most famous architects, but the region has always been a fertile ground for builders, master and amateur. *Midwest Architecture Journeys* takes readers on a trip to visit some of the region's most inventive buildings by architects such as Bertrand Goldberg, Bruce Goff, and Lillian Leenhouts. It also includes stops at less obvious but equally daring and defining sites, such as indigenous mounds, grain silos, parking lots, flea markets, and abandoned warehouses.

This anthology is filled with the history of less-heralded works from canonical designers like Wright and Sullivan, but there are also stories that resonate with contemporary appraisals of the role and value of architecture today. There are the patterns of gentrification and displacement seen in African-American neighborhoods in Chicago and Pittsburgh, and subterranean strategies for dealing with cataclysmic climate change. There's the violent erasure and enforced invisibility of public housing, ironically needed now more than ever. Flea Markets get a second look as sites of an increasingly globalized and impersonally abstracted economy. And a few architects find ways to be inspired by alternative economic structures that are now returning to the cultural forefront. Throughout, there's the wide-open

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accessibility of this history and these buildings unique to the Midwest; college students camping out in drafty Wright houses, churches made from hat factories, Louis Sullivan banks in small towns you've never heard of.

Through dozens of essays written by architects, critics, and journalists, *Midwest Architecture Journeys* argues that what might seem flat is actually monumental, and what we assume to be boring is brimming with experimentation.

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**Zach Mortice** is a Chicago-based design journalist who focuses on landscape architecture and architecture. If you listen closely to his interview tapes, you can hear the percussive roars and metal-on-metal squeals of the Red Line El as it rumbles by his apartment.

**Alexandra Lange** is a historian and design critic. She is the architecture critic for *Curbed* and her work has appeared in *New York*, *The New Yorker*, the *New York Times*, the *Atlantic*, *Architect*, and many other publications. In 2018 she published the book *The Design of Childhood: How the Material World Shapes Independent Kids* (Bloomsbury USA). In 2019 she was awarded the AIGA Steven Heller Prize for Cultural Commentary.

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