

CHICAGO

Luxxe.

interiors + design





making a CONNECTION

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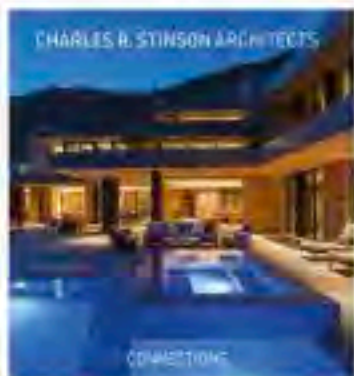
For more than 30 years, architect Charles R. Stinson has imagined homes that emphasize harmony within nature. With a style influenced by Frank Lloyd Wright, his work celebrates the balance between the shelter of indoor spaces and the freedom of the outdoors. In his latest book, *Connections*, Stinson shares the stories of 15 projects and each client's journey to achieve the ideal living space. charlesrstinson.com

What was the inspiration behind *Connections*? My wife, Carol, noticed a connection among our clients. Most of them are self-made entrepreneurs, so they look beyond the obvious and conventional. They have faith in unseen potential and are able to put energy and resources toward ideas and concepts. These homeowners share an approach to life that makes their stories, and homes, so interesting.

How does the sense of place shape your architecture? Every project starts with spending time on the property at different times of day. Then I start defining spaces, keeping in mind nature, the views and the variance of natural light from sunrise to sunset and in different seasons. I make sure every room has sunlight, but that there is still a sense of shelter in the home. I also incorporate clerestory windows and hidden drapery pockets for privacy. There's something great about being able to go into a different environment and celebrate that area. I try to use local materials, so if trees

have to come down on-site, we'll lumber them and use the wood as flooring.

How did your interest in art lead you to architecture? Growing up, I thought I was going to be an artist. Then, in high school, I took architecture classes and appreciated the technical side of it. Architecture was a way to create functional art. Today, art still influences my work—all my designs start by hand on a wooden drawing board I got when I was 14.



OPEN HOUSE

SHOPS + SHOWROOMS

The Windy City recently welcomed a series of showroom openings and refreshes, including three at theMart (222 W. Merchandise Mart Plaza): **Gloster Furniture** revealed its new space, featuring collections from designers such as Sebastian Herkner and Mark Gabbertas; at **Surya's** first Chicago showroom, tasseled poufs from India mingle with statement lighting (above) and patterned pillows, and outdoor furniture brand **Divano Lounge** opened its first U.S. showroom, brimming with products built with craftsmanship reflective of its European heritage. Plus, **B&B Italia** partnered with WPA Chicago to revamp its multibrand River North showroom (374 W. Superior St.) with vignettes by Maxalto and innovative kitchens by Arcinea, among others.

BLUEPRINT

ONE CHICAGO SQUARE



Following lauded architect Daniel Burnham's directive to "make big plans," One Chicago Square by JDL Development and designed by Goettsch Partners and Harishoche Plunkard Architecture will consist of East and West towers, the former of which will be the city's sixth-tallest building at more than 1,000 feet. The mixed-use development will offer "unique lifestyle living combined with world-class architecture," says Jim Letchinger, president of JDL. Set to open in 2022, the structure will blend modern materials—including metal, glass and stone—for a sleek look and include a flagship grocer, fitness club, restaurant and more. Big plans, indeed. onechicagosquare.com