

ALAN JOHN AINSWORTH  
• P H O T O G R A P H Y •

## A new range of illustrated architectural guides



- *Convenient 200mm square format*
- *Practical field or office guide with spiral binding to lie flat*
- *Print and e-book available for download*
- *Colour coded sections for ease of reference*
- *Authoritative descriptive text*
- *All-new full colour photography throughout*

***For more information and to purchase go to  
<https://payhip.com/alanainsworthphotography>***

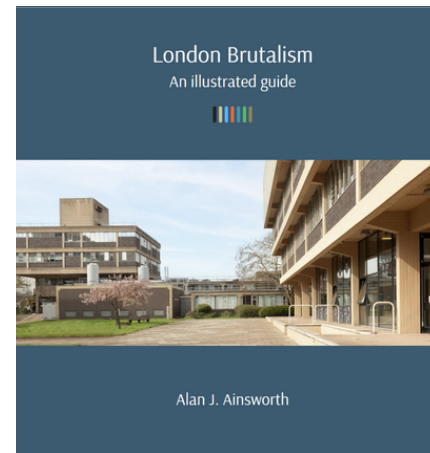


ALAN JOHN AINSWORTH  
• P H O T O G R A P H Y •

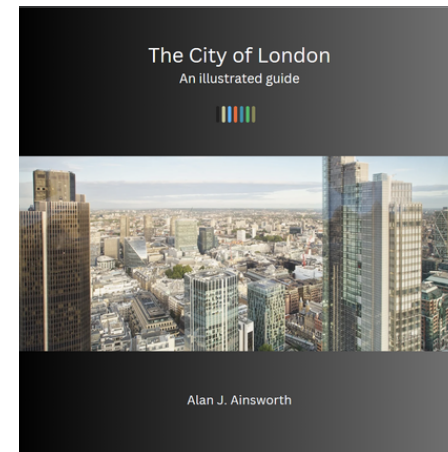
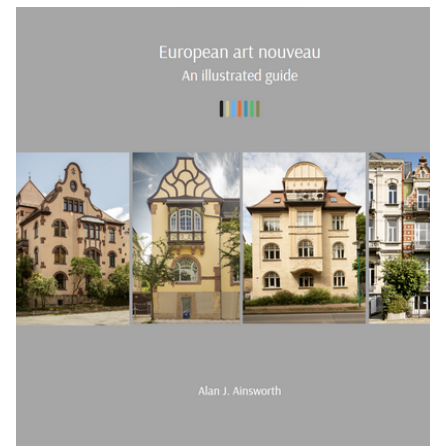
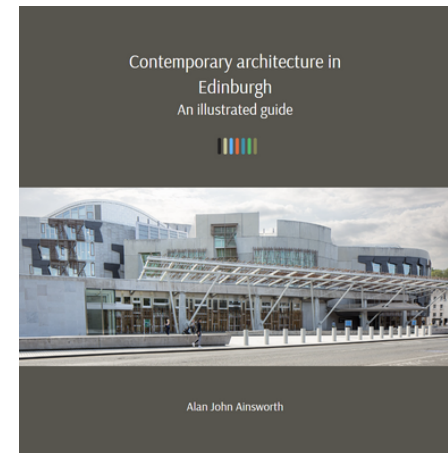
*June 2025*



*August 2025*



*November 2025*



*April 2026*

*September 2026*

# Chicago Architecture: An illustrated guide

Alan J. Ainsworth

Publication date: June 2025

Print book: ISBN 978-0-9567904-3-9 £30/EUR 35/\$45

E-book: ISBN 978-0-9567904-4-6 £15/EUR 17.50/\$20

Extent: 200 pages

Format: 195mm x 195mm

- Over 200 key buildings with descriptive text and photographs
- All key areas in downtown Chicago and University campuses
- All new full colour professional photography
- Many interior and aerial photographs
- Introductory essays cover Chicago's architectural history

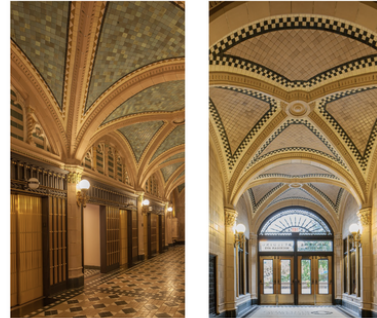
**Borg-Warner Building 200**  
South Michigan Avenue  
A. Epstein and Sons, William Lescaze, 1930

Based in Chicago, the Borg-Warner company manufactured automobile clutches. Built as the company's headquarters, the Borg-Warner Building is a 23-story, 300,000 sq. ft. (27,828 m<sup>2</sup>) office highrise that strikingly captures the essence of the International Style with its flat roof and smooth wall surfaces achieved through the use of materials such as concrete, steel and glass. The flexibility of the International Style meant that it could be used for both office and hotel buildings.

The Borg-Warner Building was also one of the first buildings in Chicago to employ true curtain-wall construction and also the first on Michigan Avenue to break away from traditional facade elements with Epstein's decision to use blue porcelain enamel spandrel panels and mirrored glass. Epstein brought in modernist architect William Lescaze as consultant to the facade design. Born in Switzerland in 1896, Lescaze studied architecture in Switzerland before emigrating to the United States in 1920.



27



The interior of the Borg-Warner Building is notable for its Rockwood tiles. Characterized by the use of pastel shades and subtle glazing, the hallway and vestibules together with floor and ornamenting of the upper corridors make extensive use of this material. Rockwood Pottery Co. was founded in 1880 by Maria Longworth Nichols Stone in Cincinnati, Ohio. Inspired by ceramics she saw at the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia, Stone began to produce high-quality decorative art pottery. Building a reputation for its innovative glazes, intricate designs and craftsmanship, Rockwood Pottery played a significant role in the American Arts and Crafts movement.

30

## Reversing the flow of the Chicago River

By the time Europeans arrived, the Chicago River flowed into Lake Michigan from Chicago's flat plain. As the city expanded sewage and other pollution was escaping into the city's main clean water source, contributing to several epidemics and other public health problems. From 1848, much of the Chicago River's flow was also diverted across the Chicago Portage into the Illinois and Michigan Canal. In 1872, the old canal was deepened in an attempt to reverse the river's flow, but the effect lasted only one season. Such was the extent of sewage contamination and pollution from Chicago's booming industrial economy that the Chicago River was known by many local residents as 'the stinking river'. The South Fork of the Main (South) Branch, which was the primary sewer for the Union Stock Yards and the meat-packing industry, was particularly bad.

In 1900, the Sanitary District of Chicago, then headed by William Boleweaver, completely reversed the flow of the main stem and South Branch of the river using a series of canal locks, increasing the river's flow from Lake Michigan and causing it to empty into the newly completed Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal. Even so, the river remained polluted by garbage and other industrial waste throughout most of the 20th century. In the 1990s, it underwent extensive cleaning as part of an effort at reactivation by Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley. In 2006, the Chicago Park District started the annual Mayor Daley's Chicago River Fishing Festival, which has increased in popularity with each year.



83



The interior of the Chicago Board of Trade is Chicago's finest art deco ensemble – a monumental collage of stone, marble and metal that evokes the elegance and vitality of the city's jazz age. The huge 3-storey lobby is detailed with scalloped curves, metal banding and dramatic lighting: sculpted piers separated by billowing curved stone support the world's largest light fixture.

142



**River City**  
800 South Wells Street  
Bertrand Goldberg Associates, Phase 1, 1984-6

Goldberg's interest in combining affordable housing with working and residential facilities found later expression in River City. Ranging from 10- to 17-stories in height, the 446 apartments, retail, commercial and amenity spaces of his design exemplify the three key elements of his philosophy: the serpentine concrete curves demonstrate his belief in the sculptural qualities of concrete; his pioneering appreciation of the Chicago riverfront and its amenity value as well as aesthetic possibilities; and a commitment to addressing urban residential problems.



90