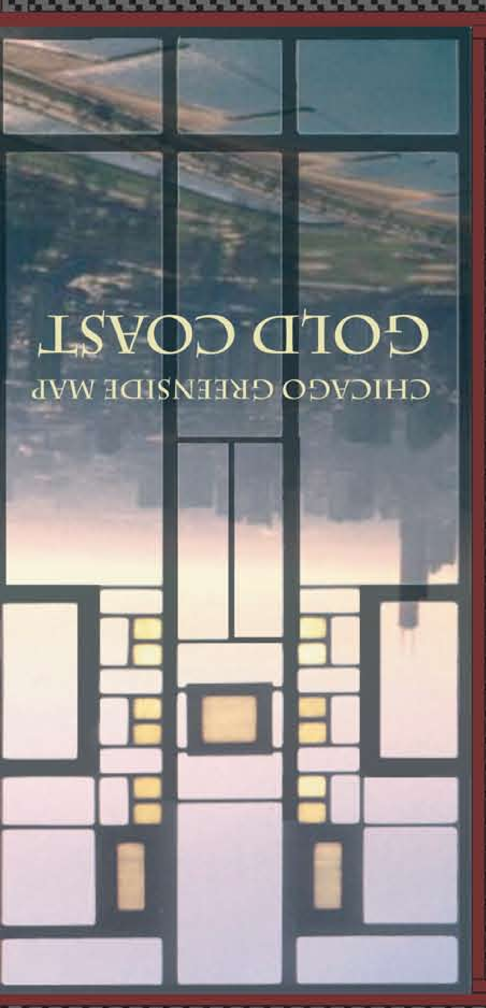
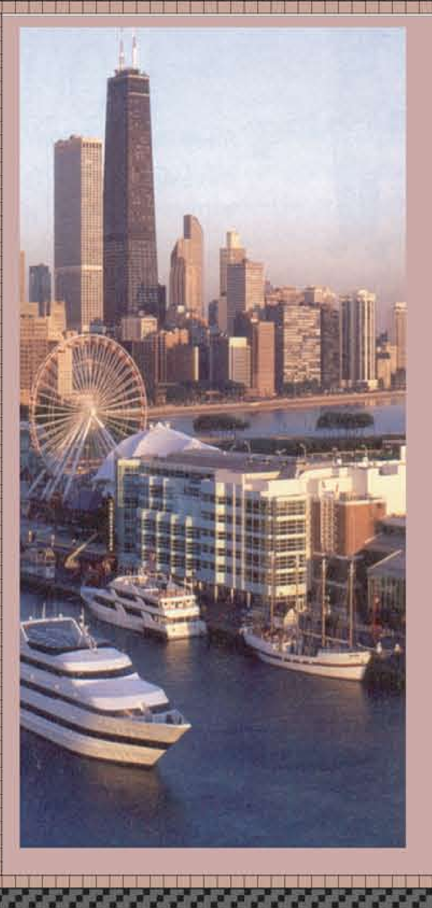
Navy Pier

Navy pier and its successful rebirth is one of Chicago's most important historical landmarks. A timeline of its history follows:
1909: Daniel Burnham creates the "Master plan of Chicago" which originally envisioned five piers. Eventually, a 1.5 mile long recreational pier with freight and passenger ship docking facilities was commissioned to be built near the mouth of the Chicago River.
1914-1916: The architect Charles Summer Frost completed navy pier construction at the cost of 4.5 million.
1921-1922: The Pier enters it's Golden Age of recreational and cultural activity as Chicago mayor, William H. Thompson's "Pageants of Progress" draw nearly a million visitors during 15 days of events.
1946: The Navy moves out and the University of Illinois takes up residence, transforming the facility into a two-year undergraduate branch campus that remains in existence until 1965. The Navy's main mess hall becomes a giant library considered the largest reading room in Illinois.
1965: The University of Illinois moves from Navy Pier to its new Circle campus just west of downtown.
1995: Navy Pier is reborn, featuring a mix of year round entertainment, shops, restaurants, attractions and exhibition facilities.
2000: The Smith Museum of Stained Glass Windows debuts at Navy Pier. It is the first museum in the U.S. dedicated solely to stained glass windows.





History of The Green Map Project

The Green Map project was inspired in 1992 to promote the idea of sustainability in urban areas. Green Maps are built through mapping greening efforts, ecologically significant sites and cultural resources of cities across all continents. The Green Map was started by Modern World Design in New York City, where the icons were developed to denote significant sites. The mission of The Green Map Project is to strengthen the community's awareness of and connection to the urban ecology through locally created visual representations of hometown environments.

History of The Gold Coast

A large German population first settled on the near north side of Chicago the called Gold Coast. This community's prosperity was due to their many beer gardens, saloons, restaurants, and small businesses. The Germans also started three church congregations that promoted a rich cultural life.
By the early 1900s large numbers of Irish and Swedes moved to the area and worked in shipyards along the north banks of the river and at the McCormick Reaper Works.

The Chicago Fire in October 1871 burned all of the south side and much of the north side all the way to Fullerton Avenue. Most wealthy Chicagoans moved to the north side and built their brownstones and mansions. The fire reinforced earlier patterns of settlement and the well-to-do residential area around Washington Square Park expanded steadily over the next 20 years. Much of Chicago's present day Gold Coast owes its existence to Potter Palmer, a wealthy State Street merchant. Palmer built a one million dollar castle in 1882, which is now 1350 North lake Shore drive. Another mansion located 120 East Bellevue Place is now the home of the Fort Knightly Club, Chicago's oldest women's club.

Archbishop Frederick A. Freehand moved into 1555 North State Parkway and this building has been the Cardinal's residence ever since. Many other movers and shakers of Chicago history hired architects to designs large brownstones along Dearborn, State Parkway and Astor Street. This building boom expanded into upscale apartment building, which transformed this section into the cities most prominent residential district and continued as such throughout the 1920's. Some wealthy German and Swedish families put their mark on the neighborhood along LaSalle Street.

Today the Gold Coast is populated by singles and married couples without children. Many of the older homes have been renovated in this neighborhood. Young professionals have transformed this 19th century blue-collar neighborhood into an affluent community.

Astor Street

Astor Street has the most extant historical buildings in the Gold coast. The first significant residence was built in 1887. A variety of architectural styles can be found on this street. Some of the famous architects whose contributions to Astor Street include: Bertrand Goldberg, Howard van Dorenshaw, David Alder, Louis Sullivan, Arthur Heun, Joseph Lyman Silsbee, Holabird, Root, Jenney, Mundie and Jensen, Soloman, Corwell and Buenz, and last but not least Frank Lloyd Wright. By 1936 the area was built out and other parts of the city began to grow.

The Tribune Tower

In 1922, the Gothic Style Tribune Tower was designed by Raymond Hood and John Howell. It was criticized because it did not follow the trend of up and coming skyscrapers with their International Style. It was completed in 1925.

The Drake Hotel

It opened on New Year's Eve in 1920. This elegant hotel overlooks Oak Street Beach and is situated at the north end of the Magnificent Mile. In 1981 it was placed in the register of Historical Places.

The Wrigley Building

The Wrigley Building was built in 1920 by the company's founder, William Wrigley Jr. It has well-proportioned architecture and it is covered with white terra-cotta cladding.