

The Scandinavian Trade Center

Chicago, Illinois

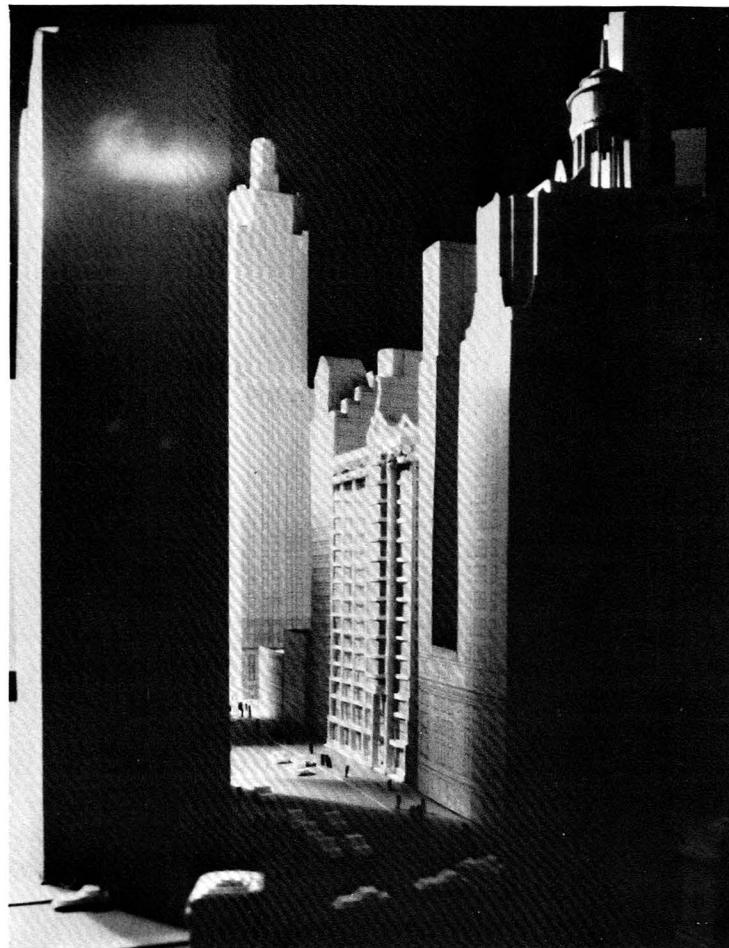
Daryl S. Rantis

Critics: Gregory A. Yager
Al Sanner

The site for the Scandinavian Trade Center is on Chicago's Magnificent Mile, just to the south of the Chicago River. Surrounding the trapezoidal site are many of the city's landmark buildings, including the Stone Container Building to the north and the Carbon and Carbide building further to the south. Across the river are the Wrigley Building and the Chicago Tribune Tower. Immediately to the south of the site is the newly-completed, mixed-use building designed by Laurence Booth.

The building is to house a variety of functions, including an exhibition space for Scandinavian cultural artifacts and trade items, a dinner theater, and roof top nightclub. Travel agencies will be located close to the street level, as will retail shops specializing in Scandinavian products. The remainder of the building contains speculative office space.

The strong urban character and the historic importance of the surrounding buildings, the particular attribute of this *place*, made it appropriate for the Trade Center to harmonize with the context, yet establish its own identity. In the tradition of the Chicago office tower, the building has a base, a richly-surfaced more anonymous shaft, and a capital, or crowning device. Referencing the city's past, the Chicago window is used for the office tower fenestration, but its continuity is interrupted by an elongated bay win-

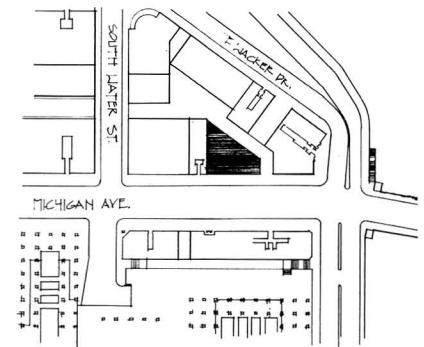


View looking south from Chicago River.

dow which frames the entrance at street level and draws the pedestrian's eye to the roof top garden club. Joining these elements is a system of ornamentation, expressing the building's structure and its connections.

This system of ornamentation is used inside the building in the rectangular atrium, which serves as the exhibition

space. The office space is arranged around the building's perimeter, with the inhabited areas adjacent to the street, while the service core completes the pattern. This configuration allows the building to fill in the urban fabric, provides the offices with natural light and ventilation, and makes use of a skylight to illuminate the atrium. The dinner theater is located

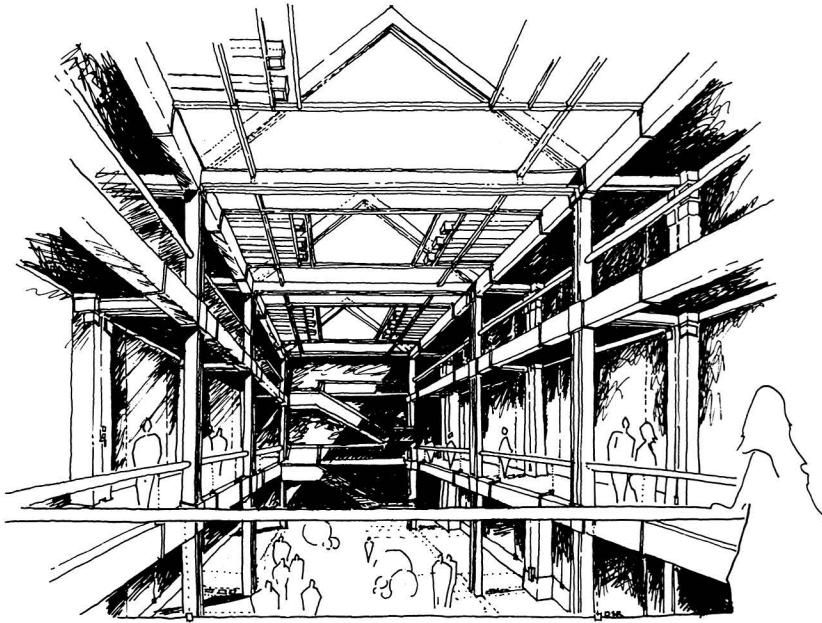


Site plan.

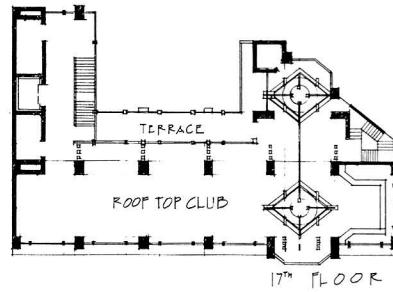
below the street level with automobile access from lower Wacker Drive and thus becomes a point of destination and the contemporary equivalent of a prohibition-era speakeasy.

Located on the top floor is a nightclub and garden that has a mixture of opaque and transparent roofs, enabling the patrons to enjoy an outdoor feeling even during the harsh Chicago winter. Operable windows also serve to bring the outside in, letting the patrons of the club share the activity of the lunch time street population and the nightly spectacle of street lights.

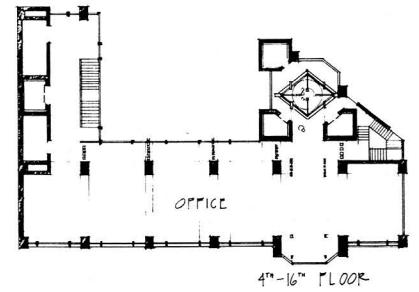
The choice of the proper image for the building was a major design concern. Rather than to introduce elements that refer specifically to Scandinavian architecture, the decision was made to incorporate elements characteristic of the Chicago School while simultaneously trying to capture some of the qualities that distinguish Nordic buildings, for example the use of light and a centralized atrium.



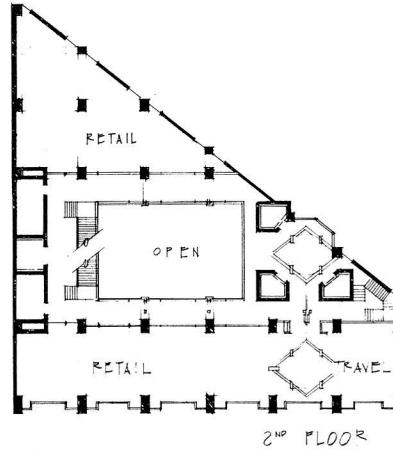
Interior perspective.



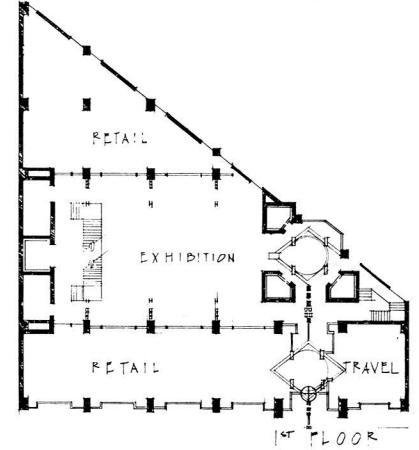
17th FLOOR



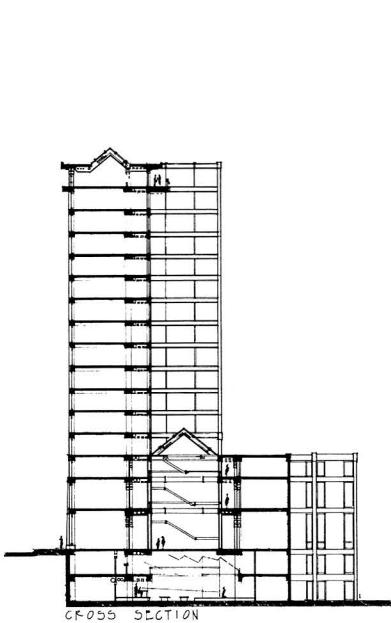
4th-16th FLOOR



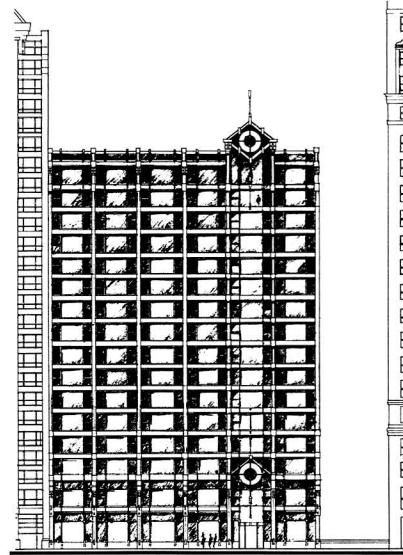
2nd FLOOR



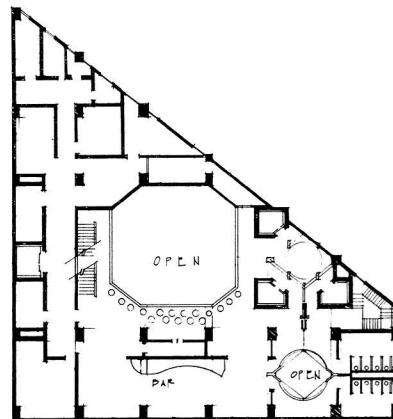
1st FLOOR



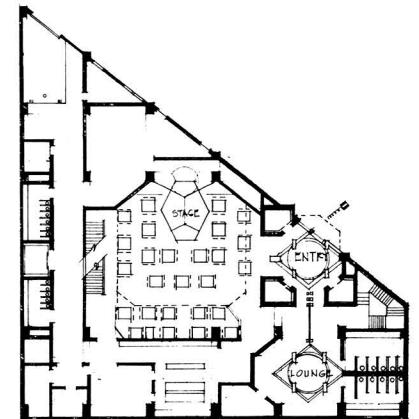
CROSS SECTION



EAST ELEVATION



1st BASEMENT



2nd BASEMENT