

# CHICAGO LANDMARKS



## 2010 PRESERVATION EXCELLENCE AWARDS

### Clarence Buckingham Memorial Fountain and Gardens New Paving and Landscaping

*Recipient: Chicago Park District*

The Clarence Buckingham Fountain was built in 1927 as a gift to the city by Kate Buckingham, in honor of her brother, and is the centerpiece of Grant Park. Its massive 280-foot diameter and 150-foot-high geyser makes it one of the world's largest fountains, and it stands as an iconic landmark of the city. Designed by architect Edward H. Bennett, pursuant to the 1909 *Plan of Chicago*, the fountain innovatively incorporates ornate bronze sculptures with a dynamic light and water display, set within an elegantly landscaped Beaux-Arts-style garden. Last year, the Chicago Park District spent \$11.5 million to complete the first part of an overall rehabilitation of the fountain. The current work included replacing over 235,000 square feet of the fountain table with new permeable paving, which now allows the area to be fully accessible. The new paving is the world's largest decorative permeable paver installation. The paving joints are filled with matching pink aggregate to give a similar appearance to the original gravel surface. Also included in the work was the restoration of the delicate copper fence encircling the fountain; new light fixtures; new landscaping; and new benches. The Clarence Buckingham Memorial Fountain and Garden was designated as a Chicago Landmark on August 30, 2000.



**HISTORIC C. 1929**



City of Chicago  
Richard M. Daley, Mayor

Department of Zoning and Land Use Planning  
Patricia A. Scudiero, Commissioner

**AFTER**