

CHICAGO LANDMARKS



2010 PRESERVATION EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Michigan Avenue Bridge and Wacker Drive Esplanade Bridge Restoration and Landscape Improvements

Recipient: Chicago Department of Transportation

Conceived as part of Daniel Burnham's *1909 Plan of Chicago*, this ornamental Beaux-Arts bridge and adjacent esplanade were meant to improve transportation and to enhance Chicago's riverfront. The bridge was designed by Edward N. Bennett and completed in 1920, with the monumental stone sculptures designed by Pihlfeldt & Young added later in 1928. The bridge forms an impressive gateway to North Michigan Avenue and led to its development as one of the nation's premier commercial, retail, and residential streets. In the 1970s, however, the bridge's historic decorative railings were removed. Funded through the Tax Increment Financing program, the bridge has been repaired and repainted; a new railing based on the historic design was installed; new accent lighting and landscaping was added at the river-walk level; and a new canopy was constructed under the bridge for the pedestrian walkway. The Michigan Avenue Bridge and Esplanade were designated as a Chicago Landmark on October 2, 1991.



BEFORE



AFTER



City of Chicago
Richard M. Daley, Mayor

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