

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 5, 2011

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Erin Hogan
(312) 443-3664
ehogan@artic.edu

Chai Lee
(312) 443-3625
clee4@artic.edu

INLAND ARCHITECT IMAGE DATABASE NOW AVAILABLE ON ART INSTITUTE WEBSITE

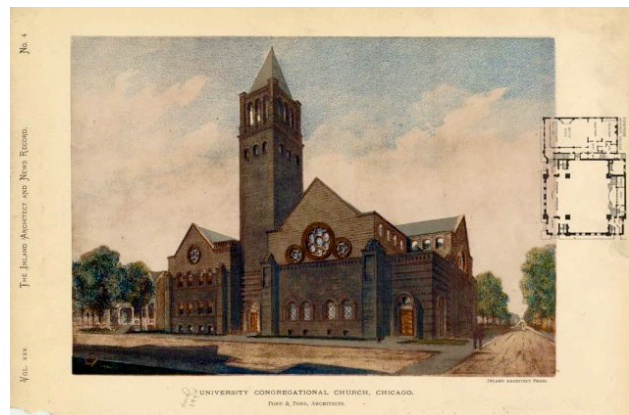
5,000 Architectural Images From Historic Periodical Digitized

Major Archival Project Undertaken by Museum's Ryerson and Burnham Archives

The Ryerson and Burnham Archives of the Art Institute of Chicago are proud to announce the digitization of another major image collection: 5,000 plates from the venerable Chicago-based periodical *Inland Architect and News Record*.

This exceedingly rich visual record from a seminal period in American architecture can now be accessed by the public through the **Digital Collections Database (DCD)** on the

Libraries' website. The multi-year project makes another important architectural archive available for use by scholars and the public, further enhancing what is already one of the richest online resources for art and architecture, built with the goal of providing access to the many rare images and texts in the Art Institute's Ryerson and Burnham Archives.



“The Digital Collections Database was launched in 2008 and has been growing steadily ever since,” said Jack Perry Brown, Director of the Ryerson and Burnham Libraries. “But the completion of the digitization of the *Inland Architect* plates represents a significant milestone for the database, which is among the largest such digital collections in the United States. These images not only recorded but also shaped architectural practice in the United States during an explosive period of

growth. For scholars and the public, the *Inland Architect* images will prove a fascinating and incredible resource.”

American architects working in the late 19th- and early 20th-centuries turned to the trade publication *Inland Architect and News Record* for ideas, inspiration, and education, as it best represented the latest developments in the profession straight from the heart of the leading city of American architecture. Published between 1883 and 1908 by the Chicago-based Inland Publishing Co., the magazine featured prime examples of structures from all over the United States: commercial real estate; public buildings such as churches, schools, libraries, and railroad stations; important state and national government commissions; and residential architecture, ranging from middle class houses to apartments to elite mansions and estates. Almost every architectural style of the period, from Chicago School to historic revival, is meticulously documented. Readers of *Inland Architect* were able to see the full anatomy of architectural projects, including exteriors and exterior views, interiors and interior details, and various architectural renderings of both built and unbuilt projects. A large number of images from the magazine document what are now historical landmarks when they were first constructed.

The *Inland Architect and News Record* database of more than 5,000 images can now be easily searched by architect, project name, location, date, or other key words—including any combination of such terms—through the DCD website. With the addition of the *Inland Architect* images, the DCD now includes more than 25,000 digital images and PDF files of photographs, slides, architectural drawings and prints, correspondence, manuscripts, pencil sketches, books, postcards, three-dimensional objects, and printed materials such as newspaper clippings and brochures. Users of the database can also order high-resolution images for a fee.

The Ryerson & Burnham Archives collect artists' and architects' papers that complement and extend the permanent collections of the Art Institute's curatorial departments. The Archives' collections are notably strong in late 19th- and 20th-century American architecture, with particular depth in Midwest, Chicago School, Prairie School, and organic architecture. Architects such as Edward Bennett, Daniel Burnham, Bruce Goff, Bertrand Goldberg, Ludwig Hilberseimer, Mies van der Rohe, Louis Sullivan, and Frank Lloyd Wright, in addition to such events as the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 and the 1933 Century of Progress International Exposition, are well represented throughout these electronic resources. Many of the graphic and textual resources in

the DCD are unique to Ryerson and Burnham Libraries and Archives. Extensive research and cataloging efforts have made search and discovery easy for casual users and scholars alike.

The *Inland Architect and News Record* image digitization project was made possible through the generous support of Art Institute Trustee Julius Lewis and the Rhoades Foundation.

IMAGE: University Congregational Church, NW corner of E. 56th St. and S. Dorchester Ave. (originally Madison Ave.), Chicago, Illinois. 1894-1895. Pond & Pond, 1895. Archival Image Collection, *Inland Architect and News Record*. Ryerson and Burnham Archives, the Art Institute of Chicago.

#

Web: www.artinstituteofchicago.org

Twitter: [@artinstitutechi](https://twitter.com/artinstitutechi)

[Like us on Facebook](#)

MUSEUM HOURS

10:30 am–5:00 pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday

10:30 am–8:00 pm Thursday

10:00 am–5:00 pm Saturday, Sunday

TARGET FREE THURSDAY EVENINGS AFTER 5:00 pm

Closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day.

ADMISSION

Adults \$18.00 Includes all special exhibitions

Children 14 and over, students, and seniors \$12.00 Includes all special exhibitions

Chicago residents receive a \$2.00 discount with proof of residency

Children under 14 always free

Members always free

Free Evenings are free to all. City of Chicago residents with Chicago Public Library cards can borrow a "Museum Passport" card from any library branch for free general admission to the nine members of Museums in the Park, including the Art Institute of Chicago.