

Wallpaper*

Everything you need to know about the 2025 Chicago Architecture Biennial

Mark your calendars because North America's biggest architecture celebration touches down in the Windy City starting 19 September. Here's what's on



Every two years, architects, designers and likeminded aficionados descend upon Chicago, home of the world's first skyscraper (10 stories tall and completed in 1885, for those curious), to explore the industry's contemporary ideas about the global built environment. The Chicago Architecture Biennial is one of the biggest design events on the industry calendar—drawing on the Windy City's history as host of the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition. However, unlike that event, which took place in Jackson Park on the city's South Side, the Biennial allows visitors to explore not only its program of exhibitions, performances, talks and film screenings, but requires they traverse the city itself to do so, perhaps making the pilgrimage to some of its famous historic structures along the way.

TOP THINGS TO SEE AT THE 2025 CHICAGO ARCHITECTURE BIENNIAL

Surfaces in Flux



A rendering of the Objects of Common Interest / LOT Office for Architecture project.
(Image credit: Courtesy Objects of Common Interest / LOT Office for Architecture)

New York– and Athens, Greece–based design studio Objects of Common Interest / LOT Office for Architecture will experiment with inflatable architecture, creating a space for gathering that shifts and moves with lounging participants—and maybe evokes those backyard bounce houses of your youth.

When: 19 September to 28 February, 2026

Where: Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E Washington St, Chicago, IL 60602