

The Chicago Style: Louis H. Sullivan

- Born September 3, 1856 in Boston
- Died April 14, 1924
- Studied at MIT
- Studied at the Ecole for one year. (1874-1876)
- Worked in Philadelphia and then Chicago.
- In 1879 he went to work for Dankmar Adler and at the age of 25 they became partners of Adler and Sullivan where he mentored Frank Lloyd Wright.
- He is credited as one of the main founders of the Chicago Style.



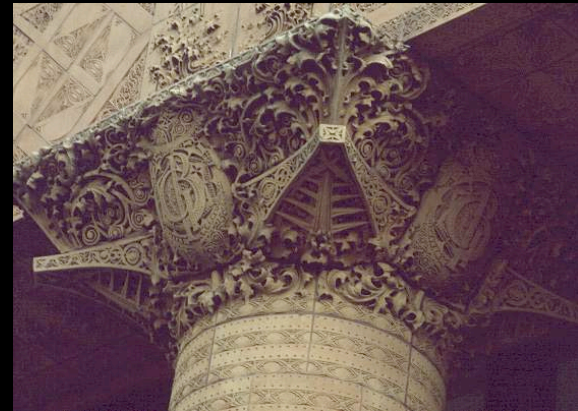
What Is The Chicago Style?

- Also referred to as the Commercial Style
- Steel framed buildings with masonry cladding.
- Large plate-glass windows and limited exterior ornament.
- Many of the Sky Scrapers form this style resemble the classical column.



Top Floor = Capital

- Column from the Guaranty Building (Buffalo, NY)

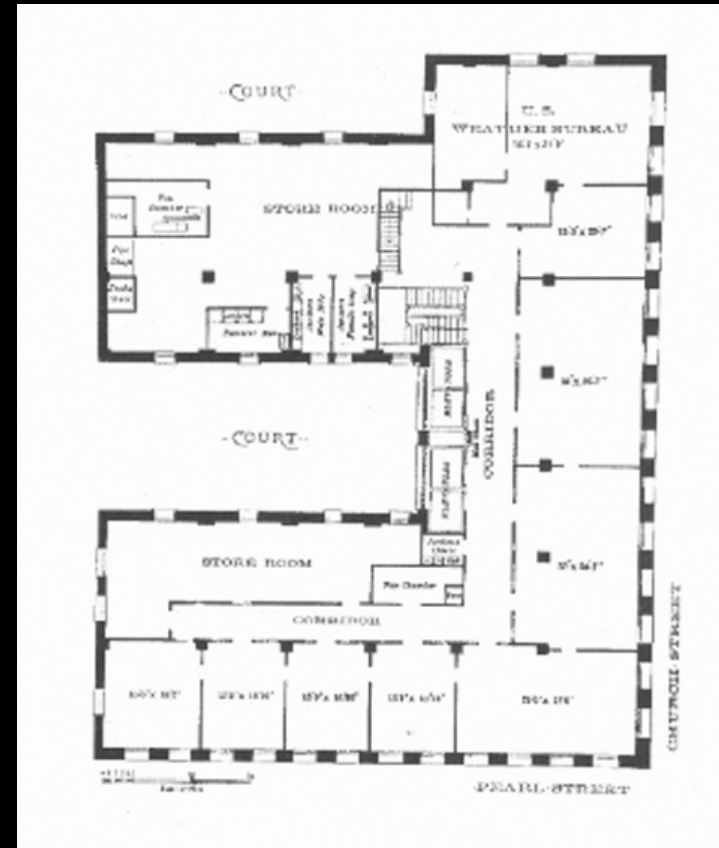


- Top floor of the Carson, Pirie, Scott Building (Chicago)



What drove the Chicago Style?

- The Modern approach that “Form Follows Function”
- Steel was at an all-time low. This allowed Buildings to be taller and allow for more light and more interior space.



Entrance canopies to the Carson Pirie Scott Building.



- Cast Iron details were easier to manipulate for ornament details.

From this Chicago Style, Sullivan and Wright Develop the *Idea* of the True Architect

- The Architect should be student of Nature and Man.
- The nature of man (in our country) is a Democratic man, or at least it should be.
- In 1906 Sullivan wrote *What is Architecture: A Study in the American People of Today*.

What is Architecture

- The article is a critique on our society and our values that show through in our built environment.
 - “Man thinks, so he acts...”
 - “What do we want with expression if we can’t sell it?”

Sullivan feels that ...

- Since Architecture is a measure of its people and we have become destructively undemocratic, so has our architecture.
- Through a **true** method of education we can better develop our **natural** powers of thinking.

How to be truly creative?

- Individual Honesty is the only way fix to this dilemma.
- By changing the thoughts of a people the civilization changes. The society changes and so will the Architecture.