



CHICAGO  
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**Chicago's First Lady Cruises and Chicago Architecture Center to Host Three Exclusive  
"An Evening with an Architect" Cruises**

Renowned architects will co-host three original Chicago River cruises, highlighting landmarks they designed

**CHICAGO**, September 3, 2020 – [Chicago's First Lady Cruises](#) and the [Chicago Architecture Center \(CAC\)](#) have announced [An Evening with an Architect](#), a new cruise series offering guests a unique immersion into Chicago's world-class riverfront architecture. The special series includes three premier, 90-minute evening river cruises, each featuring dialogue with an esteemed architect from a firm behind one or more modern marvels seen during the [Chicago Architecture Foundation Center \(CAFC\) River Cruise aboard Chicago's First Lady](#).

Guest architects include: Adam Semel, Managing Partner, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill; Joachim Schuessler, Principal and Senior Project Designer, Goettsch Partners; and Thomas Kerwin, Founding Principal, bKL Architecture. Together with an expertly trained CAFC River Cruise volunteer docent, each architect will share commentary and answer questions for a uniquely exclusive architectural experience on the Chicago River.

To comply with current CDC guidelines and promote social distancing, capacity for each cruise experience is strictly limited to 90 passengers, in addition to other [new measures](#) to protect guest and staff safety. Tickets are now available via [Ticketmaster](#) and expected to sell quickly due to high demand and capacity restrictions, so reserve your spot now for these unforgettable, open-air architectural adventures.

**[An Evening with An Architect: Adam Semel](#)**  
**Managing Partner, [Skidmore, Owings & Merrill](#)**  
**Departs Thursday, September 10 at 6pm**  
**\$78 per person, CAC members \$68**

Adam Semel, AIA, is a managing partner in the Chicago office of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM), where he serves as a leader of the firm's strategic growth and client engagement across all regions. He plays an integral role in the management and delivery of large-scale, complex projects with an extensive, multi-billion-dollar portfolio that includes projects in Chicago, across the United States and overseas. Semel's expertise extends to several practice areas including commercial, residential, cultural and educational, plus interior and urban design at all scales. Semel is highly experienced in navigating public agency approvals and zoning regulations, and in facilitating meaningful conversations with local communities. Semel plays a key role in SOM's commitment to Chicago and serves as an advocate for the city's continued growth. In 2016, Semel was named a Fellow of Leadership Greater Chicago and, in 2019, he joined the Chicago Architecture Center's Board of

Trustees. Semel holds degrees from the Harvard University Graduate School of Design and Wesleyan University.

**[An Evening with an Architect: Joachim Schuessler](#)**

**Principal and Senior Project Designer, [Goettsch Partners](#)**

**Departs Thursday, September 17 at 6pm**

**\$78 per person, CAC members \$68**

Joachim Schuessler is a principal and senior project designer at Goettsch Partners, either leading or collaborating in the conceptual design efforts for projects and continuing to articulate and evolve designs through all phases. He has worked on a range of office, hotel, mixed-use, institutional and government projects, and he is particularly experienced with international assignments, having worked on projects across Asia, Europe, the Middle East and North America. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Architecture from Leipzig University of Applied Sciences in Germany and he received his Master of Architecture from the Illinois Institute of Technology.

**[An Evening with an Architect: Thomas Kerwin](#)**

**Founding Principal, [bKL Architecture](#)**

**Departs Thursday, September 24 at 6pm**

**\$78 per person, CAC members \$68**

Founding principal of bKL Architecture, Thomas Kerwin, FAIA, LEED AP, leads a team of talented architects based in Chicago, Shanghai and Washington, D.C. who share Kerwin's passion and determination for creating places which positively contribute to shaping the urban environment. His breadth of knowledge and leadership skills have grown bKL exponentially since its inception in 2010 and, in a relatively short time, Kerwin has established bKL nationally and internationally with an impressive portfolio showcasing a variety of project types and scales. bKL projects viewable from the CAFC River Cruise route include 200 N. Michigan, 300 N. Michigan (under construction), Cascade (under construction), Cirrus (under construction), Coast, GEMS World Academy Lower School, GEMS World Academy Upper School (under construction), Parcel I at Lakeshore East (approved and in design), Renelle on the River and Wolf Point West.

**Ticket Information:**

You can purchase tickets at [Ticketmaster.com/rivercruise](https://www.ticketmaster.com/rivercruise) by selecting the exact date and the 6:00 pm departure time. Each cruise is \$73.44 plus tax for the public; CAC members can redeem discounted pricing at \$64.03 plus tax by calling 312-922-8687. Each ticket includes time for Q&A with the guest architect and one complimentary glass of Champagne. A full-service bar is available to purchase additional beverages. There is no food offered aboard the cruises, guests are encouraged to visit one of the many Riverwalk cafés before or after their cruise experience.

**Boarding Location:**

Cruises depart from Chicago's First Lady dock located at the southeast corner of the Michigan Avenue Bridge at E. Wacker Dr. on Chicago's Riverwalk. Guests will be welcome to board the vessel at 5:15 pm for choice of seating. Cruises will depart at 6:00 pm and return at 7:30 pm.

**Visuals:**

High-resolution photos and b-roll of the CAFC River Cruise can be found here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/q7hdob2rkst03ei/AAA51IXS5OOvjwbZ9Q8BZSFOa?dl=0>

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/5pashnrbtolk0ac/Chicago%20Architecture%20Foundation%20Center%20River%20Cruise%202018.mp4?dl=0>

High-resolution photos of the guest architects featured in “An Evening with an Architect” can be found here: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/8wfnifpvntthcjw/AAAYXOhNStwdMK-NW6A0cssea?dl=0>

High-resolution photos of the Chicago Architecture Center can be found here: <https://caf.box.com/s/txbos6hv01tsro3fakajcmanrz5k3gg3>

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### **About Chicago’s First Lady Cruises**

Docked on Chicago’s vibrant Riverwalk, Chicago’s First Lady Cruises is a critically-acclaimed Chicago experience that connects Chicago locals and visitors alike to the city’s rich architectural history and breathtaking beauty through the official Chicago Architecture Foundation Center River Cruise and as a first-class venue for private events. This year marks the 27<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Chicago Architecture Foundation Center River Cruise, the only private public partnership on the Chicago Riverfront. All vessels are operated by a U.S. Coast Guard-licensed captain and crew. For more information and for cruise schedules, visit [CruiseChicago.com](http://CruiseChicago.com), call 847-358-1330 or follow @cflcruises on social media.

### **About the Chicago Architecture Center**

The Chicago Architecture Center (CAC), formerly the Chicago Architecture Foundation (CAF), is a nonprofit organization dedicated to inspiring people to discover why design matters. As an education leader in architecture and design, the CAC is a hub for everything architecture in Chicago, offering tours, programs, exhibitions, field trips, curricula, and online tools that are part of a dynamic learning journey for all ages. Visit [architecture.org](http://architecture.org) to learn more and follow @chiarchitecture and #chiarchitecture on social media.