

**Selected Threatened Works of Bertrand Goldberg**

It would be hard to overestimate Bertrand Goldberg's contribution to Chicago architecture. His works are wholly individual, thoughtful, and gracious in intention. Unfortunately, many of the architect's Chicago-area masterpieces no longer exist. Goldberg's American Furniture Novelty Company on the west side, his near-north Universal Recording Studios, and many other earlier works have been demolished.

Alarming, other significant works continue to be altered or manipulated insensitively. A few selected, recent alterations appear below.

Work, As Constructed

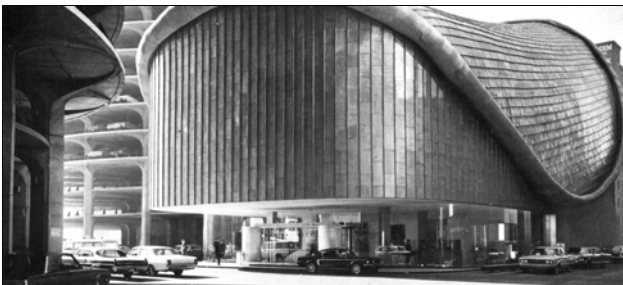
Work, Present-Day



Goldberg's Edelmann Factory (1960), at Elston and Logan Boulevards, was a classic example of utilitarian materials and construction, synthesized by the architect into an attractive and effective composition. The building was created using a novel form of prefabricated floors, which were then hoisted into place. The building was also the first plastic-clad edifice in Illinois. A recent alteration has covered the building with Dry-Vit, virtually obliterating Goldberg's creation.



The Drexel Town and Gardens Apartments (1954) are an award-winning solution to low-income housing in Chicago. Each of the 64 fee-simple units is provided with private space, storage, and flexible interiors. Because the units were built before the days of the condominium, the architect implemented a resident-controlled water "company," which regulated water to the units, and used its "revenue" to maintain common elements throughout the complex. Today, most apartments have been dramatically altered, and many are in poor condition.



Insensitive alterations at Marina City (1959-1967), Bertrand Goldberg's best-known achievement, continue today. Previously compromised by plaza additions that ruined sight lines and "post-modernized" the complex, new changes continue this trend. In the original photo shown at left, one can see the spacious and open quality at the tower's base, a feature that brought pedestrian traffic into the complex, and allowed the river to be experienced from all parts of the plaza. Recent alterations have enclosed most of this public space, creating a claustrophobic environment that dramatically alters the pedestrian experience at Marina City, further obfuscating the structural daring, and truly egalitarian intentions of Goldberg's masterpiece.