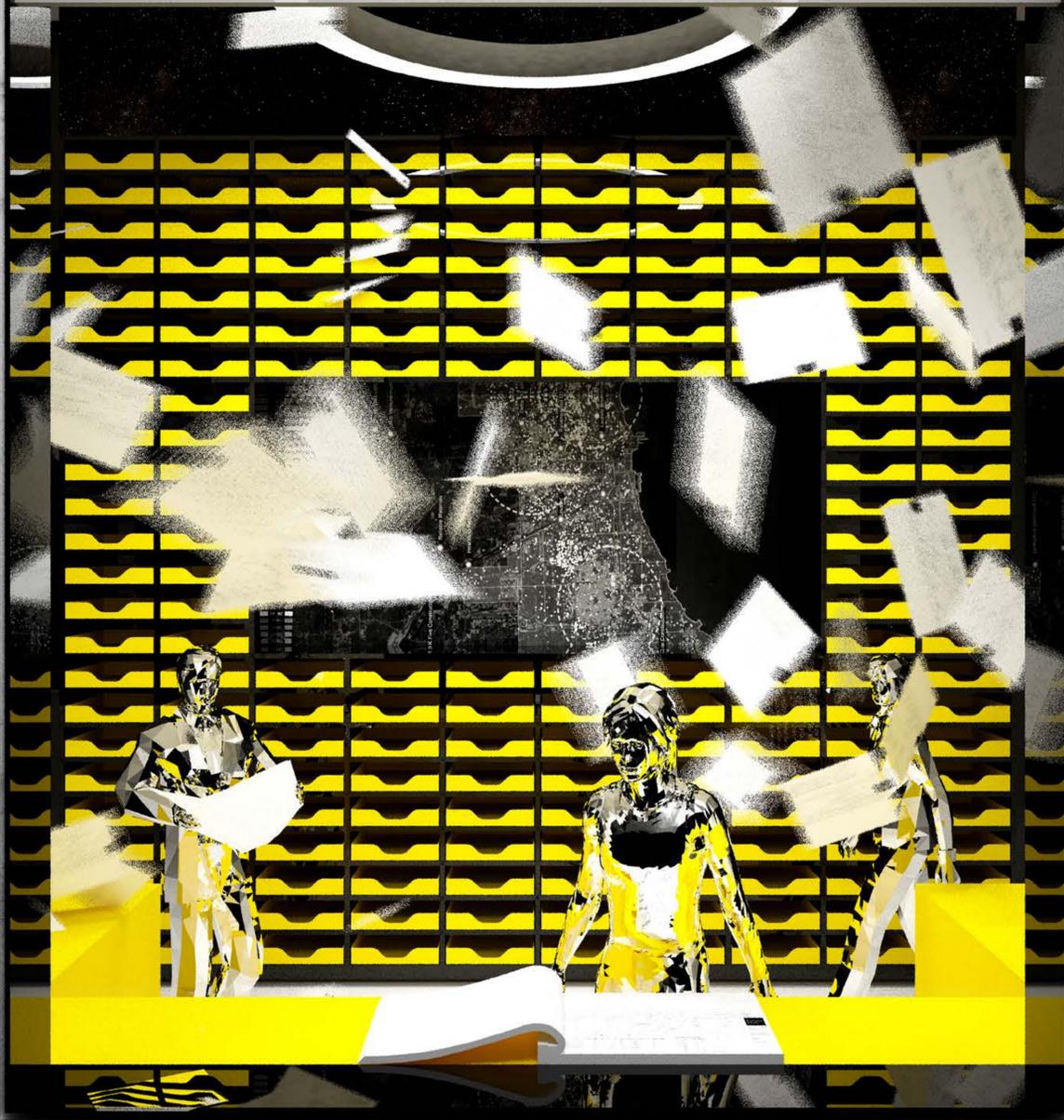
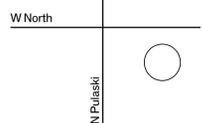


# OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC ARCHITECT



NOW SERVING

52



## OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC ARCHITECT

FUTURE FIRM  
WARDS 1, 3, 4, 5, 11, 20, 25,  
26, 32, 38, 41, 42, 43, 47

When those accused of crimes cannot afford a lawyer, they have access to a public defender. When issued a building violation, should the accused not also have the right to a Public Architect? In 2016, Chicago building inspectors issued more than 36,000 violations. Some violations are "easily" resolved by hiring a contractor.

However, many infractions require the assistance of a licensed architect, which can be a costly service.

The Office of the Public Architect proposes consolidated resources for design services, offering faster, compassionate and dignified resolution of violations for residents.

Taking over unused windows of existing post offices, the Office of the Public Architect would undertake architectural work, resolve bureaucratic snags, and stock relevant free resources. Newly licensed architects could gain critical experience, while senior designers could track and flag broader concerns on a civic scale for long-term research.

An Office of the Public Architect would represent the collective agreement that all Chicagoans are entitled to a safe and humane built environment.



# OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

## CLARA SHORTRIDGE FOLTZ LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

In the late 1800s, The New York Times called the idea of the office of the public defender, proposed by lawyer Clara Foltz (1849–1934), “absurd.”

Today, the public defender is a crucial and foundational component of the U.S. legal system. Gideon v. Wainwright (1963) cemented that U.S. States must provide legal counsel for those who cannot afford their own. However, Clara Foltz, the first female lawyer on the west coast, proposed the idea 70 years earlier.

She believed the public defender’s office should be a counterweight to the prosecutor’s office, with equal funding and stature: “The law should be a shield, as well as a sword.”

Similarly, the proposed Office of the Public Architect could serve as a counterweight to the Department of Buildings, working on behalf of Chicago’s citizens through collective investment in the city’s architecture.

