Monument to Missed Opportunities
Visionary Cities Project
Alexander Eisenschmidt
with
Matthew van der Ploeg
7th Ward

Chicago was once a laboratory for architectural speculation. But after its rapid ascent as the prototypical American city (after the lifting of its ground, the invention of the Ferris Wheel, and the reversal of the river), today’s Chicago architecture is a shadow of its inventive past. The Monument to Missed Opportunities proposed here is, therefore, as much a reminder as it is an archive and a celebration of projects that never saw the light of day; yet nevertheless remain fundamental for architecture and urbanism, as well as for the history of Chicago. Projects such as Adolf Loos’ Tribune Tower entry, Ludwig Hilberseimer’s vision for Chicago and Stanley Tigerman’s Instant City are captured in a massive cube by a structural mesh that holds each in mid-air. Now these monuments appear as architectural ghosts, a second skyline and a challenge to the status-quo, utterly different from the one we see in the distance.
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10 minute walk