

# THE DRAPER APARTMENTS

<b>CITY AREA</b>	Far North Side
<b>NEIGHBORHOOD</b>	Uptown
<b>DEVELOPER</b>	Cedar Street Cos.
<b>ARCHITECT</b>	Booth Hansen
<b>PROJECT TYPE</b>	Residential
<b>PROJECT STATUS</b>	Completed, November 2019

Prolific Chicago developer Cedar Street Companies has completed their [largest residential conversion](#) to date on the 5000 block of North Broadway in Uptown. The Draper's 342 apartments occupy the former Combined Insurance building, a 12-story midcentury modern office block. [The building](#) was gut-renovated and re-clad in glass by architect Booth Hansen. Named for fictional ad man Don Draper from the TV series *Mad Men*, Cedar Street took the interior design in an obvious direction with plush midcentury furniture and 1950s Polynesian tiki decor.

The transit-oriented building supplies no new parking, being so close to the CTA Argyle Red Line station, but residents can use an existing garage across the street as needed. Zoning approval is in hand for a second phase of this project involving two new seven-story buildings located across the street. This will bring the total unit count to 710, all on one formerly underdeveloped block.

At the same time, the developer has bought the historic Bridgeview Bank office building with the intention of converting it to more market-rate housing. Existing tenants, including non-profit service organizations like RefugeeOne and Illinois Action for Children, are being [forced to relocate](#), adding to concerns of rapid gentrification in Uptown. Cedar Street has been at the heart of a citywide debate over the loss of single-room-occupancy (SRO) rentals through de-conversion. This is often seen as an accelerant of gentrification sweeping through neighborhoods like Uptown, Pilsen, and Humboldt Park.



Courtesy of Cedar Street Cos.

#### Further reading:

[Turning dated Uptown offices into midcentury-inspired apartments.](#)  
Jay Koziarz, Curbed Chicago, November 26, 2019.

[The Draper.](#) Developer website.

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