

# CHICAGO ARCHITECTURE FOUNDATION

## Media Release

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### **CAF celebrates National Engineers Week during the month of February**

**Try your hand as an engineer and learn about engineering feats such as the Willis Tower and Washington Monument during this celebration month**

**Chicago, Ill.**—Engineers are responsible for almost everything we use in our everyday life—from leisure activities to medical treatment, mobile phones to transportation systems and bus shelters to skyscrapers. Throughout February, the Chicago Architecture Foundation (CAF) is celebrating these innovators through a variety of public programs designed to engage youth and adult learners in the many facets of the engineering profession.

Through National Engineers Week programming, CAF not only celebrates the achievements of engineers who contribute to our quality of life, but works to engage future generations of engineers to discover how this profession impacts our daily lives.

CAF celebrates National Engineers Week during the month of February with the following programming:

**February 6, 12:15pm, FREE**

**LunchTalks@CAF: How Did They Do That? Engineering of the Washington Monument**

**Location: CAF Lecture Hall, 224 S. Michigan Ave.**

**Joshua Freedland, Associate Principal, Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc.**

On August 23, 2011, a 5.8Mw earthquake was recorded by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) within the Central Virginia Seismic Zone, centered approximately 84 miles southwest of Washington, D.C. near Mineral, Va. During the earthquake, the Washington Monument, the tallest unreinforced stone structure at over 550 feet completed in 1884, was damaged. Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates used industrial rope access to inspect the monument, record damage and remove loose spalls. This talk will examine the work of the interdisciplinary team including the inspection, materials analysis and design and briefly summarize the upcoming repair project.

AIA CES: 1

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## CAF celebrates Engineers Week in February—page two

**February 13, 12:15pm, FREE**

**LunchTalks@CAF: How Did They Do That? Engineering Feats of Thornton Tomasetti—A Look Under Chicago's Block 37**

**Joseph G. Burns, S.E., P.E., F.ASCE, FAIA, LEED AP, Managing Principal, Thornton Tomasetti**

**Location: CAF Lecture Hall, 224 S. Michigan Ave.**

Join Joseph Burns for a look beneath the skin of this complex project: the structure, its foundations and how it was constructed. Take a rare look at provisions for a future train station beneath the block and future residential towers along Randolph.

AIA CES: 1

**February 20, 12:15pm, FREE**

**LunchTalks@CAF: How Did They Do That? Glass Engineering in Architecture**

**Tom Jacobs, Krueck & Sexton Architects, AIA**

**Location: CAF Lecture Hall, 224 S. Michigan Ave.**

The technological improvements in glass over the last 20 years have had a dramatic effect on architectural design and engineering. Glass is among the most chameleon of materials because of its breakable, structural, transparent, and opaque properties. Tom Jacobs will discuss his firm's experience with projects as diverse as the Crown Fountain in Millennium Park to a new high security GSA building in South Florida.

AIA CES: 1

**Tuesday February 26, 5:30pm reception, 6pm lecture**

**Skyscrapers—Past, Present, Future**

**Dr. Shankar Nair, Senior Vice President, exp US Services, Inc.**

**Cost: FREE! But registration is required**

**Location: Lecture Hall, 224 S. Michigan Ave.**

**Register: [www.architecture.org](http://www.architecture.org)**

Think tall and spend this evening exploring fundamental engineering principles that drove the evolution of tall structures. This free program, presented in collaboration with the Structural Engineers Association, will feature Dr. Shankar Nair who outlines the history of the skyscraper by highlighting various engineering inventions that have improved functionality and height. Dr. Nair will address the present surge in super-tall buildings and will discuss trends for the future. This program is presented in partnership with the Structural Engineers Foundation.

AIA CES: 1

**February 27, 12:15pm, FREE**

**LunchTalks@CAF: How Did They Do That? The Revitalization of a Chicago Landmark, The (Sears) Willis Tower Skydeck**

**Terry McDonnell, PE SE SECB PEng, expUS Service, Inc.**

**Location: Lecture Hall, 224 S. Michigan Ave.**

At 1,640 feet, Chicago's Willis Tower, formerly known as Sears Tower, is the tallest building in the Americas. To further enhance the spectacular experience of standing atop the tower, four retractable structural glass observation boxes were designed to protrude from the building, enabling guests to look straight down to the street below. The boxes operate on a track that projects the structures four feet past the tower's façade. This lecture will, in 30 minutes, summarize the conception for this new attraction, discuss the engineering and design considerations behind the Ledge, and also discuss some of the general construction issues.

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## CAF celebrates Engineers Week in February—page three

**Sunday, February 17, 2013, 11am to 3pm, FREE**

**CAF Family Studio Sundays**

**"Engineering the 21st Century City"**

**Location: CAF Lecture Hall, Morse Studio, Atrium, 224 S. Michigan Ave.**

Families with kids ages 5-18 will delight in bridge and skyscraper design and construction activities, a large-scale, participatory project and a closer look at the engineering behind the world's tallest building. This program is presented in partnership with the Structural Engineers Foundation.

**Saturday, February 23, 10am to 2:30pm, FREE**

**"Building and Testing" Saturday in the Studio**

**Location: Illinois Institute of Technology's Crown Hall, 3360 S. State St.**

CAF and CAF Teens hosts an engineering-focused edition of its "Saturdays in the Studio" series for high school students. Centered on a theme of "Building and Testing," teens will have the opportunity to learn about simple structural principals and put their designs through a series of tests to see if they hold up!

For more information visit [www.architecture.org/engineersweek](http://www.architecture.org/engineersweek).

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The Chicago Architecture Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to inspire people to discover why design matters. The CAF pursues this mission through architecture tours, exhibitions, panel discussions and youth and adult education programs. A permanent exhibition, *Chicago Model City*, includes a highly detailed scale model of Chicago. The Chicago Architecture Foundation is located at 224 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60604. For further information visit [www.architecture.org](http://www.architecture.org) or call 312.922.3432 or become a Facebook fan: [www.facebook.com/chiarchitecture](https://www.facebook.com/chiarchitecture) or follow on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/chiarchitecture](https://www.twitter.com/chiarchitecture).