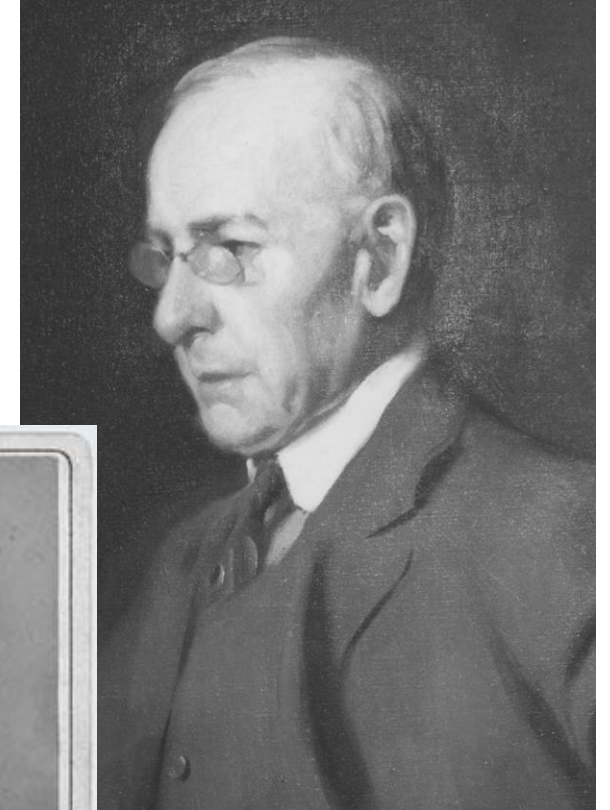


1. Daniel Burnham and Louis Sullivan: Infusing Spirituality into Everyday Architecture



2.The City Beautiful Legacy



3. “Sullivan-esque” (and FLW)



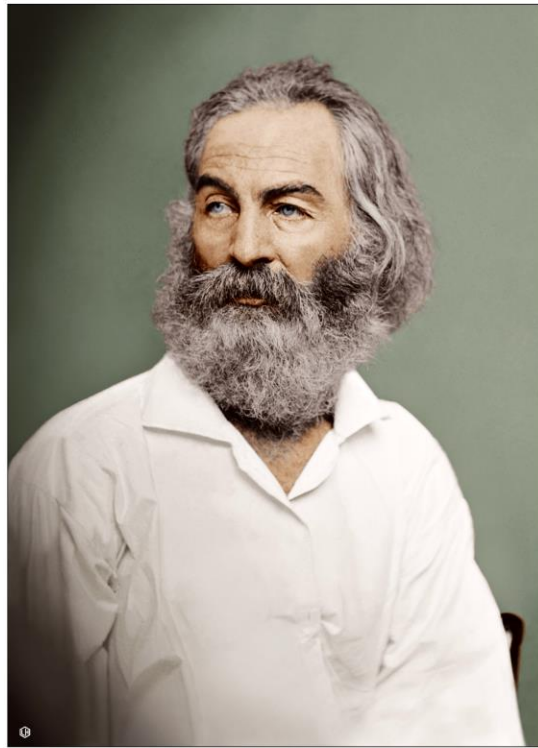


***Opening lines of
“Inspiration,” Louis Sullivan’s
Address to Western
Association of Architects,
November 1886***

**When birds are caroling, and
breezes swiftly fly, when large
abundant nature greets the
eye, clothed in fresh filagree
of tender green, when all is
animation and endeavor,
when days are lengthening ,
and storm clouds smiling
weep, when fresh from every
nook springs forth new life—
then does the heart awake in**

**springtime gladness, breezy
and melodious as the air, to
join the swelling anthem of
rejuvenated life, to mate with
birds and flowers and
breezes, spontaneous and
jubilant as the flow of dawn,
to pulsate ardently with hope,
rich in desire so tremulously
keen,—then wondrous joy to
simply live,—and question not,
to walk into the ample air, to
open wide the portals of the
winter-bounded soul and
eagerly to hail the new-born
world with voice like mountain
torrent quick melted from the
heart’s accumulated snows,—
even so eagerly and so
voluminously does the song
gush forth and wildly leap,
tumultuous as nature’s self,—
to fall in gentle spray upon
the misty valley below, and
there, to live bound up within
the very life it sung.**

5. Louis Sullivan to Walt Whitman, February 3, 1887



Walt Whitman, 1860

"To a man who can resolve himself into subtle union with Nature and Humanity as you have done, who can blend the soul harmoniously with materials, who sees good in all and o'erflows in sympathy toward all things, enfolding them with his spirit; to such a man I joyfully give the name of Poet—the most precious of all names."

6. Nature Embedded in Art

“A certain kind of ornament should appear on a certain kind of structure, just as a certain kind of leaf should appear on a certain kind of tree.” --Louis Sullivan

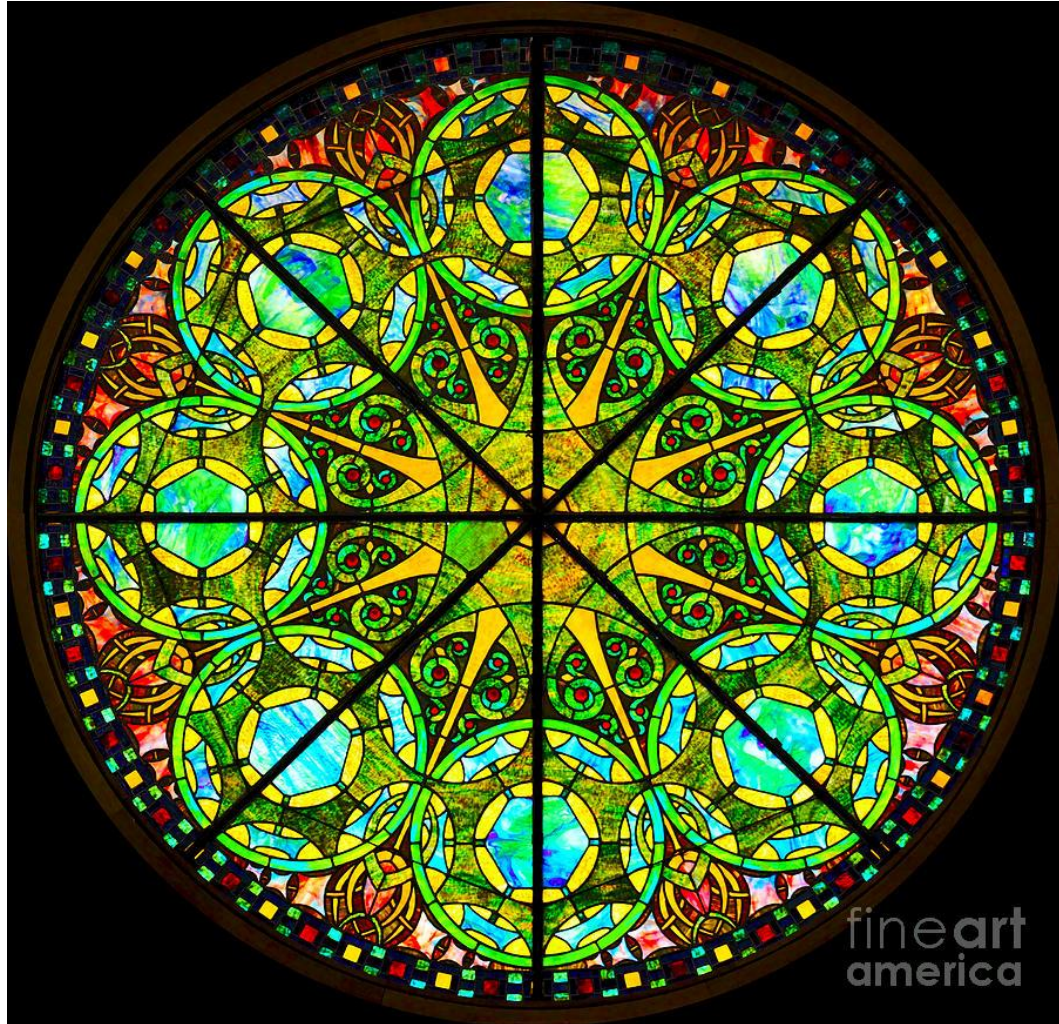


7. National Farmers' Bank, Owatonna, MN





“DID THIS USED TO BE A CHURCH?”

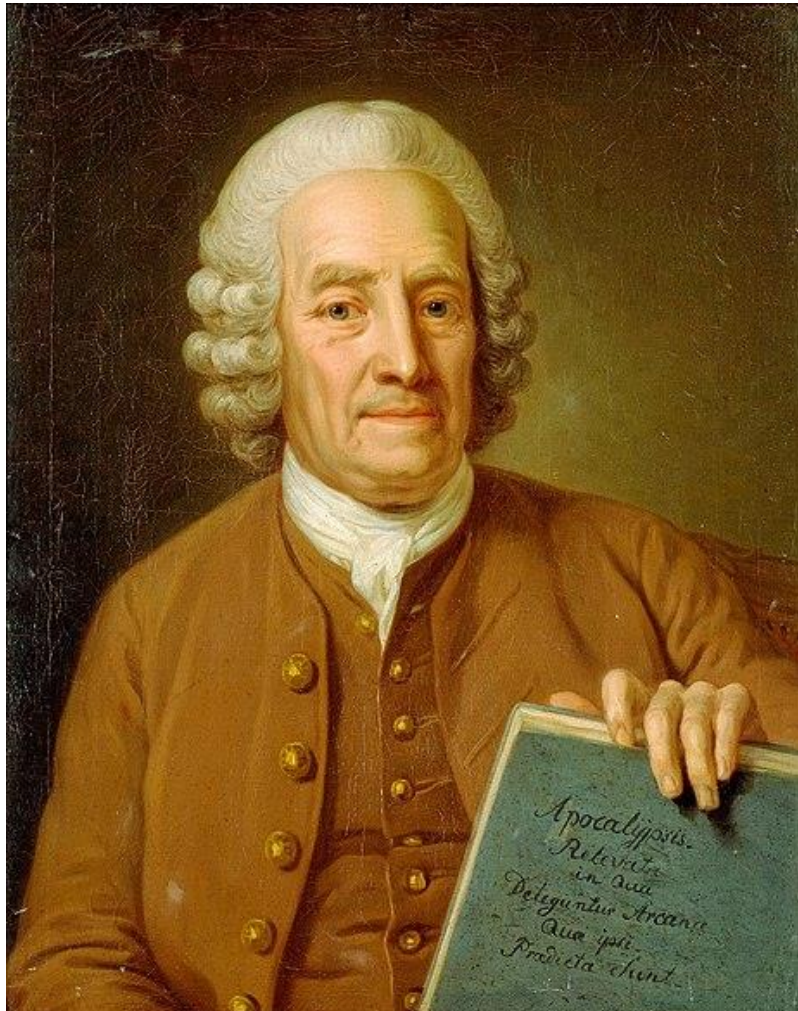


10. Point One!

Sullivan immersed himself in the Nature-obsessed language and thought of the 19th Century Romantic movement, and believed the spiritual uplift derived from Nature could be infused in commercial structures.



11. A Swedenborgian Heaven



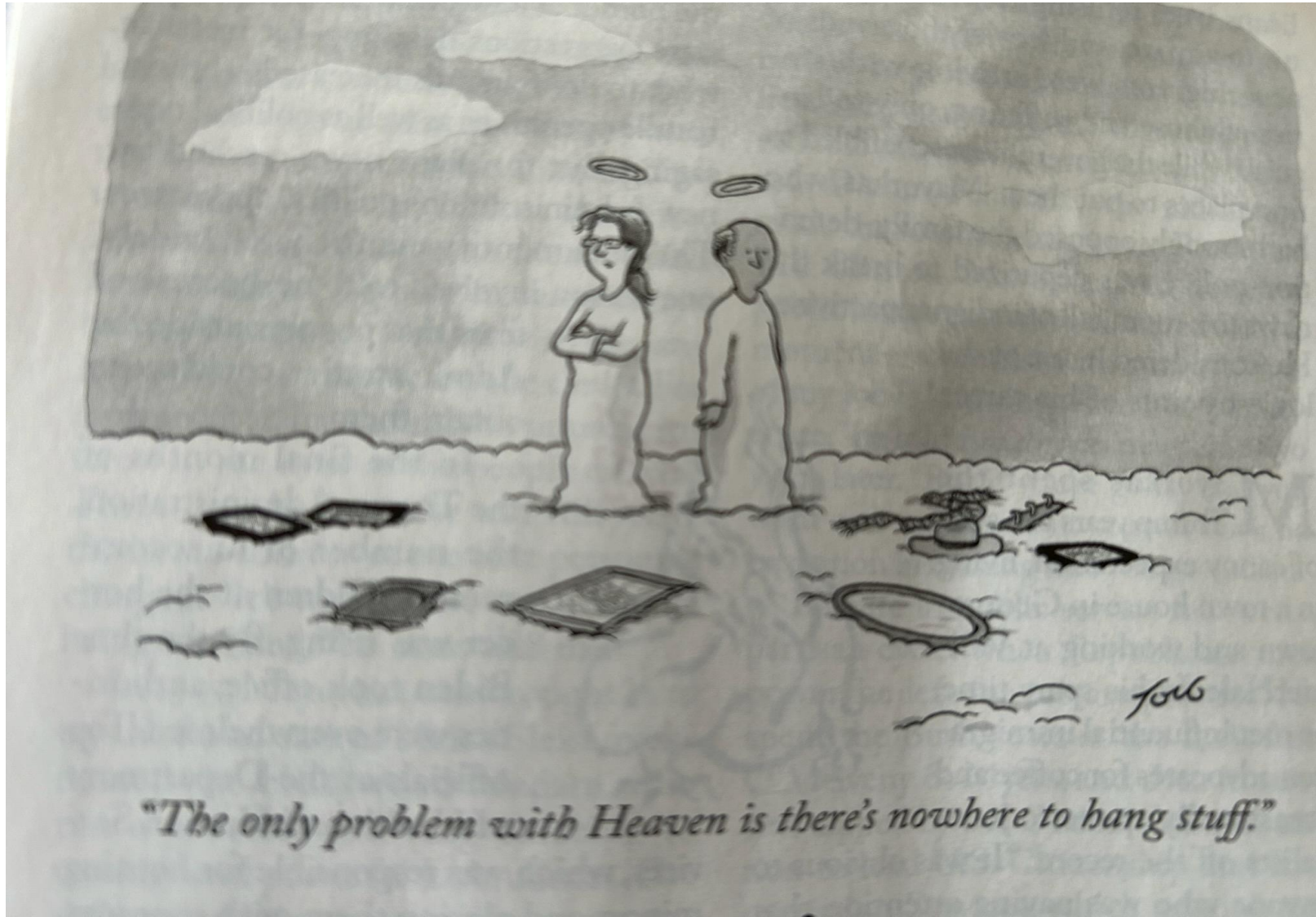
- God is One, the traditional doctrine of the Trinity is wrong; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are simply different dimensions of a single deity.
- Vicarious atonement is a myth; Christ's death had nothing to do with the erasure of anyone's sins.
- "Correspondences" between the spiritual and material worlds are all around us if we have eyes to see them (e.g., every material action and object expresses a corresponding spiritual truth: a tree may represent spiritual growth, water may represent the cleansing power of truth, biblical passages contain spiritual messages beyond their literal meaning).
- Angels and spirits of departed loved ones are all around us and are engaged in continuous interactions with each other.
- Souls of men and women will enjoy eternal marriage in heaven, and they will live lives much like the lives they chose on earth and in a familiar earth-like environment.

"Whenever I have talked with angels face to face, I have been with them in their abodes. These abodes are precisely like abodes on the earth which we call houses, but more beautiful. In them there are chambers, parlors, and bedrooms in great number; there are also courts, and there are gardens and flower beds and lawns round about. Where they live together their houses are near each other, arranged one next to the other in the form of a city, with avenues, streets, and public squares, exactly like cities on the earth. I have been permitted to pass through them, looking about on every side, and sometimes entering the houses."

--Emanuel Swedenborg, *Heaven and Its Wonders and Hell, From Things Seen and Heard*, Item 184

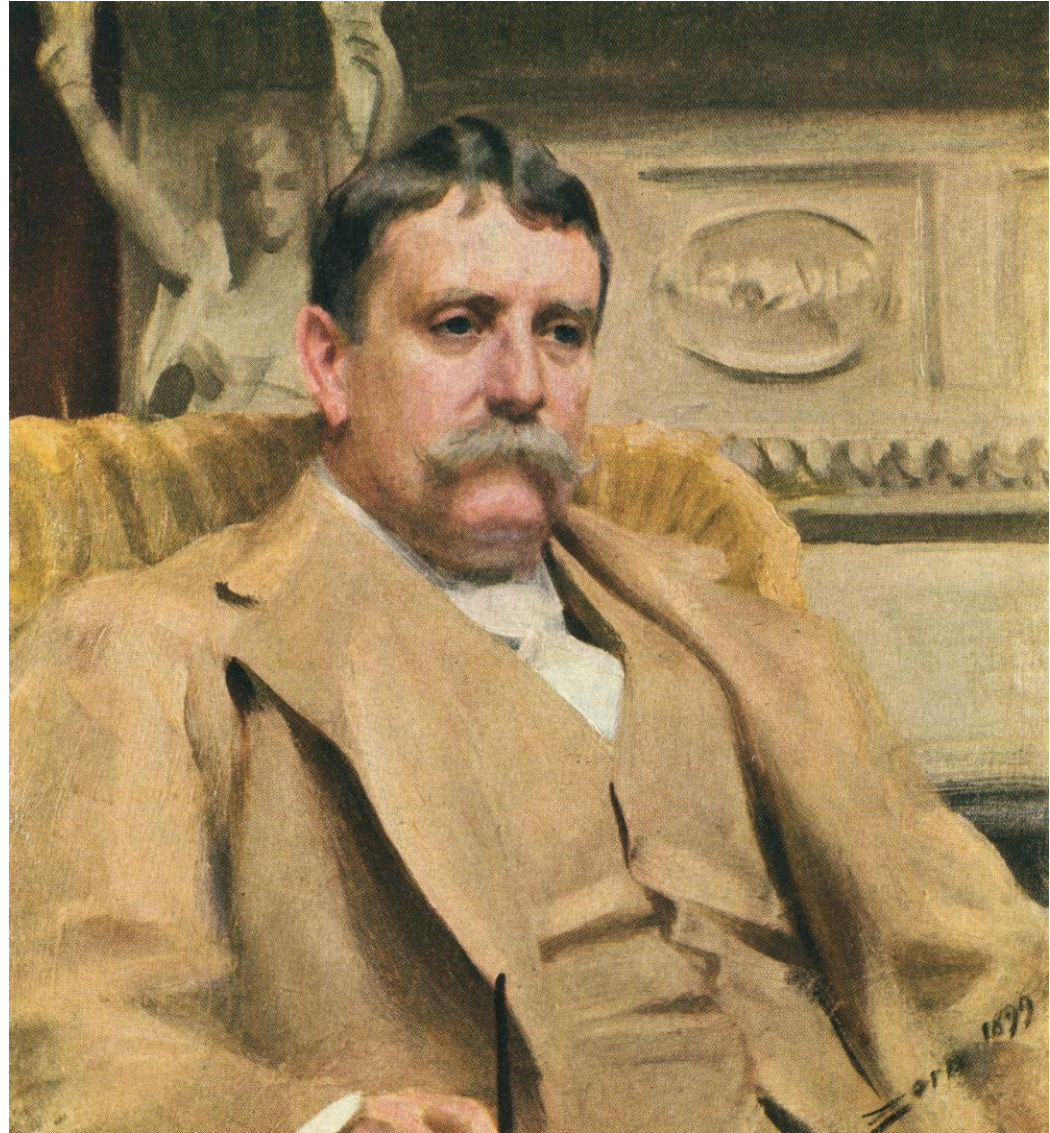
12. The Swedenborg Solution

New Yorker, Feb. 26, 2024

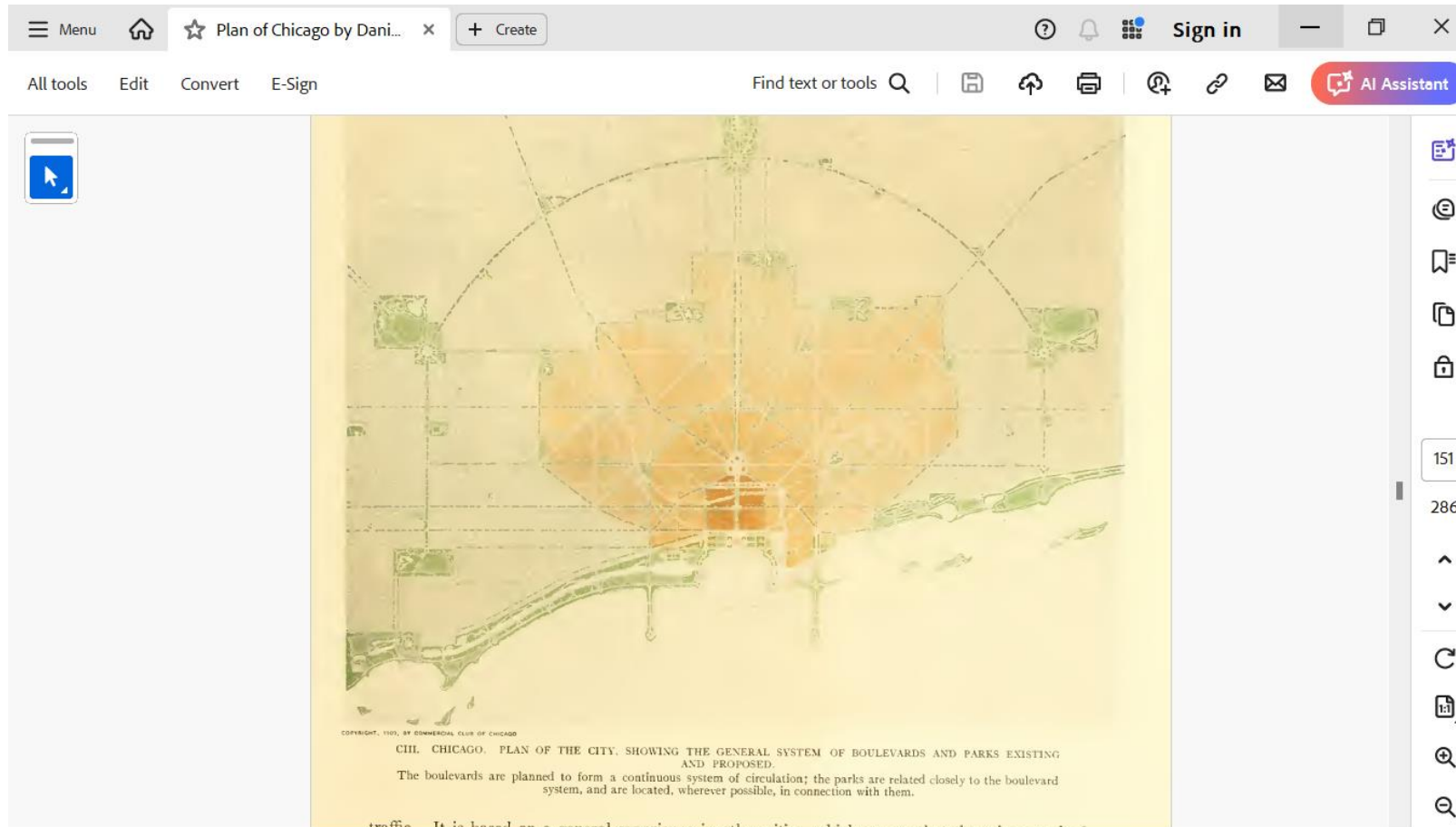


13. Transcendental Architecture

Edward Bennett visited Burnham during a hospital stay in February 1908 and expressed concern that Burnham “was in real danger. As usual, he was serene. We talked of Swedenborg, or, rather I listened to him discourse on the subject, and came away strengthened in purpose.” A few days later, visiting Burnham in Evanston, Bennett noted that Swedenborg’s teachings were very much still on Burnham’s mind: “We talked of the plan [of Chicago] but more of the philosophy of life—and his belief of the infinite possibilities of material expression of the spiritual.



14. “The coloration emphasizes the concentric rings of streets, boulevards, and parkways around the heart of the city. This concentricity was similar to that of the spiritual or heavenly realm described by Emanuel Swedenborg.” –Kristen Schaffer



15. “[A]ll things in the universe were created by Divine love and Divine wisdom [and] this was done by means of the sun, which is the first proceeding of Divine love and Divine wisdom. No one can deny that the sun is the first of creation, for all things that are in its world have perpetual existence from it.”

--Emanuel Swedenborg, *Angelic Wisdom Concerning Divine Love and Divine Wisdom*, item #152

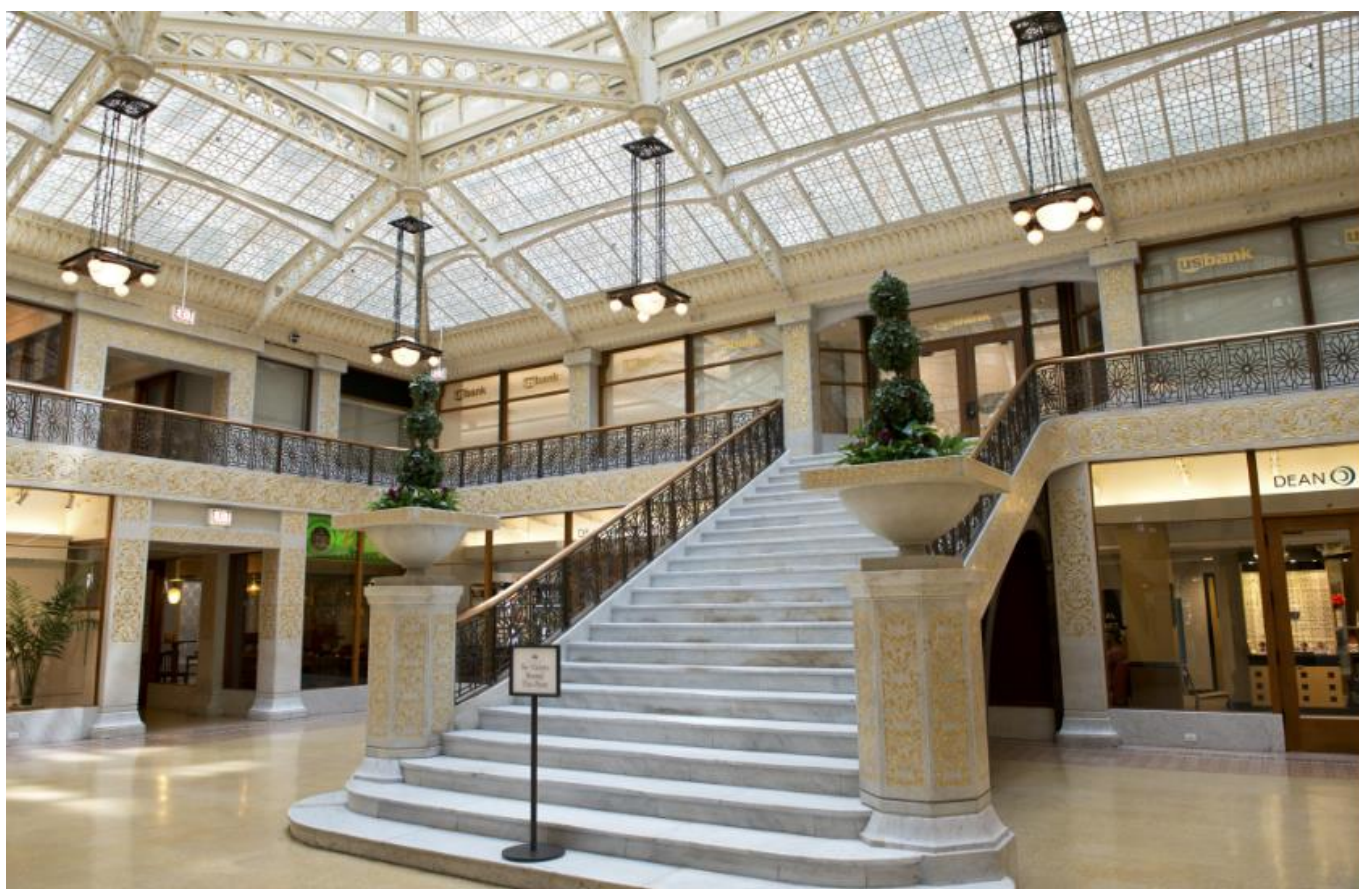
“It may be broadly said that the experience of the last few years has shown that children brought up in sun-lit rooms have some percentage of better health and better moral tone, everything else being equal, than those who have lived the majority of their lives in north rooms.”

--Daniel Burnham, unpublished excerpt from *Plan of Chicago*

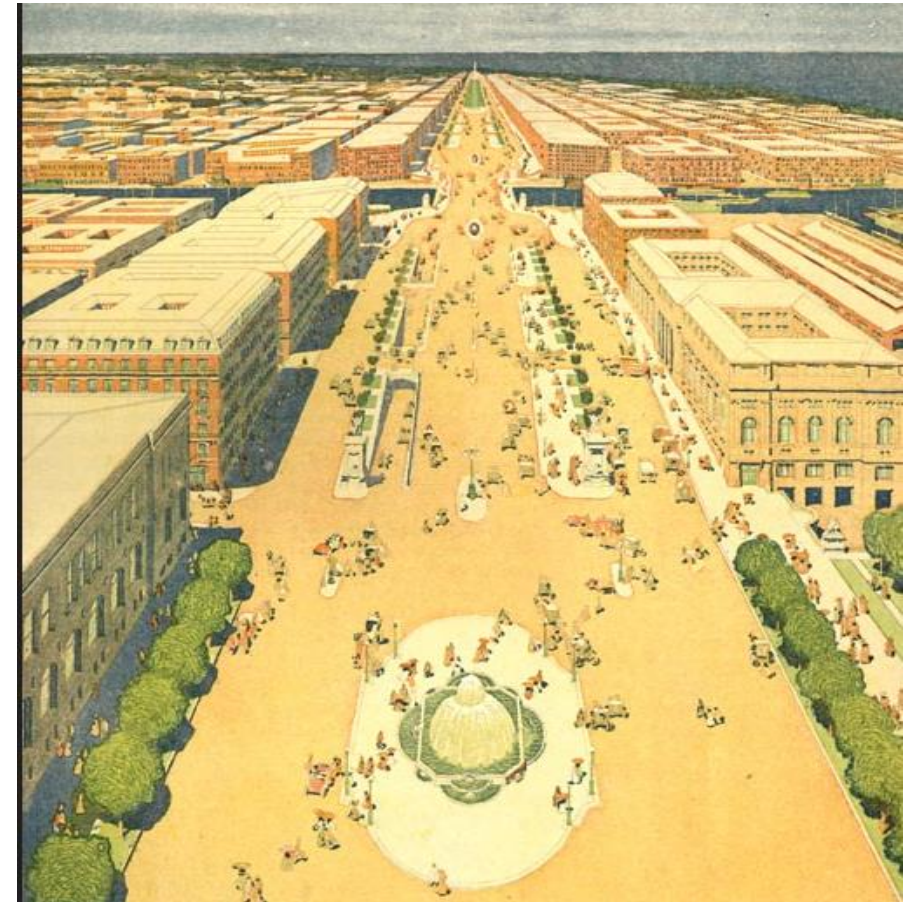


16. Let There Be Light. . . .

The Rookery, Burnham and Root, 1885



Michigan Ave., *Plan of Chicago*, 1909



17. Touched by God?

“You artists, who shut the eyes of your body and see glorious visions through the power of imagination, which is fed by your longing to behold the unattainable; you men of Architecture, Painting, and Sculpture, God let you see a glorious ~~your dreams~~ [dream] stand still for awhile instead of instantly passing away.

[Typescript of “The Organization, Design and Construction of the Fair,” D. H. Burnham, Chicago, January 7, 1895, p. 71]



18. Of those who worked on the fair, Burnham said their souls had been

“played upon by higher hand, and the outward forms of what we built were expressions of enduring everlasting law—they were beautiful because of this.”

[Daniel Burnham, “The Uses of Expositions,”
Chicago Literary Club, 15 April 1895]



19. Point 2: Like Louis Sullivan, Daniel Burnham believed that material objects, including commercial buildings, can express spirituality. In Burnham's case, the teachings of Swedenborg never lurk far below the surface.

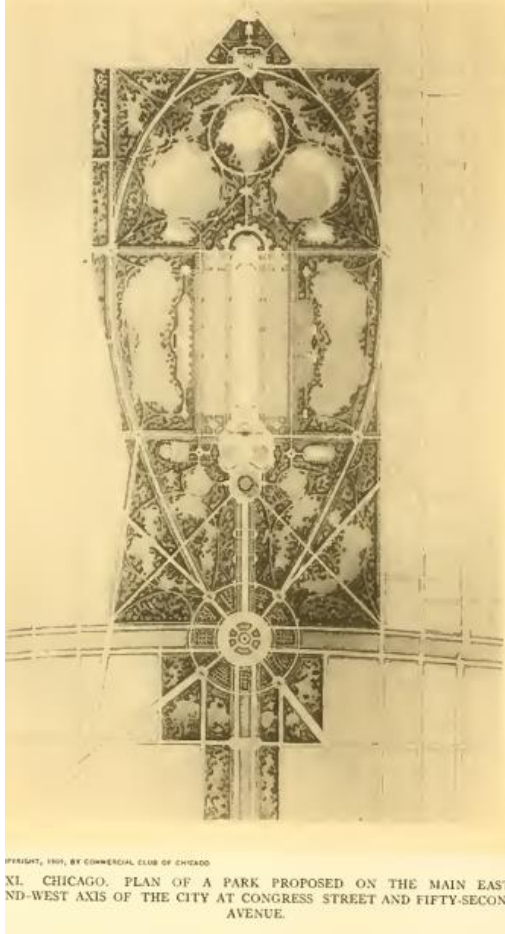


A Non-Architect's Suggestions for Viewing Burnham and Sullivan Buildings:

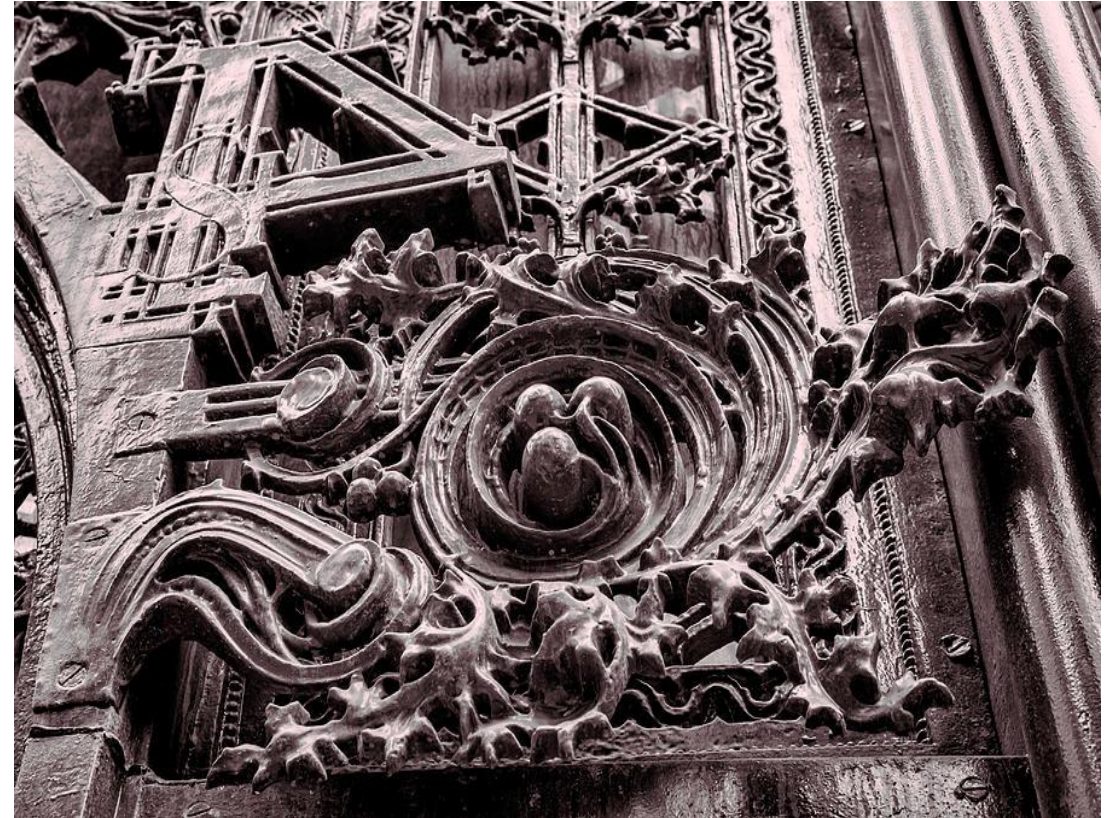
1. Look to the avenues of natural light



2. Look to How These Architects Infuse and Incorporate Nature in Their Designs



3. Remember—God is in the Details



4. In architecture, language (sometimes really does) matter . . .

“Less is more” – Mies Van Der Rohe

“Form follows function” – Louis Sullivan

“Of the hill, not on the hill”
–Frank Lloyd Wright

*“Let your watchword be order and your
beacon beauty.”* –Daniel Burnham

“Architecture is the art of how to waste
space” –Philip Johnson

“A house is a machine for living in.”
–Le Corbusier

“There are no straight lines or corners in nature.”
–Antoni Gaudi

“When we build, let us think that we build forever.”
– John Ruskin

“ARCHITECTURE IS FROZEN MUSIC.”
–JOHANN WOLFGANG VON GOETHE

“Less is a bore.” –Robert Venturi

“Architecture begins where engineering ends.”
–Walter Gropius

