

# CHICAGO ARCHITECT

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*The manufacturing floor of Method's "South Side Soapbox" factory*

PHOTO BY METHOD



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 The work of Edward Dart

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PHOTO BY DARRIS LEE HARRIS

surrounding spaces, it was imperative for the design of the store to acknowledge and complement the area's history and architecture.

"One of the things we're trying to do is respect the boulevard," Doig says. "We've brought the building right to the hard corner rather than the typical approach."

Part of the plan for helping integrate the new Mariano's store into the Bronzeville area is through artwork that will be displayed on a fence surrounding the parking lot. "We're planning to do some artwork that will go along Pershing Road, using images of Bronzeville and historic figures of Bronzeville," Doig says.

While the planned artwork around the store incorporates the history of the neighborhood, the store itself has a "very sleek and modern" design, according to Doig. "The intent was not to try to compete with the historic fabric of the boulevard but to differentiate from it," he says.

To help the building fit in with its surroundings, Johnson says they plan to use materials that are found in neighboring structures, including a stone base and face brick. Part of the modern look is adding scale to the building and using plenty of clear and colored glass.

Echoing Mariano and Gallagher's enthusiasm for the project, members of the Bronzeville



A rendering of the southwest corner of Mariano's in Bronzeville.

community have also expressed excitement about how the decision to build a Mariano's in their neighborhood will further develop the area.  
by Chelsea Sherlock

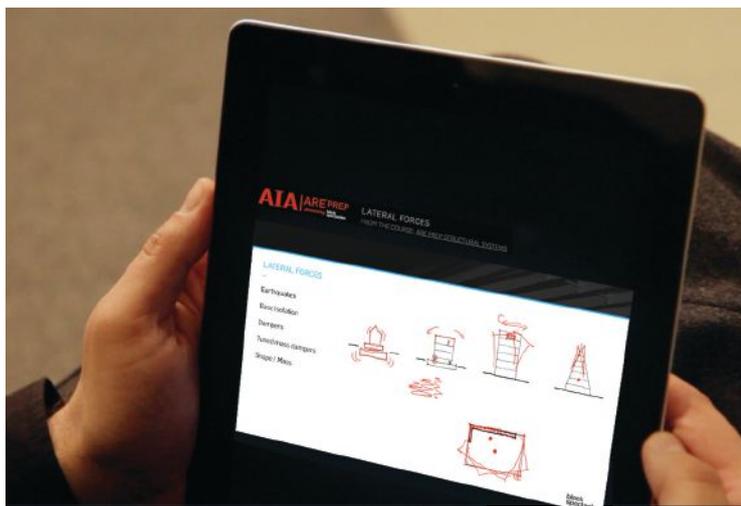


PHOTO COURTESY OF MARC TEER

## PREPPING FOR THE ARE

AIA Chicago online ARE prep course goes national

**IT WAS ONLY LAST YEAR WHEN AIA CHICAGO PARTNERED WITH BLACK SPECTACLES, AN ONLINE ARCHITECTURE EDUCATION COMPANY, TO LAUNCH THE WORLD'S FIRST WEB-BASED PROGRAM** to help architects pass the Architecture Registration Exam (ARE). Now, as a result of the recently announced partnership between AIA National and Black Spectacles to offer the courses as an official AIA product, the

program is poised to grow from its nascent beginnings in Chicago.

Marc Teer, AIA, an architect with a knack for film production and web programming, founded Black Spectacles in 2010 and launched the website's first courses, which focused on software, in 2012. At around the same time, AIA Chicago was also thinking about developing an online course for the ARE.

"I thought, 'We have amazing architects here in Chicago. What if we partnered with some of them to build courses that we could offer online, to help folks learn software, and offered it at an affordable price?'" Teer explains of the program's beginnings.

"I've been running an in-person ARE class since 2010 at AIA Chicago. We had people who wanted to attend but were not able to because they were outside of Illinois," says Joan Pomaranc, program director, AIA Chicago. "So, the question was, how do we make our course available to people outside of Illinois?"

According to Pomaranc, AIA Chicago tried partnering with various groups to develop the course and found the right fit with Teer. "Marc had already started his Black Spectacles business, and we knew him very well. He's been a committee leader [at AIA Chicago] and we've stayed in touch with him through AIA Chicago activities," Pomaranc says. "It was a very comfortable relationship."

To develop the course, Teer and Mike Newman of SHED 5studio—who was teaching an ARE course at AIA Chicago—expanded Newman's curriculum for the new online course.

"We spent many Saturdays and Sundays together in the conference room at AIA Chicago—[Marc] with all of the equipment and me with all my sketches of drawings," Newman says. "We would pick a topic, I would get prepared for it during the week, and then we would plow through and make it happen."

The course is broken up into seven sections, which correspond to the seven parts of the ARE. The sections are then broken down into smaller, 5-10 minute long, topical video lectures led by Newman. The courses vary in total duration,

with the shortest running about four hours and the longest running close to 11 hours. For \$99 per month, users are given unrestricted access to all ARE prep tutorials on the Black Spectacles website, which allows them flexibility in how they utilize the resource.

bKL Architecture's Laura Crane, co-chair of the Young Architects Forum at AIA Chicago, noted how beneficial the online course has been for her and her colleagues. "I use it. I've told some of my peers and they use it, and we've all agreed that it's either a really great introduction, or a really great wrapup," says Crane, who recently passed her fourth exam.

As a complement to the courses, and to add in some sense of camaraderie with fellow online course takers, Black Spectacles launched a series of live webinars that take place once every other month. "We partnered with the Young Architects Forum, and every other month we go to a different architecture firm, where Newman does a one-hour seminar for the firm's employees as well as attendees from Chicago's architecture community," Teer says.

**"IT'S INTERESTING THAT A PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION LIKE THE AIA CAN PARTNER WITH A PRIVATE COMPANY TO HELP THEIR MEMBERS. THIS HAS PROVEN TO BE A VALUABLE PARTNERSHIP FOR BOTH OF US."**

— MARC TEER

Black Spectacles also simultaneously broadcasts the session live on its site for free, giving viewers the opportunity to get immediate responses to their questions. According to Teer, there have been hundreds of participants to the webinar.

The success of the full program has led to a partnership with AIA National, making the program now available to an even larger audience. The course, now rebranded as "AIA ARE Prep: Powered by Black Spectacles," is offered as an official product of AIA National and was announced in May. And although it is still only available on the Black Spectacles website, the program is offered at a discounted rate to all AIA members and can be accessed through the AIA National site.

The program continues to grow from its beginnings as an AIA Chicago offshoot. Teer and Newman plan to expand the online offerings to include a broader range of topics, as well as interviews and other types of videos to help people view the information in different ways.

"It's interesting that a professional organization like the AIA can partner with a private company to help their members," says Teer. "You don't see it very often, but this has proven to be a valuable partnership for both of us."

by Williette Nyanue

## REVIVING THE ARTISTIC SPIRIT

In Bronzeville, a historic structure is transformed into live/work artists lofts

**THE BRONZEVILLE ARTISTS LOFTS ON THE SOUTH SIDE IS THE ONLY LIVE/WORK DEVELOPMENT** in the Bronzeville neighborhood. The building occupies the site of the former Jones Brothers Ben Franklin store, once the largest African American-owned department store in the country.

The husband-and-wife team of Wrap Architecture, Cheryl Noel, AIA, LEED AP, and Ravi Ricker, AIA, LEED Assoc., became involved with the adaptive reuse project after Three Corners Development selected their proposal. Revere Properties and Three Corners developed and managed the site's transformation into 16 open-loft apartments, which were completed in June 2014.

The development had heavy institutional support from 3rd Ward Alderman Pat Dowell, who selected the site for rehabilitation through the federally funded Neighborhood Stabilization Program. "These investments made by the City of Chicago, Revere Properties and Three Corners will help stimulate the economy of 47th Street and give new life to an important retail corridor," said Dowell at the beginning of the project.

Noel and Ricker, working with structural engineer Joe Farrugia of GFGR Inc. Architects Engineers, immediately identified issues that were different from what the city's reports relayed. "There was a series of walls that appeared to be



PHOTO COURTESY OF WRAP ARCHITECTURE

*The rehabilitation of this historic building in the Bronzeville neighborhood was made possible through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program and led by 3rd Ward Ald. Pat Dowell.*