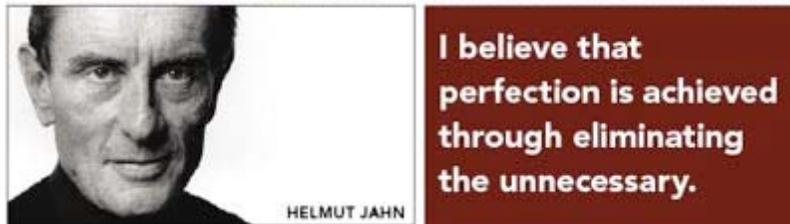


'TAKING FIVE' WITH A STARCHITECT



Chicago is famous as a visually appealing city by the lake, full of attractive architecture, pristine landscapes and neighborhoods possessing personality and style. Perhaps the “bling” of the city is found through a handful of buildings designed in contemporary form.

The architects who design contemporary residences have become as famous as a fashion designer might be on the Red Carpet at the Academy Awards. “Starchitects,” or architects whose celebrity and critical acclaim have transformed them into idols of the architecture world, are in demand as top talent by those developers wishing to increase the value of their buildings.

A well-known starchitect, Helmut Jahn, designed 600 N. Fairbanks in Chicago. Jahn has been known to draw quite a crowd and has been called Chicago’s premier architect, dramatically changing the face of the city. Jahn’s commitment to design excellence and improvement of the urban environment has garnered for him a healthy fan base.

1. What are your architectural background and philosophy? I was born in Germany and graduated from the Technische Hochschule in Munich. I came to the United States for graduate studies in architecture at the Illinois Institute of Technology. My vision is to merge advanced engineering and architectural concepts, by applying my vision to elegant, modern structures. I like to push the boundaries of architecture to create memorable and relevant buildings.

2. How has European architecture influenced you? Europe has encouraged innovation in technology and materials. The expectations for living accommodations are high in Europe in such areas as fresh air, light and visual privacy. The best European influences are combined with sleek new contemporary architecture at 600 N. Fairbanks. The residences have been thoughtfully designed to reach an audience of buyers who are seeking open flowing designed spaces, loft-like attributes in volume, character and feel, combined with an abundance of glass, light and exposed concrete.

3. What is your main vision when it comes to modern architecture? I believe that perfection is achieved through eliminating the unnecessary. I use a method called Arch-Neering, which is design that integrates the best architectural and engineering techniques to make buildings that are inviting, sustainable and supremely functional. I have applied this method and vision to elegant, modern structures like 600 N. Fairbanks, which is open, functional and filled with light. Raising the bar for 21st Century living, it sets a standard by changing how we experience architecture.

4. Why did you choose Chicago as your main headquarters over other U.S. cities? I came to Chicago in the late-1960s, when the IBM building was designed and the Post-modern Era of design really started. I was also highly influenced by Ludwig Mies Van Der Rhoë, who designed great residential buildings here in Chicago. Chicago is the birthplace of Modern architecture, so it was an obvious choice to be here.

5. The property at 600 N. Fairbanks is your first residential high-rise building in North America. Tell us a little about this project.

[The property at] 600 N. Fairbanks is a very exciting project for me. With the world-class wave of new residential design in Chicago, I was eager to contribute. This opportunity became possible when I realized I was working with a developer who had an interest in designing something special, and who had a conviction to do a quality high-rise building that was different. We decided we wanted a transparent façade. You need to look out and bring air and light into the building. Inside, the design is minimalist with exposed concrete pillars and plenty of floor-to-ceiling glass, but not minimalist in quality. The building features high-end appliances, great fixtures and wonderful wood floors.

You can visit the 600 N. Fairbanks Sales Center at 610 N. Fairbanks, First Floor, Chicago 60610. You can also call 312.951.0807, or visit www.600northfairbanks.com.

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