

CHICAGO LANDMARKS

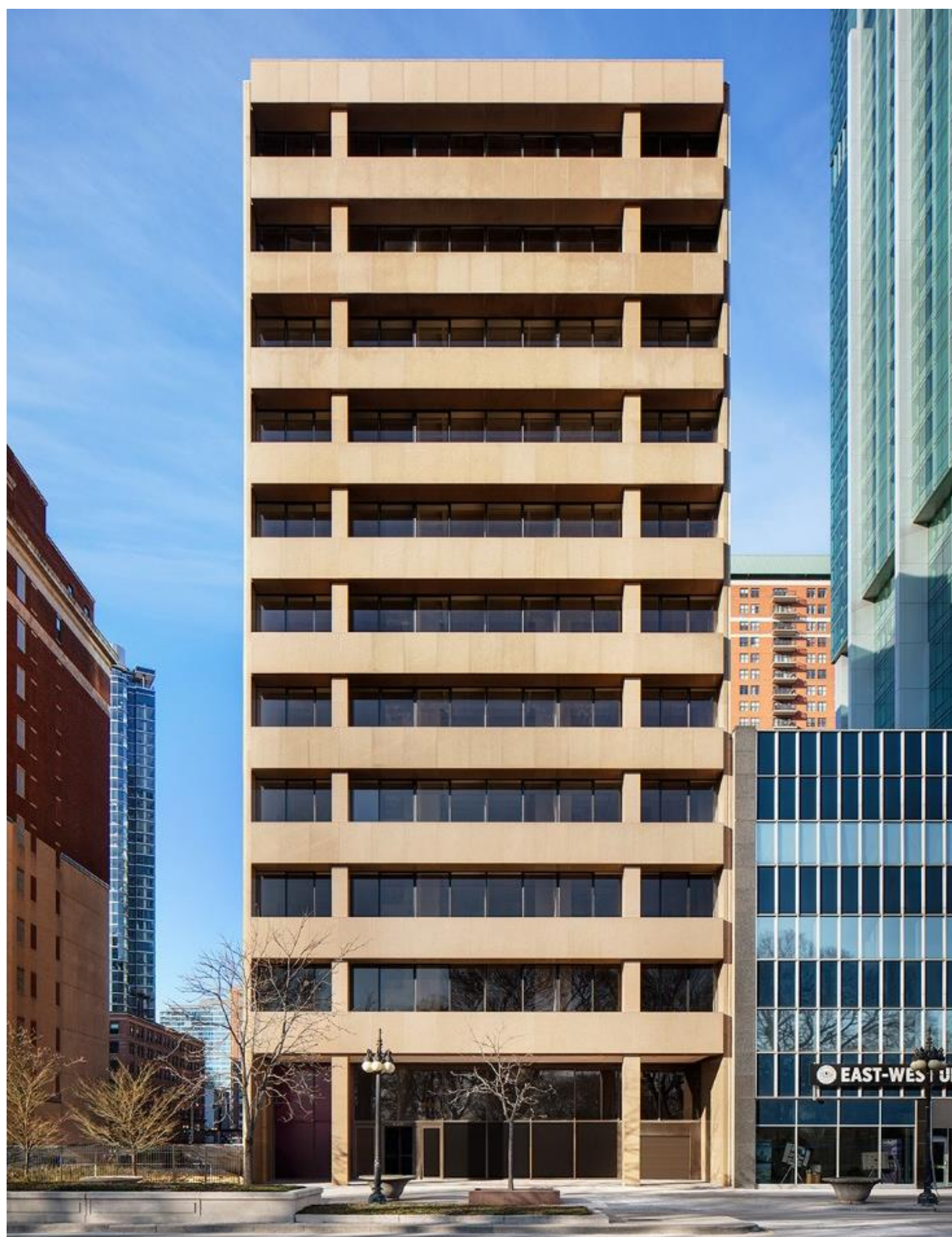


2019 PRESERVATION EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Johnson Publishing Building 820 South Michigan Avenue Adaptive Reuse

Recipient: 3L Real Estate, LLC

The Johnson Publishing Building, designed by John Warren Moutoussamy and completed in 1971, was the corporate headquarters for the Johnson Publishing Company for 45 years. In 1945, John H. Johnson had introduced *Ebony* magazine, followed by *Jet* magazine in 1951. The company expanded its operation to include an annual *Ebony* Fashion Fair in 1958, a traveling fashion show that raised millions for scholarships and other charitable endeavors. The building was acquired by 3L Real Estate in 2017 with the intention of converting the historic office building into 150 new apartments. In addition to the extensive interior work, the majority of exterior work was required to allow for the building's new use as residential apartments. The large windows spanning the front façade were replaced with carefully-detailed butt-glazing to recreate the wide expanses of glass integral to the building's historic facade, while accommodating code requirements for the new apartments. A new addition and roof deck were added and the iconic "Ebony JP Jet" was cleaned and restored in place. This project is an impressive example of how a commercial office building can be given new life. The Johnson Publishing Building was designated a Chicago Landmark on November 11, 2017.



after



after



before

after photos courtesy 3L Real Estate



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