



Howard Alan discovered a love of architecture at an early age. As a teenager in Chicago, that love was nurtured by his high school architecture instructor. Later, while a student at the School of Architecture of the University of Southern California, Alan was deeply affected by his contact with John Lautner, an early apprentice at Frank Lloyd Wright's Fellowship. His first private commission, at the age of 20, was built in Glendale, California.

After his junior year at USC, Alan went to San Francisco and worked for Charles Warren Callister, well known for his churches at Mills College in Oakland and Belvedere, California. His most enlightening education came while a student at the University of Oklahoma, where Bruce Goff, an Organic Architect and Chairman of The School of Architecture, encouraged his talent and to think responsibly.

For the past 30 years, Howard has been designing and constructing innovative urban buildings in Chicago. He has taught classes on vernacular Architecture and indigenous Planning at Columbia College, and has been an advocate of local urban planning in Lincoln Park. Howard is an avid furniture designer & fabricator.

Howard is a member of the Association of Licensed Architects and holds registration in Illinois and California. He is a past President and past Vice President of the Illinois Solar Energy Association (ISEA) and a board member for 30 years. His self built direct gain, Passive Solar heated studio, on Chicago's Armitage Avenue, was given an award for sustainability by the Union of International Architects and the American Institute of Architects in June of 1993.

Alan has given workshops on Passive Solar Building Design at the Midwest Renewable Energy Association's annual Solar Fair in Wisconsin for seven years and at the Illinois Renewable Energy Association's annual Fair for two seasons. Last October 24th he presented a talk on Organic Passive Solar Buildings, sponsored by Half Moon Seminars at IIT's Rice Campus in Wheaton, IL, and has given classes about Passive Solar Architecture for the Illinois Solar Energy Association and for his own Solar Business in 2009. Currently he is re-making the 3rd floor of his residence, on Armitage Ave. into a very efficient Passive Solar Organic living place; completed construction documents for Kestrel Development Company to build a Zero-net Energy Home to be built soon in Rockford, IL, and is working on final documents to construct a 4 story, energy efficient mixed use building in Chicago. In addition, he has designed and produced furniture for his own use and is currently marketing his "Alan Table" to the public.

www.howardalanarchitects.com

Warehouse/Office Building 1976:

60 Shore Drive, Hinsdale, IL

Description: A 43,000 sq ft Building with 4 warehousing and office units and the 2nd floor offices of the building developer's business. Included is a complete handball court and locker room. The Atrium serves employees and visitors by providing a separation from the harsh ambience of the industrial park, and the noise from the adjacent expressway.

All offices are accessed from within the atrium by walking through an open passage below the 2nd floor.

External siding is core-ten vertical standing seam panels. Ceiling heights in the warehouse are 18' to the underside of steel Joist roof structure. 50 ft. long semi trailers and tractors can loaded/ unloaded completely within the building. The louvers shading the south facing glass in the Atrium came into being later because the original HVAC system was unable to balance the heating and cooling of that space.

The building was sold some years age and original tenants have been replaced. The original signage has been replaced the last time I drove by.





Addition for William & Kadi Boone

1829 North Bissell St.
Chicago, IL. 60614

Penthouse 1993: A Design/Build Direct Gain Solar Addition in West Lincoln Park, Chicago, IL

Constructed above a 3 story apartment building, increasing the area of the 3rd floor apartment, this addition houses Bill and Kadi's master bedroom and bathroom, laundry facility, storage, plus their green growing space. A new large deck at the front of the addition is there for open activities.

The building is carried on steel joists supporting a lightweight concrete deck and tile finish floor to collect winter solar heat. South facing windows are shaded by a louvered overhang. Utility piping and ducting is located between the existing roof and the floor of the new addition. The sloping butterfly roof drains to the roof of a previous addition, avoiding the use of gutters and downspouts.



Studio: A Design/Build Direct Gain Solar Building.

The Goal: To make an environment that would represent our values: an effort to respond to the ecological conditions we are living with.

Built on the south end of my property, this Passive Solar Studio is designed to provide natural day lighting and winter solar heat. Solar access is through three rows of south facing clerestory windows. This 1100 sq. ft. two story building is Type 1 fire resistive construction with an exterior overcoat of urethane foam core insulation panels sheathed with a color coated metal outer skin. The 2nd story harvests the sun's energy and stores it in the solid masonry walls, concrete floor and tubes of water. Shades over the clerestories block out summer sun heat gain.

The studio was awarded a Citation by the American Institute of Architects in 1993 and the International Union of Architects for Sustainable Community Solution in the design and construction of this building.





Front Building Changes

849 Armitage Av.
Chicago, IL 60614

3rd Floor Transformation Begins 2007. Design/Build Direct Gain Solar Renovation in West Lincoln Park, Chicago, IL (In Construction)

This is proving to be the most efficient Passive Solar renovation project I've done as Architect, Builder and Owner, It all began with my 115 year old two story frame building's leaking roof. I'd been getting up there and patching areas each rainy season. Finally I had enough. I am an Architect! A solar Architect! It was time to turn the 2nd floor of my residence into a solar harvester. The old roof and structure had to be reconfigured to face south and bring the winter sun's heat into the entire space. Transforming space is one of joys of being an Architect.

These two pictures display where the project is now.

Efficiency: On January 15th 2009 @ 1:20 PM, a bright sun, blue sky day, the temperature outside was -1 deg F, the temperature inside was 67 deg F. All floor register openings were completely covered; only heat rising through the floor from below was helping out. Please view my website for construction photos.



R.S. Johnson Fine Art

645 N. Michigan Ave, 2nd Floor.
Chicago, IL 60611

This project means a lot to me. This gallery is now 47 years old, opening on the day John Kennedy was shot in Dallas. Hard to forget that evening. My client, Samuel E. Johnson, was a joy to work with. There was mutual trust between us. One does not have many such clients. The fact that the gallery is still in operation with little change, speaks well of the design and the directors: Ursula and R. Stanley Johnson.

The space in the Blair Building was raw as the whole building was close to being finished. New cement plaster walls just inside the building perimeter were configured to work with the fan coil heating/cooling units at the base of the plate glass windows. The small amount of daylight visible in the space was a concern of my client who didn't want any daylight. Well Sam, I said, the mechanical system will be compromised. He said ok, lets try it. After a few days his fears desolved. A bit of daylight is essential to people's well being; there is an awarness of place.

I could include this memory of the night I was in the gallery space with the welder while he was installing the ceiling track that would guide the rolling wall/door to the storage compartment shown here. While standing below his work, one of the clamps holding the steel track in place released itself and fell on his head. We went straight to Northwestern Emergency Room. He was patched up and we went back and he finished his work, glad I did include it. Opening night, November 22, 1963 was close!

