

# A NOTICING EXERCISE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY  
archKIDecture- <http://archkitecture.org/>

When you enter on Washington Street, walk up the grand staircase and look up to see inscriptions in mosaic of 16th century printers' marks, authors' names and quotations. The mosaics are made of colored stone, mother of pearl and favrile glass.

The Chicago Cultural Center was the first Public Library in Chicago. Other "libraries" existed before, but they were private and exclusive.

The architecture firm that designed the Cultural Center was Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge, who, although operating primarily out of Boston also had a Chicago office. Because it was designed before computers, there were 1200 hand drawings made for the builders. This firm also designed the Art Institute.

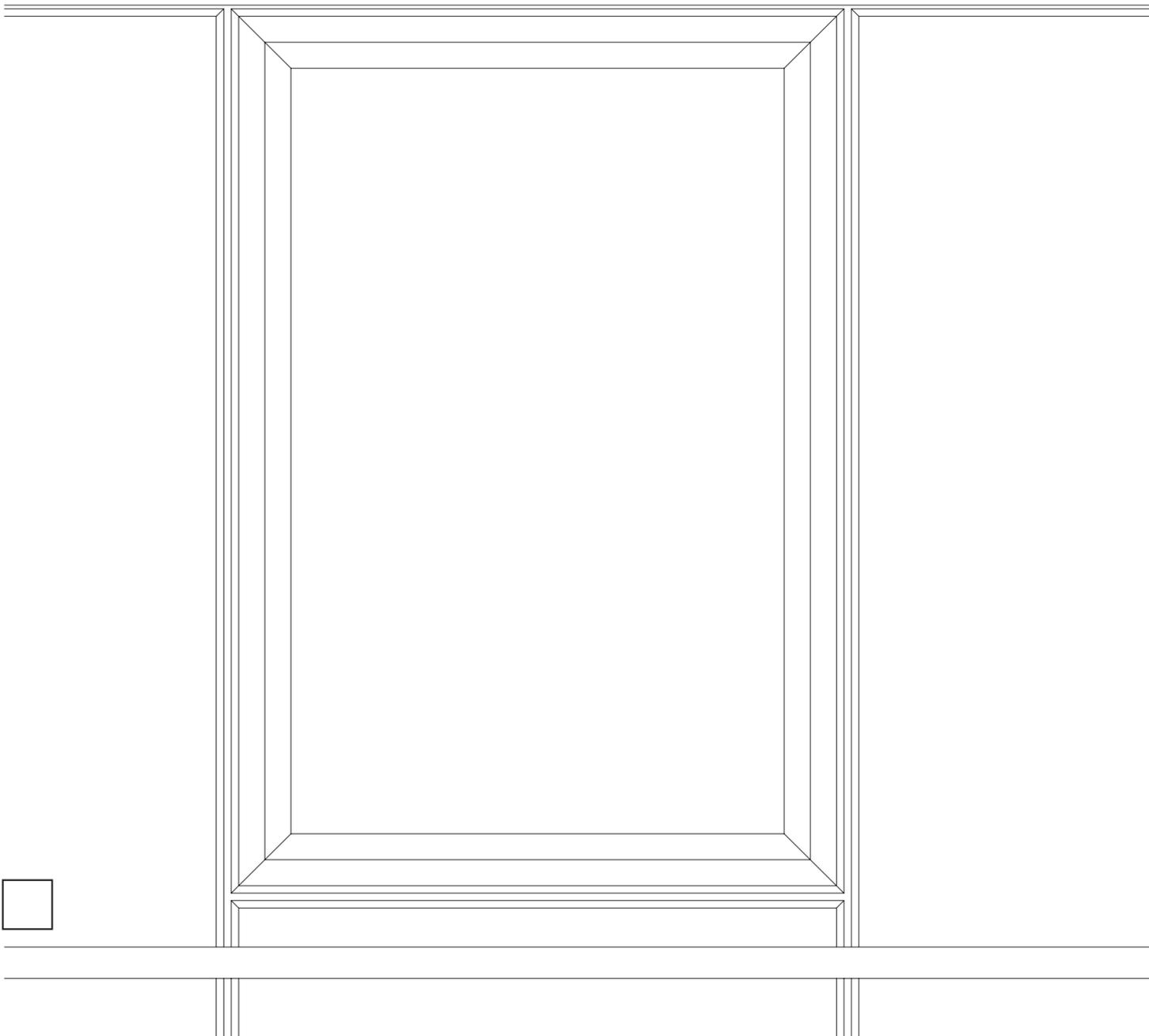
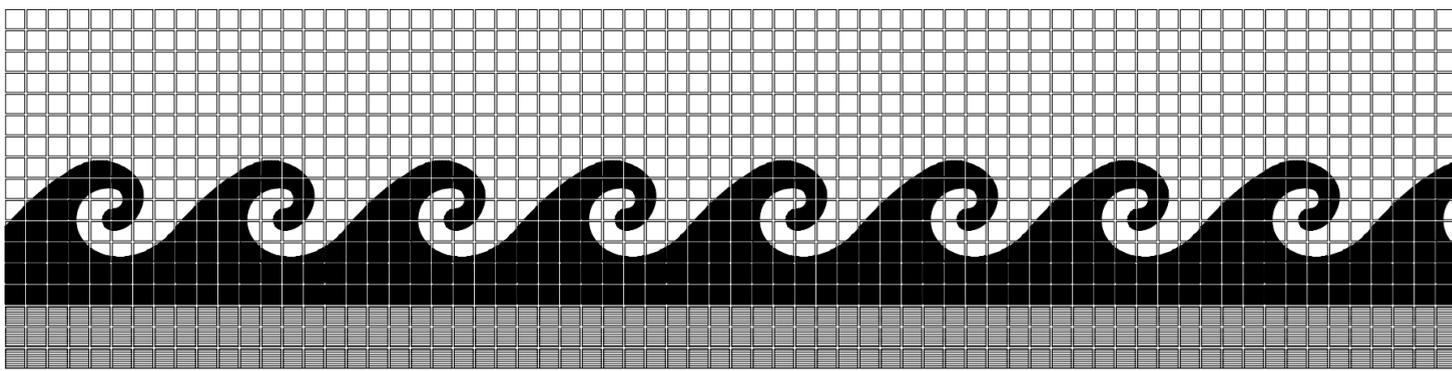
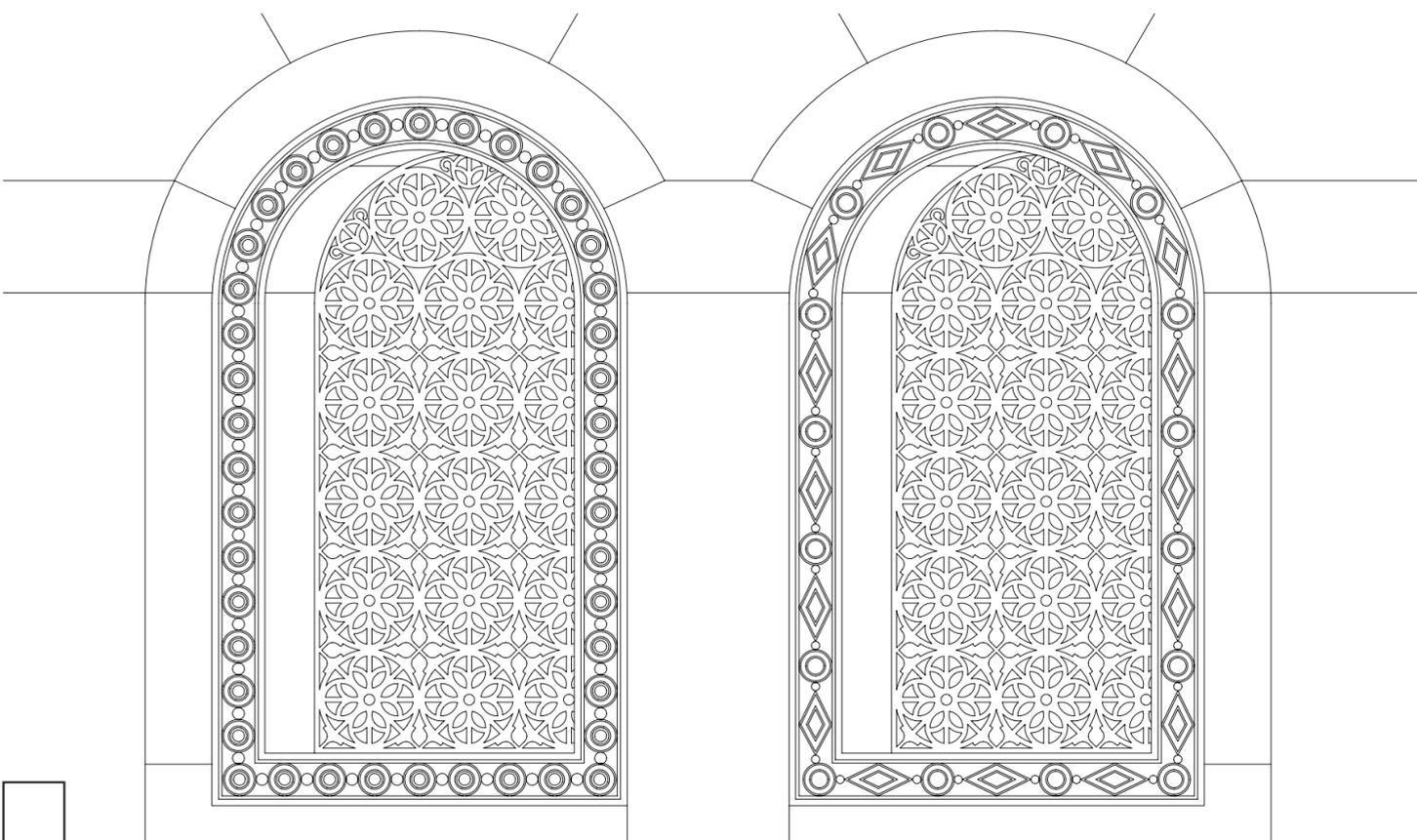
Mosaics and marble, limestone and glass domes, the Chicago Cultural Center was grand and fancy.

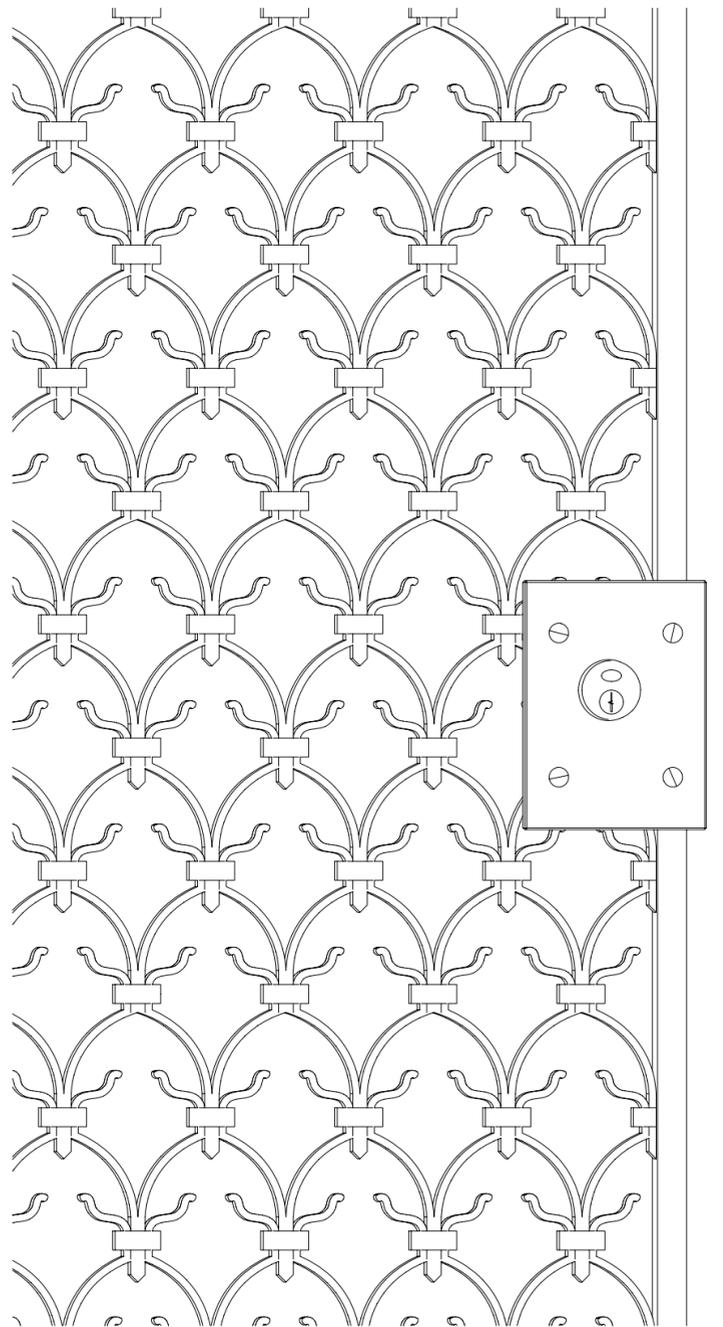
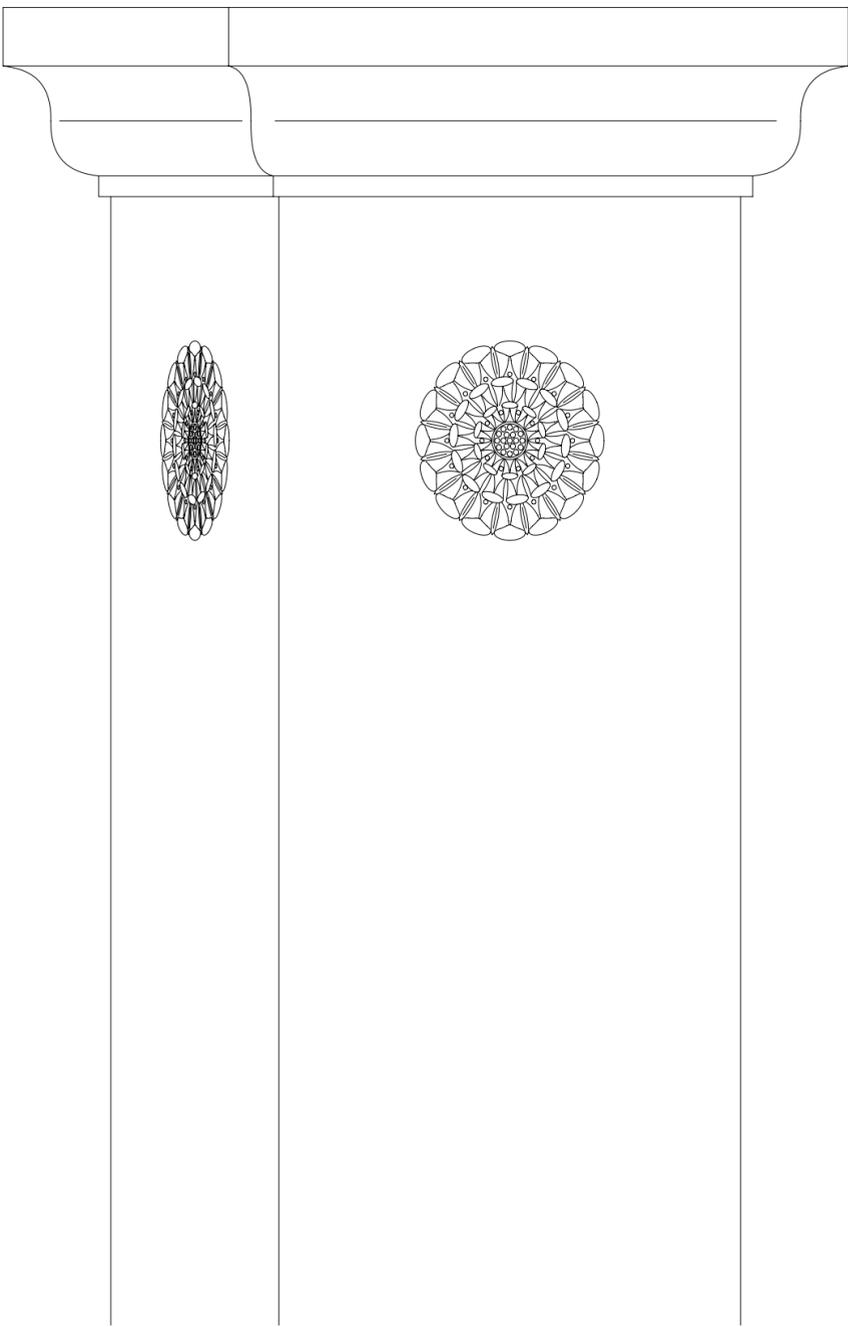
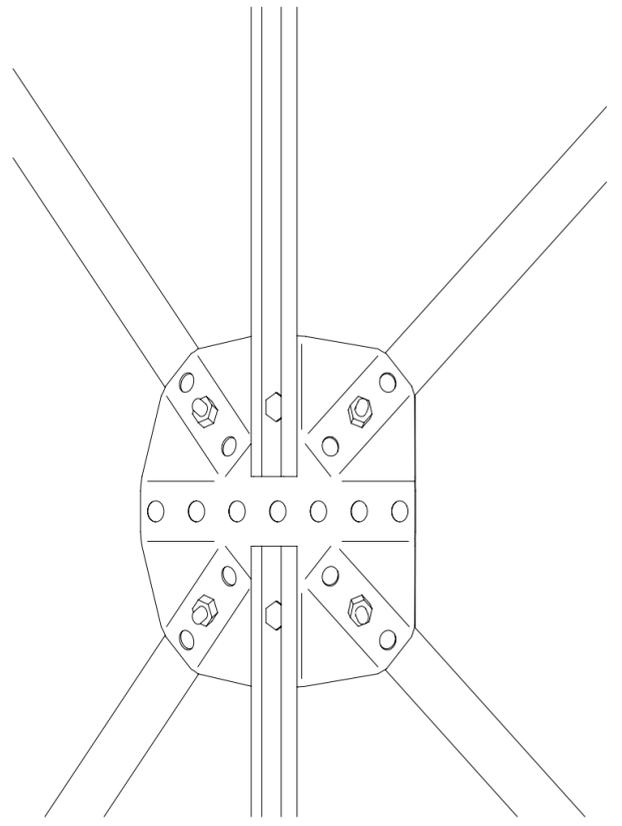
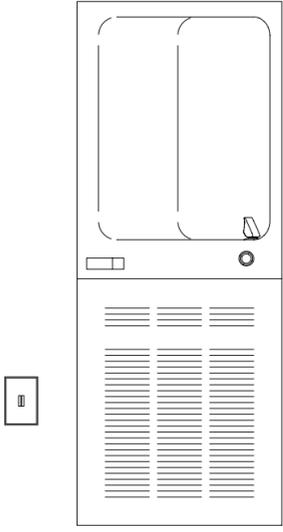
After the Chicago Fire, the people of England donated over 8000 books to replace all that had burned. This donation created the basis for a new Chicago Public Library.

Because of the Chicago Fire, this building was built in a way that would be very fireproof. That is why it is made of stone and other non-flammable materials.

Some of the money to pay for the building was donated, the rest of the money came from a 1% tax on everyone in Chicago. This small tax provided enough money to build this grand public structure that belonged to everyone, also known as "The People's Palace."

Instructions: check the boxes when you spot any of these elements in the Chicago Cultural Center. Good luck!





The building has three foot thick walls—in 1897 buildings were built with heavy masonry to support the weight of the walls and roofs above. Once steel skeletons were developed, walls of buildings could be made much thinner.

In 1972, there was discussion to demolish this grand old library building. It was in terrible disrepair. Fortunately, a group of people—preservationists—organized to keep the building from the wrecking ball.

In 1977, the building was no longer a library and the books were moved out.

In the 1990's, the building was restored to its original beauty and changed from being a library to a cultural center with exhibition spaces. The dome was renovated in 2008.

The dome in Preston Bradley Hall is enormous—in fact, it is the largest Tiffany glass dome in the world. It is 38 feet in diameter and is made of over 30,000 pieces of glass.

The Cultural Center building cost \$2 million dollars to build in 1897 which in dollars today equals \$61,721,204.82.