











300 East Randolph Interior

Chicago, Illinois, USA

300 East Randolph is a two-phased, vertically expanded office tower overlooking Grant Park in Chicago. The 57-story building primarily serves as the headquarters for Health Care Service Corporation (HCSC) and its Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois division. In the mid-'90s, HCSC required a facility that would consolidate operations while providing a plan for long-term growth—without relocating.

The design team's innovative solution for accommodating growth is the unprecedented concept of vertical expansion. The building's 33-story first phase was completed in 1997; more than a decade later in 2010, phase two was completed, adding 24 stories atop the original, fully occupied building.

The fundamental mechanism behind the expansion is a large, five-bay atrium. As high-rises are seldom based on an interior spatial concept, the atrium is unique. Designed to run the full height of the building and accommodate elevators in both phases, it draws in abundant north light and offers a rare sense of the building's verticality from the interior.

Open shafts add to the transparency while the center atrium bay features an open stair with breakout lounge and meeting spaces. Together, these elements provide a visual and physical connectivity within the company, and an inviting, inspiring space for employees.

Project Data

SIZE

27 stories
2,350,000 sf total

Phase 1:
33 stories
1,430,000 sf Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois headquarters
31,000 sf conference and training facility
Completed 1997

Phase 2:
24 additional stories
384,000 sf Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois headquarters
365,000 sf other tenants
22,000 sf conference center
Completed 2010

FEATURES

900-seat cafeteria

Unprecedented Vertical Expansion Plan: A competition-winning scheme for short-term space needs + long-term growth

CLIENT

Health Care Service Corporation

Recognition & News

RECOGNITION

2014, Global Award for Excellence – Urban Land Institute

2012, Vision Award, Innovation – Urban Land Institute, Chicago

12, Best Project >\$150 million US – Structural Engineers Association of Illinois

2012, Project of the Year, Elevators/New Construction – Elevator World Magazine

2011, Distinguished Building Award – American Institute of Architects, Chicago Chapter

2011, Building Team Platinum Award – Building Design & Construction Magazine

2011, Merit Award for New Construction Chicago – Chicago Building Congress

2010, Best of the Best, Office – Engineering News-Record Magazine

2010, Best Overall / Judges Award, Design – Midwest Construction Magazine

2010, Best Overall / Judges Award, Construction – Midwest Construction Magazine

2010, Project of the Year, Office – Midwest Construction Magazine

2010, Development of the Year – Chicago Commercial Real Estate Awards

2007, Trustee Award – Chicago Architecture Foundation

2001/2002 TOBY Award – Building Owners & Managers Association/Chicago

2000/2001 TOBY Award – Building Owners & Managers Association/North Central Region

2000/2001 TOBY Award – Building Owners & Managers Association/Chicago

1998, Distinguished Building Honor Award – American Institute of Architects, Chicago Chapter

1998, Interior Architecture Award – American Institute of Architects, Chicago Chapter

1998, Annual Merit Award – Chicago Building Congress

1998, Project of the Year, Honorable Mention – Elevator World Magazine