

Motor Row Lofts

Chicago, Illinois

Chicago Landmark Award for Preservation Excellence, 2008
New Homes Magazine - "Chicago's Best New Loft, 2007"



Located along the historic stretch of S. Michigan Avenue known as Motor Row, the rehabilitation of three historic buildings into 51 loft residences brings new life to these previously neglected structures. Freedom of space and light prevail in the redesign of these automobile dealership buildings. Originally designed by Holabird & Roche and built between 1911 and 1915, they now offer extra-high ceilings, private outdoor areas, upper level mezzanines and indoor parking.

The historic quality of the three buildings is maintained through replication of original windows and masonry details. Every detail attempts to restore the original character of the exterior to its original configuration while also providing a comfortable and inviting image for the new residential use. The newly sandblasted heavy timber and masonry interior construction compliments the spacious loft environment of each dwelling. Individual units contain a Kitchen and Bathroom core while a number of units take advantage of steel balconies, interior courtyards and second story mezzanines. Common roof decks are provided, giving all residents access to exterior space.





CHICAGO LANDMARKS



2008 PRESERVATION EXCELLENCE AWARDS

2301-2315 South Michigan Motor Row Historic District Adaptive Reuse and Exterior Rehabilitation

Recipient: Motor Row Development Corporation

These three buildings are part of the Motor Row District on Chicago's Near South Side, considered to be the largest intact early "automobile row" in the United States. At its peak, as many as 116 different makes of automobiles were being sold on Motor Row. These three buildings were all designed by the prominent architectural firm of Holabird and Roche—the corner five-story masonry building was constructed in 1911 for the Cadillac Motor Car Company, while the three-story buildings were constructed in 1915 for Alfred Cowles and for the Saxon Automobile Company respectively. The three buildings were vacant when the developer purchased the property and converted the buildings into 52 residential units with interior parking and retail space. The project included extensive masonry repairs, new windows, new storefronts, and rooftop additions, and also preserved a historic rooftop water tank. The Motor Row District was designated a Chicago Landmark on December 13, 2000.



BEFORE



AFTER



City of Chicago
Richard M. Daley, Mayor

Department of Planning and Development
Arnold L. Randall, Commissioner

Commission on Chicago Landmarks
David R. Mosen, Chairman