**BOOMbox Architecture: Skokie Walking Tour**

Link to Map https://goo.gl/iUH9gk

## Resources

Hanson, Amanda J., and Richard J. Witry. Skokie. Charleston, SC: Arcadia, 2010. Print.

Whittingham, Richard. Skokie, 1888-1988: A Centennial History. Skokie, IL: Village of Skokie, 1988. Print.

## 1. Skokie Public Library

The library opened its doors as a one floor, 33,000 square foot building in 1959. It was designed by James Hammond and Walter Netsch of Skidmore, Owings and Merrill. The library building is viewed as a great example of modern architecture in the mid-century modern style. It uses clean lines and subdued colors, with the design philosophy that the people and collections would bring color to the building. The library is equipped with designer furniture, including chairs and tables designed by Mies Van de Rohe and Hans Wegner that are still used in the building. The green and opaque marble tables are from the original opening in 1959, as are the Thai silk curtains in the Board Room. Knoll, Inc. provided much of the designer furniture, including the Barcelona chairs.

The library doubled its square footage in 1972 with second floor addition. Another 33,000 sq ft was added in the 2001-2003 renovation that added the third floor, green roof, and west side expansion plus the west parking lot. The library’s primary architect today is Paul Steinbrecher of Interactive Design Architects. Mr. Steinbrecher has worked on the library’s newest spaces like the BOOMbox and the renovated youth computer lab.

## 2. Village Green

Skokie received a federal grant to purchase the land that is now the Village Green, which opened as public open space in 1964. The Village Green is now home to many events like Wednesdays on the Green and the Farmers Market in the summer. Several structures like that by John David Mooney (1978) are showcased in the Village Green, as well as the Holocaust Memorial statue.

## 3. Village Hall

This building was erected in 1927 and was designed in the image of Independence Hall (PA). It housed the police department and jail until 1956 and then served the growing Jewish population for religious services while synagogues were built in the 1950s through the 1980s. The building has key architectural elements including a small gold dome, color tile accents, prominent columns at the main entrance, and window arches. The columns designate the Village Hall as an iconic building and symbolize power or authority.

## 4. 8045 Lincoln Ave - Former Horse Harness Shop

In the late 1800s, horses continued to be used as the main form of transportation. The retail market reflected this with several harness, blacksmith, wagon, and horseshoe businesses establishing themselves on Niles Center Road. This building originally opened in 1869 as a harness shop. There is a visible horse decoration and an 1874 marker in the building's façade.

## 5. Drapery Center

The current Drapery Center building was built in 1927 as retail location, and has terra-cotta clad. This was the Hahn's Hardware Store in the 1960s, across the parking lot from infamous Duffy's Tavern. Niles Centre Road was historically a place for markets and retail, even when it was a dirt road.

## 6. Haben Funeral Home (Not Visiting)

Business originally opened in 1923 and then expanded its building in the 1950s. The funeral home is the "oldest continuous commercial business" still operating and still family owned (Hanson, 76).

## 7. 8100 Floral Ave

Brick residence built in 1923 or 1924 with garage, tile roof, two floors and an attic. Now a multi-family home but originally was most likely a single family home. This home was built during real estate boom associated with the Roaring 20s.

## 8. Floral Ave New Urbanism

Skokie was filled with farms and greenhouses in the late 1800s and early 1900s, operated by families of German and Luxembourgian descent. Thus the street name of Floral Ave. Construction on the New Urbanism project on Floral Ave began in 2014 with a plan consisting of four building phases. The project website states: “New Urbanism is about creating livable streets arranged in compact walkable blocks, offering a range of housing types to serve diverse ages and income levels. The communities are located near schools, stores, transit and civic places to promote neighborly living and a sense of community." The Floral Ave location is in the heart of downtown Skokie near community staples and the housing project's vision is to improve residents' lifestyles by promoting walkability of local services.

For more information about this project, visit http://www.floralavenueskokie.com/the-homes.

## 9. 5247 Cleveland Street

This home is an example of expanded brick Tudor home near Lorel Park. It was built in 1930 at the end of the short lived real estate boom of the 1920s.

## 10. Lorel Park

Park development peaked during population growth in 1950s. In 1955, a referendum was passed allowing the Park District to purchase and develop 17 parks plus the community center and pool at Devonshire Park. Parks continue to be greatly valued by the community.

11. 8130 Lorel Ave (Not Visiting)

Example of brick and aluminum siding Dutch Colonial house. The house was built in 1941 and the selling price in the 1976 real estate listing was $72,500. That price today, applying inflation only, would be $1,174,460.54. Real estate websites like Zillow and Redfin estimate the house value around $250,000 - $295,000.

## 12. 5250 Brown Street

Built in 2008-2009, this singly family home is a great example of new modern buildings popping up in Skokie. Its frame construction resulted in nearly 5,000 square feet, with lots of big windows that welcome natural light.

## 13. Illinois Science and Tech Park (Not Visiting)

Originally home to G.D. Searle and Company headquarters, beginning in 1941. Searle was then absorbed by Monsanto Company in 1985 and by Pfizer in 2003. Pharmaceutical manufacturing, like that of the birth control pill and motion sickness aid, are prominent feats of this building. The Illinois Science and Technology Park opened in 2005 and now is home to many nanotechnology startup companies as well as the Oakton Community College nanotech lab.