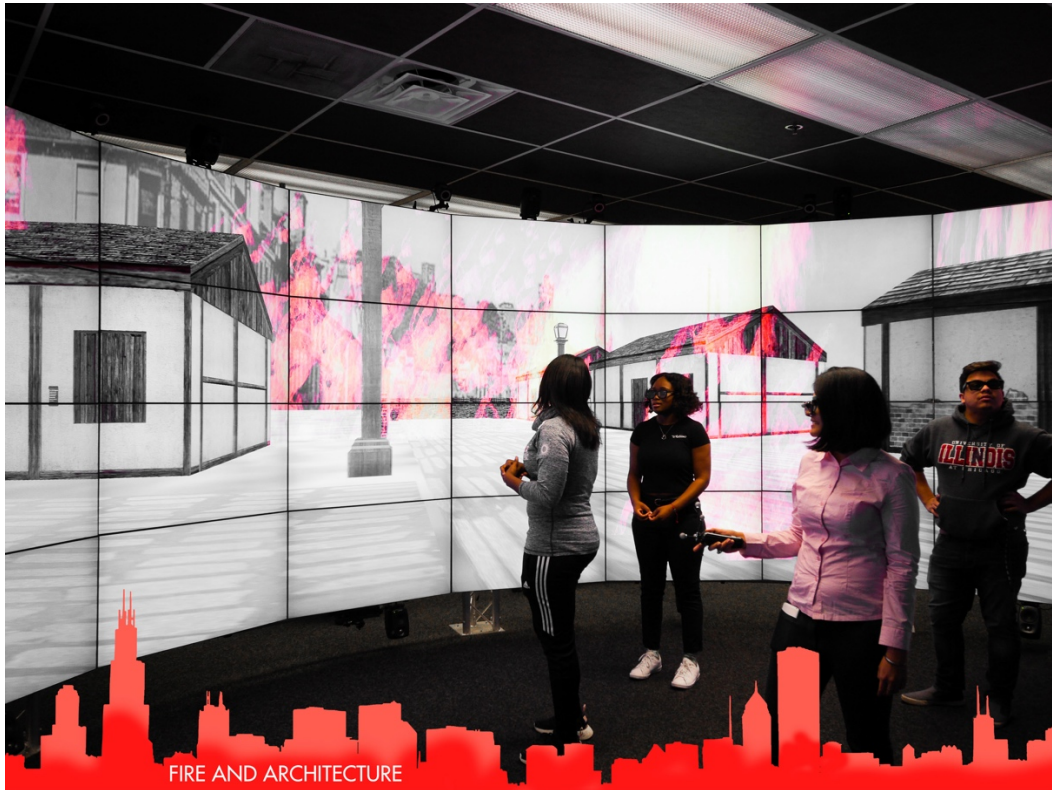


Team 8: Fire and Architecture

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In Team 8's project "Fire and Architecture" the group aimed to demonstrate how architectural styles changed due to the Great Chicago Fire. Through weeks of research, the team gathered information about laws and regulations in Chicago that were created in order to prevent another tragic city fire. Details such as projecting fire escapes and fire hydrants in the background were small elements that the team thought would successfully portray Chicago's message of fire safety.

Throughout the entire project the team wanted to have the audience recognize the difference in architectural styles and materials that were influenced by the fire. Team 8 split the demonstration into four time periods that were dissected based on two distinct time frames: "Before the Fire" and "After the Fire". Primarily, Chicago dealt with a shortage of

structural-grade wood, which led to poorly built houses. The use of such inferior materials in combination with an increased population allowed the fire to thrive and sustain itself for over 48 hours. In a collaborative effort, Namaswi, T'Yanna, and Noah assembled scenes that conveyed how Chicago significantly changed the way houses and city buildings were constructed from the 1840's to the present day. After 1871, Chicago enforced strict laws under the "Buildings and Construction" section in the city's codes. A few examples are:

- **13-148-080:** Cast iron – Limitations of use. Cast iron columns shall not be used where subject to eccentric loads which produce a net tension in the material, nor in any part of a structural frame which is required to resist stress due to wind.
- **13-144-080:** Ventilation. Wood construction shall not be enclosed without sufficient ventilation provisions to prevent decay. There shall be not less than one-half inch of air space at the sides of truss members and girders entering masonry. There shall be a clearance of not less than 18 inches between the bottom of floor joists and the ground beneath, and such space shall be adequately ventilated by openings through the exterior wall.

As students of the University of Illinois at Chicago, Team 8 felt the need to communicate the importance of understanding Chicago's past to provide insight on how the city's architecture become so grandiose. Also, being young college students, there is nothing but time and opportunity to learn from the past to create a better future.

