



16 downtown hotels packed with Chicago history

From boutique mansions to historic renovations

By [Amy Blizzari](#) | Oct 15, 2018, 5:31pm CDT

Chicago's hotel history begins with the Sauganash Hotel in 1831, when early pioneers Mark and Monique Beaubien added onto their log tavern along the Chicago River near Lake and Wacker Drive. Although it is long gone now, there are plenty of hotels that hold onto pieces of Chicago's grand history. There is so much to admire: From the first hotels on Michigan Avenue, to historic renovations such as LondonHouse and the Chicago Athletic Association, and beautiful mansions turned boutique hotels.

Below are 16 hotels perfect for lovers of architecture and Chicago history. Exploring the city for the first time? Check out our seasonal [pocket guide](#) for an insider tips on what is worth seeing.



10. Chicago Athletic Association

12 S Michigan Ave
Chicago, IL 60603

(312) 940-3552
[Visit Website](#)

The Chicago Athletic Association opened in 1893 as a posh private club. Designed by Henry Ives Cobb, a leading 19th century Chicago architect, its latticed facade was inspired by the [Doges Palace](#) in Venice, Italy. The restoration was carefully led by Hartshorne Plunkard Architects and the interior design was done by Roman + Williams. Much of the hotel's design are pieces of the building's history: elevators with old squash court flooring, pommel horse-style benches in guest rooms, and original pool tile and marble walls in [The Tank](#) event space.