

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2008 | SECTION 7

fallartspreview

ARCHITECTURE GEORGE PAPPAGEORGE AND DAVID HAYMES

Pappageorge, Haymes transforming the city

By Blair Kamin
TRIBUNE CRITIC

This fall shapes up as a crucial test for architects George Pappageorge and David Haymes, partners in the midsize Chicago firm of Pappageorge/Haymes.

In the 1980s and early 1990s, the pair won acclaim for artfully transforming worn-out industrial buildings, such as a former piano factory at 1872 N. Clybourn Ave., into lofts and townhouses where rough-hewn brick walls framed gemlike insertions of new construction.

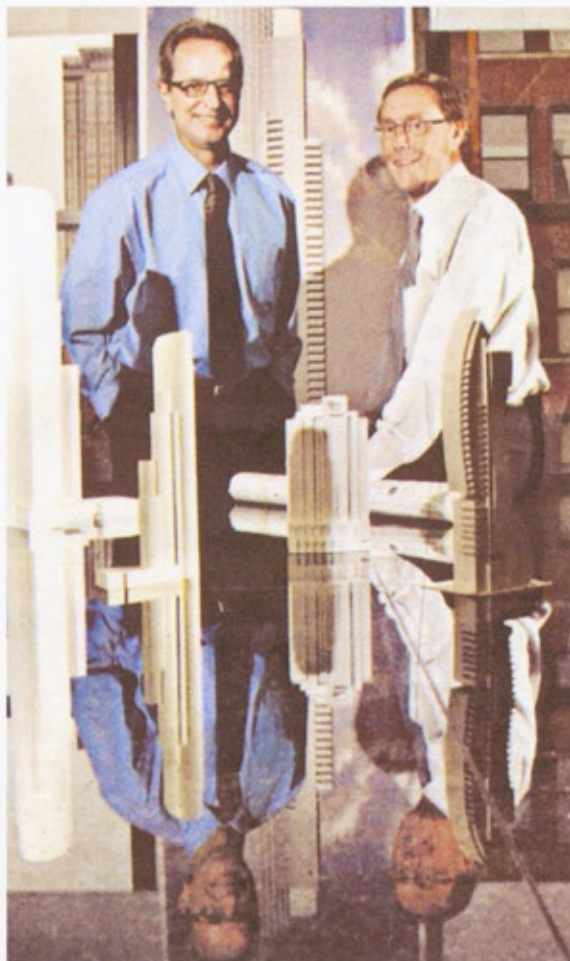
But their expansion into high-rises over the last 10 years, exemplified by the clunky classicism of the Museum Park Towers 1, 2 and 3 across Lake Shore Drive from the Field Museum, reveals how difficult it can be for architects to retain their original aesthetic spark as they move to large-scale work.

"I don't know what happened to them," said retired Evanston architect John Macsai, who co-taught Haymes at the University of Illinois at Chicago. "They used to do these charming two-story townhouses. Then they got some high-rises, and they didn't know what the hell to do."

"They did some really nice things early on. And hopefully they'll live up to that potential," added Chicago architect Laurence Booth.

This fall, Pappageorge and Haymes will complete two major condo projects: the 62-story One Museum Park East, a bold setback tower at the southeast corner of Grant Park; and 600 North Lake Shore Drive, two non-identical, concrete-framed towers along the city's lakefront.

Whatever the outcome, it's clear that Pappageorge and Haymes, both 54 years old and 1978 architecture graduates of UIC, have made a powerful impact on Chicago since their student days. Back then, they lived in Lincoln Avenue apart-



Tribune photo by Antonio Perez

George Pappageorge (left) and David Haymes are back with two major high-rise buildings near the lake and Grant Park.

ments above the old Kingston Mines blues club. They formed their partnership in 1981.

The pair has designed more than 15,000 housing units in Chicago—everything from the traditional Embassy Club in West Lincoln Park to the crisp, recently completed Lakeview Station, a five-story mixed-use project at 3920 N. Sheridan Rd. Their portfolio also includes award-winning historic preservation projects, such as their deft loft conversion of the terra cotta-clad warehouse buildings in the South Water Market historic district.

This diverse output, anathema to the architects' ideologically driven brethren, has both shaped and reflected Chicago's revival.

"Oftentimes," Pappageorge said, "developers come to us with preconceived notions about a marketplace that they want to reach out to. If we're going to be fighting them about that notion, that may not land you the job."

The firm's trademark is "real sensitivity to urban living," Haymes said. "It all goes back to living above Kingston Mines."

bkamin@tribune.com

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ARCHITECTURE 10 EVENTS NOT TO MISS

The fall architecture season beckons with a broad range of new buildings in Chicago and around the nation: Museums, office buildings, residential towers and more.

ONE MUSEUM PARK EAST

The surprise of the season is this 62-story condo tower, designed by Chicago architects Pappageorge/Haymes. Soaring skyward near the high-profile corner of Columbus Drive and Roosevelt Road, it seems far taller than its actual height of 734 feet. Bold setbacks and a silvery top accentuate its urban presence. Completion is expected in December.

600 NORTH LAKE SHORE DRIVE

Another Pappageorge/Haymes high-rise, this one consisting of 46-story and 40-story "sibling towers," is due to wrap up in November. Neighbors unsuccessfully fought the concrete-framed towers on the grounds that they would cast shadows on Ohio Street Beach across the Drive. The big skyline flourish is a pair of folded concrete roofs.

22 WEST WASHINGTON

This 17-story, reflective-glass office building, designed by Ralph Johnson of Perkins & Will, will provide the first hint of what sort of architectural quality we can expect on the old Block 37, now renamed 108 North State Street. Its controversial broadcast screen, which faces Daley Plaza, is due to start running Sept. 22.

111 WEST ILLINOIS

With a prow-shaped corner that juts around shorter neighboring buildings, this 10-story, metal-and-glass office building in River

North is the new home of the Erikson Institute, the renowned graduate school in child development. The designer is Martin Wolf of Chicago architects Solomon Cordwell Buenz.

SERTA INTERNATIONAL CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS

The mattressmakers at Serta will have new digs come mid-October. Designed by Architect Andrew Metter of Chicago's A. Epstein and Sons International, the low-slung, glass-faced office/showroom/research and development building in Hoffman Estates seeks to float lightly over the landscape.

MADONNA DELLA STRADA CHAPEL

This dazzling Art Moderne chapel on Loyola University Chicago's Lake Shore Campus has been given a fresh renovation by Chicago's Marvin Herman & Associates. Originally designed by Chicago architect Andrew Rebori, the chapel was completed in 1939. Its new pipe organ is to be installed by early October.

MUSEUM OF ARTS AND DESIGN

New York Times critic Ada Louise Huxtable famously zinged its lollipop-shaped columns when the Gallery of Modern Art opened in 1964 at 2 Columbus Circle in New York City. (The architect was Edward Durrell Stone, whose credits include Chicago's Aon Center). Now, Portland, Ore., architect Brad Cloepfil of Allied Works Architecture has dramatically reshaped

the "lollipop building" with a textured exterior of terracotta tile. It opens Sept. 27.

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

Italy's Renzo Piano, architect of the Art Institute of Chicago's Modern Wing, went green big-time in shaping the new quarters of this natural history museum, located in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park. The building is topped by a playfully hilly, 2.5-acre "living roof" and is expected to earn LEED Platinum certification. It, too, opens Sept. 27.

YALE ART & ARCHITECTURE BUILDING

New York architect Charles Gwathmey has restored this troubled Brutalist landmark from the early 1960s and has designed a new, limestone-and-zinc clad history of art building alongside it. Renamed Paul Rudolph Hall after its original architect, the Art & Architecture Building will be rededicated Nov. 8.

CECIL BALMOND: SOLID VOID

The Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts will mount an exhibition about the work of the legendary British engineer, who serves as deputy chairman of the London-based engineering firm ARUP. On view at the foundation's 4 W. Burton Place headquarters Sept. 26 through Feb. 14, the show is billed as the first site-specific installation since the Graham began its exhibition program a half century ago. Balmond will lecture at the Art Institute of Chicago at 6 p.m. Nov. 11. *Gallery hours at the foundation are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday. Admission is free.*

bkamin@tribune.com