



THOMPSON CENTER INSIDE OUT

JAHN
FEBRUARY 2020

THOMPSON CENTER

SAVE ARCHITECTURE AND IMPROVE THE URBAN PLACE

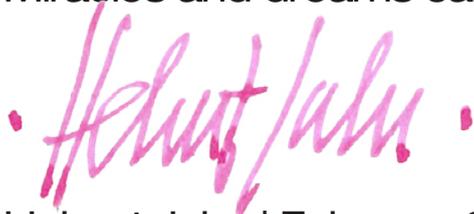
Now, since Governor Pritzker has started the process to sell the Thompson Center, it's time to show how it's architectural and urban qualities can be repurposed in a way to give the building a new life at a reasonable cost. What we got for 175 million dollars in 1984 can become the heart in the now degrading central loop. A demolition and replacement would not only take a long time but seeks high density without considering public benefits. We need not more bigger buildings but buildings which improve the public space.

Examples in many cities show that sensitive repurposing of buildings has produced better results than replacing them.

I am making this plea, not only because I want the Thompson Center preserved. I am convinced that in the profit focused real estate market of today, there isn't any hope of replacing the building which Governor Jim Thompson called his own. By choosing the right design, he opened government to the public.

Governor Pritzker has the opportunity, after years of neglect by his predecessors, to lead thru the sale of the Thompson Center by giving it new life. Repurposing the building the right way could go beyond what the building ever was, making it better, more public and a place where you want to work, stay overnight, live or just visit and feel good.

Miracles and dreams can become real.



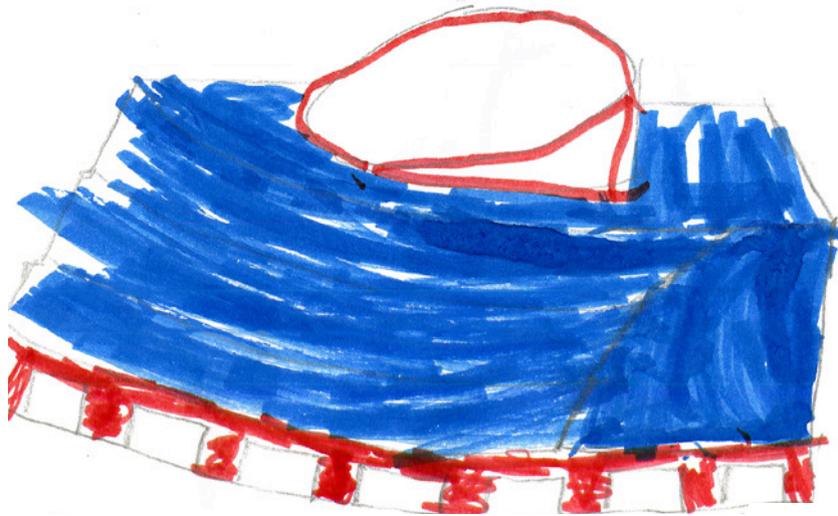
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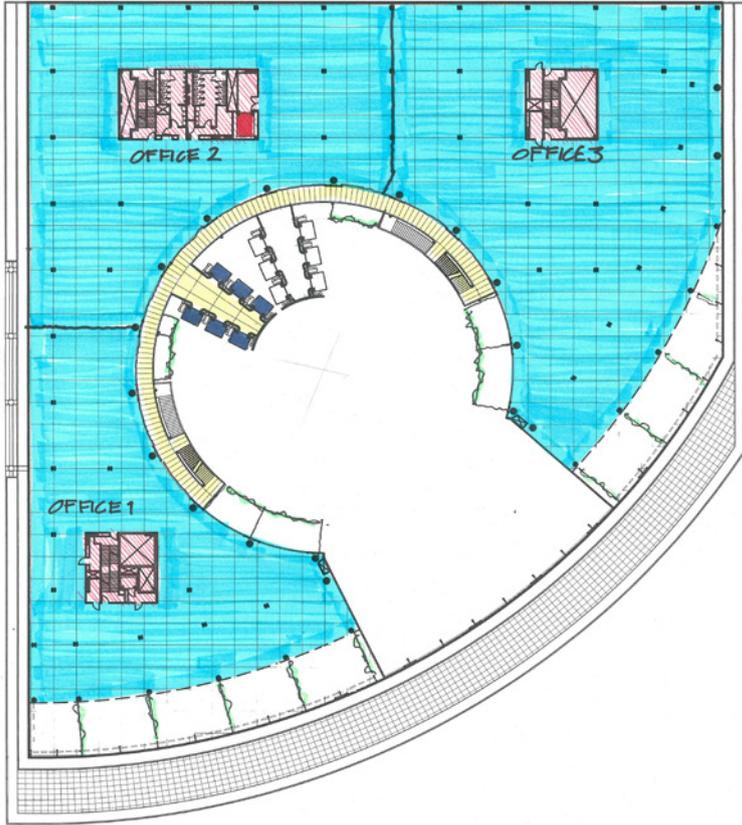




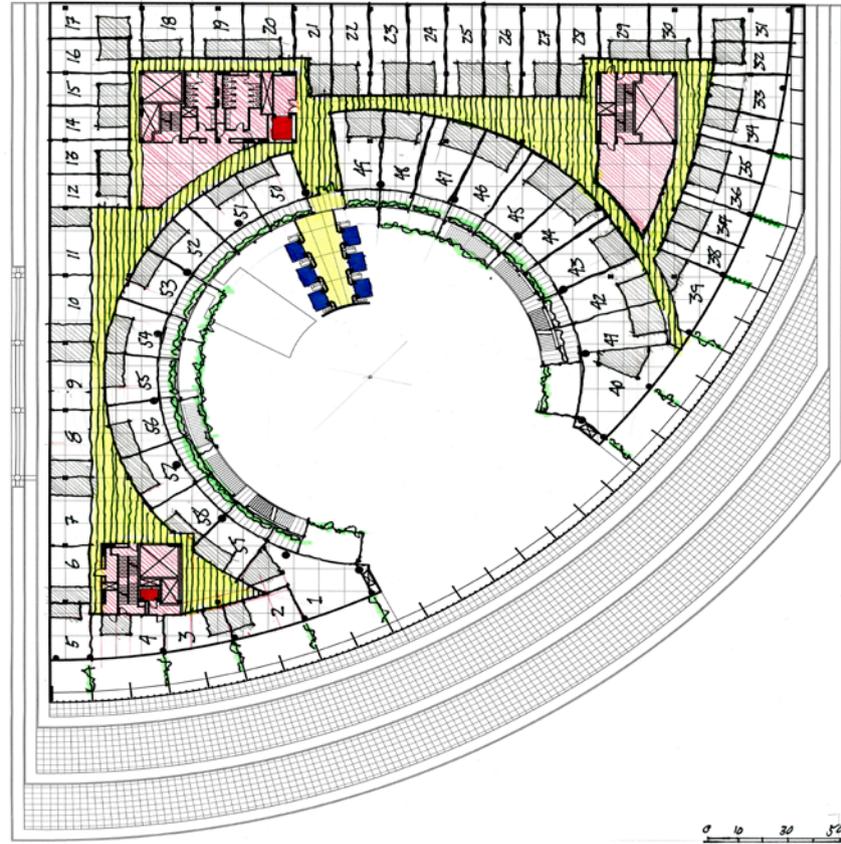
ELISABETH JAHN AGE 5

In 2015 we proposed to repurpose the Thompson Center with the addition of a tall hotel-condo tower. Time might have changed to do this, so has the time to tear it down and build a bigger block development. That would be Block 37 all over again. But the Thompson Center can be repurposed another way, with style, and meet the market to come. I propose the doors come down, so the atrium becomes a public place with upgraded retail and restaurants. The lower floors, with up to 60.000 square feet, flexible tech-offices. Above, a hotel and co-living apartments with terraces facing the atrium. These terraces and those along the curved south side are greened with trees and climbing vines, which will grow well in this protected in-outside environment. The façade and the environmental systems will be tuned to work together and use the sun as an energy source. The renderings show in two images what this is all about IN(*side*) and OUT(*side*): public space, light, plan, elevations, transparency. In all, something new with a space that doesn't belong to the state of Illinois but to the people of Chicago.

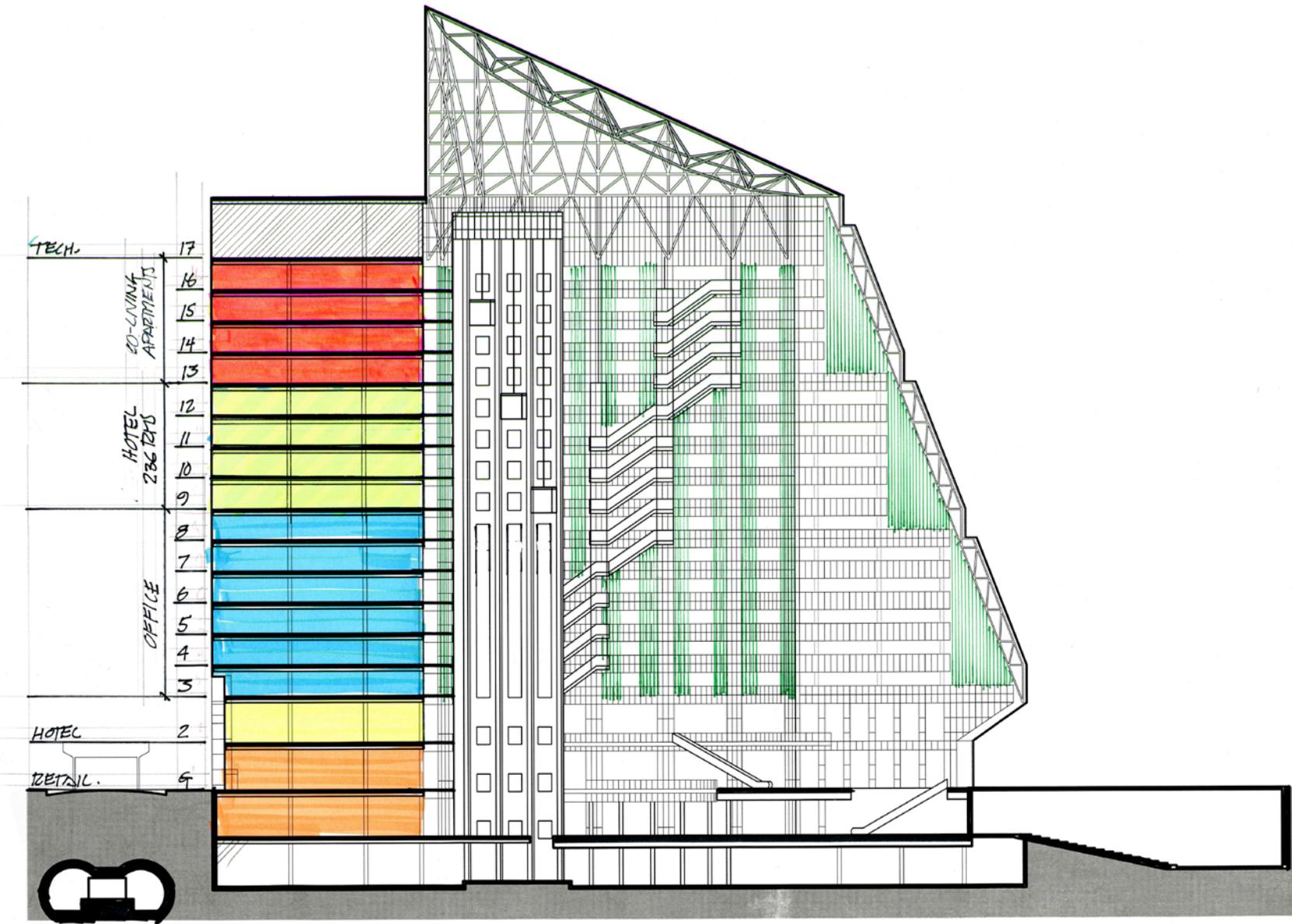
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