



George Schipporeit, Architect of Lake Point Tower: Questions and Answers



George Schipporeit

Associate Professor, IIT
Founder and Principal, Schipporeit, Inc. Architects/Planners

Major projects: in Chicago -- Lake Point Tower, Asbury Plaza, 445 E. Ohio, Atrium Village, IBM Parking Facility. Also State National Bank in Evanston, Rotary Building in Evanston, Searle Headquarters in Skokie

What was your inspiration for the unique shape of LPT?

It wasn't really about "inspiration." The shape came about as the best way to solve the problems of putting a single tall building on the site, providing privacy and good views, and shaping a form that would be a positive addition to the skyline.

Why did you decide to incorporate a large park into the building?

The park was always a priority for us. We already had a requirement to park 700 cars indoors, and the roof of the garage would be visible from the apartments. The best way to "cover" that roof was with a garden. It was also a tremendous amenity for the building, and a unique addition to the rental offering.

How did it feel to see LPT, your first major building, topped off?

We all felt that we were just very fortunate to be able to have the opportunity to do this building. In a word, then, grateful.

What was the most interesting comment made to you about LPT?

A single comment doesn't come to mind. I think the most interesting thing is that I've never heard from anybody who didn't like the building.

Why did you choose a career in architecture?

I earlier wanted to be an engineer. But I read about IIT and the program there while I was in the Army. Once I got there I just knew it was right for me.