1 SCOTTISH RITE CATHEDRAL, 202 S. 20TH STREET (20TH AND DOUGLAS)
Project Type: Restoration, Rehabilitation
History: Construction of this Neo Classical Revival building was part of a group of Masonic efforts in the early 1900s when local masons also established Joe’s Daughters, Omaha Masonic Home for Boys (now Omaha Home for Boys) and Rainbow International. The cornerstone of this building, designed by John Latenser, was laid in 1912 and became occupied in 1914.
Project: Rehabilitation work has been completed for the first floor offices, kitchen and dining room, as well as the second floor lounge, rooms and ballroom. Work on the third floor 400-seat auditorium is currently underway.

3 TRINITY EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL, 113 N. 18TH STREET (18TH AND CAPITOL)
Project Type: Preservation
History: Completed in 1883 the cathedral is a well-preserved example of the Late Gothic Revival style. Designed by English architect Henry G Harrison, the cathedral is Nebraska’s oldest church building still in use. The 28 clerestory windows reflect the names of Nebraska parishes in 1883, many of which no longer exist. Bishop Robert Harper Clarkson, Nebraska’s first Bishop after statehood, and his wife are buried here.
Project: With the exception of minor alterations, from a flood, bee infestation and termites, the Cathedral’s original design, furnishings and stained glass windows have been maintained and preserved. The church is fundraising to rehabilitate the existing pipe organ.

4 A. K. RILEY BUILDING (PINNACLE BANK), 1014-1016 DOUGLAS ON THE MALL
Project Type: Rehabilitation
History: Constructed in 1889 for A.K. Riley, a local attorney and real estate developer, the building was completed for $40,000 and included the first hydraulic powered freight elevator in Omaha. The classical revival building designed by architects FR Smith and FC Ledebrink is one of the oldest commercial buildings in Omaha.
Project: In 2003 the first floor interiors were renovated in a style of the early 1900s for the Bank. The upper floors were designed into 18 apartments and one 5th floor penthouse. Custom light fixtures in the bank lobby were created by a local glass artist and the canopy over the traffic area is decorated with metal rossets that match originals found on the front of the building.

5 THE OMAHA BUILDING (KUTAK ROCK), 1650 FARNAM ST.
Project Type: Restoration, Rehabilitation
History: From a design by the renowned American architectural firm McKim, Mead & White, the structure known today as "The Omaha Building was constructed in 1889 in the Italian Renaissance style. The building was commissioned by the New York Life Insurance company and an exact replica was built at the same time in Kansas City. At 10 stories high it became known as Omaha’s first skyscraper.
Project: In 2006 Kutak Rock undertook a full renovation of the building replacing the buildings infrastructure, reconfiguring its signature atrium and restoring original interior features that had been covered up for decades.

BONUS SITE
6 KING FONG CAFE, 315 3/4 S. 16TH STREET
(OPEN 12:00P-3:00P ONLY)
Project Type: Preservation
History: This location is anecdotally Omaha’s oldest continuously running eatery. Originally constructed in 1880 as a two-story building, the third floor and a new façade were constructed in 1920 and King Fong’s Cantonese opened in 1921 under the ownership of Gin Ah Chin.
Project: The current owners are descendants of one of China’s original employees, Sin Huey. They have maintained the building as he designed it. Furnishings and décor were imported from Hong Kong in 1920, including chandeliers, tea tables with mother-of-pearl inlay, silk tapestries and private camphor wood booths.

7 BOARD OF CERTIFICATION, INC. (BOC) BUILDING, 1415 HARNEY STREET
Project Type: Rehabilitation
History: Opened as a saloon, billiard and bowling alley sometime in 1911 or 1912, this building housed a variety of businesses, including a battery, soft drink, sporting goods and stationary companies. Its most famous business was the Continental Feature Film Company best remembered today as the producer of some of Charlie Chaplin’s greatest comedies.
Project: Purchased in 2008 by the BOC, the building façade and interior were completely renovated. The second floor was rehabilitated into a modern-urban style office space for the company while the 3200sf of the lower level are open for a new tenant space. The BOC is the national credentialing agency for athletic trainers.
8 MEDLAR BUILDING, 416 S. 14TH ST.

Project Type: Rehabilitation

History: Constructed for Storz Brewery in 1903 by architect JP Guth, the building is named for its second owner, Ervin A. Medlar. Medlar established a printing and publishing company in 1892 and the company occupied this building from 1906 to 1966. The building has only had four owners and is one of few examples of the Commercial Classic Revival style remaining in downtown.

Project: The interior has been rehabilitated several times, the last in 1985 into five offices and two residences with a rooftop deck. The sidewalk glass block was scaled back during re-installation but the remnants of the structure are still visible from the lower level.

9 GAHM BLOCK BUILDING (BLOC 12 APARTMENTS), 1202 HOWARD ST.

Project Type: Rehabilitation

History: Constructed as a hotel by prominent entrepreneur Samuel D. Mercer in 1892, the building was completely renovated into warehouse and wholesale space for Joseph Gahm of Boston in 1900. It is legend that Carl Sandburg lived in one of the Gahm Block rooms as he was writing the poem “Omaha” which became part of his poetry output to the Midwest.

Project: The building is currently being rehabilitated into apartments on the upper floors. At the completion of the project, 15 apartments that feature preserved plaster, steel, wood beams and columns will be available for rent.

10 ANHEUSER-BUSCH BEER DEPOT (THE NEW BLK), 1213 JONES ST

Project Type: Rehabilitation

History: Built in 1887 as part of a larger complex that included a stable, beer vault / ice house and wagon shed, this office building is all that remains. In addition to distributing beer in Omaha, this was the distribution center for Nebraska, western Iowa, and portions of Wyoming and South Dakota. The building designed by Henry Voss is one of Omaha’s most elaborate examples of Romanesque Revival style.

Project: Rehabilitated in 1989 for use as office space, the building currently houses The New Blk. The original wood entrance door and windows wood wainscot in the front office area and the exposed brick and wood columns in the rear warehouse space have been preserved.

11 BELLA VITA BUILDING, 714 PIERCE ST.

Project Type: Rehabilitation

History: The Piccolo family moved their original grocery store to this location in 1925. The building was built by Joseph Piccolo himself as three levels. The first level was the grocery store. Customers would enter on the north side and find the wine and aging cheese in the back sales floor. The current south side (street entrance) was added in later years. The second level was storage. The family lived on the third floor and at one time 13 people consisting of two parents, eight children and three extended family members occupied this level. Eight of the 11 Piccolo children were born on the dining room table.

Project: The building was remodeled in 2004. The third level is now a 1,700sf residence. The first and second levels contain three apartments. During the remodel many original elements and materials were exposed consisting of wood beams, plaster ceilings, brick and wood work. A new roof and windows were added to the north and east to take advantage of the magnificent views. The south façade was stuccoed and hand painted by the current owners. A plaque pays homage to Little Italy and the original owners.

BONUS SITE

12 DUNSANY FLATS, 1113/1115/1117 S. 10TH STREET

(OPEN EVERY SUNDAY 1:00P-4:00P)

History: This turn of the century apartment building had been constructed as ‘box car’ apartments; one room stacked one after another with no connecting corridor. The architect constructed a full front façade and three separate buildings from the back allowing light and air to flow into each apartment 2/3s the depth of the building.

Project: Currently being restored into 18 total condominium units. The breezeways were enclosed on the lower level to connect the units to storage and garage facilities. The cornerstone was reconstructed in its original style and as new windows were placed in their original style and locations. One of Omaha’s first green roofs is located on the garage structure. All existing intact interior elements were preserved and can be seen against new updated soundproof floor and ceiling treatments. A new mixed-use (retail and residential) development is planned for the empty lot south of the building.

Rules and Guidelines

- Admission is by ticket only, no exceptions.
- Infants and all children under seven are not permitted.
- Be aware that all of the tour sites are not ADA accessible.
- Need of those with mobility impairments will be accommodated within the physical limits of the buildings and the availability of tour volunteers to provide assistance.
- Do not block driveways or alleys.
- Respect the owner’s property. If a door is shut, do not open it. If a door is locked, do not open it.
- No smoking, eating or drinking in any of the properties.
- No photography.
- No pets.
- Only use restrooms in specified locations. Restrooms for patrons are available at locations 1, 2 and 5.

Shoes may be required to be worn in some of the tour locations if rain is present.

In consideration of the permission granted the tour participant to enter the buildings and premises on the tour, the tour participant hereby agrees to enter the tour buildings and premises at his or her own risk and hereby releases the respective property owner and Restore Omaha from any and all claims or causes of action due to injury to person or property that may arise during.

5 AIA CEUs for those that sign in at a minimum of seven sites.