

Summary

This session would lend you an insight on the famous style that is referred to as Chicago School of architecture and its importance in the history of architecture.

Since most structures within the downtown area were destroyed by the Great Chicago Fire in 1871, there was scope for reinterpretation and implementation of new ideas and technology. This saw the rise of the steel high-rise buildings with framed construction. The invention of the elevator and the development of framed structures led way to the high-rise steel buildings. It was made possible with civil and structural innovations, which were welcomed as it was seen as an efficient use of the valuable land space.

While the technical innovations of the Chicago school were sensational, what it needed to become a style, was character. Architects of the Chicago school drew inspirations from the past and gave distinguishing features in their buildings which later on evolved to give a character to the style.