

How it Works

Original Sears Tower architecture firm Skidmore, Owings and Merrill (SOM) designed The Ledge so that the fully enclosed glass boxes retract into the building, allowing easy access for cleaning and maintenance.

Experts in international structural glass design, Halcrow Yolles, fully designed and detailed all the glass and steel components. Beginning with the architect's original concept, the engineers took the design one step further by eliminating all perimeter structural steel at the sides and along the floor of the glass enclosures and creating a near-invisible support system.

MTH Industries, the Chicago-based 120-year-old glass and architectural metal contractor that installed the Cloud Gate in Millennium Park, installed The Ledge's 1,500 pound glass panels. Each box is comprised of three layers of half-inch thick glass laminated into one seamless unit. The low-iron, clear glass is fully tempered for durability.



The Ledge's glass boxes extend from the Skydeck, providing unobstructed views straight down.



Project Credits

THE LEDGE	
DESIGN ARCHITECT	Skidmore, Owings and Merrill Chicago, Illinois
GLASS & METAL ENGINEER	MTH Industries Hillside, Illinois
STRUCTURAL ENGINEER	Halcrow Yolles Chicago, Illinois
GENERAL CONTRACTOR	Berglund Construction Chicago, Illinois
LOWER LEVEL	
DESIGN ARCHITECT	Soraya Planning & Design Northfield, Illinois
DESIGN CREATIVE	Hornall Anderson Seattle, Washington
GENERAL CONTRACTOR	BKE Contracting Orland Park, Illinois
THE LEDGE AND LOWER LEVEL	
CONSULTING ENGINEER	Environmental Systems Design Chicago, Illinois