

2025 SIAF's Downtown Seattle Architecture Walking Guide



TÁCELSW SIÁM!! We are SIAF; a hub for visitors & designers of initially foreign origin, seeking to promote & foster deep connections, links, and stewardship for & of the PNW, both locally & abroad!

1. The Spheres (2018)
A magnificent combined triumph of engineering & landscaping from NBBJ, this one is a **must see!** (Not often open to the public, but worth a ride to)

2. Seattle Public Library (2004)
Rem Koolhaas subtle-yet-bold contribution to the Seattle skyline sets a new 21st Century standard: photographers, seek reflections found at dusk!

3. Yamasaki Buildings (1960's & 70's)
The refined approach of a Mid-Century Master, several structures around town leave anyone standing beside them (Rainier Tower?!) breathless.

4. Bullitt Center (2013)
The first Net-0 (& sometimes even Net-Positive!) structure in the world is here, complete with ILBI certification beside the subtle charm of Cap Hill.

5. Chapel of St. Ignatius (1997)
Combining theoretical intrigue with layered light symbolism, this is Steven Holl's magnum opus (see on a sunny day for best results!) A true must!

6. Freeway Park (1976 & 1982)
Halprin & Danadjieva's shock nature shout out; combining flora w/ practical functionality, you'll never realize your walking upon a freeway lid.

7. The Convention Centers (1988 & 2023)
Old meets new, as LMN's new 1.5m sf showpiece is a block away from the original Arch Building.

8. Lake Union Houseboats (1980s+)
There's something about a mix-matched floating homes beside massive bridges & herons nests. (Paddleboard or canoe by for the real **wow** factor)

9. The Seattle Center (1962+)
A mecca for summer music and art! There is so many incredible happenstances & additions happening at this central hub, which continues as an enduring icon for the region writ large.

10. Ferry Terminal & Water Taxis (2022)
One of the newest additions to the waterfront, SRG's eye-catching wooded entry is the perfect gateway before a magical ride across the Sound.

11. Kubota Gardens (1927+)
Similar to Fujitaro's work on Seattle University & Bloedel Reserve, it's 20 acres of lush prospect/refuge gardens, with dramatic seasonal changes.

12. 1201 Second Ave (2020)
The base of Pickard Chilton's stellar building is phantasm of lean engineering, mixed with foldy-folds & neat plantings – roof deck for residents!

13. Olympic Sculpture Garden (2007)
With breathtaking views of Puget Sound beside world-class art, Weiss Manfredi's seaside linkage encourages a new way to interact w/ the city.

14. The Edith Macefield House (1900/2006)
Though Disney had begun scripting their film prior to her holdout, this 'non-arch icon' remains as a showcase to Seattle's unique & rebellious spirit.

15. Gasworks Park (1975)
A Richard Haag masterpiece w/ slow rolling hills beside old industry expertly enticing everyone in; bring kites & be ready for crowds on warm days.

16. Fourth and Blanchard (1979)
Bland at the base, iconic from a distance, Chester Lindsey's late-modernist is a marker for its Era.

17. Mt. Tahoma (shinrin-yoku)
Neither close nor architecture; our local zeitgeist.

18. Smith Tower/Pioneer Square Area (1914+)
The China Room alone is worth a visit, but the surrounding historic district, food scene & Underground Tour combine for a true piece-de-resistance!

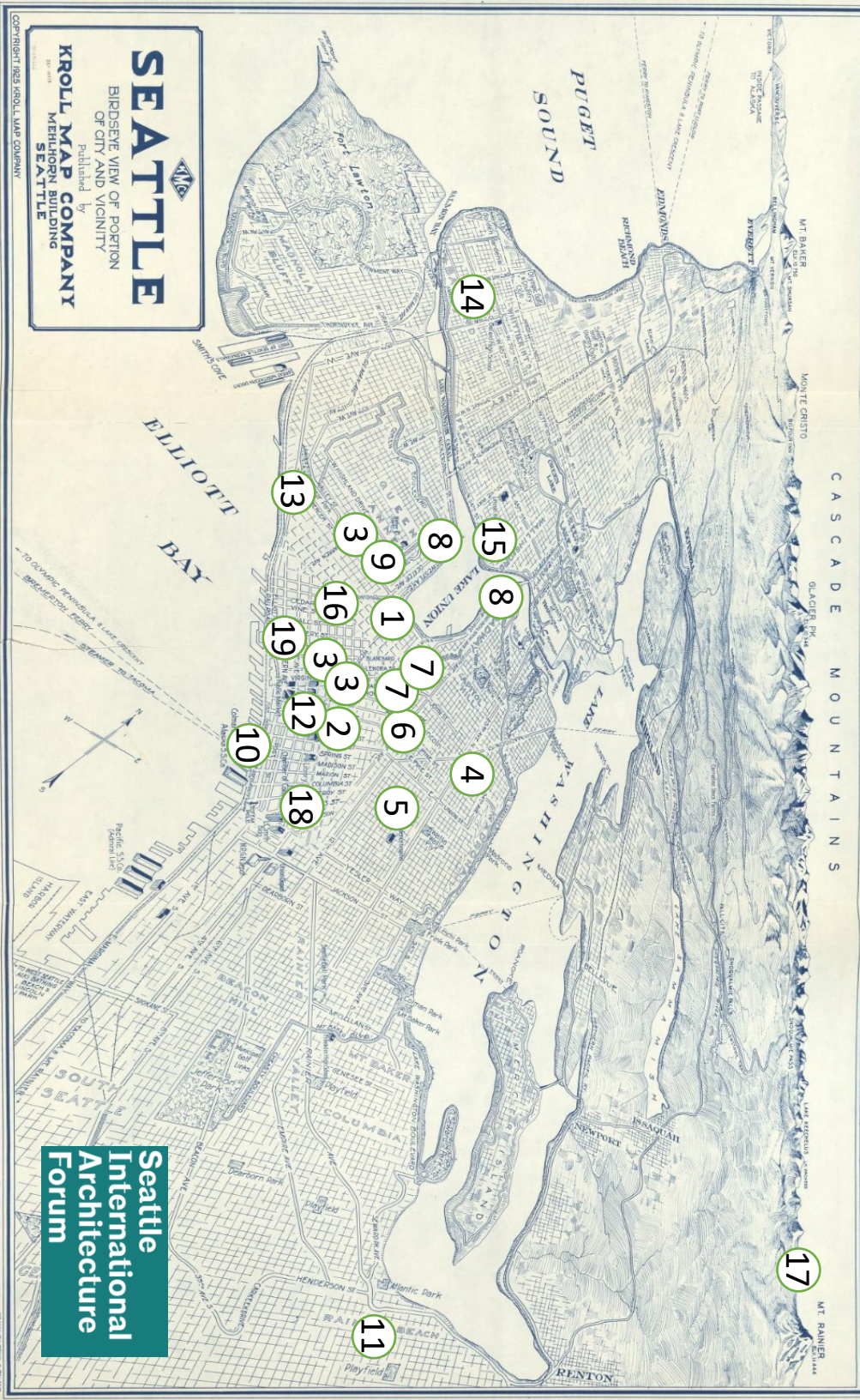
19. Pikes Place (and nearby roofdecks) (1907+)
Yes yes, its on each & every city list – but really is that amazing, worth it, & simply, utterly just cool..

xx. Seattle's Art & Music Scene (timeless)
Nothing speaks more about the City's culture or its people: check any venue for almost daily finds!

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