

# UC Berkeley

## Places

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State Office Building Chicago [Debate on the State of Illinois Center]

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State Office Building,  
Chicago



**I Atrium.**

Photograph by James R. Steinkamp.

It's big, it's singular, it's bold, even brazen; it occupies a particular space in the grid of Chicago, challenges the limits of that geometry and taps onto the every-

day mercantile life that weaves through city streets. It may be seen as the apotheosis of the shopping mall, as a proud humbling of the bureaucracy, as a sensational(ist)



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landmark in the city. And, it was built for State Government. Whether the *Illinois State Office Building* is a place, of the place, or out of place is a matter of some debate. We have

asked the architect and five others (all teachers of architects and planners who teach, it turns out) to comment.

**IA State Office Building, Chicago.**  
Photograph by James R. Steinkamp.