



HONOR AWARD

**CHICAGO RIVERWALK
STATE STREET TO FRANKLIN STREET**

The throngs of people who flock to the latest phases of the Chicago Riverwalk have little knowledge of the technical achievements that were necessary for the project's realization. Working primarily from the river within an area just 25 feet wide, the design team of Sasaki and Ross

Barney Architects navigated a slew of logistical and regulatory challenges to create a continuous waterfront promenade that allows for new ways to engage with the once polluted waterway. Designed for periodic inundation, the Riverwalk between State and Lake Streets is composed

of distinct, river-inspired spaces that are linked visually through their materials and detailing and physically by a series of innovative underbridge connections. Among them is the grand, sculptural stair of the River Theater, which provides both movement and seating and uses structural paving systems to provide the necessary support to the trees interspersed throughout. Below the water's surface, custom elements create habitat for fish and other species, enhancing the river's ecosystem. "It's not a large amount of land," said a juror. "It's just a ribbon, but they did a lot."

SASAKI, WATERTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS, AND **ROSS BARNEY ARCHITECTS**, CHICAGO
CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, CLIENT



COURTESY SASAKI. TOP: © CHRISTIAN PHILLIPS PHOTOGRAPHY. BOTTOM

