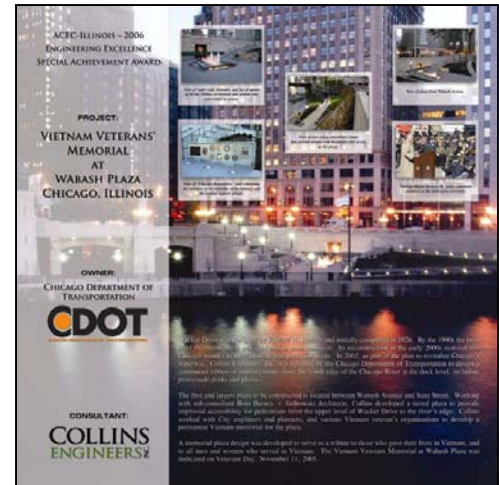


Vietnam Veterans' Memorial at Wabash Plaza
Chicago, Illinois, U.S.
Chicago Department of Transportation
*American Council of Engineering Companies of Illinois—2006 Engineering Excellence
Special Achievement Award*

Collins was retained by the Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) to design improvements along the riverfront to complement the recently completed reconstruction of Wacker Drive. As part of the preliminary design work for a downtown riverwalk, Collins was requested to prepare design plans for the adjacent dock level plaza areas along Wacker Drive.

Upon completion of the preliminary study, Collins was directed to incorporate a Vietnam veterans' memorial at the Wabash Plaza between Wabash Avenue and State Street. Working with sub-consultant Ross Barney + Jankowski Architects, Collins developed a tiered plaza with waterfall, reflecting pond, and list of names of all the Illinois servicemen and women who died in Vietnam. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Wabash Plaza was dedicated on Veterans Day, November 11, 2005.



Collins prepared all structural plans, the dock wall analysis, specifications, and detailed cost estimates to allow the City to advertise this Plaza for construction.

Collins was also selected for the construction oversight of the new plaza. The construction work consisted of the following elements:

- Demolition and removal of existing windows and frames in the State Street Bridge House; stairwells, curbs, mooring posts, and railings along the dock wall edge; lower level foundations, walls, and stairs; and the balustrade in the upper level corner of State Street and Wacker Drive.
- Construction of stairs along the east side of the State Street Bridge House and switchback ramps with associated stairs along the north side of Wacker Drive. The switchback ramps provide people with disabilities full access to the plaza.
- Construction of sloping lawns and planter boxes between the ramps and placement of trees, shrubs, and flowers in the lawns and boxes.
- Completion of the unfinished terrace lawn construction at the east end of the plaza.
- Construction of a Vietnam Memorial Fountain in the main lower level plaza.
- Construction of curtain walls and louvers to close off the lower level plaza from lower Wacker Drive.
- Installation of granite pavers to create the main lower level plaza.
- Installation of limestone and/or granite cladding on all exposed vertical concrete elements.
- Installation of an ornamental iron fence, hanging flower boxes, and tree planters along the dock wall edge.
- Installation of lighting for the stairs, ramps, and plaza.
- Installation of irrigation systems for the lawns and plantings.