

# American Pharaoh Mayor Richard J Daley His Battle For Chicago And The Nation

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there is no question that chicago is an architecturally significant city but before louis henry sullivan john wellborn root and frank lloyd wright before modernism there lived a man whose designs built it from the ground up written by his descendant retired architect burtram c hopkins ii more than a century later this book traces the incredible mark left on chicago by architect john mills van osdel a mark tragically largely wiped out by the great fire of 1871 from the time he arrived in 1837 to his death in 1891 van osdel watched the city swell from a village of around a thousand people to a bustling metropolis of hundreds of thousands though his name is little known today he played a crucial role in establishing architecture as a discipline in chicago drafting the chicago architect s code one of the first of its kind laying the groundwork for the skyscrapers that would become the hallmark of the first chicago school of architecture and contributing hundreds of architecturally significant structures to the growing urban landscape as well as countless more some still surviving in other parts of illinois iowa indiana michigan and arkansas van osdel s impact would reverberate in large part

through his family many of whom themselves pursued architectural and artistic careers including his nephew and business partner John Mills Van Osdel II. This truly encyclopedic book traces this inheritance with a section on Van Osdel II doubling as both an architectural history and a work of family genealogy vast in scope and exhaustively detailed it is sure to make an invaluable addition to the shelves of anyone interested in this powerhouse of American architecture and his influential family who helped transform Chicago from a frontier town on Lake Michigan to the capital of industry it is today.

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