

Carson Pirie Scott and
Company Building

Louis Sullivan

Iron, steel, glass, and terra
cotta

30,490ft²

Form: The Scott and Company Building is bold and big. It stands out among the other buildings near it. The bronze and white contrast draws the eye of the common pedestrian.

Context: During this time period, skyscrapers were just coming into play and Sullivan was leading the way in the mid to late 1890s.

Content: This large building is fancy in comparison to its more plain neighbors. It has a bronze first level and a twelve story white facade. It has large glass windows and a rounded corner entryway.

Function: The building was one of the first official skyscrapers and was originally built to be a department store.

Sullivan's phrase, "form must ever follow function," led the way for buildings to reflect their social purpose.

The Scott and Company Building, built to be a department store, was built with large glass windows for display and lavish decorations to attract the pedestrian eye.



Architect: The architect of this building was Louis Sullivan, an American architect who is considered to be the father of the modern skyscraper.

Sullivan uses the concept of an ideal tripartite skyscraper, where the first and second floors are easily accessible by the public for business purposes and then followed by many floors for offices that all look the same.

The building is set in such a way to represent and present upward momentum, being that a distinct characteristic of a Sullivan designed building was that it was tall.

The entryway was built to be easily accessible and eye catching to draw customers to the store and the windows on the ground floor are much larger in order to display the store's products.