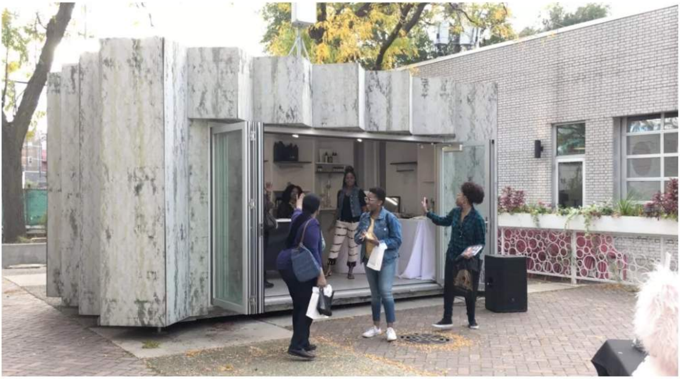
When you purchase through links on our site, we may earn an affiliate commission. Here's how it works.

Latent Design is making change in Chicago

The American Midwest has been shaking up the world of architecture. As part of our Next Generation series, we meet Latent Design, a small practice pioneering big change

Sign up to our newsletter



The Boombox project
(Image credit: latentdesign.net)

BY EVA HAGBERG
LAST UPDATED OCTOBER 20, 2022

Wallpaper*

'We're probably always going to suffer from small firm syndrome,' Katherine Darnstadt says. The founder of Latent Design – which has been working in multiple disciplines but always with a focus on spatial and racial equity, restorative design, and reclaiming access to space for a wide population – is talking about the biggest challenge facing her six-person Chicago-based firm, which she formally started in 2009. 'But it's something we've learned to embrace – it's a quality, it's not a deficit.'

Being a small firm has allowed Darnstadt and her team the nimbleness to take on a wide variety of projects and to use planning, zoning, codes, and financing as creatively as most of her peers are using AutoCAD and renderings. For her, architecture and urban planning have not only the possibility, but the necessity, to make a profound impact, as seen in work for clients such as the Mayo Clinic, the Boys & Girls Clubs, and 40 Acres Fresh Market, and projects including community masterplans, affordable housing, and commercial interiors. For Mayo, Latent Design brought a sense of place and permanence to the clinic's home in the small town of Rochester, Minnesota.

Katherine Darnstadt of Latent Design, at The Robey in Chicago

(Image credit: Hugo Yu)

Inspiration, escapism and design stories from around the world

Darnstadt points out that there are only about 200,000 permanent residents in the town but about three million medical visitors a year. It's a tension that to anyone else might have seemed impossible to bridge, but to her allowed for a creative opening up of the downtown area, linking the drive to be healthy to reconsidered and reconfigured outdoor spaces.

For her 2018 project Boombox, she transformed shipping containers into affordable micro-retail spaces, bringing small businesses into Chicago neighbourhoods that, she says, are 'normally locked out of commercial real estate'. She's now working with one of those businesses, 40 Acres Fresh Market, on a full-scale standalone grocery store on the West Side of Chicago. 'It's not a food desert,' Darnstadt says of that neighbourhood. 'It's food apartheid.'

Interior of the Boombox space
(Image credit: latentdesign.net)

Such directness and clarity are part of what has made Latent Design a go-to for clients deeply invested in actually changing how a variety of populations experience the built environment. As a certified Benefit Corporation since 2013, Latent Design is invested in financial and social equity, and in truly wielding all kinds of architectural and planning skills to make measurable differences in its home city of Chicago and beyond.

The team's work is 'really based in looking at those kinds of placemaking provocations that reveal a gap, or reveal the inequity, and then turn that into something more

, says Darnstadt. 'That's either a policy piece, a piece of architecture, or a business

y may be a small firm, but they're mighty.

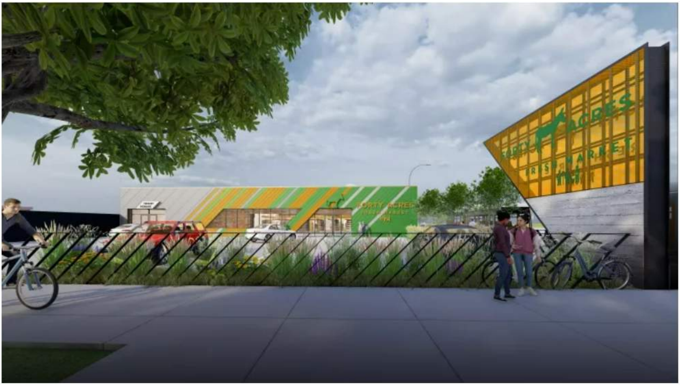
ick here and
up to receive
Daily Digest

Laten

The Americ
part of our N
pioneering b

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS

The Boys & Girls Clubs
(Image credit: latentdesign.net)


FORTY ACRES
FRESH MARKET

Forty Acres project

(Image credit: latentdesign.net)

Wallpaper*

INFORMATION

latentdesign.net*

TOPICS

USA

Eva Hagberg

A foolproof winter skincare routine, step by step

We've constructed the best winter skincare routine, step by step, to help you through the colder months

Sign up to our newsletter

(Image credit: Romain Duquesne)

BY MARY CLEARY
PUBLISHED 20 FEBRUARY 2023

The short days and cold temperatures of winter are hard enough without adding bad skin to the equation. We share the best winter skincare routine, step by step, so you can look good even if you are feeling down.

Winter skincare routine, step by step

1. Use a hydrating face wash

ÓLEO DE LIMPEZA
PARA A FACE
HYDRATING FACE CLEANSER
NETTOYANT VISAGE HYDRATANT
COSTA BRAZIL

(Image credit: Costa Brazil)

Winter tends to be the peak time for skin dryness, so it is particularly important to make sure you are using a hydrating facial wash that does not strip skin of the oils it needs.

Costa Brazil's oil-based wash is the perfect solution, with a blend of Amazon-sourced ingredients such as soothing copaiba tree oil, firming and vitamin E-rich urucum shrub oil, and andiroba plant oil, which is rich in omega 6 and 9 fatty acids to help hydrate skin and improve cell turnover.

An oil at first, the wash turns into a milky foam upon being rubbed into skin to leave your face feeling smooth and refreshed.

livecostabrazil.com

2. Gently exfoliate

GENTLE BUFFING GELEE
KIMELŐ ARCRADIR
Omorovicza
BUDAPEST

(Image credit: Omorovicza)

For moments when your skin is feeling extra dull and dry, try using Omorovicza's Gentle Buffing Gelée, which is formulated with ultra-fine luffa particles to smooth away flakes and brighten your complexion without irritating skin during a season when it tends to be extra sensitive.

omorovicza.co.uk

3. Regularly moisturise

(Image credit: Malin + Gotez)

Malin + Goetz's new Advanced Renewal Moisturizer has the potential to be the brand's next icon product as a three-in-one formulated to firm, hydrate, and smooth skin. Ultra-lightweight with a milky texture, the moisturiser feels great on skin and is packed with antioxidants to balance natural oils and apple stem cells to fight wrinkles.

If you are looking for a slightly thicker moisturiser, we are also fans of Horace's Rich Face Moisturizer. With high-impact results at a reasonable cost, it's a reliable buy that effectively hydrates even the driest skin.

malinandgoetz.co.uk; horace.co

4. Get extra hydration with a facial oil

LA ĒVA
JASMĪNA OIL
HUILE NOURRISSANTE
jasmine, thyme & black pepper
FACE · BODY · HAIR · AS ONE
VISAGE · CORPS · CHEVEUX

(Image credit: La Eva)

La Eva's Jasmīna Oil-Serum is great to have on hand during the colder months as part of a winter skincare routine. It is a multipurpose oil that can be used for face, hair and body. We recommend using it alongside your gua sha routine on your face and post-exfoliation on your body.

Formulated with hydrating rosehip, almond and argan oils, and fragranced with a calming blend of jasmine and thyme oils, it is an ideal product to use when winding down at the end of a busy (and cold) day.

la-eva.com

5. Add in a concentrate regime

111SKIN
HARLEY ST. LONDON
+27%
Improvement In Skin Luminosity / Plus Lumineux*
Natural Blend of Citric, Tartaric, and Lactic Acids removes dead, lacklustre skin without irritation
Le mélange naturel d'acides citrique, tartrique et lactique élimine la peau morte et terne sans irritation
Hydrolysed Yeast Protein illuminates renewed skin for a radiant complexion
La protéine de levure hydrolysée illumine la peau renouvelée pour un teint éclatant
THE RADIANCE CONCENTRATE
AMPOULES ÉCLAIRCISSANTES
DR. Y. ALEXANDRIDES MD
℮ 7 x 2 mL. / 7 x 0.07 Fl. Oz.

(Image credit: 111Skin)

For periods of particular dryness we recommend trying 111Skin's Radiance Concentrate, a week-long serum regime that uses citric, tartaric and lactic acids to dissolve dead skin cells and isolated Yeast Proteins to brighten the freshly renewed skin.

It is a fast and potent way to revive skin made dull by winter weather, with skin looking visibly more luminous and smoother at the end of the seven days.

libertylondon.com

6. Don't forget body care