

## CHICAGO'S SOLDIER FIELD LOSES LANDMARK STATUS

In a bold move announced April 21, then Interior Secretary Gale Norton ordered the removal of Soldier Field from the National Park Service's list of historic landmarks—where it has held a place since 1987—citing the “incompatible construction” of the new steel-and-glass seating bowl within the classically colonnaded stadium by Holabird & Roche (now Holabird & Root). City officials argued unsuccessfully against the rescinding, saying that the new \$660-million design by then Boston-based Wood + Zapata (the partners now operate separate firms) and local architect Dirk Lohan added modern amenities while preserving a majority of the 1924 design.

Critics of the latest effort, unaffectionately deemed the “Eyesore on Lake Shore” by some, have focused on the fact that the preserved colonnades are no longer visible within the stadium and the new design overpowers the pillars. Public reaction in Chicago has been predominantly in favor of the de-designation—a rare occurrence—most vocally through local architecture critic Blair Kamin's repeated calls for stripping the stadium of landmark status since its completion three years ago. BY JOHN HILL

