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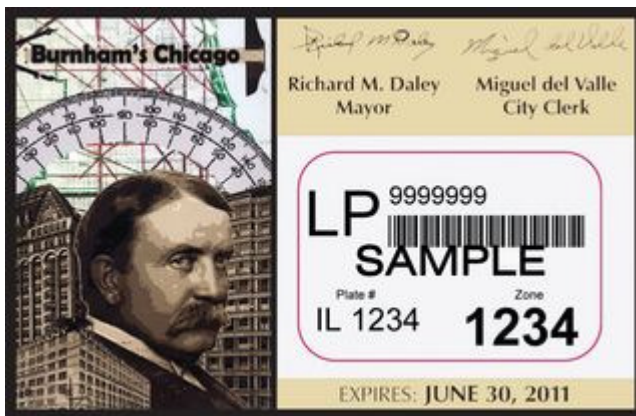
A DAILY CHICAGO JOURNAL ABOUT THE BUILDINGS AND URBAN SPACES THAT SHAPE OUR LIVES

BY BLAIR KAMIN

May 26, 2010

Making no little windshield art: Daniel Burnham featured on this year's city vehicle sticker

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Plunking down **\$75 or more for your Chicago city vehicle sticker** is no fun, but at least the pain is eased this year by the artwork on the sticker: It's the face of the great Chicago architect and planner, Daniel Burnham, surrounded by his notable buildings and an allusion to his greatest achievement--Chicago's unrivaled chain of lakefront parks.

The new sticker, **now on sale** online (in-person sales begin June 1), was designed by Lookman Muhammed, an 11th grader at **Lawrence Hall Youth Services** on the city's Northwest Side. He won a contest, sponsored by City Clerk Miguel del Valle, that drew more than 300 entries from 39 Chicago high schools. "He is an A student," his art teacher, Janice Gould, said proudly Wednesday. The design will be used on 1.3 million city stickers for 2010-11.

Based on detailed research and executed with a computer, the new sticker showcases the mustachioed architect, surrounded by landmark structures including the Reliance Building (now the Hotel Burnham) and the peak-roofed Masonic Temple (demolished in 1939). The words "Burnham's Chicago" are emblazoned on an old-fashioned T-square,

one of several architectural tools incorporated into an appropriately symmetrical design (Burnham loved symmetry and order).

In the background is a diagram from the 1909 "Plan of Chicago," which Burnham co-authored with Chicago architect Edward Bennett. It displays the pair's desire for diagonal streets, like the Champs-Elysees in Paris, and a continuous chain of lakefront parks.

The sticker even has a nice retro quality, achieved through its light-brown, sepia tone. Its vaguely nostalgic look is almost enough to make you forget that you just paid \$75 to put a piece of plastic on your car window. Incidentally, the 2009-2010 city vehicle sticker **expires on June 30**.

POSTSCRIPT: The City Clerk's web site has **more information about the contest**, including the 2nd and 3rd prize winners. The winners were chosen by the public.