

HENRY DUBIN'S BATTLEDECK HOUSE

- CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, USA

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THE CHALLENGE

When renowned Chicago architect Henry Dubin decided to build his home in nearby Highland Park in 1930, his design focus was informed by a recent crash on Wall Street. Working to develop an affordable, elegant home that could be prefabricated elsewhere, his creation—nicknamed the Battleship House for its battleship aesthetics—gained international attention and was later listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

However, nearly 80 years later, the Battleship House found itself in dire straits. By 2010, new property owners discovered bricks destroyed by layers and layers of paint and water damage, bowing in the walls, and even foundation failure.

To turn back the clock for this former landmark, homeowners collaborated with **JLK Architects** and began a ten-year restoration project. The mission was simple—restore the Battleship House and find a way to replicate Henry Dubin's original brick facades as closely as possible.

THE SOLUTION

After cleaning and salvaging as much brick as possible, project managers replaced damaged bricks and called in Nawkaw to match the new bricks precisely with the old ones.

To meet this need, Nawkaw was able to precisely match the intended final color of the Battledock house in a proprietary stain solution. Next, certified Stain Technicians arrived on-site and used various techniques to stain the new bricks.

Unlike latex paints, which had damaged the Battledock house over several decades by trapping moisture within the brick, Nawkaw stains allow masonry surfaces to breathe—providing a robust solution that will never peel, chip, or fade.

Nawkaw is proud to have had a small part in restoring the legacy of Henry Dubin and returning his Battledock House to its former glory.

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Henry Dubin's Battledock House, Chicago, Illinois



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