



## **THOMPSON CENTER**

**The original vision of Governor Jim Thompson and the architect Helmut Jahn to make the building a symbol for the openness and transparency of the state government, an active urban center in the city, and a lively urban and public place has not been upheld by the administrations that followed. The building has not been maintained or repaired, the retail lacks style and attraction. Governor Rauner has announced the state will sell and vacate it.**

**The best way to save the building, and to improve it, is to repurpose it. This requires upgrades to the retail and foodservice, marketing the large floor plates to innovative tech-companies, adding parking. For the unused FAR of close to 1 million square feet adding 24 hour uses, a hotel, apartments or condominiums, in short, making it the most exciting place in the city, with around the clock activity.**

**The architectural history is full of examples where such repurposing has brought new life to structures like this. This will require some changes be made. The building will only survive this way, and will become a landmark for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.**

**HELMUT JAHN | October 2015**