



STREETERVILLE DEMOLITION WATCH

Demo permit issued for old Museum of Contemporary Art building in Streeterville 2

Developers have proposed an Aloft-branded hotel for the shuttered low-rise structure

BY **JAY KOZIARZ** | JAN 18, 2017, 1:32PM CST

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Chicago's hotel and hospitality boom is moving from strength to strength as the old Museum of Contemporary Art building at 237 E. Ontario prepares to bite the dust for a new 19-story Aloft limited service hotel. Tishman Realty first presented its plans to redevelop the Streeterville site in late 2015, then calling for a [24-story, 395-room hotel](#) designed by architect Valerio Dewalt Train Associates.

Neighbors subsequently took issue with the initial plan and vehemently opposed the location of the hotel's porte-cochere, which was to be positioned in the alleyway to minimize traffic disruptions along Ontario. Nearby residents even [created a website](#) dedicated to preserving the sanctity of Chicago alleyways, stating that "alleys are alleys" not streets or loading zones.



A rendering of the hotel proposed for 237 E. Ontario. The contentious alley porte-cochere can be seen left. *Valerio Dewalt Train Associates*

In October, Tishman had [shortened its hotel down to 19 stories](#), apparently abandoning its previous request for Planned Development (PD) zoning approval. The height chop allows the developers to move forward as-of-right by utilizing

the site's existing zoning while also absolving any elected officials of culpability when it comes to unhappy neighboring constituents.

With the recent issuance of a [demo permit](#) for the old museum, it's obvious plans are moving forward—despite it being unclear when actual construction on the Aloft Mag Mile will begin in earnest. Tishman anticipated an 18-month construction timeline for the taller, 24-story iteration of the project.

- [Demolition permit at 237 E. Ontario St in Chicago](#) [Chicago Cityscape]
- [Shortened Streeterville hotel still faces stiff opposition from neighbors over alley access](#) [Curbed Chicago]
- [Glassy 24-Story Hotel Looking to Join Streeterville Streetscape](#) [Curbed Chicago]