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It's big, it's singular, it's bold, even brazen; it occupies a particular space in the grid of Chicago, challenges the limits of that geometry and taps onto the everyday mercantile life that weaves through city streets. It may be seen as the apotheosis of the shopping mall, as a proud humbling of the bureaucracy, as a sensational(ist)
landmark in the city. And, it was built for State Government. Whether the Illinois State Office Building is a place, of the place, or out of place is a matter of some debate. We have asked the architect and five others (all teachers of architects and planners who teach, it turns out) to comment.

IA State Office Building, Chicago. Photograph by James R. Soostkamp.