

Iannelli Studios Heritage Center

Drawn to the Park Ridge Artist Colony, Alfonso Iannelli and his wife, Margaret Spaulding Iannelli, established their art studios in these buildings at Northwest Highway and Elm in 1919. Working with architect Barry Byrne, they renovated the former blacksmith shop associated with the brickyard that gave Park Ridge its 19th Century beginnings as Brickton.

Immigrating to America from Italy in 1898, Iannelli embraced the freedom and opportunity that the United States offered. From Art Deco to Modernism, he worked as a painter, sculptor and interior and industrial designer creating a unique American artistic expression that sought to make art an experience for all people in their everyday lives. Based in Park Ridge for nearly 50 years, Iannelli took an active role advising the city on planning, mentoring new artistic and architectural talents, and making an indelible mark on the world's art scene.

His work can be viewed around Chicago at the Prudential Building's *Rock of Gibraltar*, the Adler Planetarium, the landmark Pickwick Theatre in Park Ridge and here at the Iannelli Studios Heritage Center, 255 N. Northwest Highway, headquarters of the Kalo Foundation of Park Ridge. You might have even seen his designs in the coffee pot, blender or toaster in your grandmother's kitchen.