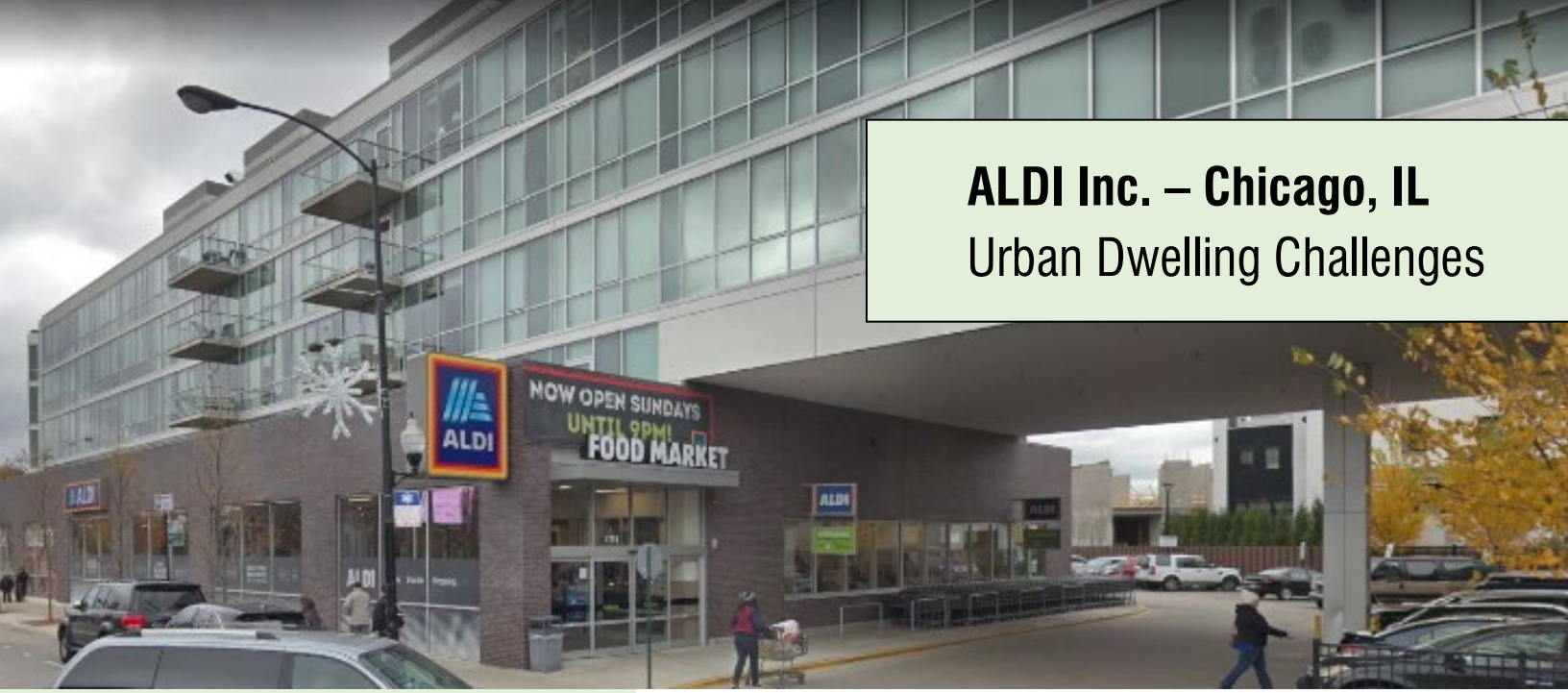

ALDI Inc. – Chicago, IL

Urban Dwelling Challenges

ALDI was founded by the Albrecht family in 1961 in Germany, making ALDI the first discounter in the world.

Headquartered in Batavia, IL, ALDI now has more than 1,600 stores across the United States. They have been steadily growing since opening its first US store in Iowa in 1976.

Since 2008, APD has managed ALDI's US Prototype Program. This program has included numerous redesigns over the years.

Executive Summary

This ALDI is unique in that it is a first-floor interior fit-out of a new ALDI Food Store in a Landlord furnished, multi-story shell building. Residents live in apartments on the upper floors and there is a parking garage located below ground.

Challenges

This space was certainly atypical for ALDI and the standard prototype was going to need some major changes. To start, two entrances were required at this location. Store equipment loads also needed to be calculated and coordinated with the Landlord Design Team.

Generally not an issue, in this situation there was concern about background noise encroaching on the living space above during operating hours. Residents would not have appreciated hearing the unloading of food and the sound of customers shopping throughout the day and evening hours.

The Solution

Due to the fact that there is occupied space above and below the store, additional coordination with the Landlord Design Team was required early on. Coordination began during the creation of the shell drawings so that plumbing review and coordination could be provided by APD. Store equipment loads were reviewed at this time as well.

In order to account for any noise that may be created, a sprayed acoustical insulation was applied to the ALDI ceiling.

Results

A more complex multi-story building requires much more coordination that a prototypical one-story building. Overhead plumbing and low ductwork came into scrutiny as construction began but APD helped the ALDI Construction Team understand the implications of the Landlord Installation choices.

A “Design-Build” route was taken and the store successfully opened.