Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat

For Immediate Release

CTBUH Names Best Tall Buildings for 2014

- Many projects show strong sustainability commitment, including greenery at height
- Older buildings re-energized by thoughtful renovations
- Eccentric shapes, new programs and uses challenge traditional perceptions of tall buildings
- Urban Habitat, 10-Year, Innovation, Lifetime Achievement and Worldwide awards announced next

CHICAGO, June 19 – Four buildings, from the United States, Australia, the Netherlands and the United Arab Emirates, have been named the best tall buildings in the world for 2014 by the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat (CTBUH).

The four regional winners are:

- The Edith Green-Wendell Wyatt Federal Building, Portland, USA (Americas)
- One Central Park, Sydney, Australia (Asia & Australia)
- De Rotterdam, Rotterdam, Netherlands (Europe)
- Cayan Tower, Dubai, UAE (Middle East & Africa).

An overall winner for the "Best Tall Building Worldwide" will be named from the four regional winners, following presentations from the owners and architects of each building, at the CTBUH 13th Annual Awards Symposium, which will take place at the Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, on November 6. The symposium will be followed by the Awards Ceremony and Dinner in the iconic Crown Hall, designed by Mies van der Rohe. The 10-Year, Urban Habitat, Lifetime Achievement, Building Performance and Innovation awards will be announced in the coming weeks, and will also feature at November's awards events.

The Council received 88 entries from around the world for the Best Tall Building awards. The largest number of entries was from Asia, with a significant number also from Europe.

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This year's group of entries was remarkable in that it contained a number of fantastic renovation projects (including Winner, The Edith Green-Wendell Wyatt Federal Building, Portland; and Finalist, United Nations Secretariat Building, New York), projects that incorporated vertical greenery in new and exciting ways (including Winner, One Central Park, Sydney; and Finalists, Abeno Harukas, Osaka and Ideo Morph 38, Bangkok), and a variety of programs and uses that have historically not been accommodated in buildings, such as higher education (including Finalist, The Jockey Club Innovation Tower, Hong Kong). New horizons in form were pushed aggressively, yielding towers in "wheel" or "doughnut" shape and playing off proximity to water (see Finalist, Sheraton Tai Lake Resort, Huzhou), a twisting helix (see Winner, Cayan Tower, Dubai), and towers that curve in all dimensions (see Finalist the Point, Guayaquil, Ecuador).

"The submissions this year reflect the incredible diversity of tall buildings being built around the world," said Jeanne Gang, awards jury chair and founding principal of Studio Gang Architects. *"Even more so, they reflect the dawning of a global recognition that tall buildings have a critical role to play in a rapidly changing climate and urban environment."*

The CTBUH Best Tall Building Awards are an independent review of new projects, judged by a panel of industry experts. Projects are recognized for making an extraordinary contribution to the advancement of tall buildings and the urban environment, and for achieving sustainability at the broadest level.

Winners and finalists are featured in the annual **CTBUH Awards Book**, which is published in conjunction with a major global publisher and distributed internationally each year.

View an overview of last year's Awards Ceremony & Dinner

Americas:
Winner – Edith Green-Wendell Wyatt Federal Building, Portland, USA
Finalist – The Point, Guayaquil, Ecuador
Finalist – United Nations Secretariat Building, New York, USA

Asia & Australasia:
Winner – One Central Park, Sydney, Australia
Finalist – 8 Chifley, Sydney, Australia
Finalist – Abeno Harukas, Osaka, Japan
Finalist – Ardmore Residence, Singapore

Finalist – FKI Tower, Seoul, South Korea
Finalist – Ideo Morph 38, Bangkok, Thailand
Finalist – Sheraton Tai Lake Resort, Huzhou, China
Finalist – The Interlace, Singapore
Finalist – The Jockey Club Innovation Tower, Hong Kong, China
Finalist – Wangjing SOHO, Beijing, China

Europe:

Winner – De Rotterdam, Rotterdam, Netherlands
Finalist – DC Tower, Vienna, Austria
Finalist – NEO Bankside, London, UK

Middle East & Africa:

Winner – Cayan Tower, Dubai, UAE

Photos:
Media can download photos of the winners here:
http://ctbuh.org/awards/2014-press-kit.zip

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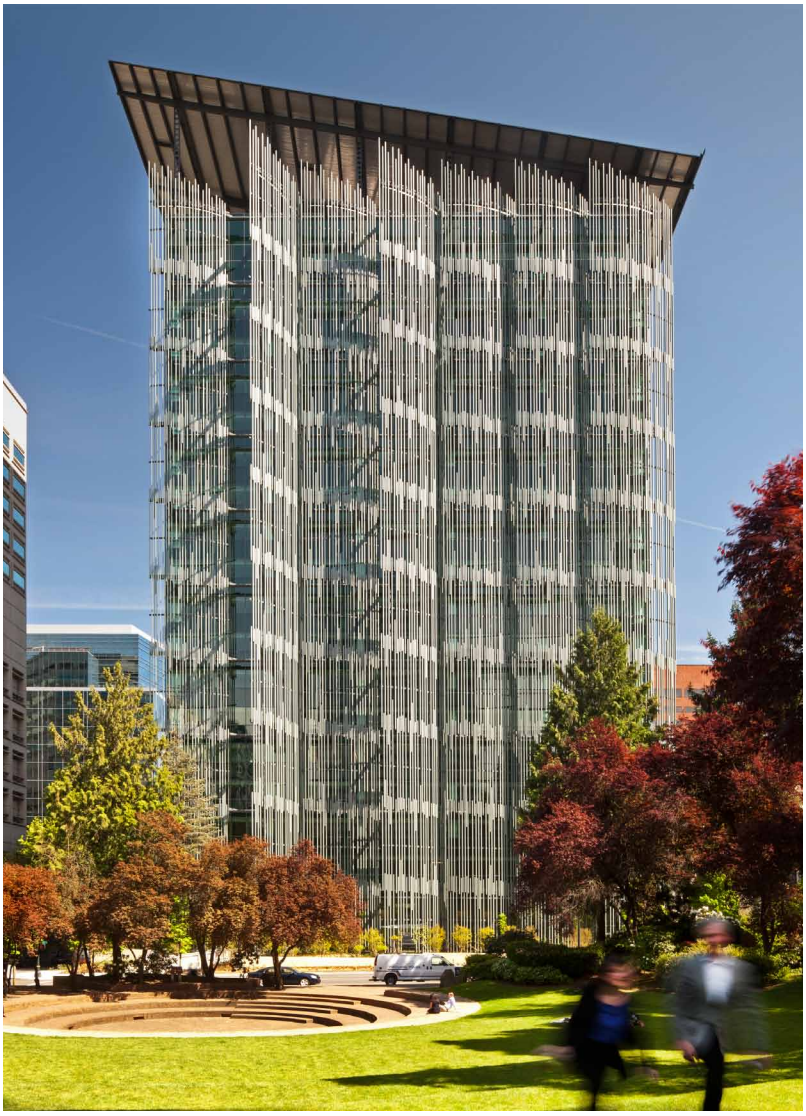
About the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat
The Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat is the world's leading resource for professionals focused on the design and construction of tall buildings and future cities. A not-for-profit organization based at the Illinois Institute of Technology, the group facilitates the exchange of the latest knowledge available on tall buildings around the world through events, publications and its extensive network of international representatives. Its free database on tall buildings, The Skyscraper Center, is updated daily with detailed information, images and news. The CTBUH also developed the international standards for measuring tall building height and is recognized as the arbiter for bestowing such designations as "The World's Tallest Building."

CTBUH Awards 2014 – Supplemental Information: **Winners and Finalists**

Americas Winner:



© Nick Lehoux

Completion Date: 1974; Renovation May 2013
Height: 95 m (312 ft)
Stories: 18
Area: 48,774 sq m (524,999 sq ft)
Use: Office
Owner: General Services Adminstration
Architect: Cutler Anderson Architects (design); SERA Architects (architect of record)
Structural Engineer: KPFF Consulting Engineers
MEP Engineer: Interface; PAE Consulting Engineers; Stantec
Main Contractor: Howard S Wright Construction
Other Consultants: Acoustic Design Studio (acoustics); Charles M. Salter Associates (acoustics); PLACE (landscape)

Edith Green-Wendell Wyatt Federal Building

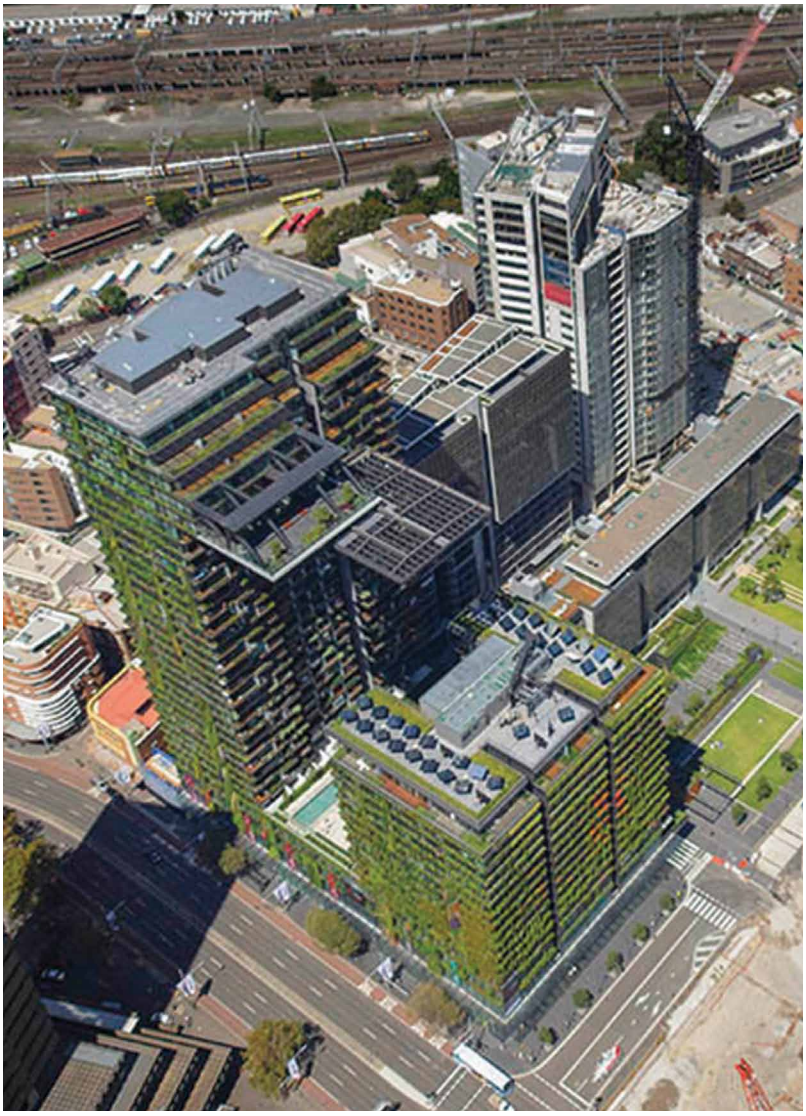
Portland, Oregon, USA

The Edith Green-Wendell Wyatt (EGWW) Federal Building is an existing 18-story, 512,474 square-foot (47,610 square-meter) office tower, completed in 1974. The building no longer met the functional or the energy and conservation requirements of the contemporary US government, so a major renovation project was undertaken. A mechanical upgrade was paired with a full replacement of the building envelope with a distinctive shading facade, affording better energy performance and a new lease on life.

This project achieves operational sustainability that would be admirable in a brand-new building, let alone a retrofit of a 1970s "energy hog." The building has been transformed from a bunker-like, concrete-encased mass into a trellised volume that seems more lightweight by an order of magnitude, yet affords more floor space than the previous version. The transformation speaks volumes about the change in attitude of Americans toward their environment, and in the relationship between Americans and their government.

"Improving energy performance is an obligation of the building community, and it's great to see the government meaningfully participating in that objective," said Jeanne Gang, awards jury chair and founding principal of Studio Gang Architects. "This renovation project significantly expands the original design's energy strategies, while, at street level, contributing to a more active urban experience."

Asia & Australia Winner:



© J Gollings

One Central Park

Sydney, Australia

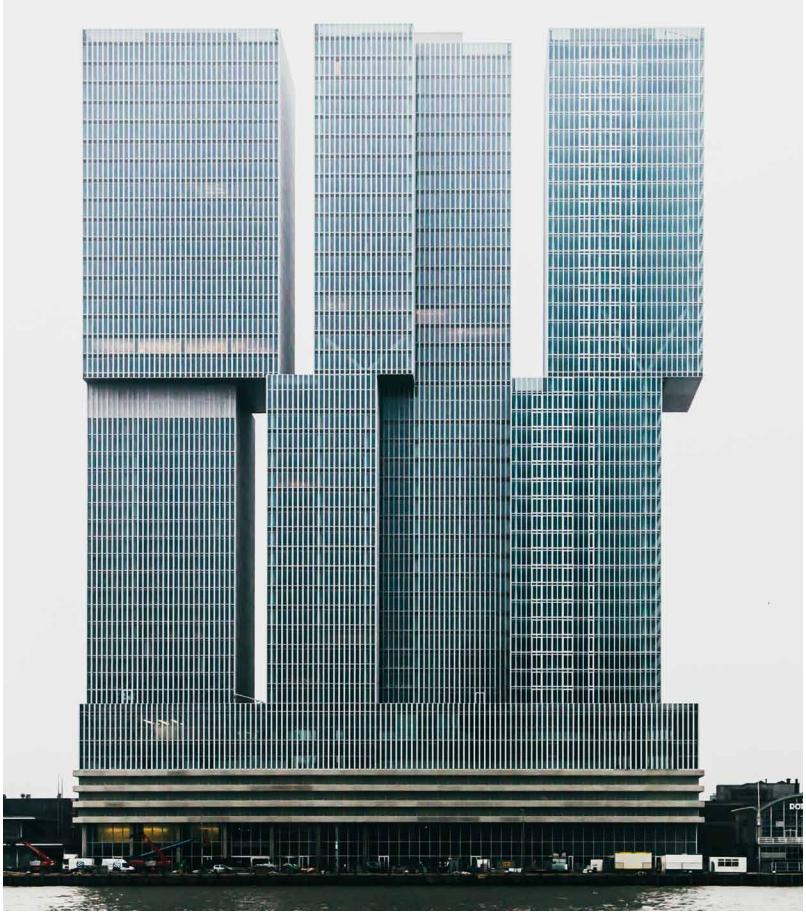
One Central Park uses two unusual technologies for tall buildings – hydroponics and heliostats – to grow plants around the periphery of the building at all levels. The shading saves cooling energy, while the heliostat directs sunlight for heating and lighting into or away from the building and the adjoining park when it is most needed.

The project presages a future in which biomimicry is no longer a radical concept in architecture, while inverting a perception that tall buildings can only block light and rob the urban environment of natural greenery. Instead, it does just the opposite, strategically casting light about itself to reduce rooftop heat loads and stir visual interest at height and on the ground, while enshrouding itself in lush greenery. By showcasing the green art of the possible, One Central Park ascribes a tantalizing literalness to the expression "a forest of skyscrapers."

"Seeing this project for the first time stopped me dead," said juror Antony Wood, Executive Director, CTBUH. "There have been major advances in the incorporation of greenery in high-rise buildings over the past few years – but nothing on the scale of this building has been attempted or achieved. One Central Park strongly points the way forward, not only for an essential naturalization of our built environment, but for a new aesthetic for our cities – an aesthetic entirely appropriate to the environmental challenges of our age."

Completion Date: January 2014
Height: 116 m (381 ft)
Stories: 34
Area: 67,626 sq m (727,920 sq ft)
Use: Residential/Retail
Owner/Developer: Frasers Property; Sekisui House Australia
Architect: Ateliers Jean Nouvel (design); PTW Architects (architect of record)
Structural Engineer: Robert Bird Group
MEP Engineer: Arup
Main Contractor: Watpac Construction
Other Consultants: AIK-Atelier de Yann Kersale (lighting); Arup (environmental); Aspect Oculus (landscape); Davis Langdon (cost); Device Logic (environmental); Jeppe Aagaard Andersen (landscape); Kennovations (environmental); Patrick Blanc (landscape); Surface Design Pty Ltd (façade); Turf Design (landscape)

Europe Winner:



© OMA, by Richard John Seymour

De Rotterdam

Rotterdam, The Netherlands

De Rotterdam is the largest building in the Netherlands, at 150 meters' height and 162,000 square meters of area. Its mass is broken down by three interconnected mixed-use towers, accommodating offices, apartments, a hotel, conference facilities, shops, restaurants, and cafes.

De Rotterdam is an exercise in formal interpretation that is at once reminiscent of an imported mid-century American skyscraper, but epitomizes the off-center experimentalism of modern Dutch art of the foregoing century. The nighttime twinkling of the lights indicating different programs throughout the day lends dynamism and contributes to the humanization of the monoliths. It is as if the moai of Easter Island were constantly craning their necks and raising their eyebrows at the change all around.

"This three-tower set acknowledges its inevitability on the skyline, breaking down what could have been an overwhelming mass into digestible parts," said juror Saskia Sassen, Robert S. Lynd Professor of Sociology and Co-Chair, The Committee on Global Thought, Columbia University. "It demonstrates a confident agility as one shifts perspective and the sun circumscribes it."

Completion Date: November 2013
Height: 151 m (495 ft)
Stories: 45
Area: 162,000 sq m (1,743,753 sq ft)
Use: Office/Residential/Hotel
Developer: MAB; OVG Projectontwikkeling
Architect: Office for Metropolitan Architecture
Structural Engineer: Corsmit Raadgevende Ingenieurs
MEP Engineer: Techniplan Adviseurs; Valstar Simonis
Project Manager: De Rotterdam CV; DVP
Main Contractor: Zublin
Other Consultants: ABT Delft (code); Arup (structural advisor at schematic stage); DGMR Raadgevende Ingenieurs (acoustics, fire, wind); Permasteelisa Group (façade); TGM (façade)

Middle East & Africa Winner:

© Tim Griffith

Completion Date: June 2013
Height: 306 m (1,005 ft)
Stories: 75
Area: 111,000 sq m (1,194,794 sq ft)
Use: Residential
Owner/Developer: Cayan Property Developments
Architect: Skidmore Owings & Merrill (design); Khatib & Alami (architect of record)
Structural Engineer: Skidmore Owings & Merrill (design); Khatib & Alami (engineer of record)
MEP Engineer: Skidmore Owings & Merrill
Project Manager: Currie & Brown
Main Contractor: Arabtec
Other Consultants: Alan G. Davenport Wind Engineering Group BLWTL (wind); Cerami Associates (acoustics); Fisher Marantz Stone (lighting); Lerch Bates (vertical transportation); Opening Solutions, Inc. (vertical transportation); Rolf Jensen & Associates (fire); Sako & Associates, Inc. (security); Shen Milsom Wilke, Inc. (acoustics); SWA Group (landscape); Van Deusen & Associates (vertical transportation)

Cayan Tower

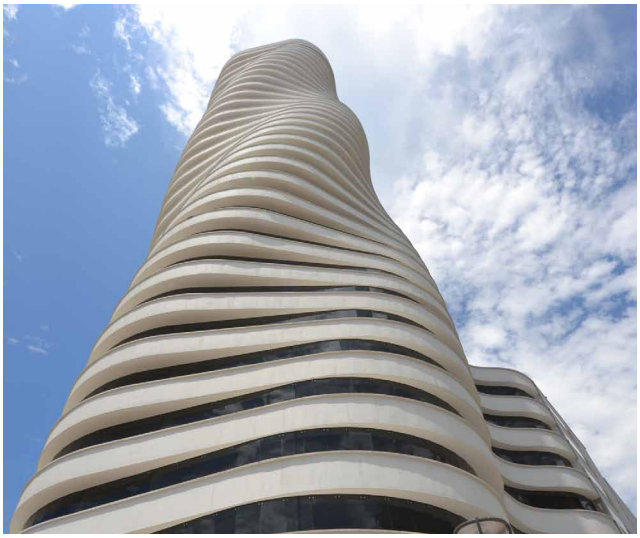
Dubai, United Arab Emirates

The Cayan Tower is a 75-story luxury apartment building with a striking helical shape, turning 90 degrees over the course of its 304-meter height. Each floor is identical in plan, but is set 1.2 degrees clockwise from the floor below, giving the tower a distinctive form by way of an innovative, efficient, repeatable structure.

In an environment where so many tall buildings lined up in a row against a humid and reflective backdrop can make massive buildings seem like cardboard matte cutouts, it takes an extraordinary design gesture to indelibly express the three-dimensionality of a building. Cayan Tower makes that gesture; happening upon its dancing form in the skyline is like encountering a hula-hooper on a train full of gray flannel suits.

"The intelligent helical design of the Cayan Tower responds to very specific and challenging local conditions, whilst providing a visually striking new landmark for the Dubai skyline," said juror Sir Terry Farrell, Principal, Farrells. "This building expresses its structure through its form in an elegant and sophisticated way, enhancing the architecture of the existing waterfront site."

Americas Finalists:



© Christian Wiese

The Point

Guayaquil, Ecuador

The Point is the tallest building and structure in Ecuador, at 137 meters. It takes the opportunity presented by its prominent place in the skyline to experiment with the traditional skyscraper form, by undulating as a sculpture representing the flow of the water in the Guayas River, stepping out of the way of key views, while becoming a key view in and of itself. The curving, cantilevered form has already won hearts and minds in Ecuador, where its model can be found in many stores as a souvenir of the Guayaquil. It even has a nickname: "the screw."

Completion Date: March 2014
Height: 137 m (449 ft)
Stories: 36
Area: 905 sq m (9,741 sq ft)
Use: Office
Owner/Developer: Pronobis
Architect: Christian Wiese
Structural Engineer: Ernesto NA
MEP Engineer: Ernesto NA
Main Contractor: Inmo Mariuxi
Other Consultants: Adriana Hoyos (interiors); Coheco (vertical transportation); Consuambiente (environmental); Coyado (lighting); Imecanic (fire)

© HLW International LLP

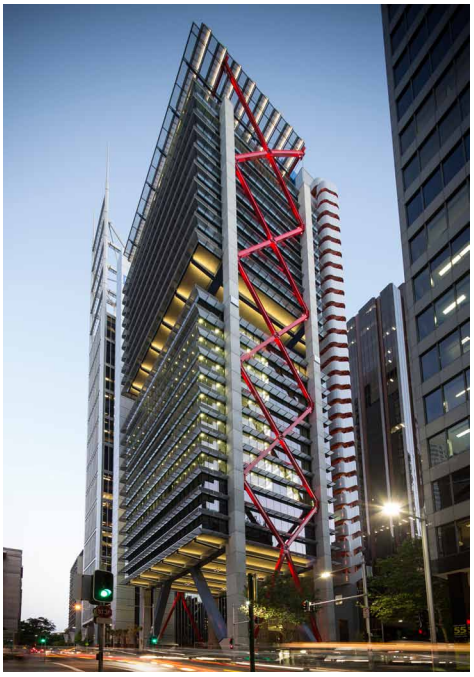
United Nations Secretariat Building

New York, United States of America

A worldwide symbol of postwar optimism and resiliency, the 1952 UN Secretariat is a signature work of mid-century Modernism by the trio of Le Corbusier, Oscar Neimeyer and Wallace Harrison. By the time renovations began in 2008, the Secretariat had severely outdated fixtures, safety features, and a leaky curtain wall. This thoroughgoing renovation replaced elevators, fire safety and mechanical equipment, installed an architecturally sensitive but modernized envelope, and improved floor plate utilization.

Completion Date: 1953; Renovation September 2013
Height: 152 m (499 ft)
Stories: 39
Area: 82,272 sq m (885,568 sq ft)
Use: Office
Owner/Developer: United Nations
Architect: HLW International (interiors); R.A. Heintges & Associates (façade)
Structural Engineer: HLW International
MEP Engineer: SYSKA Hennessy Group
Project Manager: Gardiner & Theobald Inc
Main Contractor: Skanska USA Building, Inc.
Other Consultants: di Domenico + Partners, LLP (landscape); HLW International (lighting, sustainability); Kroll Inc (security); Rolf Jensen & Associates (fire); Shen Milsom Wilke, Inc. (acoustics); Viridian Energy & Environmental, LLC (sustainability); Weidlinger Associates (security)

Asia & Australia Finalists:



© Brett Broadman

8 Chifley

Sydney, Australia

This new building in Sydney's central business district presents an assertive and distinctive physical form, with an airy elevation of volumes on stilts, creating a public park below, unified by red-painted cross braces. The form supports an innovative interaction concept for the modern office building. The 21 levels of office space are connected by adaptable, three-story interlinked "vertical villages," including a "village square" at the 18th floor as the building's social heart.

Completion Date: July 2013
Height: 112 m (367 ft)
Stories: 30
Area: 21,700 sq m (233,577 sq ft)
Use: Office
Owner/Developer: Mirvac Developments
Architect: Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners (design); Lippmann Partnership (architect of record)
Structural Engineer: Arup
MEP Engineer: Arup
Main Contractor: Mirvac Constructions
Other Consultants: Arup (façade); Aspect Studios (landscape); Renzo Tonin & Associates (acoustics)

© Hisao Suzuki

Abeno Harukas

Osaka, Japan

Abeno Harukas is the tallest building in Japan, but its significance extends beyond this, to its anchoring role in the urban core of one of the country's great cities, and for its novel use of greenery. The building, situated above a major rail terminal, maximizes the density of the plot, but breaks up its mass with shifting volumes and sunlit sky lobbies and setbacks for sky gardens. Three volumes with different floor area are shifted and stacked to intake sunlight and wind to the cascading greenery of the central void. The gardens placed on setbacks reconcile the vertical greenery with that of the adjacent park. The public observatories challenge expectations by incorporating greenery, offering an open-air courtyard surrounded by the observation ramps, and deploying full-height glass in the restrooms.

Completion Date: March 2014
Height: 300 m (984 ft)
Stories: 60
Area: 212,000 sq m (2,284,949 sq ft)
Use: Office/Hotel/Retail
Owner/Developer: Kintetsu Corporation
Architect: Takenaka Corporation
Structural Engineer: Takenaka Corporation
MEP Engineer: Takenaka Corporation
Main Contractor: Dai Nippon; Obayashi Gumi Corporation; Okumura Gumi; Takenaka Corporation; Zenitaka Corporation
Other Consultants: Bonbori Lighting Architect & Associates, Inc. (lighting); Hiromura Design Office (way finding); Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects (façade); Studio on Site (landscape)

© Pontiac Land Group

Ardmore Residence

Singapore

The design concept of the Ardmore is a multi-layered response to the natural landscape of the "garden city" of Singapore. This landscape concept is integrated into the design by means of the façade's organic textures and patterns; expansive views across the city made possible by large glazed areas, bay windows and double-height balconies; the interior "living landscape" concept adopted for the design of the two apartment types and the introduction of transparency and connectivity to the ground level gardens by means of a raised structure, supported by an open framework.

Completion Date: September 2013
Height: 136 m (446 ft)
Stories: 36
Area: 15,666 sq m (168,627 sq ft)
Use: Residential
Owner/Developer: Pontiac Land Group
Architect: UN Studio (design); Architects 61 Private (architect of record)
Structural Engineer: Web Structures Singapore
MEP Engineer: J. Roger Preston Group
Main Contractor: Shimizu Corporation
Other Consultants: Arup (façade); Terry Hunziker (interiors)

© Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture/
photograph by Namgoong Sun

FKI Tower

Seoul, South Korea

The 50-story, 240-meter FKI Tower features an innovative exterior wall, designed specifically for the project. The building's unique skin helps reduce internal heating and cooling loads and collects energy through photovoltaic panels that are integrated into the spandrel areas of the southeast and southwest faces, giving the building a distinctive texture that is also functional. It also features an expansive rooftop atrium, topped by custom photovoltaic panels.

Completion Date: December 2013
Height: 245 m (804 ft)
Stories: 52
Area: 116,037 sq m (1,249,012 sq ft)
Use: Office
Owner/Developer: Federation of Korean Industries
Architect: Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture (design); Chang-Jo Architects (architect of record)
Structural Engineer: Thornton Tomasetti
MEP Engineer: Environmental Systems Design, Inc.
Main Contractor: Hyundai Engineering & Construction
Other Consultants: Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture (sustainability); Construction Cost Systems (cost); Fortune Consultants, Ltd. (vertical transportation); Lerch Bates (façade); Rolf Jensen & Associates (fire); RWDI (wind); Shen Milsom Wilke, Inc. (acoustics); SWA Group (landscape); V3 Companies (civil)

© Somdoon Architects

IDEO Morph 38

Bangkok, Thailand

Ideo Morph 38 consists of two residential towers of differing height and apartment layouts, unified by an outer "tree bark" skin of precast panels and green walls, accented by dramatically projecting cantilevered glass rooms. Sky gardens at regular intervals contribute to the design language, bringing a new level of community to the lives of inhabitants, and tying the buildings into the lush green landscape of their surroundings. The greenery also extends over the podium car park, shading inhabitants and autos from harsh sunlight while enhancing the façade of the parking area.

Completion Date: January 2013
Height: 132 m (433 ft)
Stories: 35
Area: 26,160 sq m (281,584 sq ft)
Use: Residential
Owner/Developer: Ananda Development PCL.
Architect: Somdoon Architects
Structural Engineer: H. Engineer Co., Ltd (design); Westcon Co., Ltd (engineer of record)
MEP Engineer: Elemac Company limited (design); Mect Co., Ltd. (engineer of record)
Project Manager: MJR Management
Main Contractor: Westcon Co., Ltd
Other Consultants: Dot Line Plane (interiors); Flix Design (interiors); Meinhardt (façade); Shma Company Limited (landscape); Thai Thai Engineering (environmental)

© MAD Architects

Sheraton Huzhou Hot Spring Resort

Huzhou, China

This ring-shaped building cuts an unmistakable profile on the surface of Nan Tai Lake, forming a reflection in the water and creating a surreal image. The shape of the hotel provides all rooms with favorable views of the waterfront and surrounding city, while accepting maximum natural light from all directions. When night falls, the entire building is lit up brightly by both its interior and exterior lighting. Soft light wraps around the hotel and the water, resembling the bright moon rising above the lake, unifying symbols of classical and modern China.

Completion Date: December 2012
Height: 91 m (299 ft)
Stories: 24
Area: 30,799 sq m (331,518 sq ft)
Use: Hotel
Owner: Sheraton Huzhou Hot Spring Resort
Developer: Feizhou Group
Architect: MAD
Structural Engineer: China Majesty Steel Structural Design Co., Ltd.
MEP Engineer: China Majesty Steel Structural Design Co., Ltd.
Main Contractor: Shanghai Xian Dai Architecture Design (Group) Co., Ltd.
Other Consultants: EDSA (landscape); Zhejiang Zhongnan Curtain Wall Co., Ltd. (façade)

© CapitaLand Singapore Limited

The Interlace

Singapore

This integration of the best of horizontal and vertical living frameworks is more than the sum of its parts. The scissoring, overlapping forms suggest innumerable possibilities for changing perspective, meeting new neighbors, or finding a longer way home, within one complex. Taken apart from their stacked positions atop unseen axes, the relatively straightforward, balconied rectilinear forms reveal the immensity of past missed opportunities to orient International-Style regiment towards, or better yet, to render it part of the landscape.

Completion Date: September 2013
Height: 89 m (292 ft)
Stories: 24
Area: 170,000 sq m (1,829,865 sq ft)
Use: Residential
Owner/ Developer: CapitaLand Singapore Limited; Hotel Properties Limited
Architect: Office for Metropolitan Architecture, designer & partner-in-charge Ole Scheeren (now at Buro Ole Scheeren) (design); RSP Architects, Planners & Engineers Pte Ltd. (architect of record)
Structural Engineer: TY Lin international
MEP Engineer: Squire Mech Private Limited
Main Contractor: Woh Hup Pte Ltd
Other Consultants: Acviron Acoustics Consultants Pte Ltd (acoustics); ICN Design International Pte. Ltd. (landscape); Langdon & Seah (quantity surveyor); Lighting Planners Associates (S) Pte Ltd (lighting); Office for Metropolitan Architecture (landscape); TY Lin international (civil)

© Virgile Simon Bertrand

The Jockey Club Innovation Tower

Hong Kong, China

The profile of the Jockey Club Innovation Tower, a new school of design building for the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, is generated through an intrinsic composition of its landscape, floor plates and louvers, dissolving the classic typology of the tower and podium into a seamless composition. Internal and external courtyards create new spaces of an intimate scale, complementing larger athletic facilities, to promote a diversity of civic spaces which are integrated to the university's campus establishment. Inside, the building is open and transparent for its staff and students with maximized views and indirect natural light. The energy and life of the school is thus reformed vertically.

Completion Date: August 2013
Height: 78 m (256 ft)
Stories: 15
Area: 28,000 sq m (301,389 sq ft)
Use: Education
Owner/Developer: The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Architect: Zaha Hadid Architects (design); AD+RG Architecture Design and Research Group (architect of record); AGC Design (architect of record)
Structural Engineer: Arup
MEP Engineer: Arup
Main Contractor: Shui On Construction & Materials
Other Consultants: Arup (façade, fire, geotechnical); Ho Wang & Partners Ltd. (traffic); Rider Levett Bucknall Ltd. (quantity surveyor); Team 73 Hong Kong Ltd (landscape); Westwood Hong & Associates Ltd (acoustics)

© Zaha Hadid Architects by Feng Chang

Wangjing SOHO

Beijing, China

The Wangjing SOHO Project is designed as three dynamic fish-like mountain forms that merge together. The juxtaposition of the mountain-like towers continuously change views from all directions, always elegant and fluid. The exterior skin of the towers consists of flowing, shimmering ribbons of aluminum and glass that continuously wrap and embrace the sky. Inspired by the surrounding movement of the city, the sun, and the wind, the project creates a strong identity that anchors the Wangjing area and creates a gateway-beacon that can be seen on the way to and from Beijing Capital Airport.

Completion Date: September 2014
Height: 200 m (656 ft)
Stories: 45
Area: 125,307 sq m (1,348,793 sq ft)
Use: Office/Retail
Owner/Developer: SOHO China Co. Ltd
Architect: Zaha Hadid Architects (design);
China Construction Design International (architect of record)
Structural Engineer: CABR (design);
China Construction Design International (engineer of record)
MEP Engineer: Arup (design);
China Construction Design International (engineer of record);
Main Contractor: China State Construction Engineering Corporation
Other Consultants: Arup (façade); Ecoland (landscape); EMSI (LEED); Ikonik (way finding); Inhabit Group (façade); Lightdesign (lighting); Yonsei University (wind); Zaha Hadid Architects (landscape)

Europe Finalists:

© Michael Nagl/DPA/Adagp

DC Tower

Vienna, Austria

Austria's tallest building, DC Tower 1, has become an invaluable landmark of the Donau-city in Vienna. The 220-meter building comprises an entirely new urban district with a diverse range of functions: offices, a four star hotel, apartments, a sky bar, a public open space, restaurants, and a fitness center. The folds contrast with the no-nonsense rigor of the other three façades, creating a tension that electrifies the public space at the tower's base. The façade's folds give the tower a liquid, immaterial character, a malleability constantly adapting to the light, a reflection or an event. Dancing on its platform, the tower is slightly oriented toward the river to open a dialogue with the rest of the city, turning its back on no one, neither the historic nor the new Vienna. A subtle game of flat and folded façades affords the glass and steel tower a sensual identity. The exposed concrete structure is meant to be touchable.

Completion Date: February 2014
Height: 220 m (722 ft)
Stories: 60
Area: 1,596 sq m (17,179 sq ft)
Use: Office/Hotel/Residential
Owner/Developer: WED (Wiener Entwicklungsgesellschaft für den Donauraum AG)
Architect: Dominique Perrault Architecture (design); Hoffmann-Janz Architekten (architect of record)
Structural Engineer: Bollinger + Grohmann; Gmeiner Haferl Zivilingenieure ZT GmbH
MEP Engineer: AXIS Ingenieursleistungen ZT GmbH; Eipeldauer & Partner GmbH; ZFG-Projekt
Main Contractor: Max Bögl Bauunternehmung GmbH & Co; STRABAG AG
Other Consultants: Dr. Pfeiler GmbH (civil); ELIN GmbH & co KG (civil); OK Osadnik & Kamienski GmbH (civil); Prüfstelle für Brandschutztechnik (fire); Stahlform Baustahlbearbeitungs GmbH (civil); Vermessung Angst ZT GmbH (civil); Wacker Ingenieure (wind); Werner Sobek Group (façade); YIT Austria GmbH (civil)

© Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners

NEO Bankside

London, UK

NEO Bankside comprises 217 residential units in four buildings ranging from 12 to 24 stories. Its four hexagonal pavilions have been arranged to provide residents with generous accommodation, stunning views and maximum daylight. The steel and glass pavilions take their cues from the immediate context. A generous public realm is created, animated by retail at ground level. Landscaped groves define two clear public routes through the site, which extend the existing landscape from the riverside gardens outside Tate Modern through to Southwark Street, and act as a catalyst for creating a lively and vibrant environment around the base of the buildings throughout the year.

Completion Date: October 2013
Height: 82 m (271 ft)
Stories: 24
Area: 42,000 sq m (137,795 sq ft)
Use: Residential
Owner/Developer: GC Bankside LLP
Architect: Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners
Structural Engineer: Waterman Group
MEP Engineer: Hoare Lea
Project Manager: EC Harris
Main Contractor: Carillion PLC
Other Consultants: DP9 (planning); Gillespies (landscape); Hoare Lea (fire); WT Partnership (cost)