



## Four Skyscrapers Named Regional “Best Tall Buildings” for 2011 by the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat

Best Tall Building “Worldwide” to be announced at October Awards Ceremony;  
“Lifetime Achievement” winners Adrian Smith and Akira Wada also to be recognized.

Chicago - June 15, 2011

The Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat is pleased to announce the winners of its annual “Best Tall Building” awards for 2011. These awards recognize outstanding tall buildings from each of four geographical regions, and this year are awarded to: “**New York by Gehry**” at **Eight Spruce Street**, New York (Americas); **Guangzhou International Finance Center**, Guangzhou (Asia & Australasia); **KfW Westarkade**, Frankfurt (Europe); and **The Index**, Dubai (Middle East & Africa). These buildings were selected for their design and technical innovations, sustainable attributes, and the enhancement of both cities and the lives of their inhabitants. (see further details on projects on following pages)

Awards Committee Chairman Richard Cook, of Cook + Fox Architects, said about this year’s entries: *“Not only has this been a record-breaking year for the Best Tall Building Awards in terms of the number of buildings submitted, the quality overall is perhaps the best we have seen. There were very strong contenders for the winner in each regional category, and several projects would, I’m sure, have been winners in other years.”*

The other members of the jury this year include: His Excellency Mohamed Ali Alabbar, Head of Emaar Properties in the UAE (owner-developer of the Burj Khalifa); Gordon Gill of Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture, Chicago (architect and previous year’s Awards Chair); Peter Murray of Wordsearch Communications, London (Urbanist and Founder of the New London Architecture Centre); eminent Structural Engineer Werner Sobek of Werner Sobek, Germany; and Antony Wood of the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat and the Illinois Institute of Technology Chicago (architect and academic).

This year’s recipients of the Council’s two lifetime achievement awards were selected by the CTBUH Board of Trustees, under the leadership of Chairman Sang Dae Kim: **Adrian Smith** of Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture (Lynn S. Beedle Lifetime Achievement Award) and **Dr. Akira Wada**, Tokyo Institute of Technology (Fazlur Khan Lifetime Achievement Medal). Both men were selected for their lifetime’s work towards the development and advancement of tall buildings.

This year’s winners will be recognized, and the awards conferred, at the CTBUH 10th Annual Awards Ceremony & Dinner which will take place at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Mies van der Rohe’s iconic Crown Hall,

Chicago, on the evening of **Thursday, November 3rd**. All the winning projects and finalists will be celebrated at this gala event. Additionally, from the four regional best tall building winners, one overall winner will be selected and bestowed with the “Best Tall Building Worldwide” award, to be announced on the night.

The awards ceremony will take place in conjunction with an afternoon Symposium which will be focused on the four regional best tall buildings, and the two lifetime achievement award winners. This Symposium will take place at the Illinois Institute of Technology close to the awards dinner venue, during the afternoon prior to the dinner.

The Best Tall Building Finalist projects in each regional category are as follows:

**Americas:**

Eleven Times Square, New York  
HL23, New York

**Asia & Australasia:**

Fukoku Tower, Fukoku Japan  
International Commerce Centre, Hong Kong  
Riviera TwinStar Square, Shanghai  
The Hansar, Bangkok

**Europe:**

Heron Tower, London  
Net Center, Padova Italy  
Sapphire Tower, Istanbul

**Middle East & Africa:**

Rolex Tower, Dubai

**Note:** For further information on the CTBUH Awards Ceremony & Dinner and Symposium please visit <http://awards.ctbuh.org>

**Note for Press:**  
**For image requests and additional information on the 2011 award winners please contact:**

Steve Henry  
[shenry@ctbuh.org](mailto:shenry@ctbuh.org)



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## Best Tall Building Americas: Eight Spruce Street

**Location:** New York, USA

**Completion Date:** April 2011

**Height:** 265 m (870 ft)

**Stories:** 76

**Use:** Residential

**Owner/Developer:** Forest City Ratner Companies

**Design Architect:** Gehry Architects New York, PC

**Structural Engineer:** WSP Cantor Seinuk

**MEP Engineer:** Jaros Baum and Bolles

**Construction Manager:** Kreisler Borg Florman

**Main Contractor:** Kreisler Borg Florman

The façade of “New York by Gehry” at Eight Spruce Street, designed to create a draping fabric-like quality, creates a unique signature, while holding itself as very much a “New York” building grounded in its traditional setback rules. The façade is partly a result of the client’s desire to have bay windows in each residential unit. The windows are shifted from floor-to-floor and vary in size, creating the drape-like effect. Inside, the residential units are arranged to efficiently marry the plan to the façade. 2011 Awards Chair Rick Cook noted that *“the tower invigorates a part of Manhattan that has been somewhat overlooked in recent years, and as the Tallest All-Residential Building in North America, adds significantly to the urban-population and diversification of its neighborhood.”*



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## Best Tall Building Asia & Australasia: Guangzhou International Finance Center

**Location:** Guangzhou China

**Completion Date:** 2010

**Height:** 440 m (1,444 ft)

**Stories:** 103

**Use:** Hotel/Office

**Owner/Developer:** Yue Xiu Group

**Design Architect:** Wilkinson Eyre Architects

**Associate Architect:** South China Design Institute

**Structural Engineer:** Arup

**MEP Engineer:** Arup

**Project Manager:** Yue Xiu Group

**Main Contractor:** China State Construction Engineering Corporation Ltd; Guangzhou Municipal Construction Group Co Ltd

The slender crystalline form of the Guangzhou International Finance Center is both elegant and clean. Each of the three façades of the curved triangular plan are also gently curved in section, set out asymmetrically with the widest point at a third of the height, tapering to its narrowest point at the top. The building’s aerodynamic form reduces the impact of wind at height, thereby reducing the necessary size and weight of the structure. The building utilizes the world’s tallest constructed diagrid structure, whose inherent stiffness resists acceleration and sway, eliminating the need for damping. Awards juror Antony Wood added, *“the building has an elegant simplicity in both form and structure, with the diagrid giving depth, strength and character to the building. It is also great to see the British adept at designing supertall buildings!”*



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## Best Tall Building Europe: KfW Westarkade

**Location:** Frankfurt, Germany  
**Completion Date:** May 2010  
**Height:** 56 m (184 ft)  
**Stories:** 14  
**Use:** Office  
**Owner:** KfW Bankengruppe  
**Design Architect:** Sauerbruch Hutton  
**Associate Architect:** Architekten Theiss Planungsgesellschaft mbH  
**Structural Engineer:** Werner Sobek GmbH  
**Energy Concept:** Transsolar  
**MEP Engineer:** Reuter Rührgartner GmbH; Zibell, Willner & Partner.  
**Project Manager:** Architekten Theiss Planungsgesellschaft mbH

Already being touted as one of the most energy-efficient office buildings in the world, KfW Westarkade is projected to use approximately half the energy of an average European office building, and one-third of a US-based one. The building addresses the prevailing wind direction to exploit it for controlled natural ventilation of the offices by means of its double-layered façade, which allows for the building to be naturally ventilated eight months out of the year. Awards Juror Peter Murray noted that *“the streamlined form integrates itself into its surrounding context, while simultaneously standing out through the playful use of color. Whereas many buildings use color as a way to mask an otherwise unremarkable building, here it contributes an additional rich layer to what is already a remarkable building.”*



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## Best Tall Building Middle East & Africa: The Index

**Location:** Dubai, UAE  
**Completion Date:** March 2011  
**Height:** 326 m (1,070 ft)  
**Stories:** 80  
**Use:** Residential/Office  
**Owner/ Developer:** Union Properties  
**Design Architect:** Foster + Partners  
**Associate Architect:** Khatib & Alami; Woods Bagot  
**Structural Engineer:** Halvorson and Partners; BG&E  
**MEP Engineer:** Roger Preston & Partners; WSP  
**Project Manager:** Gerard Evenden  
**Main Contractor:** Brookfield Multiplex

A long but narrow profile houses the mixed residential-over-office functions of this tower within a coherent but well articulated form. The floors are supported by four A-frame concrete “fins,” revealing the building’s structural system and internal organization. The building is oriented to reduce solar gain, and employs a system of sunshades on the exposed south elevation. The building takes a particularly interesting approach at its base, with only its structural fins and cores coming all the way to the ground, while the rest of the space opens up in an open-air shaded atrium with large pools which create a cool micro-climate around the tower’s entrances. Awards Juror Werner Sobek noted that *“the Index presents a new environmental icon for the Middle East, showcasing important passive strategies of orientation, core placement and shading.”*



© Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture

**Lynn S. Beedle Lifetime Achievement Award:**  
**Adrian Smith, AS + GG Architecture**

Adrian has been a practicing architect for more than 40 years, and is one of a relatively small number of architects who has designed and built a significant number of supertall buildings. He has thus contributed greatly to the development of the typology. Throughout his career he has developed a holistic approach that seeks to integrate a project's form with its structure and building systems. This integrated approach has resulted in an increased understanding of the architectural, structural and mechanical systems of skyscrapers. CTBUH Trustee Peter Irwin noted that *"Adrian's body of work includes some of the world tallest and most recognized buildings, yet his designs transcend mere height and have become landmarks because of their graceful design and inherent sensitivity to local context and culture."*



© Tokyo Institute of Technology

**Fazlur R. Khan Lifetime Achievement Medal:**  
**Akira Wada, Tokyo Institute of Technology**

Since becoming Professor at the Tokyo Institute of Technology in 1989, Dr. Wada has been widely acknowledged as a leading expert in structural engineering, especially seismic design, and has held a number of important posts on various committees. He has also been chair of the CTBUH Japan Chapter since its formation in 2010 and was recently named the new president of the Architectural Institute of Japan (AIJ) in June 2011. CTBUH Chairman Sang Dae Kim said of Wada, *"few men have contributed so greatly to the understanding and development of tall building structures in seismically active regions, and his recent election as the new president of the AIJ is a testament to the significant influence of his career."*

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**About the CTBUH**

The Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat, based at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, is an international organization sponsored by architecture, engineering, planning, and construction professionals, designed to facilitate exchanges among those involved in all aspects of the planning, design, construction and operation of tall buildings. The CTBUH is the world's leading body in the field of tall buildings, and the recognized source of information on tall buildings internationally. It is the arbiter of tall building height, determiner of the title of "The World's Tallest Building" and maintains a significant database of built, under construction and proposed tall building. For more information contact: [info@ctbuh.org](mailto:info@ctbuh.org) [www.ctbuh.org](http://www.ctbuh.org)