

Tall Buildings in Numbers

Dream Deferred: Unfinished Tall Buildings

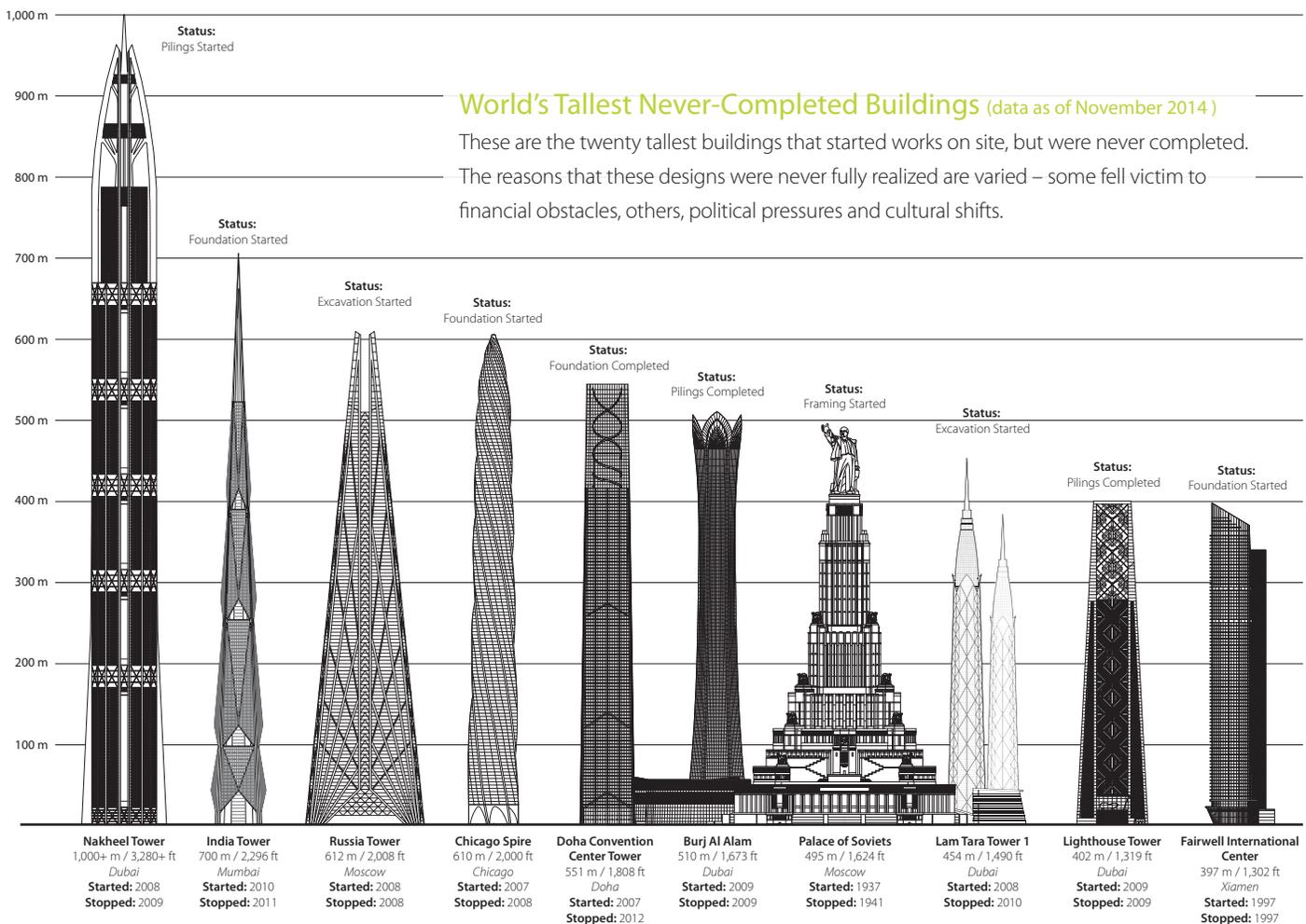
Without big dreams, there would be no tall buildings. Conceiving, financing, designing, and constructing a skyscraper is no simple feat, even under the best of conditions. Many projects have had tortuously slow gestation periods; many more have failed to start or were interrupted and cancelled. Naturally, we began to wonder how many tall buildings were started and not finished, and which held the records for longest construction time. Rumors of resurrections persist, and today's long shot is tomorrow's sure thing...

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The total number of 150-meter or taller buildings currently **on hold** (i.e., construction had started and stopped, but is planned to resume) around the world.

Note:

In this study, a building is considered to be "Never Completed" when site works had begun, but were completely halted, and no reports indicate that construction will continue. The site may go on to accommodate a new building, different to the original design, that may or may not retain the original construction.



World's Tallest Never-Completed Buildings (data as of November 2014)

These are the twenty tallest buildings that started works on site, but were never completed.

The reasons that these designs were never fully realized are varied – some fell victim to financial obstacles, others, political pressures and cultural shifts.



The Metropolitan Life North Annex in New York was intended to have 100 stories, but construction was halted in 1933 at the 31st floor. It was finally completed at that level in 1950.



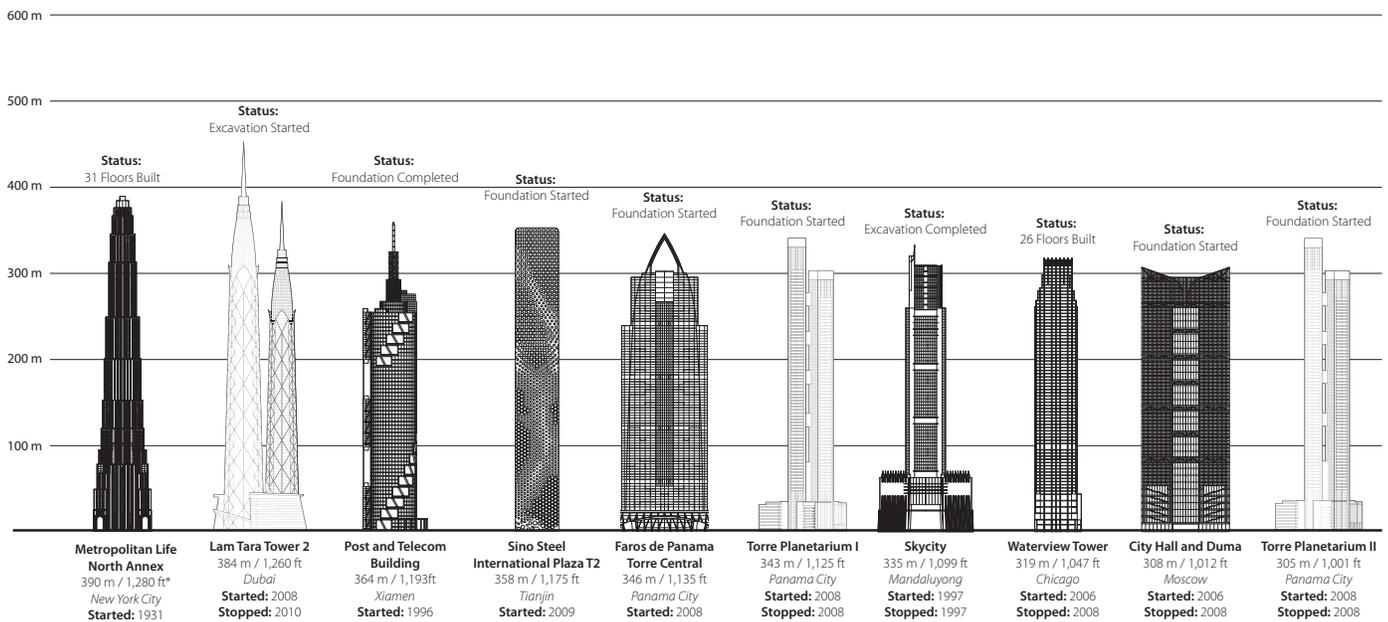
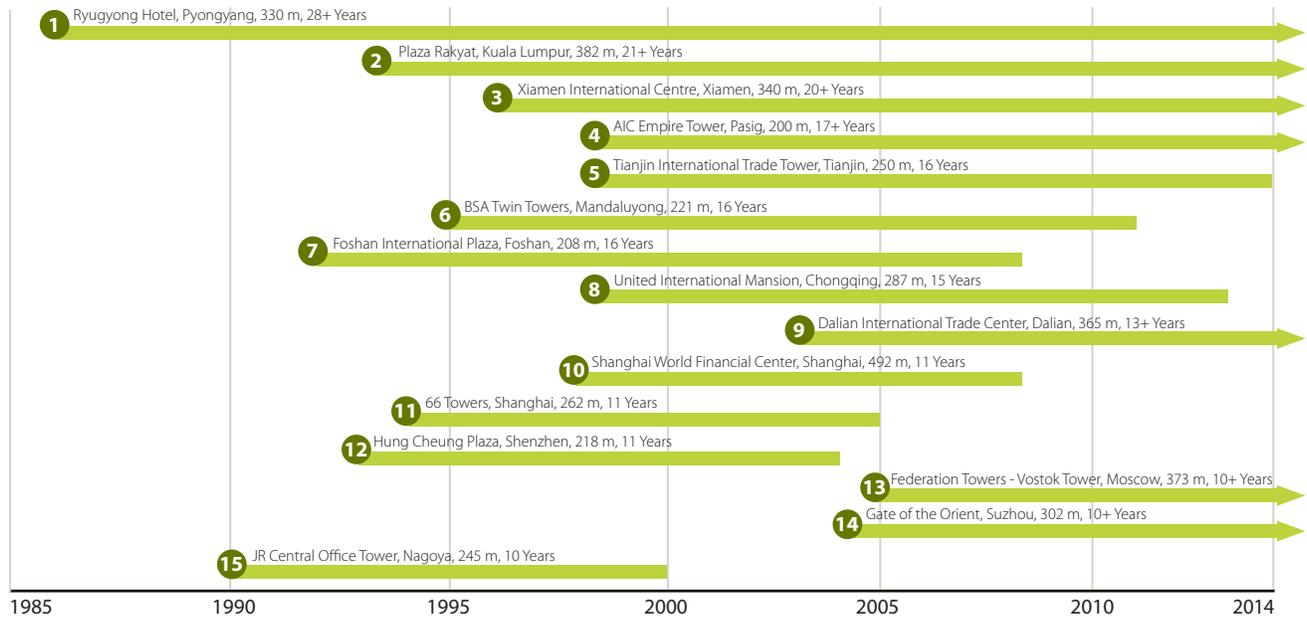
The Palace of Soviets in Moscow was actually started in 1937, but construction was halted during frame construction with the coming of World War II. It would have been topped with a statue of Vladimir Lenin, making it the world's tallest structure.



The Waterview Tower in Chicago started construction in 2006 and was intended to be 319 meters tall with 89 floors. Construction was halted in 2008 at the 26th floor. It was eventually redesigned and completed at the shorter height of 188 meters, and renamed OneEleven.

The Fifteen Longest Construction Periods From 1985 to Date

The graph below displays the buildings (200m+) with the longest construction times. Some projects are still under construction (as indicated with an arrow).



* Height Estimated



Although never built, Nakheel Tower, which would have been the tallest building in the world, is remembered for its innovative design that included four continual vertical wind slots along the height of the tower.



Begun in 1990, but abandoned mid-construction due to financial constraints, the incomplete Centro Financiero Confinanzas (aka Torre David) in Caracas was occupied by several hundred Venezuelan families in need of shelter. In July 2014, residents were relocated.



If built as intended by 2014, Pentominium would have been the second-tallest building in the world. The project began construction in 2008, but was put on hold in 2011 after 30 stories had already been built.