

Title: **Tall Buildings in Numbers: 50 Years of Tall Building Evolution**

Authors:

Subjects: Architectural/Design
Construction
History, Theory & Criticism

Keyword: Construction

Publication Date: 2019

Original Publication: CTBUH Journal 2019 Issue IV

Paper Type:

1. Book chapter/Part chapter
2. **Journal paper**
3. Conference proceeding
4. Unpublished conference paper
5. Magazine article
6. Unpublished

© Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat /

Tall Buildings in Numbers

50 Years of Tall Building Evolution

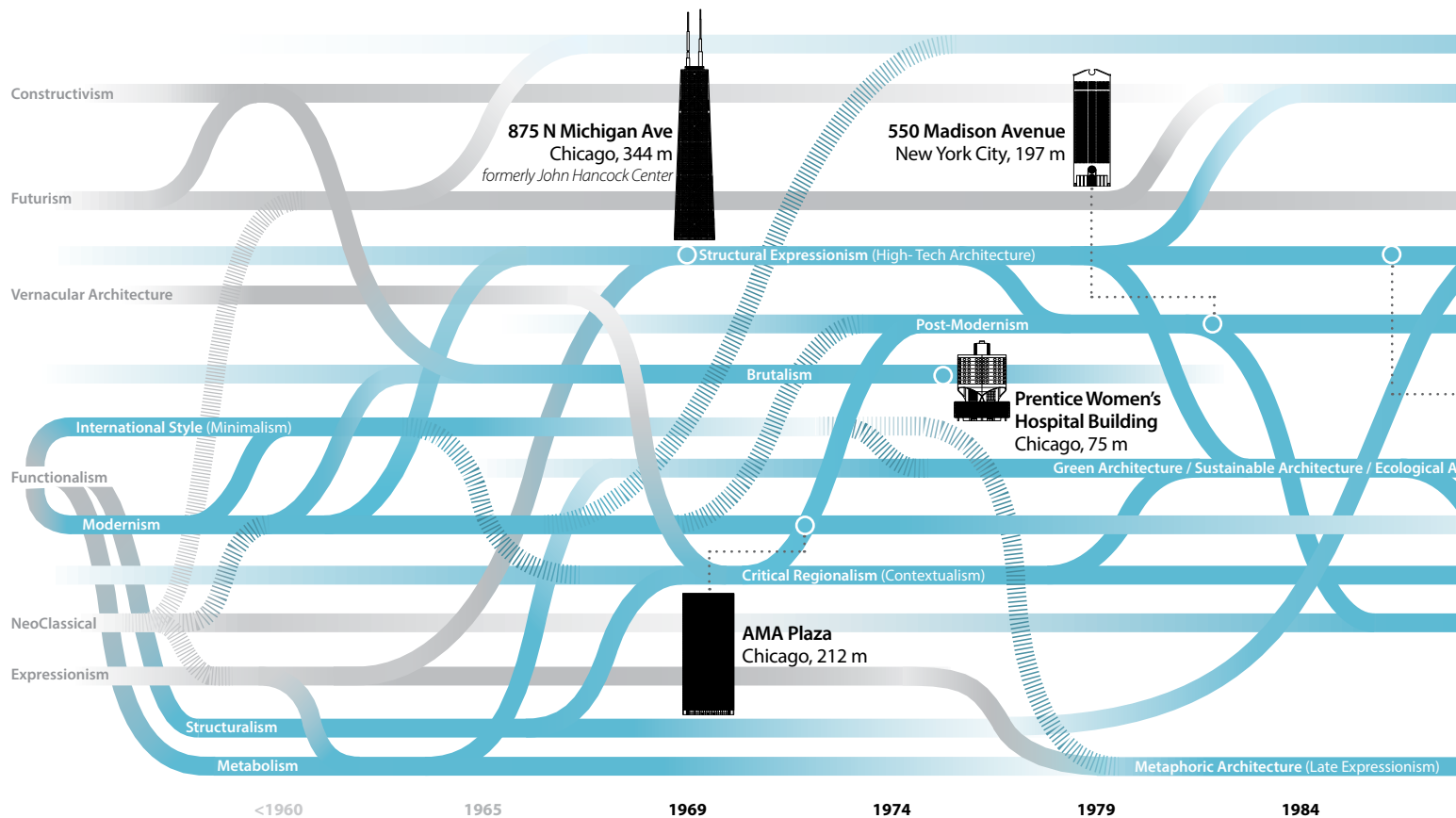
The default image of the skyscraper for the past 50 years in the public imagination has likely been the extruded, rectilinear corporate “box,” derived from the postwar model of minimalist “International Style” glass-and-steel architecture championed by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, and imitated by countless others. In fact, the skyscraper has been as subject to, and as much of an influence on, a wide array of architectural styles through the decades, as shown in this timeline relating predominant styles to individual landmark buildings constructed during the period. From this, a far richer, more comprehensive picture emerges.

Timeline of Predominant Architectural Styles and Influences: Tall Buildings, 1969–2019



Notes:

1. The intention of this timeline is not to provide a complete collection of all architecture styles during this time period, or to provide a comprehensive list of all influences or definite start and end dates for the respective styles. Rather, it provides a diagrammatic outline of the conventional architectural styles used at a given time over the past 50 years, and major elements that influenced or were rejected by these styles.
2. While this graphic identifies current design trends, the vocabulary, analysis, and distinct classification of many emerging architectural styles are yet to undergo the same level of academic scrutiny as their historic counterparts. Thus, some contemporary styles for tall buildings may not be fully represented in this graphic.



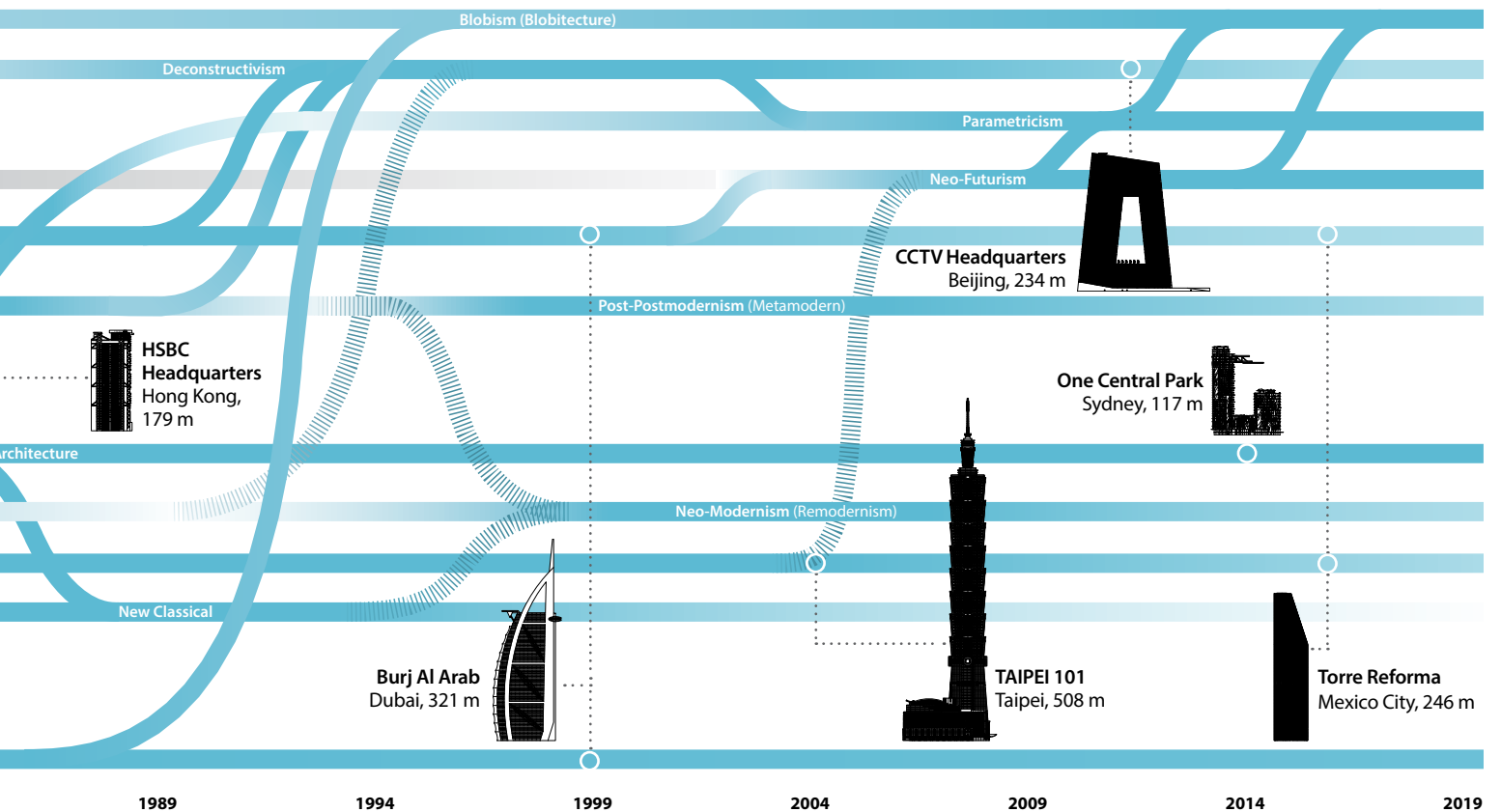
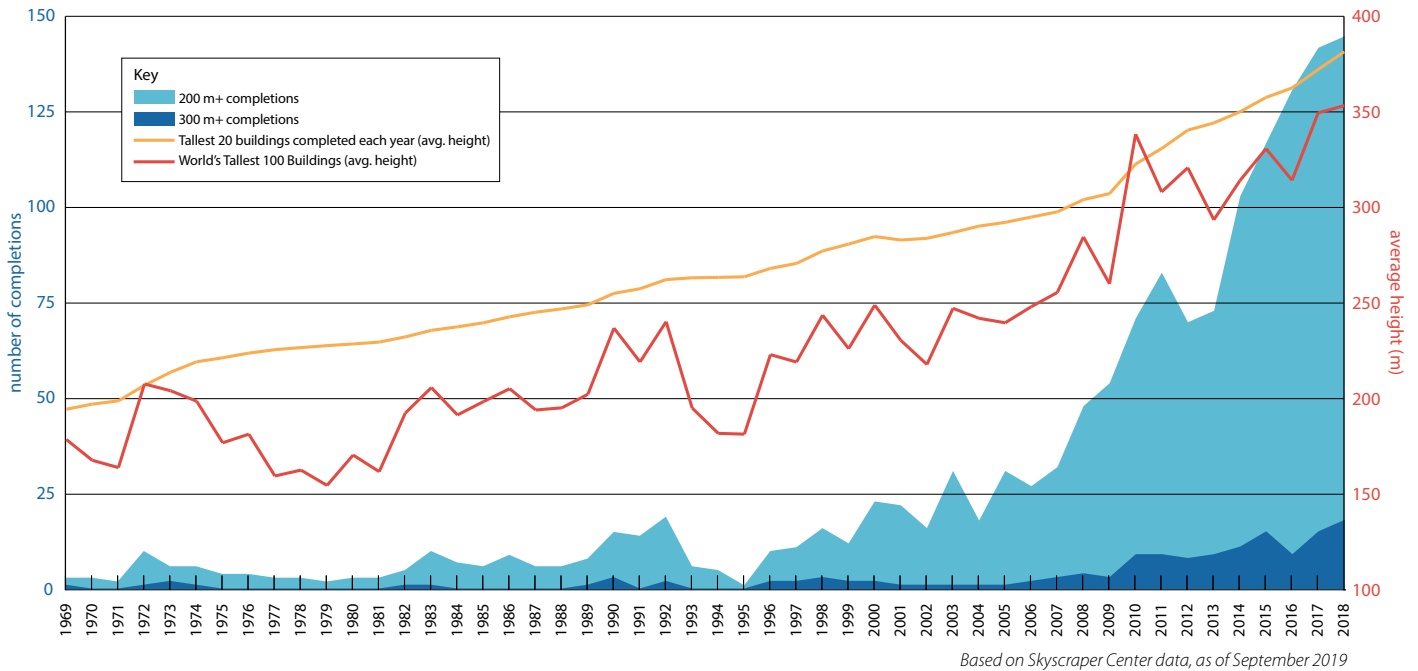
While **333 Wacker Drive** is widely considered the first example of **Postmodernism** in Chicago, the architect, William Pedersen of KPF, considered this project “**contextualism**,” due to its relationship with the Chicago River, the surrounding street grid, and the adjacent skyline.



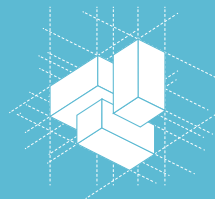
The name “**Brutalism**” derives from the French phrase *béton brut*, or **Raw Concrete**.

Average Height and Number of Buildings by Year

A timeline of the number of completions over 200 and 300 meters each year, overlaid with the average height of the 20 tallest buildings of that year, compared with the average height of the 100 tallest buildings at that time.



Bowellism, a "micromovement" within High-Tech Architecture, emphasized a philosophy of placing building services on the outside of a building in order to maximize interior space, as seen in **The Lloyd's Building**, London.



The tenets of **Futurism** and **Metabolism**, which were largely seen as unrealistic and unsustainable for their time, have seen a resurgence in recent years, thanks to advancements in fabrication and computer-aided design.