From 2006 to 2010 the combined height of the 100 tallest buildings in the world combined has been steadily increasing. However, within the current decade, 2000 - 2010, this figure is set to rise 6,321 meters, representing by far the greatest increase ever. This equates to almost double the 3,189 meter increase between 1970 and 1980, the second largest increase in combined height across a decade.

Assuming a height of 800 meters, the Burj Dubai will make a 60% leap in height increase over the previous world’s tallest. From 2006 to 2010 the combined height of the 100 tallest buildings will have increased by over 5 kilometers, or 17%. That’s the equivalent to 10 Taipei 101’s stacked end to end. By 2010, 59 of the tallest 100 buildings in the world as documented in 2006, only 4 years beforehand, will be new.

For a significant period of time, North American towers have dominated the 100 tallest buildings in the world, although this is rapidly changing due to the global boom in tall building activity, with a dramatic increase in the number of supertall* buildings located mostly in Asia and the Middle East.

The world’s tallest buildings have for decades accommodated predominantly an office function. This however, is quickly changing – by 2010 less than half of the tallest 100 buildings in the world will be office towers, with the majority instead accommodating residential and mixed-use** functions.

*The CTBUH defines a building as a ‘Super Tall’ if it is 300 meters or greater in height.

** The CTBUH defines a mixed-use tall building as containing two or more functions, where each of the functions occupy at least 15% of the tower’s total floor area. Ancillary / support areas such as car parks and mechanical plant space do not constitute mixed-use functions.

In 1930, 99% of the tallest 100 were located in North America with 51% in New York City alone. By 2010 that will have decreased to only 22% and 5% respectively. By the end of 2007 there were 34 supertall* buildings in the world. By the end of 2010, just 3 years later, this will have more than doubled to 82 supertall buildings globally. On the tallest 100 buildings lists from 1930 to 2000 the percentage of office towers was never below 86%. By 2010 it will be down to just 46%.

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