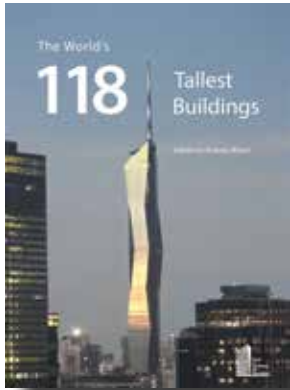


Tall Buildings in Numbers

Evolution of the World's Tallest Buildings

As a companion to CTBUH's *The World's 118 Tallest Buildings*, and in recognition of the 2023 completion of Merdeka 118, the world's second-tallest building, in Kuala Lumpur, this study focuses on the past, present, and future of the world's tallest buildings. Of the 100 tallest buildings in the world,* 60 have been completed since 2010, and most of those have been in Asia and the Middle East. The world's tallest are more than just their titles—collectively, they tell a story about where the world is developing, how evolving economies are influencing building function, and how the density and height of rising cities will influence the tall building industry at large.

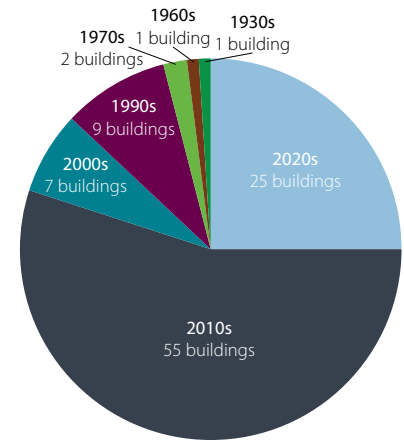


To see a preview of *The World's 118 Tallest Buildings* and purchase a copy, see ctbuh.org/118-tallest.

For the interactive version of this data study, see skyscrapercenter.com/118-tallest.

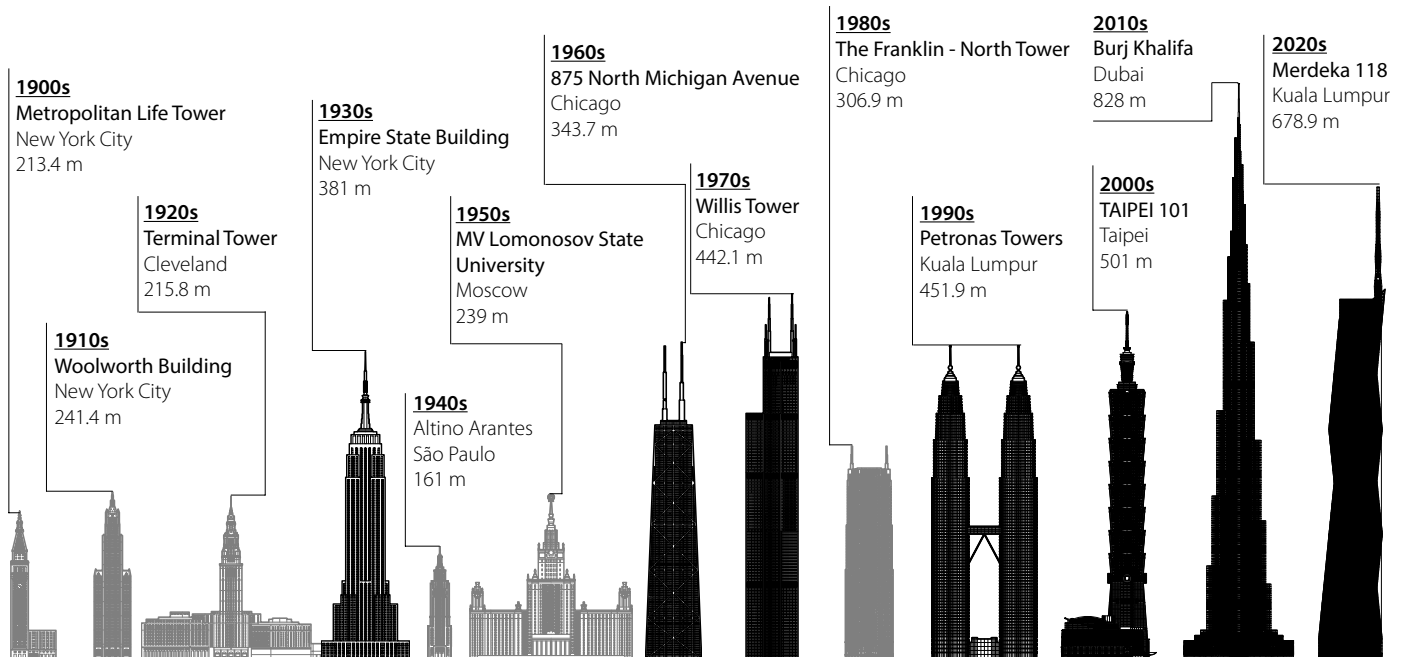
**This study includes topped-out buildings due to complete by the end of 2023.*

The 100 Tallest Buildings by Decade of Completion



Tallest Buildings Completed Each Decade, Since 1900

NOTE: Buildings in light grey are not currently amongst the 100 Tallest.



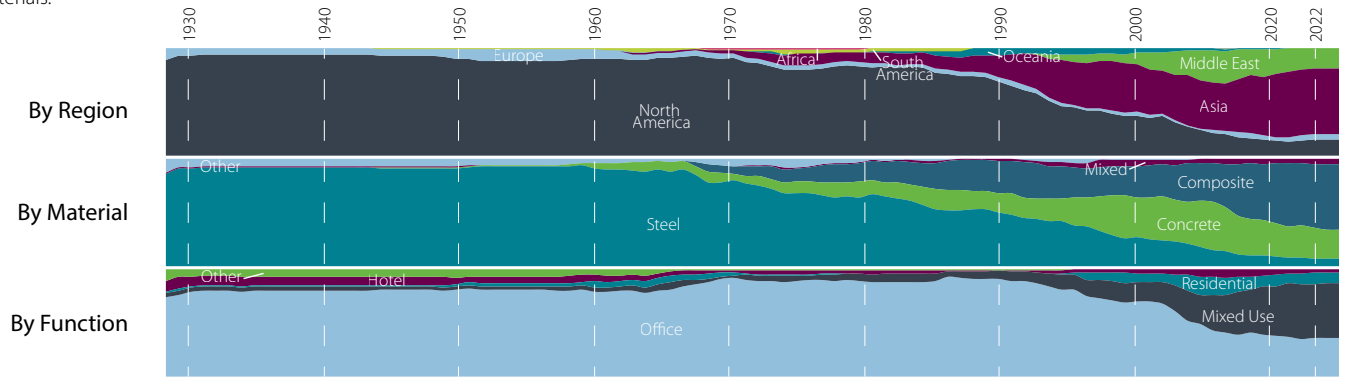
41 of the 100 tallest buildings feature observation floors, more than double the number as recently as 1995. The average height of these observatories is 388.3 meters.



Merdeka 118, at 678.9 meters, surpasses the 634-meter Tokyo Sky Tree, making it both the world's second tallest building and structure.

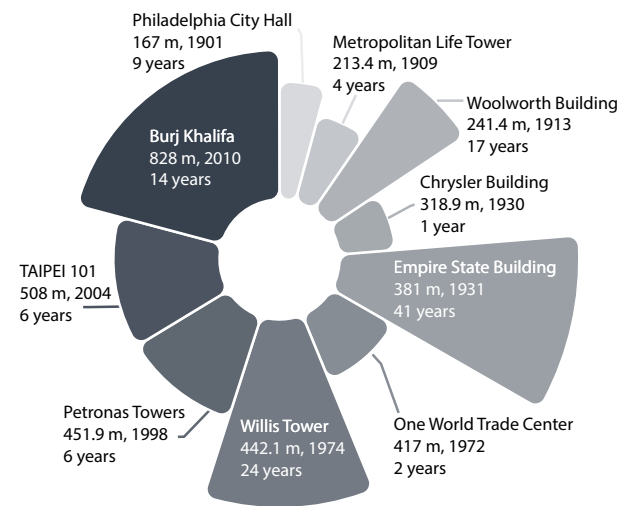
The Emerging Profile of Today's 100 Tallest

Since 1990, the world's tallest buildings have become increasingly geographically, materially, and functionally diverse as the globalization of commerce, and in turn, vertical urbanism, has accelerated. New entrants into the 100 Tallest most are likely to be mixed-use, outside of North America, and constructed of composite materials.



The 100 Tallest Tenures

Since the beginning of the 20th century, the Empire State Building, New York City, has held the title of "World's Tallest Building" for the longest period, reigning from its completion in 1931 until being eclipsed by One World Trade Center, also in New York, in 1972. Shortly after, Chicago's Willis (then-Sears) Tower took the lead and held the title until 1998, when the Petronas Twin Towers, Kuala Lumpur, completed, moving the distinction out of North America for the first time in a century. Shown at right, 10 buildings have earned the "World's Tallest Building" title since 1901, beginning with Philadelphia City Hall (Philadelphia, 167 meters, 1901) and culminating with the current titleholder, Burj Khalifa (Dubai, 828 meters, 2010).

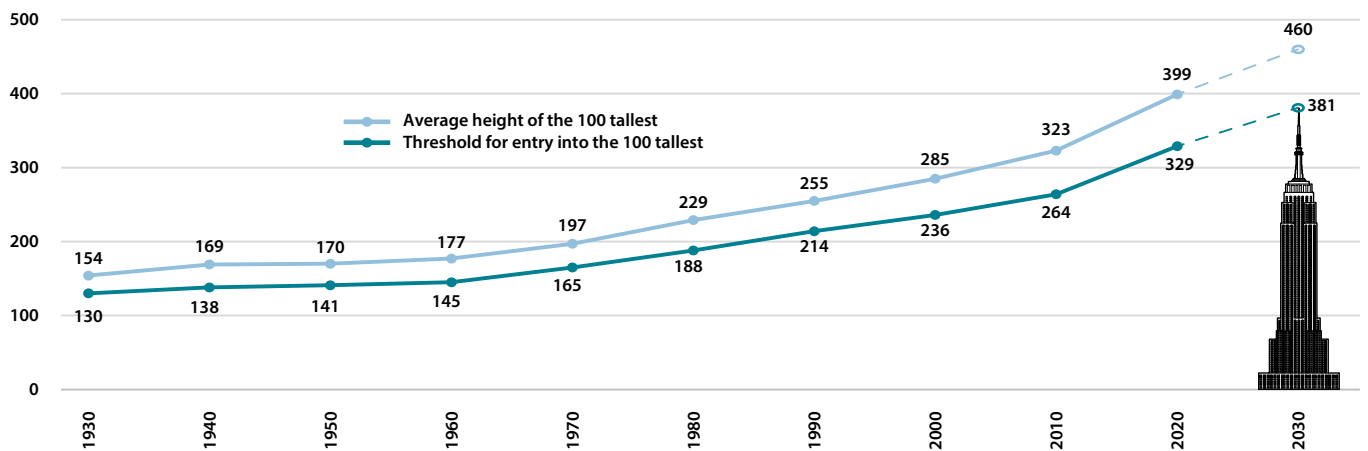


Who's on First?

Asia and the Middle East have claimed the World's Tallest and Second Tallest titles since 1998, with Shanghai World Financial Center (Shanghai, 492 meters, 2008), TAIPEI 101 (508 meters, Taipei, 2004), Makkah Royal Clock Tower (Mecca, 601 meters, 2011), Shanghai Tower (Shanghai, 632 meters, 2015), and now Merdeka 118 (Kuala Lumpur, 678.9 meters, 2023) having held the World's Second Tallest title since the Petronas Twin Towers were surpassed by TAIPEI 101 in 2004.

100 Years After the Empire State Building

As the height of the tallest buildings continues to climb, the Empire State Building—which, at 381 meters, held the top spot for 41 years—could be eliminated from the 100 Tallest list by its centennial anniversary in 2031.



Complementing the trend towards mixed-use programming, 47 of the 100 tallest buildings are a part of complexes of 2+ buildings, a figure that has doubled since 2004.

25 of the world's tallest buildings have been completed since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.