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### Aqua rises to top among skyscrapers

02/23/2010

Chicago Tribune

Text size: **AA**

By Blair Kamin

Chicago architect Jeanne Gang's Aqua skyscraper continues to reap high praise. Emporis, the global building database, on Tuesday will name the residential and hotel tower, located in the 200 block of North Columbus Drive, its 2009 skyscraper of the year.

"Members of the jury praised Aqua for its fascinating shape, whose appearance changes dramatically depending on the perspective," Emporis said in a news release. "It was also cited as a brilliant technical achievement for the precision of its construction, and lauded as an application of green design innovations to an extremely large building project."

The honor, known as the Emporis Skyscraper Award, has been given since 2000 and recognizes excellence in aesthetic and functional design. It has previously gone to such high-rises as Lord Norman Foster's Hearst Tower in New York City and Santiago Calatrava's Turning Torso Tower in Malmo, Sweden. This marks the first time it has been awarded to a Chicago skyscraper.

The award is given for skyscrapers at least 100 meters tall that are completed in the award year.

Chicago's Trump International Hotel & Tower, designed by Chicago architects Skidmore, Owings & Merrill and former SOM partner Adrian Smith, finished fifth in the jury's voting, with 36 points compared to Aqua's 86.

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Top skyscrapers of 2009

Voting by Emporis editors from 67 countries:

1. Aqua, Chicago
2. O-14, United Arab Emirates
3. The Met Bangkok, Thailand
4. Torres de Hercules, Spain
5. Trump International Hotel & Tower, Chicago
6. The Red Apple, Netherlands
7. Bank of America Tower, New York City
8. Almas Tower, United Arab Emirates
9. Millennium Tower, San Francisco
10. William Beaver House, New York City

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