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# Aqua Named 2009 Skyscraper of the Year

Undulating facade earns high marks for function, design

By BJ LUTZ

Updated 6:24 PM CST, Mon, Feb 22, 2010

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One of Chicago's newest skyscrapers has been named the best of 2009 by a German company that specializes in collecting and publishing data about buildings around the globe.

Aqua, an 82-story residential and commercial building in the 200 block of North Columbus Drive, was named by Emporis as the best new skyscraper for design and functionality.

"Members of the jury praised Aqua for its fascinating shape, whose appearance changes dramatically depending on the perspective. 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," Emporis said in a news release.

It's the 10th year the Emporis Skyscraper Award has been given out by the company, and only the third time the highest honor has gone to a building in the United States. The Sofitel New York Hotel won the inaugural award, followed by Hearst Tower seven years later.



Images: Aqua Tower



Chicago's Architectural Eyesores

Aqua was designed by Jeanne Gang, the founder of Studio Gang Architects. It was her first skyscraper project and the largest ever awarded to an American firm headed by a woman.

Chicago's Trump Tower also made this year's Top 10:

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

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What The?

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miro52 | Feb 22 at 3:09 PM

I am so tired of al of the commercials being aired during the Olymics! According to an article in today's Wall Street Journal, Commercials were aired 27% of the time, Events 25.5% of the time. Thanks for showing America all the action. As usual NBC is only concerned with the \$\$\$\$. I am a long time NBC viewer, shows and news. It is time for me to move on to another network. I hope the rest of the viewers of NBC will do the same. They need to be sent a message. Enough is enough!!!

3 hours ago

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