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Chicago's Aqua Named 2009 Skyscraper of the Year

Feb 24, 2010

-By Stacy Straczynski



Chicago's Aqua was awarded yesterday (Feb. 23) by Emporis, a Frankfurt-based provider of global building data, the coveted title of 2009 Skyscraper of the Year. The 81-story mixed-use tower that graces Chicago's skyline captured the top honor for its overall external appearance, which shifts based on the viewer's perspective, achievement in precision construction, and application of green design innovations. Designed by Studio Gang Architects (SGA), Aqua stands at 819.34 feet tall and is currently the third tallest building in the world designed by a woman, as well as the 40th tallest building in the U.S.

"We are thrilled with the award. It is a great honor to have the

Aqua Tower recognized, reflecting the strong contributions of the combined design-owner-contractor team. This building ultimately belongs to its city, and we are glad to have been able to add to Chicago's already outstanding architecture," says SGA.

Dubai's O14 office tower, designed by Reiser + Umemoto Architecture and named after it's lot in the Business Bay development, took second place, while the bronze went to Bangkok's The Met, a 69-story residential tower designed by WOHA Architects. Torres de Hércules in Los Barrios, Spain (No. 4) and the Trump International Hotel & Tower in Chicago (No. 5) rounded out the top five.

A presentation ceremony will be held later this year. Date and location will be announced by Emporis at a later time.

The Emporis Skyscraper is annually awarded to recognize achievements in high-rise architecture to new buildings of at least 100 meters in height that showcase excellence in architectural design and functionality. Winners are selected by a panel of international senior editors, all of who have several years of experience in real estate and building data research. A full list of winners from 2009 and prior can be viewed at awards.emporis.com



Top 10 Skyscrapers of 2009 (ranked by jury points awarded):

1. Aqua, Chicago, U.S.A. (86)
2. O14 Dubai U.A.E. (61)
3. The Met Bangkok Thailand (43)
4. Torres de Hércules Los Barrios Spain (38)
5. Trump International Hotel & Tower, Chicago (36)
6. The Red Apple, Rotterdam, Netherlands (34)
7. Bank of America, Tower, New York City (32)
8. Almas Tower, Dubai (16)
9. Millennium Tower, San Francisco (13)
10. William Beaver House, New York City (10)

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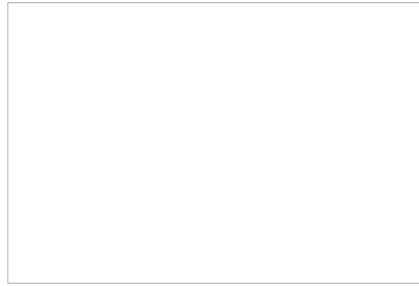
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