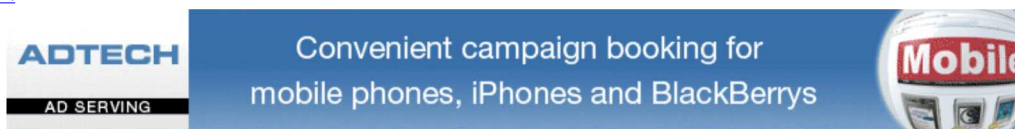


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DJIA	11,008.61	NASDAQ	2,461.19	S&P 500	1,186.68	10 yr Note	3.65%	Gold (Jun)	1,177.80	Oil (Jun)	85.87	FTSE 100	5,553.29
↓ -158.71	-1.42%	↓ -50.73	-2.02%	↓ -20.10	-1.67%	↓ -0.07	-1.88%	↑ +9.00	+0.77%	↑ +0.70	+0.82%	↓ -64.55	-1.15%

Chicago's "Aqua" Selected as 2009 Skyscraper of the Year

PR Newswire Posted 7:03 PM 04/28/10

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FRANKFURT, Germany, February 23, 2010 /PRNewswire/ -- The jury of the Emporis Skyscraper Award has announced Aqua, an 81-story residential and hotel tower in Chicago, as the winner of the 2009 Skyscraper of the Year. The award, now celebrating its tenth year, is given annually to a building at least 100 meters tall and completed within the award year.

The second place winner is O14 in Dubai. Third place goes to The Met in Bangkok. All winners were selected from 305 eligible buildings completed worldwide in 2009.

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.

Situated in a large lakeside development, Aqua intersperses undulating balconies with flat glassy planes to create a wavy facade in keeping with its nautical theme. Because each balcony's perimeter varies slightly from the one below, the contractors (James McHugh Construction Co.) employed a flexible mold in coordination with GPS. The effect has been compared to a rippled curtain, or (according to its architect Jeanne Gang of Studio Gang Architects), to the striated limestone formations common to the Great Lakes region.

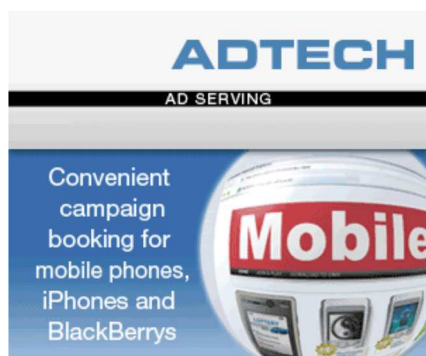
Aqua is the third-tallest building in the world designed by a woman - surpassed only by the two Emirates Towers in Dubai - and is currently the 40th tallest building in the United States. Aqua has a height of 249.7 meters (819.34 feet) measured from its main entrance on Upper Columbus Drive.

A presentation ceremony will be held in Chicago later this year. For further details and updates, visit us at <http://awards.emporis.com>.

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