



Aqua in Chicago is Emporis 2009 Skyscraper of the Year

The Chicago skyscraper *Aqua* has been honored with the *2009 Skyscraper of the Year* by *Emporis*, according to an announcement made on February 23, 2010. The *Emporis Award* is given annually to an outstanding skyscraper built in the designated year.

Aqua in Chicago, Illinois in the U.S.A., received the Gold Award from *Emporis* for the year 2009. The Silver Award went to *O14* in Dubai. The Bronze Award went to *The Met* in Bangkok, Thailand.

Aqua is a new Chicago skyscraper that is 81 stories high. The residential and hotel tower is located on Columbus Avenue in downtown Chicago. *Aqua* is distinguished by a wavy design that looks different from every angle. There were two Chicago skyscrapers on the 2009 *Emporis* list. *Trump International Hotel and Tower* was in fifth place.

Member of the *Emporis* jury praised *Aqua* for its fascinating shape, whose appearance changes based on the viewer's perspective. The skyscraper was also cited for brilliant technical achievement the the precision of its construction. *Aqua* was also lauded for its application of green design innovations for an extremely large building.

Aqua is a large lakeside development that intersperses undulating balconies with flat grassy planes with a wavy facade that is in keeping with the building's nautical theme. The effect has been compared to a rippled curtain, or to the striated limestone formations common to the Great Lakes Region, according to architect Jeanne Gang of Studio Gang Architects.

Aqua is the third tallest building in the world designed by a woman, surpassed only by the two *Emigre Towers* in Dubai. *Aqua* is currently the 40th tallest building in the United States.

Magellan Development Group, LLC, the developer, applied for LEED certification for *Aqua*. The firm of *Magnusson Klemencic Associates* served as *Aqua*'s structural engineers.

Emporis Skyscraper Awards - Top Ten Skyscraper of 2009

1. *Aqua* – Chicago, Illinois U.S.A
2. *O14* – Dubai U.A.E
3. *The Met* – Bangkok, Thailand
4. *Torres de Hercules* – Los Barrios, Spain
5. *Trump International Hotel & Tower* – Chicago, Illinois U.S.A.
6. *The Red Apple* – Rotterdam, Netherlands
7. *Bank of America Tower*, New York City, NY U.S.A.
8. *Almas Tower* – Dubai U.A.E.
9. *Millennium Tower* – San Francisco, California U.S.A.
10. *William Beaver House* – New York City, NY U.S.A.

The *Emporis Skyscraper Award* is the only prize for high rise architecture awarded annually and on a global basis. *Emporis* editors are building and architecture and building experts from 67 nations.

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Posted February 24th, 2010 by Christine Nyholm

