

# News

---

By Agence France-Presse, Updated: 2/24/2010

## Chicago skyscraper wins 2009 architecture award

**Chicago's 81-storey Aqua hotel and residence has won the prominent Emporis Award for best skyscraper of 2009, the global building data base said here Wednesday.**



Chicago skyscraper wins 2009 architecture award

Emporis's jury hailed the 249.7-metre (819.33-foot) Aqua tower "for its advances in sustainable design and for the imaginative and fascinating architectural effects it achieves."

The building is expected to earn a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver rating and "set a higher standard for the next generation of large-scale residential and hotel construction."

Despite the building's height it does not stick out in Chicago's celebrated skyline, Emporis data standards chairman Daniel Kieckhefer told AFP.

"Architect Jeanne Gang was aware of this, and turned it to dramatic effect -- while the building looks ordinary enough from a distance, its fluid shape can deliver a breathtaking surprise to people who pass nearby and look up."

Built near Lake Michigan, Aqua uses undulating balconies and glass planes to create a wave facade that has also been compared to a rippled curtain, a statement said.

The windows have also been given a blue-green tint.

Gang, of Studio Gang Architects, has said she was also inspired by striated limestone formations common to the US Great Lakes region.

The 10th Emporis Award, which Kieckhefer called the "Oscars" of skyscraper prizes, was chosen from among 305 towers completed around the world last year.

"The jury was very enthusiastic about Aqua, with a few members stating that they had been looking forward to its completion for years," Kieckhefer added.

As you move closer to the building, glass planes between the balconies catch sunlight and resemble smooth liquid surfaces, the Emporis statement said.

"As the tower starts to loom overhead, it changes shape; straight lines disappear, and a mass of rounded layers stack up vertiginously like a limestone palisade molded by centuries of flowing water," it added.

The cantilevered design shields windows from the summer sun without blocking light in the winter, while a light-coloured coating "reduces the heat-island effect caused by large buildings."

Special glass also enhances energy efficiency and prevents bird strikes, the statement said.

The amount of concrete needed for a structure that covers almost two million square feet (185,000 square meters) was minimized meanwhile by a technique known as post-tensioning.

"The tower sits on a broad podium with a vegetated roof, and the apartments' lighting and ventilation systems achieve double the required efficiency," Emporis said.

-----



## Absolutely Attainable Goals For 2010

When we asked the ForbesWoman community of professional women to share their 2010 New Year's resolutions, we didn't know what to expect. After all, to say 2009 has been trying might just be the understatement of the century.

[If You Could Stop The Biological Clock, Would You?](#)

[Dress For Interview Success](#)

## Celebrity Gossip



### Kimberly Wyatt no friend of Nicole

Kimberly Wyatt insists she has never had a friendship with Nicole Scherzinger and is unsure if she will ever return to the Pussycat Dolls.

[Jon Voight's wonderful reunion](#)

[David Beckham wants Clooney's house](#)

## Lifestyle News



### Advertising body calls for anti-smoking ads be scrapped

France's advertising regulatory body on Wednesday demanded that a suggestive anti-smoking campaign be scrapped after it sparked outcry and a threat by the French government to ban the publicity.

[In Milan, Elena Miro dresses trademark 'real' woman](#)

[Public housing scales new heights in Singapore](#)

[Chicago skyscraper wins 2009 architecture award](#)

[Zimbabwe hopes to offer haven for the World Cup-weary](#)

[Child sex anti-smoking ad sets French tongues wagging](#)

[S.African rector gives lessons in reconciliation after racist scandal](#)

[Amman bustles with nightlife, shedding old image](#)

[Australians protest with 'vandaloo against violence'](#)

[Have babies to win gold, say Russian champions](#)

[Norwegian curlers' trousers fit for a king](#)

## Clashes mar Greek austerity protests

[View more MSN videos](#)

## Celebrity Style



### Madonna fan Naomi Campbell

Naomi Campbell's style icon is Madonna because she admires how the singer constantly changes her look.

[Alexander McQueen's Paris preference](#)

[Sarah Jessica Parker's Carrie smell](#)

[Burberry goes 3-D](#)

[Kimberley Walsh happy with curves](#)

[Lindsay Lohan's design therapy](#)

## Top Stories



### China's global profile increases with key IMF post

China has won its highest-ever staff position in the IMF in a reflection of its growing economic might and the

clamor by emerging nations for a bigger say in global finance.

[Yanukovich to be sworn in as Ukraine president](#)

[Turkey charges eight more in alleged coup plot](#)

[Afghan flag raised over town at centre of major assault](#)

[English trio guard slender Europa League leads](#)

[Crunch time for Obama's landmark health reforms](#)

## Health News

---



### Crunch time for Obama's landmark health reforms

Barack Obama's bid to overhaul the US health care system reaches a dramatic climax Thursday as the president gathers Democratic and Republican leaders for a last-gasp televised debate.

[Mercy killers in Britain could face murder charge: DPP](#)

[Appalling neglect at Britain's hospital-of-horrors](#)

[S.Korea's birth rate hits four-year low](#)

[Junk food tax could help fight obesity: US study](#)

[Zen meditation fends off pain: Canadian study](#)