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# Chicago's Aqua tower Skyscraper of 2009

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CHICAGO, Feb. 23 (UPI) -- The 82-story Aqua hotel and apartment tower on the Chicago lakefront has been named Skyscraper of the Year by Emporis, a German-based building database.

The work of Chicago architect Jeanne Gang, the building is the third tallest in the world to be designed by a woman and the 40th tallest in the United States.

"Members of the jury praised Aqua for its fascinating shape, whose appearance changes dramatically depending on the perspective," Emporis said in a statement. "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 has been giving the award for the past decade. The O14 building in Dubai won second place and the Met in Thailand third.

There were 305 buildings that met the criteria of being at least 300 feet tall and completed in 2009.

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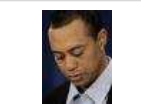
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