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AQUA ::: MEDIUM COOL ::: YIN AND YANG ARCHITECTURE

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Submitted by [karen casey](#) on Tue, 02/23/2010 - 5:35am

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AQUA ::: MEDIUM COOL ::: YIN AND YANG ARCHITECTURE

As Chicagoans we take great architecture for granted. We have so many amazing and innovative buildings all over the city and nearby suburbs. My new favorite building in the last few years is the Aqua - with its curved balconies and new age smooth, fresh and Feng Shui friendly style.

The outer structure of balconies flows gently over the entire building - like waves of streaming water.

The Aqua skyscraper by Chicago architect Jeanne Gang is breathlessly beautiful and astounding in futuristic design. *It is skyscraper of the year for 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," Emporis said in a news release.

The honor, known as the Emporis Skyscraper Award, has been given since 2000 and recognizes excellence in aesthetic and functional design. It has previously gone to such high-rises as Lord Norman Foster's Hearst Tower in New York City and Santiago Calatrava's Turning Torso Tower in Malmo, Sweden.

This marks the first time that the prize, which is given annually to a building at least 100 meters tall that was completed within the award year, has gone to a Chicago skyscraper.

Chicago's Trump International Hotel & Tower, designed by Chicago architects Skidmore, Owings & Merrill and former SOM partner Adrian Smith, finished fifth in the jury's voting, with 36 points compared to Aqua's 86.

The second prize winner was the O-14 high-rise in Dubai, whose perforated exterior provides a unique shield against the desert sun. Emporis editors from 67 countries make nominations for the prize and select the winners.

Top 10 Skyscrapers of 2009 (rank / building / city / country / points)

1. Aqua, Chicago U.S.A., 86 2. O-14 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 U.S.A., 36 6. The Red Apple, Rotterdam Netherlands, 34 7. Bank of America Tower, New York City U.S.A., 32 8. Almas Tower, Dubai U.A.E., 16 9. Millennium Tower, San Francisco U.S.A., 13 10. William Beaver House, New York City U.S.A., 10

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Emporis, the global building database, has named the residential and hotel tower, located in the 200 block of North Columbus Drive and best known for its spectacularly undulating balconies, its 2009 skyscraper of the year. **Jeanne Gang, Chicago architect**

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