

# Lever House

## Identification

<b>EBN</b>	115090
<b>Name</b>	Lever House
<b>Alternative Name</b>	Lever Building
<b>Construction Type</b>	high-rise building
<b>Current Status</b>	existing [completed]

## Location

<b>Continent Name</b>	North America	<b>Block Number</b>	<a href="#">Buy full PDF</a>
<b>Country Name</b>	U.S.A.	<b>Lot Number</b>	<a href="#">Buy full PDF</a>
<b>State Name</b>	New York	<b>Postcode</b>	10022
<b>Metro Area Name</b>	New York-Newark- Bridgeport Metro Area	<b>Address (as text)</b>	390 Park Avenue at East 53rd Street, NW Corner to East 54th Street

<b>City Name</b>	New York City	<b>Main Address</b>	378-398 Park Avenue
<b>District (1st level)</b>	Manhattan	<b>Side Address</b>	62-80 East 54th Street 51-67 East 53rd Street
<b>District (2nd level)</b>	Midtown		

## Description

<b>Structural Material</b>	steel	<b>Facade Color</b>	dark green
<b>Facade System</b>	curtain wall	<b>Architectural style</b>	international style
<b>Facade Material</b>	glass	<b>Main Usage</b>	commercial office

## Spatial dimensions

<b>Height (structural)</b>	307 ft	<b>Floors (overground)</b>	21
<b>Height (tip)</b>	307 ft	<b>Elevators</b>	6
<b>Height (roof)</b>	307 ft	<b>Gross Floor Area (GFA)</b>	<a href="#">Buy full PDF</a>
<b>Height (main roof)</b>	283 ft		

## Years and costs

<b>Year (construction start)</b>	1950	<b>Year (construction end)</b>	1952
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## Features & Amenities

- One of the city's famous buildings
- City landmark
- Courtyard is present

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## Facts

- With its contemporary, the United Nations Secretariat Building, this was the first curtain wall structure in the city.
- At the time of its construction, this steel and glass prism was the only corporate building among the avenue's masonry residential structures and marked the emergence of corporate Park Avenue North.
- Lever House reflects a shift from the typically public, social uses of the International Style in Europe to corporate modernism in the USA.
- Although widely considered as an icon of modernism and pioneer of new style, the use of glass panels between floors to make the outside look even lighter is not considered as structural honesty, opposite to other icons such as AMA Plaza or Lake Shore Drive Residences in Chicago.
- In 1980 this building became the 11th recipient of the American Institute of Architects' prestigious Twenty-Five Year Award.
- The architects were recognized with an Honor Award from the American Institute of Architects in 1952.
- Designed by Gordon Bunshaft of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP; Bunshaft is also responsible for the enormous One Chase Manhattan Plaza in downtown Manhattan.
- To create the lightest looking possible curtain wall, the mullions were made narrow and reflective and the spandrels were clad with opaque glass (as a totally transparent wall was impractical).
- The building was opened April 29, 1952.
- The skyscraper's pared-down functionalist form - its rejection of historical associations in favor of simple geometries and repetitive modules of mass produced components - is typical of the International Style.
- This 24-storey building replaced the heavy (and heavy-looking as well) masonry walls of the contemporary skyscrapers with mere green-tinted glass curtains and stainless steel sheathing.
- Lever House provided the influence for London's Marathon House which also features a fully-glazed curtain wall and the use of green glass.
- Although the building was also criticized for its appearance amidst the old masonry apartment houses, it was nevertheless usually taken with enthusiasm as a pioneer of the new style.
- The building was also revolutionary in being the first skyscraper to utilize the clause in city zoning regulations that allowed a building to rise straight up without setbacks if it occupied only a quarter of the plot.

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## Awards

Name	Category	Rank	Year
Twenty-five Year Award			1980

## Involved companies

Architect.....

**Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP**

224 South Michigan Avenue, Suite 1000  
60604 Chicago  
U.S.A.

Phone +1 312 554 9090  
Fax +1 312 360 4545  
Email somchicago@som.com

## Additional company data available for this building

<b>Client</b>	<a href="#">Buy full PDF</a>	<b>General Contractor</b>	<a href="#">Buy full PDF</a>
<b>Facade Designer</b>	<a href="#">Buy full PDF</a>	<b>Interior Designer</b>	<a href="#">Buy full PDF</a>
<b>Facade Supplier</b>	<a href="#">Buy full PDF</a>	<b>Mechanical Engineering</b>	<a href="#">Buy full PDF</a>
<b>Formwork Supplier</b>	<a href="#">Buy full PDF</a>	<b>Owner</b>	<a href="#">Buy full PDF</a>

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