

Blue Cross-Blue Shield Tower

Identification

EBN	116823
Name	Blue Cross-Blue Shield Tower
Alternative Name	Blue Cross Blue Shield Building
Construction Type	skyscraper
Current Status	existing [completed]

Location

Continent Name	North America	District (1st level)	Downtown
Country Name	U.S.A.	District (2nd level)	Loop
State Name	Illinois	Postcode	60601
Zone	New Eastside	Address (as text)	300 East Randolph Street
Metro Area Name	Chicago-Naperville-Michigan City	Main Address	300 East Randolph Street

	Combined Statistical Area		
City Name	Chicago	Virtual Address	151 North Columbus Drive

Description

Foundation System	caisson foundation	Facade Color	blue silver
Structural Material	composite structure	Architectural style	modernism
Facade System	curtain wall	Main Usage	commercial office
Facade Material	glass granite	Side Usage	parking

Spatial dimensions

Height (structural)	743.08 ft	Height (roof)	743.08 ft
Height (tip)	743.08 ft	Height (floor-floor)	13.16 ft
Height (top floor)	683.43 ft	Floors (overground)	57

Years and costs

Year (construction start)	1995	Year (last renovation)	2010
Year (construction end)	1997		

Features & Amenities

- Atrium is present
- Doorman is available
- Panoramic elevators are present
- Pedway access is available

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- Plaza is available to the public

Facts

- A landscaped plaza fills out the building lot on the north and east sides, with views of the Lakeshore East complex.
- The building's site was chosen because of its good land value at the time, and has little to do with the fact that other large insurance companies are located nearby. (Aon for instance moved next door later.)
- The elevators facing the atrium are enclosed in translucent fritted glass so as not to give riders vertigo.
- The building won separate Honor Awards from the American Institute of Architects in 1998 for its overall and interior design.
- The 33-story first phase was started in 1995 and completed in 1997. The 24-story second phase started in 2007 and was completed in 2010.
- The building was designed to be built in two phases to meet an expected need for additional space.
- The facade facing Grant Park is sometimes used at night as an illuminated billboard, displaying words formed by opening and closing window shades.
- Fritted glass is used extensively throughout the building: on the facade, in the elevators, and on interior partitions around the atrium.
- The lobby's centerpiece is an oval reception desk with an oval halo hanging overhead. These round forms are mirrored 14 floors higher by the 'Shaker Lodge' meeting room.
- Unlike most composite-structure skyscrapers, the majority of elevators in this building are located outside the concrete service cores.
- The piers on the east and west facades are clad in granite, giving this building the last full-height original facade of any high-rise built in Chicago using any kind of natural stone.
- The facade materials were chosen to show minimal aging, so that the future vertical addition would show no visible discontinuity.
- A large signboard on the lower level of the lobby holds plaques dedicated to the insurance company's 100 largest customers.
- A circular stone Shaker lodge was built in the middle of the 15th floor to house the executive meeting room.
- Architect James Goettsch of Goettsch Partners was the designer for the project. The first phase was completed under the firm name of Lohan Associates (now Goettsch Partners).
- This was the only office high-rise constructed in Chicago between 1992 and 1999. It was built in a glutted market, but Blue Cross required a large block of contiguous space which was not available elsewhere.

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- A 37-story proposal called 300 East Randolph was planned for this site in 1989.
- An enormous atrium, open to the public by special arrangement only, runs up the north side of the building.
- The concourse level below Randolph Street is connected to the Grant Park underground garage by hanging walkways under Upper Randolph.
- The conference center under the back plaza features an extensive collection of art from the City of Chicago's Gallery 37 program for student artists.

Involved companies

Architect.....

Goettsch Partners, Inc.

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60604 Chicago
U.S.A.

Phone +1 312 356 0600
Fax +1 312 356 0601
Email info@gpchicago.com

Lohan Associates, Inc.

Chicago
U.S.A.

Interior Designer.....

VOA Associates, Inc.

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60604 Chicago
U.S.A.

Phone +1 312 554 1400
Fax +1 312 554 1412
Email info@voa.com

Additional company data available for this building

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