

# Transamerica Pyramid



## Identification

**EBN** 118715

**Name** Transamerica Pyramid

**Alternative Name** The Spire

**Construction Type** skyscraper

**Complex Type** office complex

**Complex Name** Transamerica Center

**Current Status** existing [completed]

## Location

**Continent Name** North America **District (1st level)** Northeast

**Country Name** U.S.A. **District (2nd level)** Financial District North

**State Name** California **Postcode** 94104

<b>Zone</b>	Financial District	<b>Address (as text)</b>	600 Montgomery Street
<b>Metro Area Name</b>	San Jose-San Francisco-Oakland Combined Statistical Area	<b>Main Address</b>	600-634 Montgomery Street
<b>City Name</b>	San Francisco	<b>Virtual Address</b>	575-599 Washington Street 556-598 Clay Street

### Description

<b>Foundation System</b>	mat foundation	<b>Facade Color</b>	white
<b>Structural Material</b>	composite structure	<b>Architectural style</b>	futurism
<b>Facade System</b>	curtain wall	<b>Main Usage</b>	commercial office
<b>Facade Material</b>	quartz	<b>Side Usage</b>	mercantile

### Spatial dimensions

<b>Height (structural)</b>	853.01 ft	<b>Parking places</b>	<a href="#">Buy full PDF</a>
<b>Height (tip)</b>	853.01 ft	<b>Elevators</b>	18
<b>Height (roof)</b>	853.01 ft	<b>Gross Floor Area (GFA)</b>	<a href="#">Buy full PDF</a>
<b>Floors (overground)</b>	48	<b>Usable Floor Area (UFA)</b>	<a href="#">Buy full PDF</a>

<b>Workplaces</b>	<a href="#">Buy full PDF</a>
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### Years and costs

<b>Year (construction start)</b>	1969	<b>Building costs</b>	\$ 44,000,000
<b>Year (construction end)</b>	1972		

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## Features & Amenities

- One of the city's famous buildings

## Facts

- The Transamerica Pyramid is one of the most recognized buildings in the United States.
- Tallest building in San Francisco for 45 years; surpassed by Salesforce Tower in 2017.
- Tallest building in the United States west of the Mississippi River from 1972-1974; surpassed by the Aon Center in Los Angeles.
- Throughout its construction, the boarding surrounding the emerging site boldly boasted: A San Francisco landmark since 1972.
- Excavation commenced in December 1969, with the first steel placed in November 1970.
- First occupancy was during the summer of 1972.
- The foundation consists of a steel and concrete block that sits 52 feet underground and is designed to move during earthquakes.
- Components of the base include approximately 16,000 cubic yards of concrete, encasing more than 300 miles of steel reinforcement rods.
- The largest floor is the 5th, with 21,025 ft<sup>2</sup>, while the 48th floor is the smallest, with only 2,025 ft<sup>2</sup>.
- The top floor (48th) features a tenants-only conference room with 360-degree views of the city and bay.
- The 'wings' which start at the 29th floor are necessary near the top of the pyramid to support elevators on the east side and a stairwell and smoke tower on the west side.
- Only two elevators reach the top floor.
- The 'spire' is the upper 212 feet (64.6 meters), and is covered with vertically louvered aluminum panels.
- The lower portion of the spire encloses mechanical equipment.
- A virtual observation deck has four cameras at the very top of the spire pointed in all directions. In the lobby there are four monitors broadcasting the images 24 hours a day.
- The Pyramid lobby features the work of many artists through a rotating art exhibition.
- The exterior's quartz-aggregate panels are reinforced with connecting rods at four places on every floor, and the spacing between the panels allows lateral movement in case of an earthquake.

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- During the 7.1-magnitude Bay Area earthquake in 1989, the top story swayed nearly a foot from side to side.
- With 3,678 windows it takes a month to wash them.
- Transamerica wanted a taller building (1,150 feet/350.5 meters) but the city planning commission would not approve it because it interfered with precious views of San Francisco Bay from Nob Hill.
- While the Pyramid is no longer the company headquarters, it serves as Transamerica's corporate logo and is strongly identified with the corporation.

## Involved companies

Architect.....

**William L. Pereira & Associates**  
Los Angeles  
U.S.A.

## Additional company data available for this building

<b>Facade Consultant</b>	<a href="#">Buy full PDF</a>	<b>Owner</b>	<a href="#">Buy full PDF</a>
<b>General Contractor</b>	<a href="#">Buy full PDF</a>	<b>Property Management</b>	<a href="#">Buy full PDF</a>
<b>Mechanical Engineering</b>	<a href="#">Buy full PDF</a>	<b>Real Estate Agent</b>	<a href="#">Buy full PDF</a>
<b>MEP Engineering</b>	<a href="#">Buy full PDF</a>	<b>Structural Engineering</b>	<a href="#">Buy full PDF</a>

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