

Willis Tower



Identification

EBN	117064
Name	Willis Tower
Alternative Name	Sears Tower
Construction Type	skyscraper
Current Status	existing [completed]

Location

Continent Name	North America	District (2nd level)	Loop
Country Name	U.S.A.	Postcode	60606
State Name	Illinois	Address (as text)	233 South Wacker Drive
Metro Area Name	Chicago-Naperville-Michigan City	Main Address	233 South Wacker Drive

Combined Statistical Area

City Name	Chicago	Virtual Address	200-250 South Franklin Street 300-348 West Jackson Boulevard 301-349 West Adams Street
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District (1st level) Downtown

Map



Description

Foundation System	caisson foundation	Facade Color	black
Structural System	bundled tube	Architectural style	international style
Structural Material	steel	Main Usage	commercial office
Facade System	curtain wall	Side Usage	shop(s) service branch(es) restaurant

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Facade Material aluminum

Spatial dimensions

Height (structural)	1,450.59 ft	Width	225 ft
Height (tip)	1,729 ft	Floors (underground)	4
Height (top floor)	1,353.97 ft	Floors (overground)	108
Height (roof)	1,450.59 ft	Workplaces	Contact us
Height (main roof)	1,432.05 ft	Parking places	Contact us
Height (floor-floor)	12.86 ft	Elevators	104
Length	225 ft	Gross Floor Area (GFA)	Contact us

Years and costs

Year (construction start)	1970	Year (construction end)	1974
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Features & Amenities

- One of the city's famous buildings
- Aircraft warning lights installed
- Doorman is available
- Double-decker elevators present
- Observation floor is available
- Skylobby is present
- Transmission antenna on roof

Facts

- World's tallest building from 1974-1996, surpassed by Petronas Tower 1 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- Until Taipei 101 was topped out in 2004, the Sears Tower held title to the world's highest roof and highest occupied floor.
- This has been the tallest building in Chicago since 1974. For a timeline of Chicago's tallest building through history, start with Holy Name Cathedral.

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- The structure is formed from nine bundled square tubes, each 75 feet wide with no columns between the core and perimeter. Two of the tubes are 50 floors high, two are 66 floors, three are 90, and two are 108.
- The design was actually inspired by a pack of cigarettes. Architect Bruce Graham used a pack of cigarettes to visualize his idea of using a series of bundled cylinders at different heights to create the tower.
- Sears executives chose to build a single tall headquarters building over an alternative proposal for twin towers at half the existing tower's height.
- Sears Tower was topped out on May 3, 1973, surpassing One World Trade Center as the world's tallest building.
- The two antennae on the roof give the tower one of the highest "tip heights" of any skyscraper in the world.
- In 2000, four high-definition television antennas were lifted to the roof by helicopter.
- Sears Roebuck & Co. originally occupied the lower half of its namesake tower. In 1995 the company moved to a low-rise complex in the northwest Chicago suburb of Hoffman Estates.
- The lobby floor is decorated with metal tiles in a stylized design based on the bundled tube structure.
- Double-decker express elevators take passengers from the first two floors to skylobbies at floors 33/34 and 66/67.
- The height was listed in many sources for years as 1,454 feet. This is the result of misprinted data which was copied by several sources until it was corrected by the engineers in the middle 1990s.
- The lobby contains the moving sculpture "The Universe" by Alexander Calder.
- The observatory elevators are among the world's fastest at 1600 feet per minute.
- Twenty-eight acres of black anodized aluminum panels and approximately 16,100 bronze-tinted windows form the tower's facade.
- The tower has a pressure lock (like an airlock) at the freight entrance to combat the 'stack effect' generated by the differential in air pressure caused by cold air meeting warm air in the building.
- The Skydeck occupies the 103rd floor, the highest non-mechanical floor in the building. It has its own entrance on Jackson Boulevard, and attracts approximately 1.5 million visitors per year.
- 2.5 million cubic feet of concrete were used during construction.
- Before the tower was developed, its site was split in half by West Quincy Street. Sears paid the city of Chicago \$2.7 million for the street segment.
- The tower's sway has been known to induce motion sickness in people working at the top.
- This is not the original Sears Tower, the previous headquarters of Sears Roebuck was a vast building on Chicago's West Side that included the Sears Merchandise Building Tower.

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- A renovation in the 1980s added a barrel-vaulted entrance pavilion to the west side and a small cut-away atrium inside the east entrance.
- The building's facade has been climbed twice: by Dan Goodwin in 1981 and by Alain Robert in 1999.
- A viewing ledge built of three 1.3-centimeter thick glass layers, and suspended from the 103rd floor, opened to the public on July 2, 2009.

Involved companies

Architect.....

Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP

224 South Michigan Avenue, Suite 1000
60604 Chicago
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Phone +1 312 554 9090
Fax +1 312 360 4545
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Structural Engineering.....

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Additional company data available for this building

Architectural	Contact us	Landscape Architect	Contact us
Metalwork Supplier			
Client	Contact us	Lighting Consultant	Contact us
Developer	Contact us	Lightning Protection	Contact us
Electrical Contractor	Contact us	Mechanical Engineering	Contact us
Elevator Supplier	Contact us	Owner	Contact us
Facade Engineering	Contact us	Property Management	Contact us
Facade Supplier	Contact us	Roofing Supplier	Contact us
Facility Management	Contact us	Sealants & Adhesives Supplier	Contact us
Foundation Company	Contact us	Steel Supplier	Contact us
General Contractor	Contact us	Tenant	Contact us

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