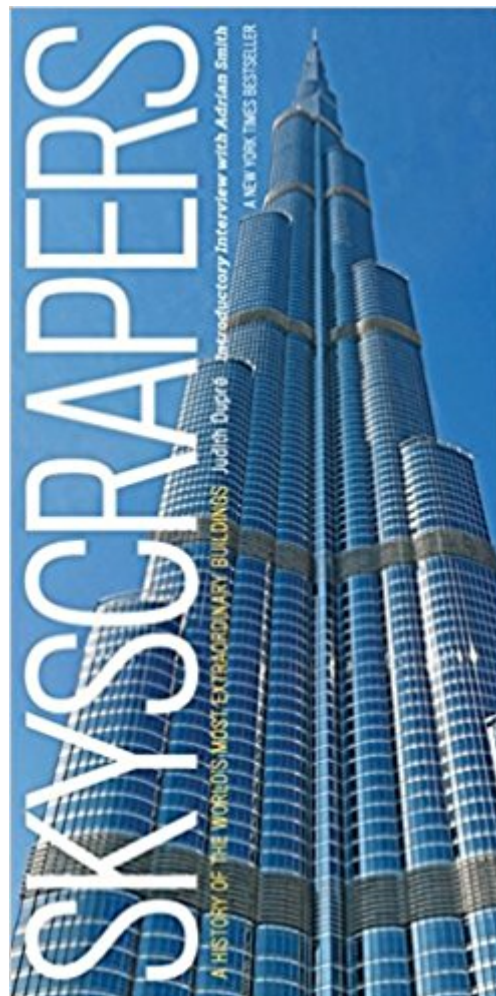




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# Skyscrapers: A History Of The World's Most Extraordinary Buildings -- Revised And Updated



## Synopsis

Now, bigger than ever, this long-awaited revised edition of Judith A. Dupré's best-selling *Skyscrapers* is a giant celebration of today's most significant superstructures. It features an all-new design with full-color photographs, 10 new buildings, and informative updates throughout. Unique in scale and design, *Skyscrapers* explores in-depth more than 60 buildings, including One World Trade Center, Burj Dubai, the Shanghai World Financial Center, the Petronas Towers, the Tribune Tower, the Lipstick Building, and the Phare Tower. This completely revised and full-color edition presents 10 new buildings, among them The Shard in London (2012, Renzo Piano), the International Commerce Centre in Hong Kong (2010, Kohn Pedersen Fox), the Shanghai Tower (2014, Gensler Architects), and the Kingdom Tower in Jeddah (2018, Adrian Smith), which will be the tallest building in the world when completed. Arranged chronologically by date of building construction, each informative spread has photos of the featured building from various angles, building plans, diagrams, the building's historical background, and technological information. *Skyscrapers* also offers additional information on such topics as the ancient roots of skyscrapers and visionary cities of the future, as well as a fascinating interview with Philip Johnson, together with other profiles. New topics include the era of the megatall building, the building of a skyscraper, and the explosive growth of skyscrapers in Dubai and China. Also includes interview with Adrian Smith. Praise for *Skyscrapers*: "Drama. Treachery. Innovation. Massive buildings. Bigger egos. *Skyscrapers* has it all." -- Patrick J. Foye, Executive Director, Port Authority of New York & New Jersey "Dupré makes the most of a century of neck-craning architecture." -- *The Washington Post* "Breathtaking. Magnificent, unique, very special. Exquisite. One-of-a-kind. Well researched. Beautifully designed." -- Robert J. Bruss, Tribune Media Services Praise for *Bridges*: "Dupré captivates the eye, mind and imagination." -- *The New York Times*

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Look up! Architectural historian Dupré, who's also written about bridges (*Bridges: A History of the World's Most Important Spans*), churches (*Churches*), and monuments (*Monuments: America's History in Art and Memory*), has updated her 1996 "instant classic" with 15 new essays and plenty of new contenders for World's Tallest Building. Reflecting the many changes in the world, and in the world of architecture, since 1996, the new edition looks at the myriad "supertalls" in China and elsewhere, the wave of "green" skyscrapers, and the barrier-busting work of architects such as Adrian Smith, who designed the current tall champion, Burj Khalifa in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The Burj Khalifa won't hold the title for long: Smith and Gordon Gill Architecture are busy working on the Kingdom Tower in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, which will top out at one kilometer. It's scheduled to be completed in 2018. The book's design is supertall itself, measuring 9" x 18" to really make the gorgeous renderings and photos pop. Dupré starts with the world's first skyscraper (Chicago's Home Insurance Building, built in 1885, demolished in 1931) and proceeds through the classics like the Flatiron Building, the Chrysler Building, and the Empire State Building in New York, Marina City and the Sears Tower (now the Willis Tower) in Chicago, to newer achievements in building height located in London, Atlanta, Sweden, Asia and various Arab countries. I spent a lot of time gazing at the photos of Cesar Pelli's beautiful design for the Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, the tallest building(s) in the world from 1997-2004. Dupré writes: Although Pelli was charged with creating a design that would be uniquely Malaysian, there was little authentically Malaysian design in the city: British Colonialists had built its most significant buildings and its commercial structures were rendered in a nondescript International Style. The only truly traditional constructions were short bamboo structures with thatched roofs. Instead, Pelli said he "tried to respond to the climate, to the dominant Islamic culture, and to the sense of form and patterning that I could perceive in traditional Malaysian building." Evidently, the architect achieved that aim: In 2004, Pelli was awarded the Aga Khan Award for Architecture for the towers' design. The dear departed (can you say that about a structure?) World Trade Center towers are documented as well; the photo representation is of the double "towers of light" that make their appearance every September 11.

The single-spire replacement for the towers, which LJ staffers can see out our office window, is also documented. That much-delayed project is due to be completed next year.

Rising majestically above the hubbub of crowded cities or standing in solitude against a natural backdrop, skyscrapers captivate the eye, excite the imagination, and inspire awe. Wonders of creativity and ingenuity, they embody the best of our practical achievements and reflect our highest aspirations. This magnificent chronological tour of the world's tallest buildings thoroughly revised and updated since its initial publication, and featuring cutting edge work by today's international superstars of architecture stands as the most thorough, authoritative, and eye-popping book on the subject, as dramatic in presentation as the structures it celebrates. Breathtaking photographs capture the buildings details as well as their monumental scale; architectural drawings and plans invite you behind the scenes as new buildings take shape; and lively commentary on each building explores its particular significance and provides historic context. Throughout, informative profiles, features, and statistics make "Skyscrapers" an invaluable reference as well as a visual feast. From a church built to the glory of God to monuments that symbolize national or civic pride, to buildings so forward thinking that they contribute to the betterment of the environment, the 62 structures included here encompass the very best and most ingenious of our history, spanning some 125 years and circling the globe. The 15 astonishing supertalls that have been added to this edition represent flights of imagination and feats of engineering that the skyscraper's earliest pioneers could never have dreamed of. To say that the megatall landscape has changed since this book was first published in 1996 is an understatement, comments the author in her forward. We are in the midst of a new skyscraper boom Skyscraper design, now embraced by the global community, has entered a flamboyant, no-holds-barred era of exhilarating, highly personal exploration of the extreme frontiers of structural and creative possibility. Every civilization has expressed in buildings both sacred and secular the eternal quest to reach ever upward toward the sky. "Skyscrapers" invites you to relish in the stunning works born of that quest.

Best money we've ever spent on . Bought for my son who is OBSESSED with skyscrapers. This has tons of pictures and facts on each building such as heights, number of floors and materials used. It also compares each building against the Burj Khalifa and Empire state building. He loves it. LOVES it. Carries the book with him. Constantly paging through it. Huge hit.

My 10-year-old stepson is fascinated by skyscrapers and loves this book. The size and shape of it

and the details on each building definitely add to its appeal. The writing, however, is for an adult audience and quite verbose, far beyond his comprehension as well as that of most 10-year-olds. My stepson doesn't seem to care, but for a kid slightly less interested in skyscrapers this book may be a bit dull.

Great book well laid out with great pictures. Wish the text was larger and weird size for shelves but neat book!

Exceptional book. Information is fantastic and photos are spectacular. A real gem of a book.

The book is nicely written, full of information and has sensational photographs and illustrations. It is a long tall book just like the subject matter and it's unusual shape is really necessary to get the quality of the photos down right. I can recommend the book to anyone who likes buildings of any sort but especially to those fascinated by skyscrapers. If you have a child interested in Skyscrapers, I can recommend this too. depending on their age, the text may be hard going for them but the visuals are sure to impress.

Not only are the pictures fabulous, but the writing is excellent. Dupre makes observations that one would not necessarily make without her expert knowledge and intuitive understanding of buildings, communities, people, cultures...it is fun to just browse the book and gasp at the amazing buildings, or choose one and read of its intricacies. This is a PERFECT GIFT BOOK!

I ordered this book expecting a smaller book with pics and interesting facts but what I got was SO much better! This book is HUGE, and full of gorgeous pics and information on the worlds tallest buildings. In the upper corner there is a comparison to the Burj Khalifa and The Empire State Building. I bought this book for my 12 yr old aspiring architect and it was a major hit! (It got him off the XBOX for a few days!)

My grandson love this book the size is outstanding. Most of all the pictures and info about each building is great.

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