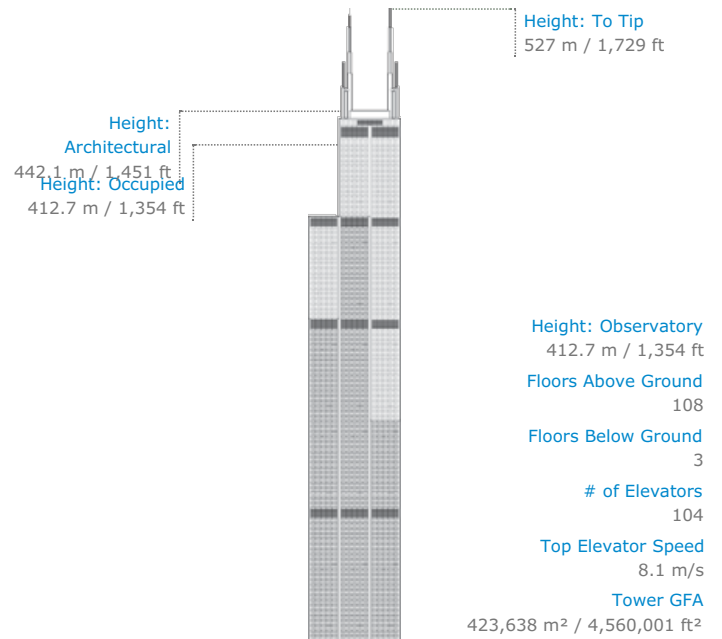
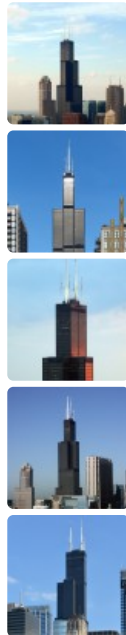


## Willis Tower



Click an image to view larger version.



### Facts

Official Name	Willis Tower
Other Names	Sears Tower
Structure Type	Building
Status	COM
Country	United States
City	Chicago
Street Address & Map	233 South Wacker Drive
Postal Code	60606
Building Function	office
Structural Material	steel
Energy Label	LEED Recertification Platinum (2019), LEED Gold O+M: Existing Buildings (2016)
Construction Start	1970
Completion	1974
Retrofit Start	2016
Retrofit End	2019
Official Website	<a href="http://willistower.com">Willis Tower</a>

### Original Companies Involved

Owner	
• Current	The Blackstone Group L.P.
• Past	<a href="#">The Moinian Group</a>
Developer	Sears Roebuck and Company
Architect	
• Design	<a href="#">Skidmore, Owings &amp; Merrill LLP</a>
Structural Engineer	
• Design	<a href="#">Skidmore, Owings &amp; Merrill LLP</a>
MEP Engineer	
• Design	<a href="#">Jaros, Baum &amp; Bolles</a>
Main Contractor	<a href="#">Morse Diesel International</a>
Other Consultant	
• Façade	<a href="#">Enclos Corp.</a>
• Fire	<a href="#">Schirmer Engineering Corporation</a>
• Property Management	<a href="#">CBRE</a> ; <a href="#">EQ Office</a>
• Vertical Transportation	<a href="#">Jaros, Baum &amp; Bolles</a> ; <a href="#">Van Deusen &amp; Associates</a>
• Wind	<a href="#">Alan G. Davenport Wind Engineering Group</a>
Material Supplier	
• Cladding	<a href="#">Cupples</a>
• Elevator	<a href="#">Schindler</a>
• Sealants	<a href="#">Dow Corning Corporation</a>
• Steel	<a href="#">American Bridge Company</a>

### Retrofit Companies Involved

Owner/Developer	The Blackstone Group L.P.
Architect	
• Design	<a href="#">Gensler</a>
Structural Engineer	
• Design	<a href="#">Thornton Tomasetti</a>
MEP Engineer	
• Engineer of Record	<a href="#">Environmental Systems Design, Inc.</a>

<a href="#">Project Manager</a>	EQ Office
<a href="#">Main Contractor</a>	Clayco; <a href="#">Turner Construction Company</a>
<a href="#">Other Consultant</a>	
• <a href="#">Energy Concept</a>	Rivion
<a href="#">Material Supplier</a>	
• <a href="#">Elevator</a>	<a href="#">Otis Elevator Company</a>

## About Willis Tower

The Willis Tower (formerly Sears Tower) in Chicago, with its signature black aluminum and bronze-tinted glare-reducing glass, was the tallest building in the world for nearly 25 years. Completed in 1974, Willis Tower set the standard for supertall skyscrapers around the globe, both in its innovative design and graceful styling. With approximately 424,000 square meters of gross floor area, the building is comparatively large for its height, with its foundation and the first 50 floors taking up an entire city block before the building begins to narrow.

The step-back design of the structure was designed by the architects as a direct result of Sears' space requirements. The designers were required to develop a building that incorporated not only very large office floors, which were necessary to Sears' operation, but also a variety of smaller floors which would be more suitable for tenants requiring less floor area. These requirements resulted in a bundled tube structure, the first of its kind. This innovative design was not only structurally efficient, but it also managed to be economical as well. It has proven to be a remarkably influential design typology, and has been used in most supertall buildings built since the Willis Tower, including the Burj Khalifa.

An assortment of features has kept the tower active, inviting, and efficient over its operational life. An undulating Alexander Calder sculpture greets office workers in the west lobby. Meanwhile, a 2009 addition to the observation deck affords visitors with vertigo-inducing views of Chicago via "The Ledge," a series of boxes with transparent floors that extrude from the top of the building. Although the Willis Tower was built in an age before sustainable design matured, the building's owners have recently implemented several sustainable elements, including low-flow fixtures that conserve more than 38 million liters of water annually, and high-efficiency lighting systems that help curb electrical loads.

## Willis Tower

### CTBUH Initiatives

#### [CTBUH Chicago Tours Willis Tower Renovations](#)

28 Aug 2019 – Tour Report

#### [CTBUH Chicago Tours Willis Tower Renovations](#)

28 Aug 2019 – Tour Report

#### [10th World Congress Reception: Step Onto the Willis Tower Ledge](#)

11 Jul 2019 – Conference Paper

[More Initiatives](#) →

### Research Papers

#### [Bringing an Icon into the Future: Willis Tower](#)

Oct 2019 – 2019 Chicago 10th World Congress Proceedings - 50  
Forward | 50 Back

#### [World's Biggest \(Tall\) Buildings](#)

Oct 2019 – 2019 Chicago 10th World Congress Proceedings - 50  
Forward | 50 Back

#### [Developments of Structural Systems Toward Mile-High Towers](#)

1 Sep 2018 – International Journal of High-rise Buildings Volume 7  
Number 3

[More Papers](#) →

### Videos

#### [Rethinking CTBUH's Height Criteria in the Context of Tall Timber](#)

30 Oct 2017 – Robert Foster, The University of Queensland

#### [Building Tall Skyscraper Lecture Series: How High Can We Go?](#)

16 Mar 2017 – Antony Wood, CTBUH; Richard Tomasetti, Thornton Tomasetti; Ian Smith, thyssenkrupp, Gordan Gill, Adrain Smill + Gordon Gill Architecture

#### [Developing Tall in the New York Context](#)

26 Oct 2015 – Gary Barnett, Extell Development Corporation; Ric Clark, Brookfield Properties; Joseph Moinian, Moinian Group & Larry Silverstein, Silverstein Properties

[More Videos](#) →

### Other Building Facts

Tallest building in the world 1974 - 1998. Preceded by [One World Trade Center](#) and surpassed by the [Petronas Tower 1](#)

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