CITIC Tower

Facts

Official Name: CITIC Tower
Other Names: China Zun, Zhongguo Zun
Structure Type: Building
Status: Completed
Country: China
City: Beijing
Street Address & Map: Lot Z15 Guanghua Road, CBD Core, Chaoyang District
Postal Code: 100022
Building Function: office
Structural Material: composite
  • Core: Concrete Encased Steel
  • Columns: Concrete Filled Steel
  • Floor Spanning: Steel
Energy Label: LEED-CS Gold Precertification, China Certificate of Green Building Label-Three Star
Proposed: 2012
Construction Start: 2013
Completion: 2018
Rankings
  Global Ranking: #8 Tallest in the World
  Regional Ranking: #5 Tallest in Asia
  National Ranking: #4 Tallest in China
  City Ranking: #1 Tallest in Beijing

Companies Involved

Owner/Developer: CITIC HEYE Investment CO., LTD.

Architect
  • Concept: TFP Farrells
  • Design: Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates
  • Architect of Record: Beijing Institute of Architectural Design
  • Peer Review: CITIC General Institute of Architectural Design & Research Co., Ltd

Structural Engineer
  • Design: Arup
  • Engineer of Record: Beijing Institute of Architectural Design

MEP Engineer
  • Design: WSP
  • Engineer of Record: Beijing Institute of Architectural Design

Main Contractor: China Construction Third Engineering Bureau Co., Ltd.

Other Consultant
  • Cost: China Construction Jingcheng Project Consultants; WT Partnership
  • Energy Concept: Azbil Control Solutions
  • Façade: ALT Limited
  • Façade Maintenance: Altitude Façade Access Consulting Pty Ltd
  • Fire: Arup
  • LEED: EMSI
  • Lighting: Brandston Partnership, Inc.
  • Property Management: Beijing Zhongjibeishi; JLL
  • Sustainability: Qinghua University
  • Traffic: MVA Transportation, Planning & Management Consultants
About CITIC Tower

CITIC Tower will be the flagship building of Beijing’s comprehensively planned 30-hectare central business district core.

The tower’s gently rising and curving form resembles an ancient Chinese ceremonial vessel, called the "zun." The design concept is that of a transforming shell that gradually bends to create a dramatic form. This concept is also applied to other key elements of the tower, including the entrances, ground-floor lobby, and observation deck. At the base, the tower thrusts into the ground with massive corner supports, while the exterior shell is gently lifted up and stretched forward at the four sides. The design physically extends the lobby outward, forming dynamic drop-off spaces. At the top, the exterior envelope becomes more transparent at the observation deck and allows more visibility to the inner trumpet-shaped business center, which lights up at night, forming a beacon that will be visible throughout the city.

Compared to a typically straight or tapering supertall tower form, the concave tower profile offers more valuable prime-floor spaces and ample space for window washing, as well as other support systems, at the top of the tower. While the large top poses significant structural challenges, the larger base provides an opportunity for structural balance, formal contrast, and preferred core-to-perimeter distances.

In a city with the highest seismic fortification requirement of the major cities in China, the structural system was particularly sensitive to adjustments in the complex form of the building. Architects and engineers utilized parametric modeling to greatly expedite the design and coordination process to ensure that the design achieved both an iconic form and a solid structural system.

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CTBUH Initiatives

CTBUH Releases Year in Review: Tall Trends of 2018
Dec 2018 – CTBUH News Report

CTBUH 2019 Award of Excellence Winners Announced
5 Dec 2018 – Awards Event

CTBUH Participates in the China Zun Forum
22 Jun 2018 – Event

More Initiatives ➤

Videos

China Zun: Shaping the Future Skyline of Beijing
18 Sep 2014 – Weiping Shao, Beijing Institute of Architectural Design

Interview: Nengjun Luo
18 Sep 2014 – Vice General Manager, CITIC HEYE Investment CO., LTD.

Would Software Replace Engineers?: A Case Study on the Structural Design of Beijing "China Zun" Tower
18 Sep 2014 – Peng Liu, Arup

More Videos ➤

Research Papers

Best Tall Buildings 2019: Dominant Trends
Apr 2019 – CTBUH Journal 2019 Issue II

China Zun: Beijing’s New Icon, 2018’s Tallest
Jan 2019 – CTBUH Journal 2019 Issue I

The Global Tall Building Picture: Impact of 2018
Jan 2019 – CTBUH Journal 2019 Issue I

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CTBUH Awards

Best Tall Building 400 meters and above 2019 Award of Excellence
CTBUH Awards 2019

Structural Engineering Award 2019 Award of Excellence
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