U.S. Bank Tower

Facts

Official Name: U.S. Bank Tower
Other Names: Library Tower, First Interstate Bank World Center, US Bank Tower
Structure Type: Building
Status: Completed
Country: United States
City: Los Angeles
Street Address & Map: 633 West 5th Street
Postal Code: 90071
Building Function: Office
Structural Material: Steel
Construction Start: 1987
Completion: 1990
Official Website: OUE Skyscapes Los Angeles

Rankings

Global Ranking: #107 Tallest in the World
Regional Ranking: #17 Tallest in North America
National Ranking: #17 Tallest in United States
City Ranking: #2 Tallest in Los Angeles

Original Companies Involved

Developer: Maguire Properties
Architect
- Design: Pei Cobb Freed & Partners
- Architect of Record: Ellerbe Becket
Structural Engineer
- Design: CBM Engineers
- Engineer of Record: M. Ludvik Engineering
Main Contractor: Turner Construction Company
Other Consultant
- Building Monitoring: Kinematics Inc.
- Interiors: OUE Limited
- Wind: Alan G. Davenport Wind Engineering Group
Material Supplier
- Ceiling: Armstrong World Industries
- Elevator: Otis Elevator Company
- Fire Proofing: Grace Construction Products
- Sealants: Dow Corning Corporation
- Steel: Arbed

Retrofit Companies Involved

Other Consultant: Gensler

About U.S. Bank Tower

When completed, U.S. Bank Tower was the first supertall building not just in Los Angeles, but also in the entire western United States to the west of Chicago and Houston. Originally known as Library Tower, it was constructed across the street from the historic Central Library of Los Angeles and was developed utilizing air rights purchased from the city, preserving the historic open setting of the low-rise building. U.S. Bank Tower pays homage to its adjacent neighbor by having a curving façade turning away from the library and allowing it to remain the primary feature of the view corridor along Hope Street.
When built, U.S. Bank Tower was the tallest structure to be located in a seismically active area. Designers based the layout of the tower plan on a concept of overlapping geometries, a circular form superimposed onto a rectilinear matrix, a shape that is translated to the outside of the building and extruded upward into a series of upper level setbacks and a textured façade made up of triangular window bays. The triangular bays are repeated in the crown with more pronounced angles providing greater visual distinction between it and the tower below.

At ground level, development of the tower incorporated the creation of the Bunker Hill steps, a pedestrian link ascending the topographical change between the modern downtown towers built in the Bunker Hill area primarily in the mid to late 20th century and the shorter early 20th century buildings of the historic downtown core.

U.S. Bank Tower has dominated the Los Angeles skyline as its tallest building for 27 years and has been seen in the backdrop of numerous films produced by Hollywood studios. Its presence will remain a key feature of the skyline even after its title of the city’s tallest has since passed on to Wilshire Grand Center and as other changes occur to downtown Los Angeles in the years to come.

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7 Nov 2013 – Henry Cobb, Pei Cobb Freed & Partners

#### Other Building Facts

When completed, it was the world’s tallest building in a seismic zone.

Features a 45 ft (13.7 m) slide that hangs off the side off the building 1,000 ft (304.8 m) above ground.

First building to be destroyed by aliens in the 1996 movie "Independence Day."

To submit more information or donate images for this project, please use our submission portal.