THE BURJ KHALIFA DUBAI

THE ARCHITECTURE OF

SKIDMORE, OWINGS & MERRILL

PART TWO SKYSCRAPERS

BRIAN ROBERTS
ONE WORLD TRADE CENTRE NEW YORK
Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) is an American architectural and engineering firm founded in 1936 by Louis Skidmore and Nathaniel Owings, and joined in 1939 by John Merrill. SOM is now one of the most significant architectural firms in the world. Their design for the 1952 Lever House in New York was hailed a revolution in architecture. Later, they pioneered a new era of structural design (the tubular frame system) with the John Hancock Centre in 1970 and Sears (now Willis) Tower in 1974, both in Chicago. More recent well-known SOM designs are the Burj Khalifa in Dubai and the One World Trade Centre in New York (built on the site of the Twin Towers World Trade Centre destroyed in the 9/11 terrorist attack).

The author has visited only three SOM buildings: Lever House, John Hancock and Sears and also toured the Twin Towers Centre (not by SOM).

BUILDINGS BY LOCATION
Listed in alphabetical order with Page Numbers

Atlanta 14, Chicago 3,5,8,12,25,28,
Dallas 16,17, Dubai 1,26, Jeddah 15, Makati 21,
New York 2,4,6,7,9-11,13,18,19,22-24,27, Shanghai 20.

Note: Completion dates and other statistics vary slightly according to source of data.
LEVER HOUSE NEW YORK 1952

Height 307 ft. Floors 21.
INLAND STEEL BUILDING CHICAGO 1958

Height 332 ft. Floors 19.
Height 708 ft. Floors 52. Formerly Union Carbide Building.
ONE CHASE MANHATTAN NEW YORK 1961

Height 1813 ft. Floors 60.
Height 1127 ft. Floors 100.
ONE LIBERTY PLAZA NEW YORK 1973

Height 743 ft. Floors 54. Formerly U.S. Steel Building.
SOLOW BUILDING NEW YORK 1974

Height 689 ft. Floors 50.
Height 630 ft. Floors 50. Also known as 1114 Avenue of the Americas.
Height 620 ft. Floors 51.
GEORGIA PACIFIC TOWER ATLANTA 1982

Height 697 ft. Floors 52.
Height 413 ft. Floors 27 floors. Incorporates traditional designs for ventilation and shading.
Height 686 ft. Floors 50.
CHASE TOWER DALLAS 1987

Height 738 ft. Floors 55.
ONE WORLDWIDE PLAZA NEW YORK 1989

Height 778 ft. Floors 50.
BERTELSMANN BUILDING NEW YORK 1990

Height 733 ft (including roof structure). Floors 42. Formerly 1540 Broadway.
Height 1380 ft. Floors 88. Design incorporates a moat of water.
Height 850 ft. Floors 55. Tallest building in the Philippines.
383 MADISON AVENUE NEW YORK 2001

Height 755 ft. Floors 47. Formerly Bear Stearns World HQ.
TIME WARNER CENTRE NEW YORK 2003

Height 750 ft. Floors 55.
TRUMP HOTEL & TOWER CHICAGO 2009

Height 1389 ft. Floors 92.
BURJ KHALIFA DUBAI 2010

Height 2717 ft. Floors 162. Currently the tallest building in the world.
Height 1776 ft. 104 floors. Currently the tallest building in the Western Hemisphere.
JOHN HANCOCK BUILDING CHICAGO

Viewing Chicago from the Observation Floor

THE SKYSCRAPERS OF SKIDMORE, OWINGS & MERRILL

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

1995 Form Follows Finance: Skyscrapers and Skylines in New York and Chicago, Carol Willis, Princeton University Press, New York.
2016 NY Skyscrapers, Dirk Stichweh, Prestel Verlag, Munich.

BRIAN ROBERTS, Budleigh Salterton, 2022