CTBUH Height Criteria

Tall, Supertall & Megatall Buildings

There is no absolute definition of what constitutes a "tall building"; the definition is subjective, considered against one or more of the following categories:

- Height Relative to Context
- Proportion
- Embracing Technologies Relevant to Tall Buildings

Co-Jointed Building

A building is a single, co-jointed building (as opposed to separate buildings in a complex), where 50% or more of the total building height is connected. Exceptions to this 50% rule include where the building creates a coherent arch, creating a singular architectural expression and thus a co-jointed building.

Mixed-Use

Single-Function

Number of Floors

Includes all above-ground floors, including the ground floor itself, and significant mezzanine floors / major mechanical plant floors, unless they have a significantly smaller floor area than the major floors below. Mechanical penthouses or plant rooms above the general roof area are not counted.

Note: CTBUH floor counts may differ from other published accounts for several reasons. Examples include: It is common in some regions of the world to exclude certain floor numbers (e.g., 4, 14, 24, etc., in Hong Kong). A building's owner or marketing team may number floors to meet its own objectives and are not bound by the physical floors present in the building.

Measuring Tall Building Height

Three height categories are recognized. All categories measure the building from the level of the lowest, significant, open-air, pedestrian entrance...

1. Height to Architectural Top

2. Height to Highest Occupied Floor

3. Height to Tip

Building Status

Proposed

A proposal must fulfill all the following criteria:
1. Have a specific site with ownership interest within the building development team
2. Have full architectural design team progressing the design beyond the conceptual stage
3. Have obtained, or in the process of obtaining, formal planning and/or legal permission for construction
4. Have a full intention to proceed to construction and completion

Under Construction

The building is under construction and the highest structural element is in place.

Structurally Topped Out

The building is under construction and has reached its full height both structurally and architecturally (e.g., including its spires, parapets, etc.).

Complete

Fulfills all of the above three criteria:
1. Topped out structurally and architecturally
2. Fully clad
3. Open for business, or at least partially occupiable

Structural Materials

Steel

Both the main vertical and horizontal structural elements and the floor systems are constructed from steel. Note that a building of steel construction with floor systems of concrete slabs on top of steel beams is still considered a steel structure.

Concrete

Both the main vertical and horizontal structural elements and the floor systems are constructed from concrete.

Mixed-Structure

Utilizes distinct steel and concrete systems, one on top of the other. Steel/concrete indicates a steel structural system located on top of a concrete structural system, with the opposite true of concrete steel.

Composite

A combination of both steel and concrete components are used together in the main structural elements, floor systems, or both. Steel/concrete buildings which either steel systems with a floor system of concrete beams, a steel structure with a concrete core encased steel columns, concrete-filled steel tubes, etc.

Height & Data Committee

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