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CTBUH NAMES BEST TALL BUILDING WORLDWIDE: CCTV HEADQUARTERS, BEIJING

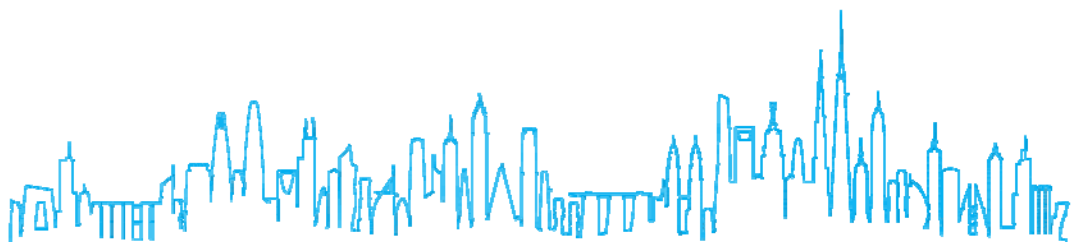
CHICAGO, November 8— The Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat (CTBUH) has announced the winner of its Best Tall Building Worldwide: **CCTV Headquarters, Beijing, China**. As part of a nearly year-long juried selection process across more than 60 entries, the Awards Jury first selected a Best Tall Building in four regions: the Americas, Middle East and Africa, Europe and Asia & Australasia. Senior representatives of each of these four winners then gave a presentation at the CTBUH Awards Symposium Nov. 7 at the Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, with the Jury convening immediately afterwards. The winner was announced by Wiel Arets, Dean of the School of Architecture at IIT, at the Awards Dinner following the Symposium.

Rem Koolhaas, Founding Partner, Office for Metropolitan Architecture, delivered the winning presentation, entitled “A New Typology for the Skyscraper: CCTV Headquarters, Beijing.”

“When I published my last book, *Content*, in 2003, one chapter was called ‘Kill the Skyscraper,’” said Koolhaas, who received the award for CCTV. “Basically it was an expression of disappointment at the way the skyscraper typology was used and applied. I didn’t think there was a lot of creative life left in skyscrapers. Therefore, I tried to launch a campaign against the skyscraper in its more uninspired form.

“The fact that I am standing on this stage now, in this position, meant that my declaration of war went completely unnoted, and that my campaign was completely unsuccessful,” Koolhaas joked, concluding, “Being here, it is quite moving - to be part of a community that is trying to make skyscrapers more interesting. I am deeply grateful, and thank all my partners.”

“I thought [making the decision] would be pretty straightforward, and it was not at all,” said CTBUH Executive Director Antony Wood, a 2013 awards juror. “It went through four





rounds of voting before we decided on the winner.”

The audience vote, taken separately, submitted via text message, and kept from their jury’s view until after their verdict had been announced, was the same.

About CCTV Headquarters:

The CCTV headquarters is an unusual take on the skyscraper typology. Instead of competing in the race for ultimate height and style through a traditional two-dimensional tower soaring skyward, CCTV’s loop poses a truly three-dimensional experience, culminating in a 75-meter cantilever.

Conflating expectations of what a skyscraper is, and can or should do, the CCTV Headquarters has now become embedded in the thought process of the making of tall buildings. It singlehandedly paved the way from the height-obsessed, set-back skyscraper of the past to the sculptural and spatial skyscraper of the present, at the scale of the urban skyline. Its stunning form, which appears both powerful and conflicted, as if pulled in several directions, symbolizes the multiple functions of the program and the dynamic positioning of its nation on the world stage. The unique architectural design contrasts significantly with historical building styles in Beijing, yet it could never be classified as a homogenizing force.

As a piece of structural engineering, CCTV is also an object lesson for those who wish to push the boundaries and sweep aside the received notions of skyscraper design. The building’s design violates conventions, while validating and rewarding intensive and focused collaboration and study.

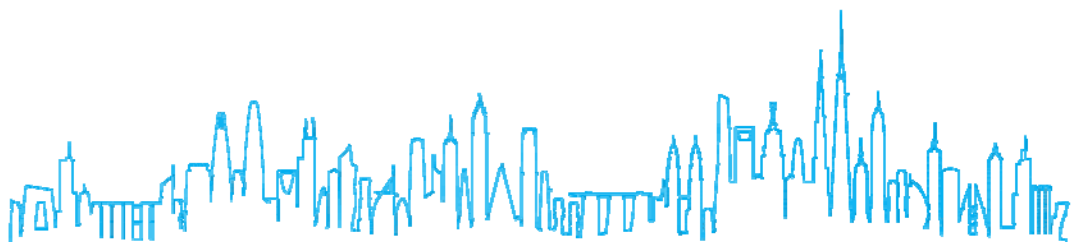
The CCTV project was led by OMA/Rem Koolhaas, former OMA partner, Ole Scheeren (until 2010), OMA partner David Gianotten and project manager Dongmei Yao, in close collaboration with partners Shohei Shigematsu, Ellen van Loon and Victor van der Chijs.

The Best Tall Buildings Regional Winners:

Best Tall Building Americas:

The Bow, Calgary, Alberta, Canada:

Presented by Jack Matthews, President, Matthews Southwest and Nigel Dancey, Senior





Partner, Foster + Partners

Best Tall Building Asia & Australasia:

CCTV Headquarters, Beijing, China

Presented by Rem Koolhaas, Founding Partner, Office for Metropolitan Architecture

Best Tall Building Europe:

The Shard, London, UK

Presented by Bill Price, Director, WSP Group and Dave Elder, Operations Director, Mace Ltd.

Best Tall Building Middle East & Africa:

Sowwah Square, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Presented by James Goettsch, Chairman & CEO, Goettsch Partners

The jury:

Jeanne Gang – Studio Gang Architects: Awards Jury Chair

Richard Cook – COOKFOX

Nengjun Luo – CITIC Heye Investment

Robert Okpala – Buro Happold

David Scott – Laing O’Rourke

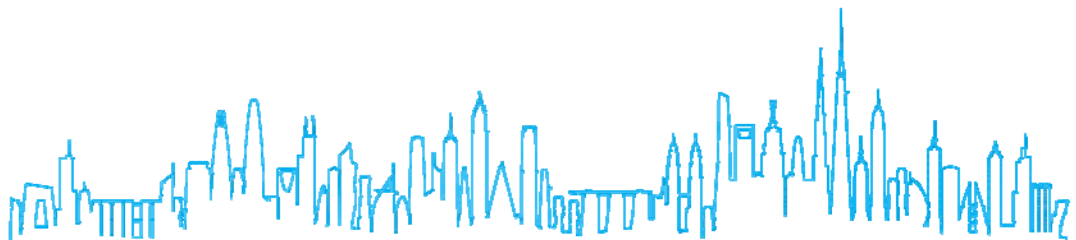
Karen Weigert – City of Chicago

Antony Wood – CTBUH

About the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat:

Founded in 1969, the Council’s mission is to disseminate multi-disciplinary information on tall buildings and sustainable urban environments, to maximize the international interaction of professionals involved in creating the built environment, and to make the latest knowledge available to professionals in a useful form.

The Council is an international not-for-profit organization supported by architecture, engineering, planning, development and construction professionals. The CTBUH is the world’s leading body in the field of tall buildings and the recognized source of information on tall buildings internationally. It is the arbiter of the criteria upon which tall building height is measured, and thus the title of “The World’s Tallest Building”





determined.

About the CTBUH Annual Tall Building Awards:

The CTBUH Annual Tall Building Awards were initiated in 2002 to recognize excellence in design and construction of tall buildings, including four regional Best Tall Building awards, an Innovation award, a 10-year performance award, and two lifetime achievement awards. Following an open call period for nominations, the Council's [Awards Jury](#) selects the winner of each category. The overall "Best Tall Building Worldwide" is selected from the four regional winners and announced at the [CTBUH Annual Awards Ceremony & Dinner](#). Winners and finalists are also featured in the annual [CTBUH Awards Book](#), which is published in conjunction with a major international publisher and distributed internationally each year.

Nearly 800 people from 42 countries attended the 2013 Symposium, Ceremony and Dinner, alongside international media organizations.

For more on the CTBUH Annual Awards, go to:

<http://ctbuh.org/Awards/tabid/73/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

Media can download photos of the winners here:

<https://upload.ctbuh.org/?f=1747&fid=47977942>

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