

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Carol Willis, Director and Curator
Email: caw3@columbia.edu
The Skyscraper Museum
39 Battery Place, New York, NY 10280
Office tel: 212 945-6324 Fax: 212 732-3039
Hours: Noon – 6 PM, Wednesday – Sunday
Admission: \$5; \$2.50 for Students and Seniors
General Information: 212 968-1961
www.skyscraper.org

SUPERTALL! World Towers above 380 meters

**Exhibition Opens to Public July 27, 2011
Press preview July 25 & 26, noon-4pm**

The Skyscraper Museum's new exhibition **SUPERTALL!**, opening July 27 and continuing through January 2012, presents a survey of superlative skyscrapers worldwide, featuring projects that have been completed since 2001, are under construction, or are expected to top out by 2016. This recent generation of giants, generally 100 stories or higher, represents a new paradigm of slender mixed-use towers that explore innovative approaches in structural engineering, curtain wall and construction technologies, energy efficiency and sustainability, and ideas of vertical communities.

To distinguish the rarified air of the *super-* from the merely *very* tall, The Skyscraper Museum made its benchmark 380 meters/ 1250 feet - the height of the Empire State Building - rather than the more frequently used measure of 300 meters. In 2007, for the exhibition "World's Tallest Building: Burj Dubai" (now known as Burj Khalifa), The Skyscraper Museum undertook its first global Supertall Survey, tallying 35 buildings, historical, contemporary, and planned. This 2011 Census drops 12 of the original group that were not realized or did not achieve full height and adds 25 new designs, for a total of 48 projects.

The expanded sphere of architectural ambition and competition is most evident in Asia, especially in China and South Korea, as well as in the Middle East. India also promises to become a new center of high-rise aspirations. The exhibition includes projects in ten Chinese cities, with three buildings each in Shanghai, Shenzhen, Guangzhou, and Wuhan. In Seoul and Busan, South Korea, four towers will range from nearly 500 to 640 meters, or more than 2000 ft tall. While new development has slowed in Dubai, the emirate is still home to six supertalls, including Burj Khalifa, which at 828 meters/ 2,717 feet reigns as the world's tallest skyscraper by more than 1,000 ft.! No project yet announced has challenged its supremacy, and if a rumored kilometer-tall tower does go forward, Burj Khalifa will remain the tallest manmade structure for at least for five years— the standard time it takes to complete a supertall.

Organized geographically, the installation includes architectural and engineering models, renderings, animations and construction photographs and films. Of the many models in the show, a seven-foot tall, 1:200 scale model of the International Commerce Center, a mixed-use development completed in 2010 and the tallest building in Hong Kong, and a six-foot-tall, 1:250 model of Al-Hamra, a commercial office building under construction in Kuwait City, are two highlights that represent distinct formal and programmatic types. The survey of supertalls is introduced with a thirty-foot mural, a timeline of the *History of Height* that explores the technological, architectural, and engineering themes of vertical construction, defining and constraining height, as well as the development of the skyscraper from its late 19th-century origins through the evolution of the various structural systems used today.

A special expanded section of the installation is devoted to the original World Trade Center, the culminating supertall project of the 20th century, and to the construction at Ground Zero with its two supertalls, Tower 1 and Tower 2. A powerful group of 22 color prints that document the decade of rebuilding since 9/11 by photographer John Bartelstone accompany a large context model of lower Manhattan and the WTC site.

2011 SUPERTALL CENSUS

This exhibition constitutes a Census of all the Supertall projects worldwide, completed or prospective, that the Museum has assessed as real and advancing toward completion within five years, the average time it takes to build a Supertall. Much of the game of commercial real estate is press releases and public relations, so the Museum relied principally on the architects and engineers of the projects it considered to evaluate the reality factor of the projects. Some projects that seemed stalled were excluded; several are still confidential. Additional towers will doubtless be announced in the coming months. Supertalls are on the rise!

Related Programming and Events: In conjunction with the exhibit, the Museum will present a series of programs, including panel discussions and gallery tours. Please visit the website for details: www.skyscraper.org.

Located in Battery Park City at 39 Battery Place, **The Skyscraper Museum** celebrates tall buildings and examines the historical forces and individuals that have shaped New York's successive skylines. Through exhibitions, programs and publications, the Museum explores skyscrapers as objects of design, products of technology, sites of construction, investments in real estate, and places of work and residence.

SUPERTALL! is presented with support from Turner Construction Company.

Turner



SUPERTALL! is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.

SUPERTALL! is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a State Agency.

###

THE SKYSCRAPER MUSEUM

SUPERTALL!



The two globes compare the Museum's 2007 Supertall Survey (left) with a 2011 projection. The 48 projects featured in the exhibition, a census of all Supertalls the Museum predicts will be completed or topped out in 2016, are pictured below.

