

Best New Skyscraper of 2007 Stands in The Hague

Darmstadt, February 18, 2008: Building data provider Emporis has selected the best new high-rise building of the past year.

The winner of the eighth annual Emporis Award for the Best New Skyscraper of the Year is a 43-story residential building called “Het Strijkijzer” in The Hague, Netherlands. The winning building was chosen from a worldwide pool of 634 eligible skyscrapers (buildings at least 100 meters tall) which were completed in 2007 or due for completion in 2007 at the time of voting.



Het Strijkijzer was chosen as the winner for several reasons, including its structurally expressive folded-triangle shape which responds well to its small site. Located on the narrow tip of its block, similar to New York City's famous Flatiron Building (1902), the building was given a Dutch name which means “The Flatiron”. The triangular shape is indented along most of its height, forming a V-shape. The building thus appears differently from every angle, yet can be recognized at once by its prominent overhanging crown.

Designed by AAArchitecten and developed by Vestia, Het Strijkijzer is currently the tallest residential tower in The Hague and the 14th-tallest all-residential tower in Europe. The development is unique because of its developer's intention to provide affordable housing for young people. Its 351 residential units include 51 luxury rental apartments and 300 studios for persons between ages 18 and 27. The 41st floor features a panoramic terrace which is accessed by its own glass elevator. From there, one can enjoy views all the way to Delft and Rotterdam.

Emporis also gives formal recognition each year to the 2nd and 3rd place award winners.

The Silver Award for second place goes to Newton Suites in Singapore, a 36-story 120 meter (394 foot) residential tower with a strong emphasis on environmentally sustainable design. Among the building's many “green” features are overhanging meshes which shelter every window from the tropical sun, and yet are designed not to interfere with views. The tower features a “green roof”, and the side walls are also covered with foliage on the sections without windows. The sunshades and overhanging balconies give the façade a rich texture and a clear visual rhythm. At every fourth level, a sheltered skygarden protrudes from the tower, allowing residents to congregate and wait for elevators on a pleasant, tree-shaded terrace.

Newton Suites was designed by WOHA Architects Private Limited, and developed by UOL Group Limited. Both companies are located in Singapore.

The Bronze Award goes to Ontario Tower in London, a 106 meter (346 foot) residential tower on the north bank of the Thames in London, just east of Docklands. Ontario Tower is distinguished by an oval footprint and a roofline that slopes down towards the river. The design was inspired by the factory chimneys and ship smokestacks that symbolized the London of the Industrial Revolution and used to be seen all along this stretch of the Thames.

Ontario Tower was designed by the London office of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, Inc. and developed by Ballymore Properties Ltd. of London.

Overview of Jury Voting

The top 10 skyscrapers of 2007 by points, according to the Emporis Skyscraper Award Jury, are:

#	Building	City	Country	Points
1	Het Strijkijzer	The Hague	Netherlands	73
2	Newton Suites	Singapore	Singapore	48
3	Ontario Tower	London	U.K.	47
4	Torre Espacio	Madrid	Spain	44
5	Aspire Tower	Doha	Qatar	28
6	New York Times Tower	New York City	U.S.A.	27
7	Rose Tower	Dubai	U.A.E.	23
7	The Willis Building	London	U.K.	23
9	Naberezhnaya Tower C	Moscow	Russia	16
10	MGM Grand Macau	Macau	China	14



About the Emporis Skyscraper Award

The Emporis Skyscraper Award is the only award of its kind presented each year to individual skyscrapers on a worldwide basis. The award is presented by Emporis and is based on a constantly updated database of more than 150,000 high-rise buildings. A jury of Emporis senior editors votes at the end of each year, ranking the top **new** skyscrapers according to their perceived merits in design and functionality. The jury for the 2007 Emporis Skyscraper Award comprised 25 persons in 11 countries. Past winners of the award include Kingdom Centre in Riyadh, 30 St Mary Axe ("The Gherkin") in London, Taipei 101, Turning Torso in Malmö, and most recently Hearst Tower in New York City. The award was presented the first time for the year 2000.

About Emporis

Emporis is a building data provider and manages data regarding structures on a global basis using standardized platforms and own data definitions. Emporis' services allow location-independent access in multiple languages to its database, facilitating market and trend research, as well as analysis, for an internationally targeted customer base. In the light of increasing globalization, the services provided by Emporis are enabling ever greater transparency in the building industry. The company is also world market leader for information on high-rise buildings (buildings with 12 floors or more).

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Selected Emporis Websites:

- Emporis Awards: award information (<http://awards.emporis.com>)
- Emporis.com: free building information (<http://www.emporis.com>)
- Emporis Corporate: about Emporis (<http://corporate.emporis.com>)

Note: High resolution photos are available at no cost through the official Emporis Awards Website: <http://awards.emporis.com>

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