Press release; for immediate publication

Best new Skyscraper of 2006 stands in New York City

Darmstadt, January 2007: A building in New York City has been selected “Best new Skyscraper of the Year for Design and Functionality”. The seventh annual Emporis Skyscraper Award will be presented this May during a press conference in New York City. The winning design is Hearst Tower, which is remarkable not just because of its 46 floors and 79,524 m² (856,000 ft²) gross floor area. The building was selected from a worldwide pool of 467 eligible skyscrapers which were completed worldwide in 2006. A skyscraper is a high-rise building at least 100 meters (328 feet) tall, according to international definitions set by the Emporis Standards Commitee.

The Emporis Skyscraper Award is the only award of its kind presented each year to an individual skyscraper. 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 2006 Emporis Skyscraper Award comprised 27 persons in 10 countries. Past winners of the award include Kingdom Centre in Riyadh, 30 St Mary Axe in London, Taipei 101, and most recently the twisting Turning Torso skyscraper in Malmö, Sweden.

Hearst Tower was chosen as the winner for a large number of reasons:

- Environmentally beneficial features which set an example for other buildings
- A creative and practical structural system featuring a diagonal grid
- Graceful integration with the preserved facade of the old Hearst Building
- Spectacular interior spaces utilizing artwork and flowing water

- Maximization of natural light and fresh air throughout interior spaces
- Tasteful enhancement of the Eighth Avenue streetscape
- Placement of an iconic landmark visible from Central Park and Columbus Circle

As energy efficiency and “green design” become hot topics in architectural and engineering circles, Hearst Tower has raised the standard for office buildings by implementing several innovative features that earned it the U.S. Green Building Council’s Gold Rating for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED). Hearst is the first office building in New York to receive the Gold Rating.

Among the groundbreaking features of Hearst Tower are a system which collects rainwater from the roof to freshen and humidify the air inside; automatic sensors which minimize usage of electric power according to the needs of the moment; an open interior plan which allows penetration of sunlight into all office spaces; and extensive use of recycled steel in the building’s structure.

The diagonal grid of Hearst Tower’s frame gives the facade its distinctive harlequin pattern, with four-story tessellating triangles. The shape is further distinguished by a unique “origami” effect at the corners, where the edges of the tower follow the diagonal lines of the grid. This framing system, which uses no vertical steel beams above the base, reduces the amount of steel necessary for the structure – thereby saving costs and further reducing the building’s environmental impact.

Hearst Tower was designed by Foster & Partners in London, making the firm the first ever to win the Emporis Skyscraper Award twice. (They also received the 2003 award for 30 St Mary Axe.) The owner and developer of Hearst Tower is the Hearst Corporation, which now uses the building as its world headquarters. The structure was built by Turner Development Corporation.

Emporis also gives formal recognition each year to the 2nd and 3rd place award winners. By chance, booth of the runners-up this year are in Australia.

The Silver Award for second place goes to The Wave in Gold Coast City, an oceanside resort area near Brisbane. The Wave is a 34-story residential tower with flowing balconies which wrap around each floor in continuous bands. The curves vary from floor to floor, giving the building a dynamic, rippled appearance unlike any other existing skyscraper. Besides the fitting imagery of waves next to the ocean, the undulating facade provides alternating shade and sunlight to different parts of individual balconies, which in turn shade all windows from the strong Australian sun. The Wave was designed by DBI Design Pty. Limited.

The Bronze Award goes to Eureka Tower in Melbourne, currently the second-tallest building in Australia at 297 meters (975 feet) and 91 floors. Eureka Tower is a very slender skyscraper, with a multicolored facade. Its shape appears different from various angles, and from certain points of view its alternating pattern of long and short stripes gives it the affectionate nickname of “the Yardstick”. The building is the second-highest all-residential building in the world (surpassed only by Q1, completed last year in Gold Coast City). A skydeck on the 88th floor is the highest public observatory in the Southern Hemisphere. Eureka Tower was designed by Fender Katsalidis Architects.

Overview of Jury Votings

The top 10 skyscrapers of 2006 by point total, according to the Emporis Award Jury, are:

Rank	***Building***	***City***	***Country***	***Points***
1	Hearst Tower	New York City	U.S.A.	83
2	The Wave	Gold Coast City	Australia	61
3	Eureka Tower	Melbourne	Australia	59

4	1180 Peachtree	Atlanta	U.S.A.	48
5	Hesperia Tower	L'Hospitalet de Llobregat	Spain	27
6	Beetham Tower	Manchester	U.K.	26
7	Shimao International Plaza	Shanghai	China	18
8	10 Holloway Circus	Birmingham	U.K.	12
8	Aurora	Brisbane	Australia	12
8	Palms Fantasy Tower	Las Vegas	U.S.A.	12

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More Information

More information and downloadable material for publication can be found online: http://award.emporis.com

For more information, or to be placed on a special list to receive updates about the 2006 Award ceremony in New York City, please e-mail press@emporis.com.

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