



Vertical City

In this series we leave the bustling streets far below and are taken on a guided tour, rediscovering some of the boldest and most ambitious examples of architecture in the world; from the ancient and historic to the recent and risky.

When first built these glittering monoliths and historic constructions were gasped at and applauded, but from ground level much of the intricate engineering and design flare is lost to the skies. We rediscover these incredible works of architectural art—old and new—at close range.

In each episode, meet the people who have been involved in the design or construction of the building and get an inside glimpse of the engineering and dedication to detail that makes the buildings outstanding.

Vertical City Volume 1

The Eureka Tower, Melbourne

Vertical City goes to Melbourne and to the tallest residential building in the world – the 300m Eureka Tower, the most exclusive address in the Southern Hemisphere. But is living the high life destroying our traditional city communities? Are these Vertical Villages changing the way we live forever? Architects: Karl Fender and Nondo Katsalidis

Torre Mayor, Mexico City

The strongest building on Earth, Torre Mayor is constructed to withstand earthquakes that would obliterate the average skyscraper. Built in the wake of Mexico City's most devastating earthquake in 1985, this monument to engineering has become a haven of safety in one of the world's most active seismic zones. But can the ever growing height of skyscrapers compete with typhoons and earthquakes? Can man's high rise addiction really conquer nature? Architects: Zeidler Roberts Partnership

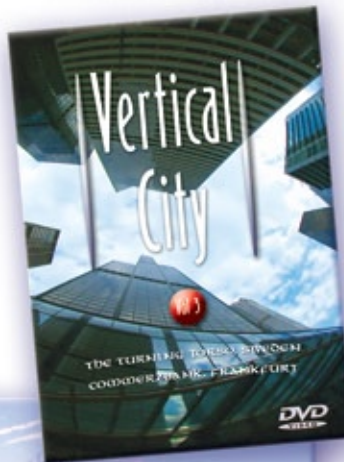
- DVD Format (2 x 26 minutes) \$99.00 LTD113
- Digital Format (2 x 26minutes) \$121.00 LTL512

Duration: 10 x 26 minute programs

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VERTICAL CITY SERIES

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Vertical City Volume 3

The Turning Torso, Sweden

Every major city has a symbolic piece of architecture that projects its image to the world.

But what happens when a city loses not only its trademark industry but its trademark icon? This is exactly the problem that faced the city of Malmo in Sweden – but it came up with the perfect way to reinvent

itself. It went and built a radical skyscraper. But daring design always courts controversy – and the whole project nearly ended in disaster.

Architect: Santiago Calatrava

Commerzbank, Frankfurt

The skyscraper is a symbol of aspiration and power – and an environmentally unsound energy guzzling monster. But in 1997 British superarchitect Norman Foster created a contradiction in terms – the world's first ecological tower and in doing so, The Commerzbank in Frankfurt has changed the construction of office buildings forever. But was going green the result of the corporate world being responsible – or just a big fat PR exercise?

Architects: Foster and Partners

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Vertical City Volume 4

Q1, Gold Coast

Surfer's Paradise has come a long way from a small town with great waves and long beaches. Surfer's has a growing reputation as the resort of choice for the rich and famous and family getaways, but the skyline is growing too with the massive Q1 Tower dominating the landscape. But how has this skyscraper affected the paradise that is Surfer's? Is it the jewel in the crown of one of Australia's most popular resorts - or the nail in the coffin of the chilled vibe and community spirit that makes the Gold Coast unique? Architects: The Sunland Group

One Canada Square, London

In 1991, One Canada Square, the UK's tallest skyscraper, changed the London skyline. But the icon wasn't in the heart of the capital.

Instead the developers had taken a billion dollar gamble on creating an international financial centre, symbolised by this obelisk-shaped tower, in the desolate docklands of the City's East End. But when the world property market collapsed just after the complex was completed, the developers went bankrupt and a large part of the tower lay in darkness. Architects: Cesar Pelli and Associates

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Vertical City Volume 5

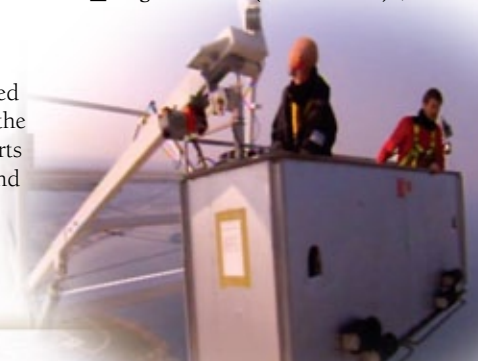
The Sears Tower, Chicago

Still the tallest tower in the US – as well as the tallest building in the world for 25 years – the \$175million Sears Tower broke boundaries in not only height but design and construction when it was completed in 1973. But building the tallest building in the world brings its own logistical headaches, and the crippling cost of funding an iconic tower can take its toll. Architect: Bruce Graham

Cira Centre, Philadelphia

You're a new developer, you want to build a tower in a bleak part of town and you've got to fill half the building before you get planning permission. What do you do? Get in a Superstar Architect to ensure your skyscraper gets noticed and gets headlines. Cira Centre in Philadelphia stands apart from any other high rise in the area, but are celebrity architects over paid and over hyped? Does their huge pay cheque pay back? Architects: Cesar Pelli and Associates

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Vertical City Volume 2

7 World Trade Centre, New York

Skyscrapers have transformed cities across the globe – most notably the famous skyline of Manhattan. But on 11 September 2001, this historic cityscape became forever linked with one event that forced architects to rethink.

7 World Trade Centre, the first building to be constructed on Ground Zero, has taken skyscraper safety to new levels – but overlooking a plot of land that symbolises the risk of building tall, do those who work in it really feel safe? Architect: David Childs

Cologne Cathedral

Even before the modern skyscraper, the super tall building has been a source of innovation and fierce competition – and no time was the fight for height fiercer than in the late 18th century when cathedrals across Europe competed to make their spires the tallest.

Cologne was the tallest building in the world for 10 years – but where did the money for these religious super spires come from? And just how fierce, and dirty, did the fight become?

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