



Willis Tower

Chicago from Street to Sky: About the Willis Tower Transformation



HISTORY

TEAM

WORK, PLAY & VISIT

A SENSE OF PLACE

INDEX

HISTORY OF WILLIS TOWER:

- **1973:** The world's tallest building opens to the public as Sears Tower.
- **2009:** The building is officially renamed Willis Tower. The Skydeck, first opened in 1974, undergoes a multi-million dollar renovation to add the world-famous The Ledge, allowing visitors to stand on glass overlooking the city below.
- **2015:** Blackstone buys Willis Tower for \$1.3 billion, and EQ Office assumes management of the building.
- **2017:** Demolition and construction begin on the \$670 million transformation, opening the Tower from street to sky and creating a real Chicago-born environment that reinforces a highly active, neighborhood-scaled experience.
- **2022:** Transformation is complete. The fully modernized workplace includes a new streetscape, lobbies, 150,000 square feet of exclusive tenant amenities, 300,000 square feet of dining and retail known as Catalog, an outdoor terrace and a reimagined Skydeck experience.

BY THE NUMBERS:

- The combined weight of the building is 222,500 tons.
- Willis Tower occupies 4.5M gross square feet, stands 1,450 feet high and has 110 stories, making it the tallest building in America by highest occupied floor.
- Willis Tower elevators operate as fast as 1,600 feet (488 meters) per minute, being among the fastest in the world.
- More than 100 prominent businesses call Willis Tower home.
- The Skydeck is the highest observation deck in the U.S., with spectacular views that reach nearly 50 miles on a clear day, allowing visitors to see four states.
- Willis Tower is the largest building in the U.S. to achieve LEED Platinum certification.





HISTORY

TEAM

WORK, PLAY & VISIT

A SENSE OF PLACE

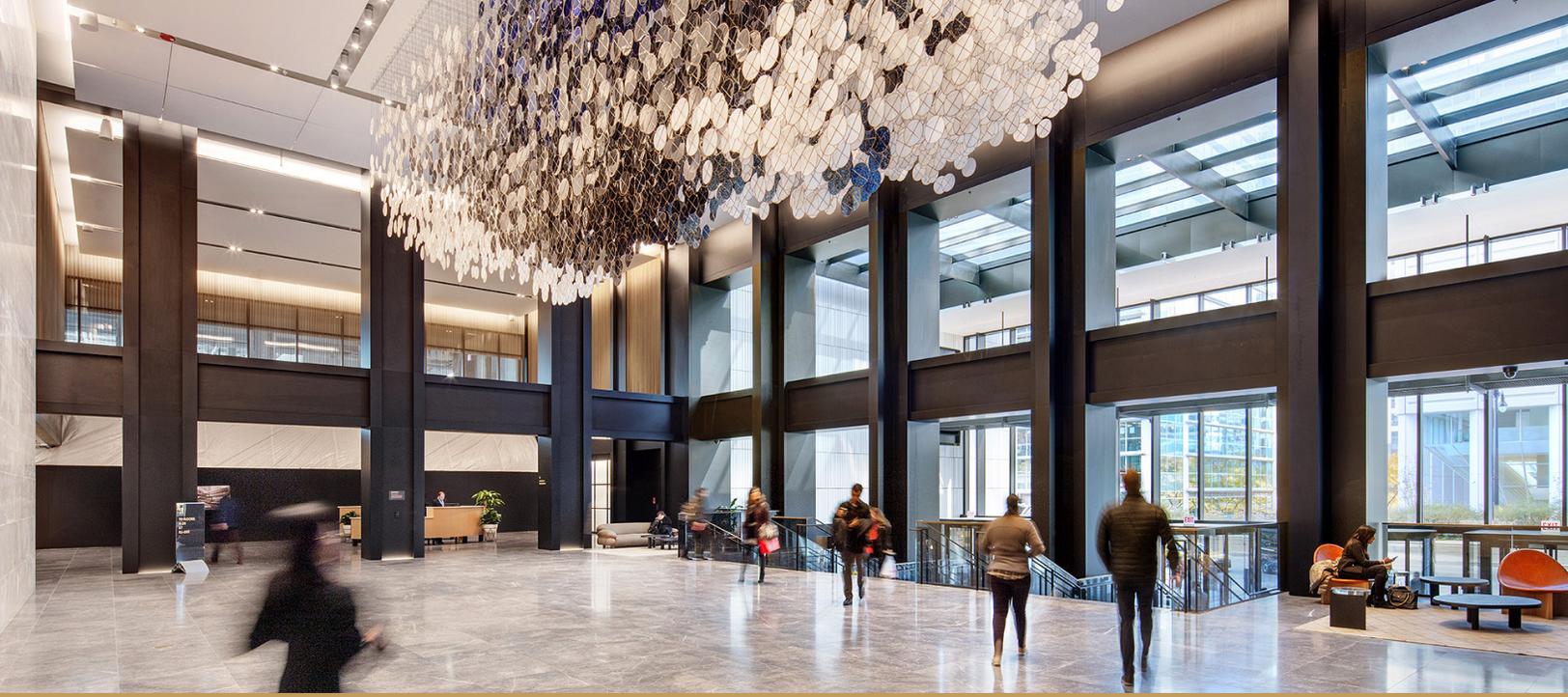
INDEX

STREET TO SKY: ABOUT THE WILLIS TOWER TRANSFORMATION CONSTRUCTION JOBS AND MATERIALS

- The Willis Tower redevelopment created 125 full-time construction jobs over 4 years.
- 90% of these jobs went to local Chicagoans, with the workforce spending approximately 1,100,000 hours working on-site to make Willis Tower what it is now.
- 9,000 cubic yards of concrete were used in the construction of the building.
- 1,570 total panes of glass were used, with the exterior walls using 1,350 panes and the Jackson Skylight using the remaining 220 panes.
- 3,000 tons of new steel was also used in Willis Tower's construction, equivalent to the weight of 15 Boeing 747s.
- 212 miles (1,120,00 feet) of electrical cable/wire was installed in Catalog, enough to stretch from Chicago to Green Bay, Wisconsin.
- 5.5 miles (29,000 feet) of plumbing pipe was installed in Catalog as well, enough to stretch from Willis Tower to Wrigley Field.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFORTS:

- Through state-of-the-art technologies, Willis Tower heats and cools more efficiently, which is expected to reduce energy consumption by up to 20%.
- Willis Tower has upgraded the building's lighting control system with energy-efficient LED lights. Low-flow, high-efficiency sink faucets, toilets, and urinals are expected to cut approximately 30% of the building's water consumption, coming to about 11 million gallons saved annually.
- Tenants and the public can enjoy Willis Tower's new outdoor terrace. Green roofs are shown to have many economic, ecological, and societal benefits.
- Bees are an essential part of preserving our natural ecosystem, so Willis Tower partnered with Alveole to bring beehives to the outdoor terrace.



HISTORY

TEAM

WORK, PLAY & VISIT

A SENSE OF PLACE

INDEX

TEAM:

Building Ownership.....	Blackstone (New York)
Building Management	EQ Office (Chicago)
Executive Architect	Gensler (Chicago)
Amenity Designer	Jose Gonzalez (Miami)
Interior Design.....	Gensler (Chicago)
Exterior Façade Design	SKB Architects (Seattle)
Signage & Wayfinding	Core Twelve & Gensler (Chicago)
Structural.....	Thornton Tomasetti (Chicago)
MEP/FP	ESD (Chicago)
Civil.....	V3 (Chicago)
Façade.....	Thornton Tomasetti (Chicago)
Acoustic.....	KJWW (Chicago)
Skydeck Design Team	Thinc (New York) SOM Scenic Studio (Chicago)
Skydeck Contractor	Clark Construction Group (Chicago)
Fire/Life Safety	WJE (Chicago)
Parking	Walker Parking (Chicago)
Lighting.....	Kugler Ning (New York)
Landscape.....	OLIN (Philadelphia) Forum (Chicago)
Contractor	Turner/Clayco (Chicago)
Elevator Modernization	Otis (Chicago)





HISTORY

TEAM

WORK, PLAY & VISIT

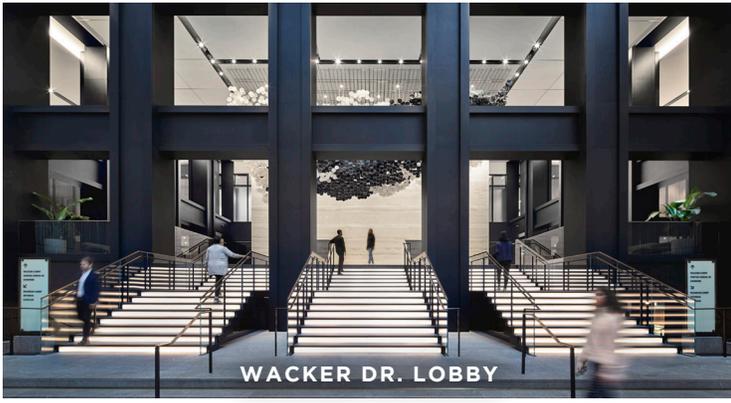
A SENSE OF PLACE

INDEX

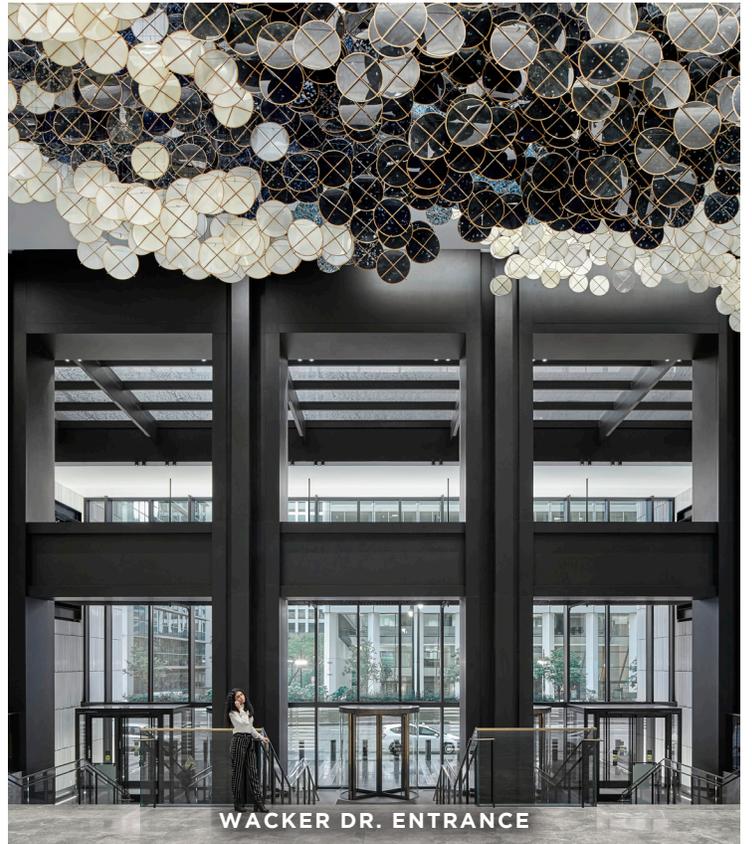
INTERIOR DESIGN: CREATING THE ULTIMATE PLACE TO WORK, PLAY & VISIT

Gensler is the architectural partner of record for the Willis Tower redevelopment project. The firm carefully studied the use of the existing spaces in Willis Tower to develop redesign plans that created a true Chicago-born environment that reinforces a highly active, neighborhood-scaled experience.





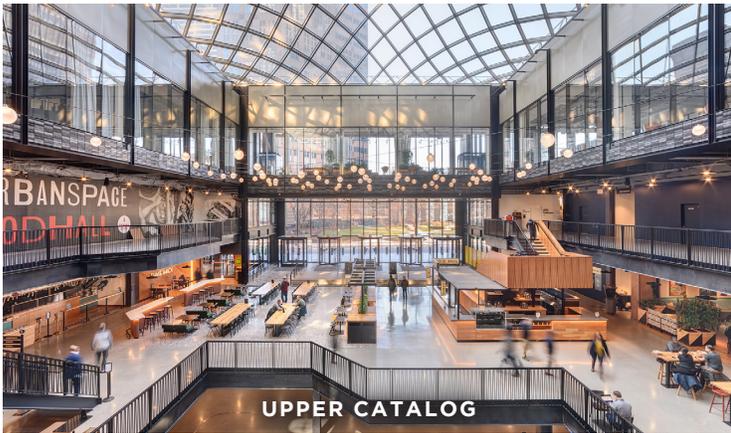
WACKER DR. LOBBY



WACKER DR. ENTRANCE



WACKER DR. LOUNGE



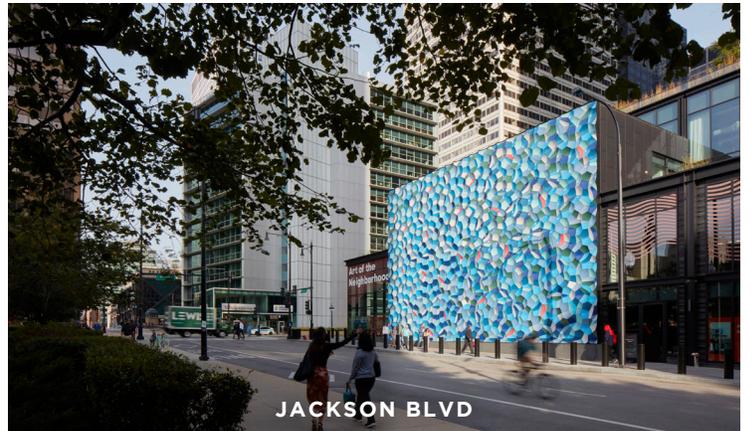
UPPER CATALOG



LOWER CATALOG



OUTDOOR TERRACE



JACKSON BLVD





HISTORY

TEAM

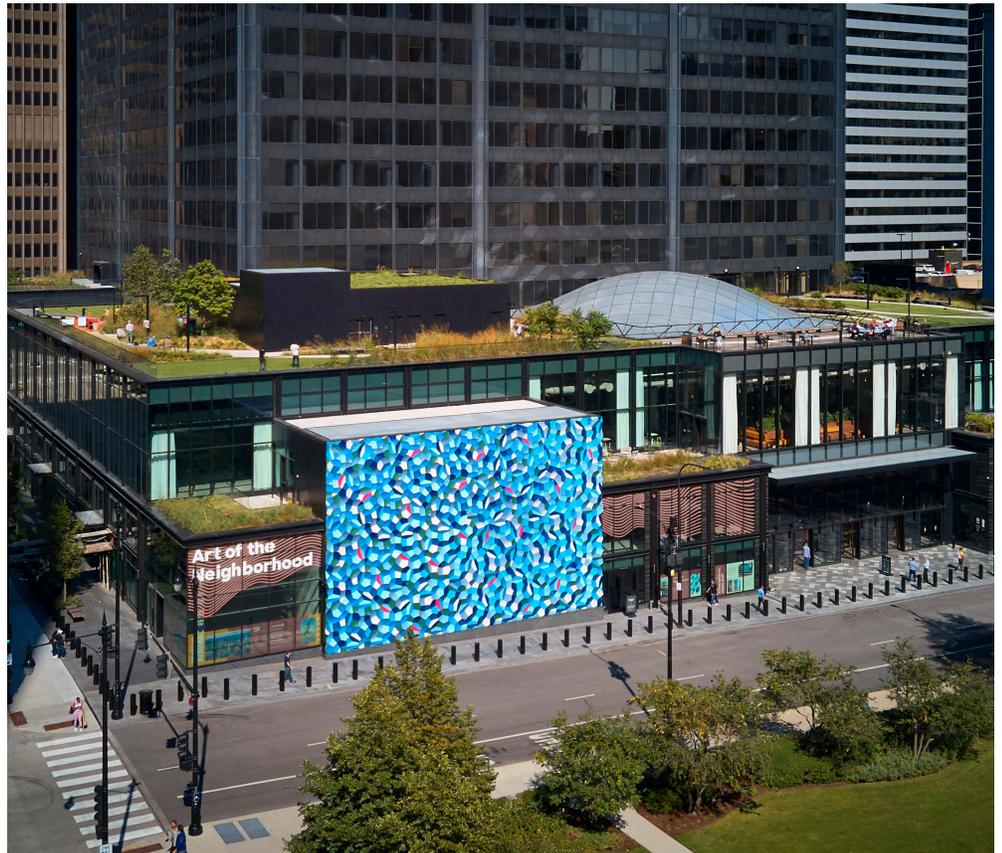
WORK, PLAY & VISIT

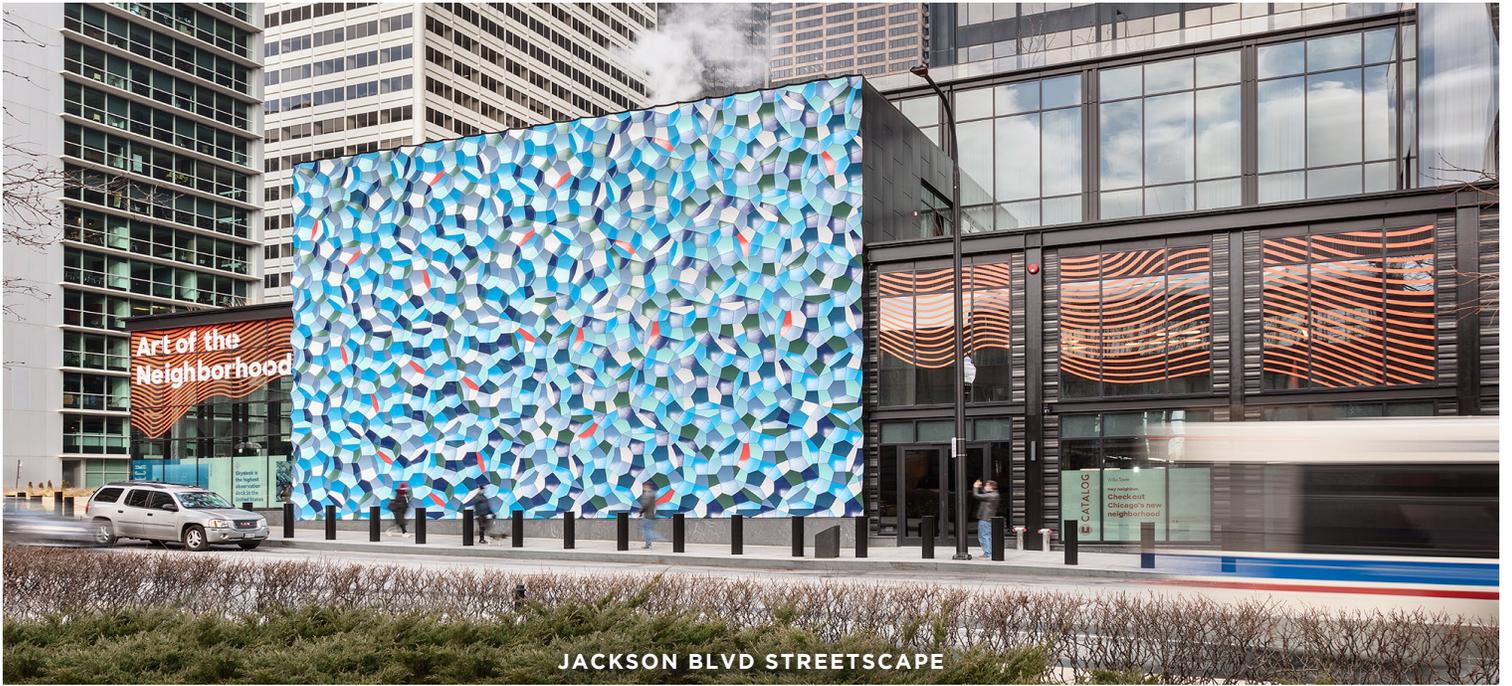
A SENSE OF PLACE

INDEX

EXTERIOR FAÇADE DESIGN: CREATING A SENSE OF PLACE

SkB Architects led the design effort for the street-level experience and façade of Willis Tower's new base, including designing how the tower base meets the street and the design of the tower's three main entries.





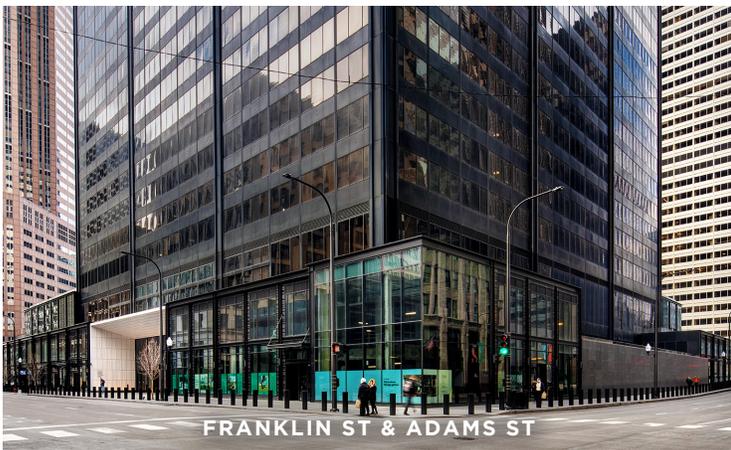
JACKSON BLVD STREETSCAPE



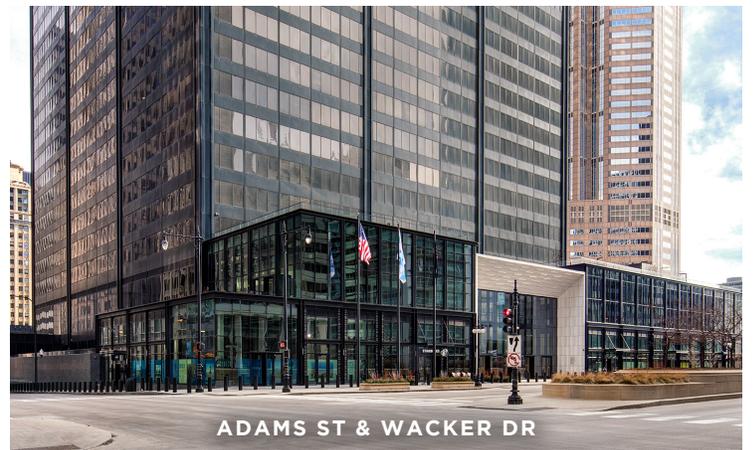
WACKER DR & JACKSON BLVD



JACKSON BLVD & FRANKLIN ST



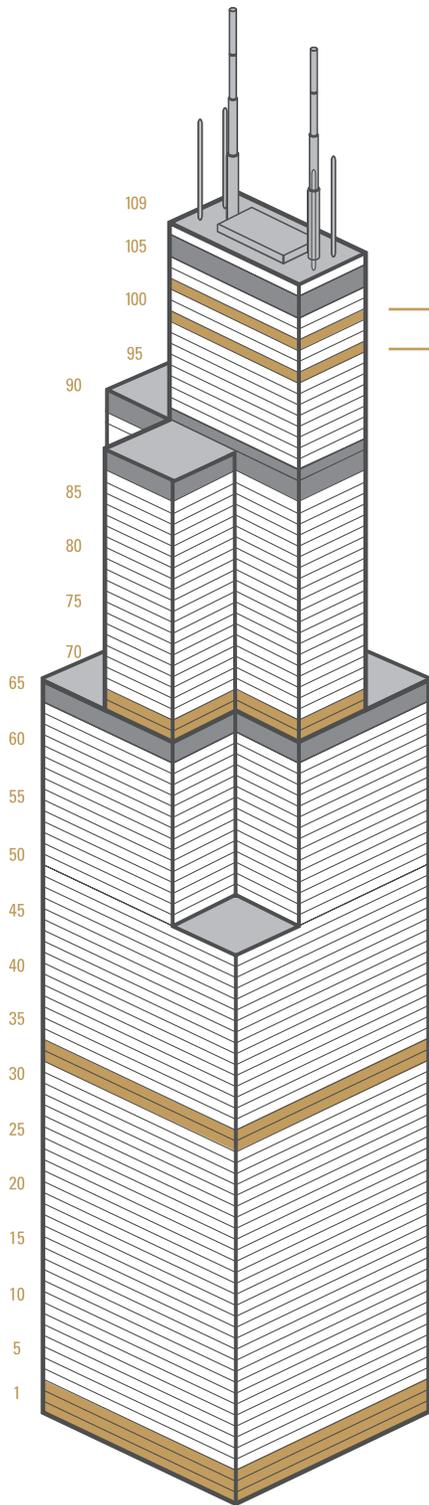
FRANKLIN ST & ADAMS ST



ADAMS ST & WACKER DR



INDEX // REDEVELOPMENT OVERVIEW



TOWER REDEVELOPMENT:

Level 103 Skydeck, The Ledge

Level 99 Special Events Space

Level 67 The Metropolitan, Altitude Lounge

Level 66 The Metropolitan, Altitude Lounge and Café

Level 34 Conference Center

Level 33 Tower House Café & Bar, The Steel Room,
Tone Fitness Center

Level 4 Outdoor Terrace

Level 3 Convene

Level 2 Catalog Restaurants

Level 1 Catalog Restaurants

Lower Level 1 Catalog Restaurants Services

Lower Level 2 Skydeck Experience, Color Factory



