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Emporis Skyscraper Award 2012: The year's best new skyscraper is located in Canada

Hamburg, September 17th, 2013 – The world's most renowned architecture prize for skyscrapers, the Emporis Skyscraper Award, goes this year to the *Absolute World Towers* in Mississauga, Canada. The two towers were selected by an international jury of experts from over 300 skyscrapers at least 100 meters tall completed last year. The award, given by Emporis (www.emporis.com), the international provider of building data, is being presented for the thirteenth time this year.

Absolute World Towers, which form part of a five-building complex and were designed by the architectural practices MAD and Burka Architects, won over the jury primarily through their unmistakable design: "The way the two structures twist organically by up to 8 degrees per floor is not just a superb technical achievement, but also a refreshing change to the set forms of high-rise routine," stated the panel of experts in explaining the choice of the pair of towers, 176 and 158 meters tall, as the winner.

Emporis Skyscraper Award 2012

#	Building Name	City, Country	Height	Floors	Architect(s)
1.	Absolute World Towers	Mississauga, Canada	158 – 176 m	50 – 56	MAD; Burka Architects
2.	Al Bahr Towers	Abu Dhabi, UAE	145 m	29	Aedas Architects; Diar Consult
3.	Burj Qatar	Doha, Qatar	238 m	46	Ateliers Jean Nouvel
4.	The Bow	Calgary, Canada	236 m	58	Foster + Partners; Zeidler Partnership Architects
5.	House on Mosfilmovskaya 1	Moscow, Russia	213 m	53	Sergey Skuratov Architects
6.	Pearl River Tower	Guangzhou, China	310 m	71	SOM; Guangzhou Design Institute
7.	Varyap Meridian	Istanbul, Turkey	100 – 188 m	24 – 52	RMJM; Dome Architects
8.	UniCredit Tower	Milan, Italy	218 m	33	Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects; Adamson Associates Architects; Tekne S.p.A.
9.	Renaissance Barcelona Fira Hotel	L'Hospitalet de Llobregat, Spain	105 m	26	Ateliers Jean Nouvel; Ribas & Ribas Asociados
~.	Dumankaya IKON	Istanbul, Turkey	149 m	41	TAGO Architects
~.	Zhengzhou Greenland Plaza	Zhengzhou, China	280 m	56	SOM; ECADI

Source: www.emporis.com



The second-placed project is *Al Bahr Towers* in Abu Dhabi, designed by Aedas Architects. Due to its innovative facade, the skyscraper complex convinces in terms of both climate and design criteria. The outer skin of the facades is rotated by computer in response to the sun's position, leading to a substantial reduction in thermal energy inside the buildings. In designing the towers, the architects drew inspiration from Arab mashrabiya windows – sun and privacy screens found in traditional Islamic architecture.

The expert jury voted *Burj Qatar*, a 238 meter tall skyscraper in Doha, into third place. Designed by Ateliers Jean Nouvel, it is the building's exceptional facade design that stands out. The metal mesh facade, whose design – as with *Al Bahr Towers* – draws on traditional mashrabiya windows and is intended to contribute to protection from the sun, reveals a complex pattern at close quarters. The imposing effect of the ornamental facade reaches its full expression under the dome that tops the cylinder-shaped skyscraper.

Absolute World Towers winning the Emporis Skyscraper Award means this now the second time the prize has gone to Canada. In 2001, Vancouver's *One Wall Centre* claimed the coveted top spot. Surprisingly, the U.S.A. – the cradle of high-rise architecture – does not feature this year. Instead, major international cities such as Moscow, Istanbul or Guangzhou stake their claim to their own chapter in the history of outstanding skyscraper architecture with an impressive array of unique buildings.



About Emporis

Emporis is a leading database of information about building and construction projects, based in Germany. For over a decade Emporis has helped companies, organizations and individuals stay informed about the building industry. The Emporis Skyscraper Award is the world's most renowned prize for high-rise architecture.

About the Award

The Emporis Skyscraper Award has been given since 2000. The jury is formed of architecture experts from all over the world, who judge nominated buildings according to aesthetic and functional design criteria. Previous winners include *New York by Gehry at 8 Spruce Street* (New York City, 2011), *Hotel Porta Fira* (L'Hospitalet de Llobregat, 2010) and *Aqua Tower* (Chicago, 2009).

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