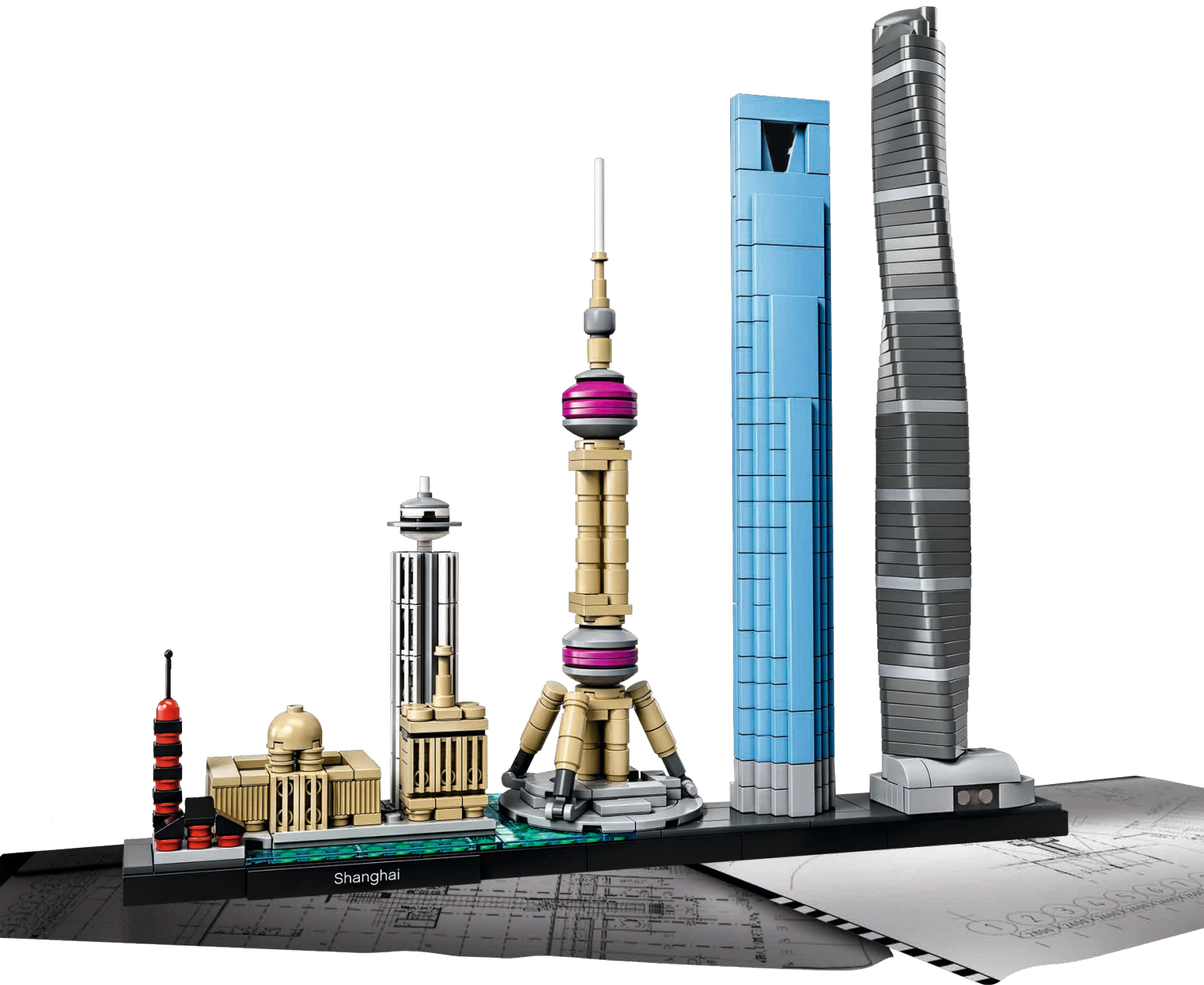




# Architecture

Shanghai

China





## The Pearl of the Orient

Sitting on the Yangtze River and bordered by the East China Sea, the city of Shanghai has re-emerged over the past decades to become one of the biggest cities and the busiest port in the world.

Nowhere is this dramatic development more evident than in the city's architecture. Shanghai's rich collection of Art Deco buildings from the 1920s and 1930s now stand side-by-side

with an ever-increasing number of awe-inspiring, contemporary structures.

This is a city where the skyline is constantly evolving and every new structure appears to be an attempt to out-do previous ones in size, choice of materials or ambitious design. In an ever-changing world, Shanghai's architecture is stepping confidently into the future.

*"New York may be the city that never sleeps, but Shanghai doesn't even sit down"*

Patricia Marx



# Chenghuang Miao Temple



There's a popular saying in Shanghai that states, "if you want to know the city well, you must visit the Chenghuang Miao Temple". The temple sits in one of the most popular traditional areas of the city and is the site of Shanghai's largest and oldest monastery, dating back to the 10th century. The present version of the temple dates from the 15th century and although much restored, is still considered the most authentic one in the city.



## Longhua Pagoda



The Longhau Pagoda stands in Longhua Park at the south end of the city and is where the modern Shanghai meets its traditional past. The classical pagoda is the best known of the 16 historic pagodas that still stand within the city. The seven-story structure consists of a hollow, tube-like brick core surrounded by a wooden staircase. The exterior is decorated with balconies, banisters and upturned eaves. The original structure dates back to 977 AD and, due to the fragile nature of its wooden components, is no longer open to the public.





## The Bund

Originally a waterfront area outside the old walled city of Shanghai, The Bund was home to numerous international banks and trading houses. Many of the magnificent Beaux Arts buildings were constructed in the early part of the 20th century as the area developed into a major financial center.



### HSBC Building (No. 12, The Bund)

This six-floor, neo-classical style building was designed by a British architecture firm and completed in 1923. At the time, it was called “the most luxurious building between the Suez Canal and the Bering Strait”. Its central dome was famously decorated with frescos depicting the twelve signs of the zodiac. It served as the HSBC headquarters until 1955, when it then became known as the Municipal Government Building. Today the building houses the Shanghai Pudong Development Bank.

### Customs House (No. 13, The Bund)

Built in 1927 on the site of a traditional Chinese-style customs house, the building cost 4.3 million taels of silver to construct and still functions as a customs house today. The eastern section is eight stories tall, faces the Huangpu River and is topped by a 300 ft. (90 m) clock tower. The clock tower offers views over the entire Bund and Shanghai city center. The clock and bell itself were built in England and are an imitation of Big Ben.





## Radisson Blu Hotel Shanghai New World

This 682 ft. (208 m) tall hotel stands in the city's Huangpu district. The original structure was completed in 2001, while the dome was added in 2005. The building is known for its revolving restaurant on the 45th floor and the bar at the top of the dome that sits under the hotel's iconic glass ceiling.

*"To my child's eyes, which had seen nothing else, Shanghai was a waking dream where everything I could imagine had already been taken to its extreme."*

J. G. Ballard





## Oriental Pearl Tower

Situated on The Bund, this 1,535 ft. (468 m) tall TV and radio tower has become an iconic landmark for the city, especially as its futuristic style stands out against the area's other diverse architectural styles. Completed in 1994, the tower is made up of 11 bigger and smaller spheres, the largest one with a diameter of 164 ft. (50 m) that is supported by legs that reach far into the ground. The tower sits on the edge of the riverbank and has 15 observatory levels, the highest of which is at 1,148 ft. (350 m).

*"And Shanghai is amazing. I'm a fan of science fiction so when you're there in the night with all the lights and all this modernity, it's like a set in a movie."*

Berenice Marlohe





## Shanghai World Financial Center

Given the task of creating a building that would symbolize Shanghai's emergence as a global capital, the architect, William Pedersen, chose to make a bold statement using two sweeping arcs and a square prism – shapes that also represent ancient Chinese symbols of heaven and earth.

Known locally as “the Bottle Opener,” the 1,614 ft. (492 m) tall structure is a mini vertical city containing 62 office floors, conference facilities, retail and dining spaces, and a 174-room five-star Hotel at the top. The Center's design has received much critical acclaim since its completion in 2008, with one architectural judging committee stating the building is “nothing short of genius”.



## Shanghai Tower

Building tall in Shanghai comes with its own set of challenges: the city sits upon sandy river delta soil and is often buffeted by tropical typhoons. So when the architects and engineers wanted to build the tallest building in China, they had to be innovative. They placed the entire structure upon massive 200 ft. (70 m) long concrete piles to provide the perfect foundation, while the tower's elegant spiraling cylindrical shape is also aerodynamic, reducing wind loads by 24%.

With a height of 2,073 ft. (632 meters), Shanghai Tower is the second tallest building in the world, but has the world's highest observation deck at 1,840 ft. (561 m) and the fastest elevators that can speed up and down the building at 40 mph (65 km/h).





# Facts & Statements



*The Customs House clock remains the largest one in Asia today.*



*Each of the four clock faces in the clock tower has a diameter of 17 ft. (5.3 m) and is made up of 100 pieces of glass.*



*Many Shanghai residents frequent the temple to offer incense before their favorite local god, hoping for good fortune in return.*



*There are 520 rooms and suites, plus three restaurants in the Radisson Blu Hotel Shanghai New World.*



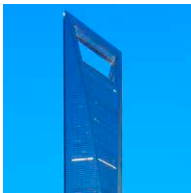
*The Tower contains a revolving restaurant, an exhibition center and a small 20-room hotel.*



*The Oriental Pearl Tower was the tallest structure in China until 2007.*



*The square aperture at the top was originally designed to be circular.*



*The building was designed in a modular system that repeats itself after every 13 floors.*



*The Shanghai Tower is the second tallest building in the world. 127 floors of the tower are above ground and five below ground.*



*Instead of the traditional steel girder framework for a skeleton, the tower is constructed around a thick concrete core.*



# LEGO® Architecture – then and now

There has always been a natural connection between the LEGO® brick and the world of architecture. Fans who build with LEGO elements instinctively develop an interest in the form and function of the structures they create. At the same time, many architects have discovered that LEGO bricks are the perfect way of physically expressing their creative ideas.

This connection was confirmed in the early 1960s with the launch of the LEGO 'Scale Model' line. It matched the spirit of the age where modern architects were redefining how houses look and people were taking an active interest in the design of their new homes. These sets were designed to be different from the normal, brightly colored LEGO boxes; they also included a book on architecture as a source of inspiration.

Decades later, architect and LEGO fan Adam Reed Tucker revived the idea of expressing architecture using LEGO bricks, and in partnership with the LEGO Group launched the

LEGO Architecture line that we know today. His first models, and the original sets in the current LEGO Architecture series, were interpretations of famous skyscrapers from his hometown of Chicago. Since then LEGO Architecture has developed and evolved, first with well-known buildings from other cities in the United States, and now with iconic structures from Europe, the Middle East and Asia.

The introduction of our LEGO Architecture Studio set echoes the ambitions of the earlier LEGO 'Scale Model' line and widens the potential of the LEGO Architecture series. Now you can enjoy building and learning about specific landmark buildings, or create exciting architectural models from your own fantasy. An inspiring 270-page book, featuring a number of renowned architects from around the world, guides you through the principles of architecture and encourages you in your own creative building.



21050 Studio

## References

### Text credits:

[www.china.org](http://www.china.org)

[www.swfc-shanghai.com](http://www.swfc-shanghai.com)

### Photo credits:

© Shutterstock

© Offset

@ Radisson Blu Hotel Shanghai New World

@ Shanghai World Financial Center

@ Shanghai Tower

### Customer Service

[www.lego.com/service](http://www.lego.com/service) or dial

00800 5346 5555 :

1-800-422-5346 :



LEGO and the LEGO logo are trademarks of the/son des marques de commerce du/son marcas registradas de LEGO Group. ©2018 The LEGO Group.