



# Architecture

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## New York City

New York, USA





## New York City

Home to one of the most iconic skylines in the world, New York City sits at the point where the Hudson River meets the Atlantic Ocean.

The city consists of five boroughs—Brooklyn, Queens, Manhattan, the Bronx and Staten Island—and can trace its roots back to 1624, when Dutch colonists founded a trading post called New Amsterdam. Renamed New York in 1664, it has been the United States' largest city since 1790. Today almost 8.5 million people live in an area of just 305 sq. miles (790 km<sup>2</sup>), which also makes it the most densely populated city in the country.

The city's architecture mixes traditional structures with modern designs, but the skyline is most famous for its skyscrapers. With

more than 550 structures over 330 ft. (100 m) high, only Hong Kong has a greater number of tall buildings.

With three of the world's ten most visited attractions—Times Square, Central Park and Grand Central Station—the city is a popular tourist destination with 56 million visitors in 2014. It is often claimed that New York City is the most photographed city in the world.

[ "New York is the only  
real city-city." ]

Truman Capote



# One World Trade Center

As the main building of the World Trade Center complex, the new One World Trade Center tower stands as both a shining beacon for the downtown business district and a bold addition to the New York skyline.

The building was completed in May 2013, when the final section of the 408 ft. (124 m) spire was installed, bringing the structure's height to a symbolic 1,776 ft. (541 m)—a deliberate reference to the year when the United States Declaration of Independence was signed.

Designed by architect David M. Childs from the New York office of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, the tower ascends from a cubic base, its edges slanting back to form eight isosceles triangles with a perfect octagon near its middle, culminating in a glass parapet at the top.

The enclosed One World Observatory allows visitors a spectacular view of the surrounding city from 1,250 ft. (381 m) above street level. At night, an intense beam of horizontal light is projected from the spire and is visible over 1,000 ft. (300 m) above the tower.

[ “There is something in the New York air that makes sleep useless.” ]

Simone de Beauvoir



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One World Trade Center



# The Statue of Liberty

Standing on Liberty Island at the entrance to New York Harbor, the Statue of Liberty was a welcoming signal to millions of immigrants and a symbol of freedom and democracy in the United States.

Designed by the French sculptor Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi and given as a gift to the United States from the people of France, the robed female figure represents the Roman goddess Libertas. In one hand she raises a torch, in the other she holds a tablet inscribed with the date of the American Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776.

The 151 ft. (46 m) tall copper statue was constructed in France and shipped in pieces to the completed pedestal on what was then called Bedloe's Island. The dedication ceremony in October 1886 was presided over by President Grover Cleveland and marked by New York's first ever ticker-tape parade.



## Flatiron Building

Although never the tallest building in New York, or even the first building in the United States with a triangular ground plan, the Flatiron Building remains one of New York's most memorable structures.

Sitting on the intersection where Fifth Avenue and Broadway cross, the Flatiron's famous form was dictated by the shape of the plot of leftover land that lay undeveloped as the city raced northward during the second half of the 19th century. In 1901 the architect Daniel H. Burnham was hired to design a new showcase headquarters on the site for Chicago-based contractors The Fuller Company.

Burnham's radical design created a great deal of debate as the massive structure neared completion in 1902. Many New Yorkers believed that the unstable building would fall over at the first gust of wind. The Flatiron withstood both the criticism and the strong winds and, over a century later, stands tall as a groundbreaking engineering marvel.

Valued today at \$190 million, the Flatiron Building continues to function as a popular retail and office space. In 2009, Sorgente Group of America acquired the majority of the Flatiron Building.







## Chrysler Building™

At 1,046 ft. (319 m) the Chrysler Building was the world's tallest building for 11 months before being surpassed by the Empire State Building in 1931. It remains the tallest steel-supported brick building in the world and is seen as an outstanding example of classic Art Deco architecture.

It was designed by New York architect William Van Alen for Walter P. Chrysler, chairman of the Chrysler Corporation, and construction commenced in September 1928. Almost 400,000 rivets were used in the creation of the steel skeleton and over 3.8 million bricks were manually laid as the building took shape.

As the building would be the headquarters for an automobile company, many of the architectural details including the gargoyles were modeled after Chrysler automobile parts. The

iconic stainless-steel crown is composed of seven radiating arches ending in a 125 ft. (38 m) long spire.

Declared a US National Historic Landmark in 1976, the Chrysler Building is consistently rated one of the finest buildings in New York by architects and scholars. Since the observation deck on the 71st floor officially closed in 1945, visitors today can still view the spectacular Art Deco lobby.

[ “The Chrysler Building... was one of the most accomplished essays in the style.” ]

John Julius Norwich



# Empire State Building

Located in Midtown Manhattan on Fifth Avenue between West 33rd and West 34th streets, the 1,454 ft. (443 m) tall skyscraper was the world's tallest building when it was completed in April 1931. It remained so for nearly 40 years and is still the fourth tallest skyscraper in the United States and the 25th tallest in the world.

Named after the nickname for the State of New York, the Empire State, the distinctive Art Deco-style structure was designed by Brooklyn-born architect William F. Lamb. Construction began in early 1930 and was completed only 410 days later—12 days ahead of schedule. President Herbert Hoover officially opened the 102-story building on May 1, 1931 when he turned on the building's lights directly from Washington.

Over 3.5 million tourists visit the building's 86th floor observation deck every year to experience a unique panoramic view of New York City. Widely regarded as an American cultural icon, the Empire State Building was hailed as one of the Seven Wonders of the Modern World by the American Society of Civil Engineers in 1994.



[ “From the ruins, lonely and inexplicable as the sphinx, rose the Empire State Building” ]

F. Scott Fitzgerald



[ “... it's probably the only city which in reality looks better than on the postcards, New York.” ]

Milos Forman





# Facts & Statements



"I found myself agape, admiring a sky-scraper... plowing up through the traffic of Broadway and Fifth Avenue in the afternoon light." H.G Wells



Maintained by the National Park Service since 1933, the Statue of Liberty is visited by around 4 million people every year.



There are 6,514 windows in the Empire State Building.



The Empire State Building has a lightning rod near the top which is struck by lightning around 23 times every year.



The entire crown of the Chrysler Building™ is clad in stainless steel.



One World Trade Center contains 54 high-speed destination dispatch passenger elevators.

# References

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