



Willis Tower

Chicago from Street to Sky: About the Willis Tower Transformation



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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, originally opened in 1974, undergoes multi-million dollar renovation to become 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 begins on the more than half a billion dollar transformation, opening the Tower from street to sky, creating a real Chicago-born environment that reinforces a highly active, neighborhood-scaled experience
- **Late 2019 – Mid 2020:** Building transformation is complete and a fully-modernized workplace debuts with an unprecedented 150,000 square feet of new office tenant amenities, four stories of unique dining, entertainment and retail experiences and a publicly-accessible 30,000 square foot landscaped roof garden

BY THE NUMBERS:

- 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
- 15K people work in and visit the tower each day
- 12M people pass by and through Willis Tower annually
- More than 100 prominent businesses call Willis Tower home
- The Skydeck on the 103rd floor 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





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TEAM:

Building Ownership.....	Blackstone (New York)
Building Management	EQ Office (Chicago)
Executive Architect	Gensler (Chicago)
Interior Design.....	Gensler (Chicago)
Exterior Façade Design	SKB Architects (Seattle)
Signage & Wayfinding	Core12 & Gensler (Chicago)
Structural.....	Thornton Tomasetti (Chicago)
MEP/FP	ESD (Chicago)
Civil.....	V3 (Chicago)
Facade.....	Thornton Tomasetti (Chicago)
Acoustic.....	KJWW (Chicago)
Fire/Life Safety	WJE (Chicago)
Parking	Walker Parking (Chicago)
Lighting.....	Kugler Ning (New York)
Landscape.....	OLIN (Philadelphia) Forum (Chicago)
Contractor	Turner/Clayco (Chicago)



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

Gensler is the Executive Architect for the Willis Tower redevelopment project. They carefully studied how existing spaces in Willis Tower were being used to develop redesign plans to create a true Chicago-born environment that reinforces a highly active, neighborhood-scaled experience, allowing for more humanity in the design.

Catalog, at the base of Willis Tower will connect Chicago with five levels of retail experiences including dining, shopping and entertainment. It will extend the streetscape, create community, and immerse visitors in true Chicago.

From street to sky, the building will provide inviting hospitality and memorable experiences on an unmatched scale, dissolving the borders between work and life and fostering a collaborative, friendly atmosphere.





LOOKING NORTH



LOOKING SOUTH EAST



LOOKING SOUTH EAST



LOOKING SOUTH



LOOKING NORTH EAST



LOOKING SOUTH EAST

To view all the redevelopment renderings [click here](#).





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EXTERIOR FAÇADE DESIGN: CREATING A SENSE OF PLACE

SkB Architects is the design collaborative architect on the exterior, including designing how the tower base meets the street, as well as the design of the tower's three main entries.

With its new exterior, Willis Tower will offer an inviting and vibrant pedestrian experience while honoring the building's role as a unique Chicago and American icon. It will create a sense of place, not just a place to work, allowing people to own their experience in the Tower.



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