



# Towards Sustainable Vertical Urbanism

CTBUH 2014 International Student  
Tall Building Design Competition

Competition Sponsored by:

**ISA ARCHITECTURE**  
现代设计集团 上海建筑设计研究院有限公司

# 2014

[www.ctbuh.org/competition](http://www.ctbuh.org/competition)

## Competition Brief

The Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat (CTBUH) is pleased to announce its 3rd International Student Tall Building Design Competition. The goal of the competition is to shed new light on the meaning and value of tall buildings in modern society.

As noted by past Competition Jury Chair, William Pedersen of Kohn Pedersen Fox,

*“There has been a major transition in the sense of the value of the tall building and what it can contribute to the urban realm, and society in general. This transition moves the tall building away from just an instrument of financial exploitation and toward a development highly concerned with its impact on the city, the environment, and the urban habitat.”*

In light of global climate change, public awareness of urban sustainability has forced designers to rethink and reinvent the role of the high-rise building type. They must contribute to the protection of endangered environments and offer sustainable alternatives to how cities operate, as they meet the growing demands of urban dwelling and reshaping the landscape of modern cities. It is increasingly important that tall buildings connect with the urban fabric, integrating with the existing city/street life, and reflect the nature of the city in which they are built.

Participants are free to site their projects anywhere in the world. But this is not to undervalue the importance of site – participants should carefully consider their site (which must be a “real” site, in an existing urban location) as the site context should inherently have significant influence over the project’s design. Participants are also free to determine the size, height, function, accommodation and responsibilities of the building. The intention is these freedoms on site and program will maximize the diversity and creativity of the responses. It is also intended to allow students from specific high-rise educational studies around the world during the 2013–14 academic year to submit their projects for consideration.

Participants should engage with the exploration and resolution of the synergistic relationship of placing a tall building in a unique existing urban setting; how that tall building can be inspired by the cultural, physical, and environmental aspects of its site; and how the program of the building is influenced by the micro and macro site/urban conditions. Proposals should show evidence of a clear understanding of how considerations of structure, environment, servicing, etc. are as vital to the success of a tall building as the form, materials, aesthetics, etc.

Participants need to also consider the CTBUH Criteria for defining tall buildings, such that “at least 50% of its height is occupied by usable floor area,” (i.e., proposals should be functional “buildings” not simply observation, communication, or other towers).

Some of the multi-layered elements that participants should take into consideration may include (in no particular hierarchy):

- local climate
- urban grain
- neighboring buildings
- city requirements
- community requirements
- social sustainability
- environmental sustainability
- efficiency of materials, space, and usage
- aesthetics
- proportions
- local, social, and cultural conditions
- materiality
- new technologies
- structure
- innovative program/functionality
- adaptability
- transit/mobility
- infrastructure
- etc.

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## Participation Requirements

- The competition is open to all students who are registered at a University level. For graduating or recently graduated students: you must have been a registered student at least during the Fall 2013 term, i.e., August–December 2013.
- The official language of the competition is English.
- Participation in this competition is anonymous. You will be issued a registration number which will serve as the only means of identification during the entire judging process.
- Contact between participants and members of the jury is prohibited.
- Five “Finalists” will be selected to present their schemes at the CTBUH 2014 Shanghai Conference. Participation in the Conference and presentation to the jury are required as a condition of being awarded “Finalist” status and receiving the award (a travel stipend is provided for one representative per team, see below). Finalist teams that do not attend will be ineligible for prizes.
- Copyright and intellectual rights of the submissions remain with the original authors. Successful participants in the CTBUH Student Design Competition agree to allow the CTBUH to display their work in printed format at the CTBUH Shanghai Conference Sept. 16-19th; display images and a text description of their work on the CTBUH website at <http://academic.ctbuh.org>; and use an image of their work in promotional material for future CTBUH competitions.

## Prizes

- **First Place: US\$6,000**  
US\$3,000 cash + stipend to attend 2014 Shanghai Conference (up to US\$3,000 value\*)
- **Second Place: US\$5,000**  
US\$2,000 cash + stipend to attend 2014 Shanghai Conference (up to US\$3,000 value\*)
- **Third Place: US\$4,000**  
US\$1,000 cash + stipend to attend 2014 Shanghai Conference (up to US\$3,000 value\*)
- **Fourth Place: US\$3,000**  
Stipend to attend 2014 Shanghai Conference (up to US\$3,000 value\*)
- **Fifth Place: US\$3,000**  
Stipend to attend 2014 Shanghai Conference (up to US\$3,000 value\*)
- **Honorable Mentions**  
A select number of entries will be recognized as Honorable Mentions and awarded with a certificate separate to the Conference.
- **Exhibition:** A poster exhibition of the five “Finalists” and up to 25 selected “Semi-finalist” entries will be exhibited during the CTBUH 2014 Shanghai Conference.

\*A stipend will be provided to send one representative from each of the five “Finalist” teams to the 2014 Shanghai Conference to present their project to the jury in order to determine the 1st through 5th place awards. The stipend includes complimentary Conference registration (value US\$1,000) + travel/accommodation costs (up to US\$2,000).

## Key Dates

- Monday, February 1st – Competition formally launched
- **Monday, June 23rd – Registration deadline**
- **Tuesday, July 1st – Submission deadline**
- Friday, July 11th – Short-listed “Semi-finalists” announced
- Friday, August 1st – Top-five “Finalists” announced
- **Tuesday–Thursday, September 16–19th – CTBUH Shanghai Conference, Top-five Finalists will present to the jury in Shanghai**
- Wednesday, September 17th (evening) – Winners are announced and prizes conferred during Conference Dinner

## Registration

- All university students are invited to participate in the design competition. Multidisciplinary teams are strongly encouraged.
- Teams can be made up of one individual, up to a maximum of 5 individuals.
- Only one single project can be submitted by any one individual/team.
- Individuals cannot participate in more than one team.
- **Participants must register online at [www.ctbuh.org/competition](http://www.ctbuh.org/competition) by June 23, 2014.**
- All team members must submit proof of student status. Email a scanned copy of a student ID or other form of verification for each member of the team in one single email to [competition@ctbuh.org](mailto:competition@ctbuh.org)
- After your registration and student status has been approved, the CTBUH will issue you a unique registration number which will be necessary for the final submission.
- **There are no registration fees. Participation in the CTBUH Competition is free.**

## Submission Requirements

Submissions will be digital only, no hard copies will be required or accepted. Participants must submit their project via the CTBUH web transfer site no later than July 1, 2014. Access to the web transfer site will be provided to you by email after you have successfully completed the registration process.

Project submissions are limited to the following two files (both files are required):

- **One A1 board**
  - This primarily visual presentation of your project should include the following: the name/title of your project, the project concept, diagrams, plans, sections, and perspectives. However, it is up to each individual team to determine what information is needed to communicate their project most effectively to the judges.
  - The board should be ISO A1 (841mm x 594mm) in size and oriented to the **LANDSCAPE** (i.e., horizontal) format.
  - The resolution of the board must be at least 150dpi and not exceed 300dpi. File size should not exceed 15meg.
  - Entry must include your unique registration number in the upper right corner of the board (use Arial 20pt font). There should **NOT** be any personal names, affiliations, or any other forms of identification on the board.
  - The file name must include your four-digit registration number and conform to the following naming convention:  
**CTBUH2014\_XXXX.jpg**
- **One DOC file written description (A4 one-page)**
  - This one-page written description is your opportunity to further describe your project's concept, design, motivations, etc.
  - Please include the name/title of your project at the top of the document.
  - Text should be a maximum of 500 words, and is not to exceed one page.
  - There should **NOT** be any personal names, affiliations or any other forms of identification in the text.
  - The file name must include your four-digit registration number and conform to the following naming convention:  
**CTBUH2014\_XXXX\_Description.doc**
- Only these two files (one .jpg and one .doc) will be accepted. No additional files will be accepted. Supplemental files (.ppt, .mov, etc.) or files that do not conform to the above listed specifications will be discarded and not reviewed by the jury.
- The top five projects selected as "Finalists" will elect one team member to present the project during a special session of the CTBUH Shanghai Conference. This will include a 10 minute oral presentation (supported by a powerpoint presentation), followed by a 10 minute Question and Answer session with the jury. **Attendance at the Conference presentation is mandatory. "Finalist" teams that fail to send representation to the Conference will be ineligible for the prizes.**

## Jury

As the judging of Finalists will coincide with the 2014 Shanghai Conference, the Competition Jury will be made up of prominent professionals involved in the 2014 Shanghai Conference, creating an international, multi-disciplinary group of tall building experts. The final jury selection announcement will be made closer to the start of the Shanghai Conference.

## Judging Criteria

To assist with the judging process, a series of judging criteria is defined in four categories as outlined below. Participants are strongly encouraged to keep these criteria in mind throughout the design process.

### ■ Creative Approach (25 percent):

- The design response is innovative and inspirational.
- The design response shows originality and creative thinking in terms of high-rise design and the future evolution of the skyscraper.
- The building program is creative, yet clear and justified.

### ■ Response to Site (25 percent):

- The design responds to the physical/cultural aspects of its site, such that the design is unique to its location, and not a generic response to a tall building capable of being reproduced regardless of its location.
- The design responds to the environmental aspects of its site.

### ■ Sustainability (25 percent):

- The design considers the building's environmental impact and energy usage.
- The design considers efficiency throughout (core, shell, space, usage, etc.).
- The design considers social sustainability, occupant lifestyle and well-being.

### ■ Functionality (25 percent):

- Planning and building organization is clear and appropriate.
- There is a clear structural, technical, and constructional rationale.

Judges will also consider the CTBUH Criteria defining a tall building as "at least 50% of its height being occupied by usable floor area," i.e., proposals should be functional "buildings" not simply observation, communication, or other towers. Proposals that do not meet this minimum requirement will be disqualified by the jury.

For more information on all CTBUH Height Criteria and tall building definitions visit here:

[www.ctbuh.org/criteria](http://www.ctbuh.org/criteria)

## About CTBUH

The Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat is the world's leading resource for professionals focused on the design, construction, and operation of tall buildings and future cities. A not-for-profit organization based at the Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, the group facilitates the exchange of the latest knowledge available on tall buildings around the world through events, publications, research, working groups, web resources, and its extensive network of international representatives. At the same time, the Council's research department is spearheading the investigation of the next generation of tall buildings by aiding original research on sustainability and key development issues. Its free database on tall buildings, The Skyscraper Center, is updated daily with detailed information, images, data, and news. The CTBUH also developed the international standards for measuring tall building height and is recognized as the arbiter for bestowing such designations as "The World's Tallest Building." [www.ctbuh.org](http://www.ctbuh.org)