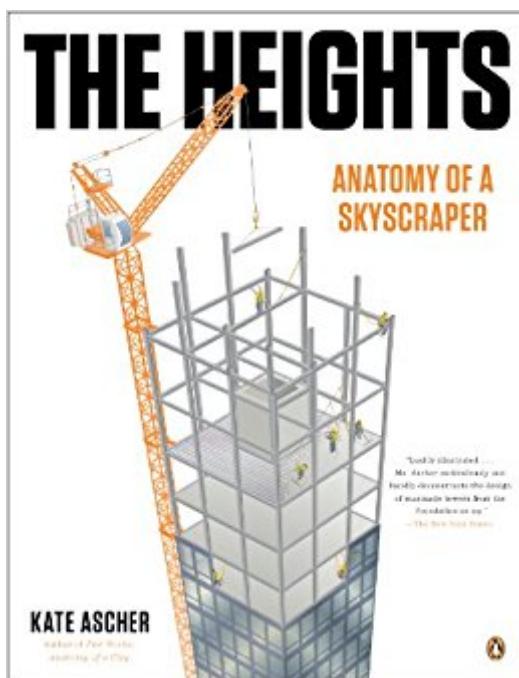


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# The Heights: Anatomy Of A Skyscraper



## Synopsis

A gorgeous graphic tour of the inner workings of skyscrapers—•from the author of *The Works*! Indispensable and unforgettable, *The Heights* is the ultimate guide to the way skyscrapers work—•from the bases of their foundations to the peaks of their spires. With skyscrapers becoming essential elements of urban life, there has never been a greater need for understanding and embracing these complex structures. Using innovative illustrations to tackle the vast complexity of these buildings, *The Heights* explores with remarkable insight every aspect of designing, building, and maintaining a modern skyscraper, as well as the individuals who build and maintain these architectural cathedrals. In the process, *The Heights* provides a remarkable snapshot of urban life at the dawn of the twenty-first century.

## Book Information

Paperback: 208 pages

Publisher: Penguin Books; Reprint edition (November 5, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0143124080

ISBN-13: 978-0143124085

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.6 x 10.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 44 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #123,381 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #25 in Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering > Civil & Environmental > Environmental > Pollution #63 in Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering > Civil & Environmental > Structural #195 in Books > Arts & Photography > Architecture > Buildings

## Customer Reviews

A Look Inside The Heights (Click on Images to Enlarge)

“Lavishly illustrated—•meticulously and lucidly deconstructs the design.”  
—The New York Times  
“[An] eye-widening piece of illustrated deconstruction—•on the most enduring symbol of city life.”  
—Wired  
“Images of diaphragm walls, skeletal frame systems and elevator shafts may not sound like a colourful depiction of the high life, but a new intricate detailing of the inner workings of the mighty skyscraper might well be one of the most interesting books published all year.”

Ã¢â€”The Independent (UK) Ã¢â€”A remarkably plain-language reexamination of tall buildings in a sustainability-conscious ageÃ¢â€”Ã¢â€”a laudable, one-stop summary that goes beyond lists and photographs of tall buildings and gives a rich grounding in vertical basics that all students of cities both need and deserveÃ¢â€”Ã¢â€”The Atlantic Cities

The book provides a unique and insightful high lever survey and review of the design, construction and management of skyscrapers. From engineering blueprints, to architecture, to internal systems (plumbing, electrical, mass dampers, etc.) the book offers an insightful and comprehensive review (also including timelines of major skyscraper construction in history). For those interested in tall buildings, this is an excellent primer!

Most of us have go in and out of tall buildings on a regular basis. These buildings are so well made, we rarely think about the complex systems that come together in order to build and maintain them. In "The Heights: Anatomy of a Skyscraper", Kate Ascher takes us on a layman's tour of these complicated structures. Ascher begins by telling us about the history of Skyscrapers and the design issues architects and engineers need to address before building them. Such important issues as zoning and the underlying economic issues that drive construction are also covered. Although these details are important, what really makes "The Heights" such a pleasure to read is when Ascher starts detailing the steps required to raise a Skyscraper. Detailed illustrations accompany her descriptions of such interesting things as the installation of glass curtain walls and the pumping of concrete to building tops. Granted, elevator design and the functioning of air handling units is not everybody's cup of tea. But if you are the type of geek who thinks mechanical floors and high-rise fire protection systems are interesting, this is your book. Keep in mind "The Heights" was written for the general public. If you find tall buildings to be inherently interesting but do not have a background in architecture, engineering or any of the trade crafts, this is the book for you. Due to the inherent complexity of these structures, I am sure that specialists will have bones to pick with Ascher's descriptions. Nevertheless, I challenge these critics to find a better single volume on skyscraper construction for the general public. In the final analysis, "The Heights" is well written, beautifully illustrated and a real pleasure to read. Highly recommended.

This is a terrific book -- so good that it deserves a better cover. As one who enjoys learning how things work, this is best in class covering skyscrapers from concept through operations and maintenance. I really enjoyed it.

I have left this book lying around on my coffee table, and every single visitor to our house has picked it up, started leafing through it, and then become fascinated and sat there. One person even tried to buy it off me. Really compelling--you think you don't care about the differences between central-core and side-core skyscrapers? You will soon.

Some chapters are better than others. My main issue is that it lacks real life images. Diagrams are great, but only when accompanied with real photos I think. Overall it's a decent book but it can definitely use a second edition with more pictures and better explanations.

My son has been enthralled by this book. Great for my budding 8 year old architect.

Rather disappointing. I wanted to read more about method and technique of construction. The writing was impersonal, almost robotic. The author didn't project any personality or sense of wonder in the text.

Very informative, great illustrations, fun to read

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