Olympic Tower

Identification

EBN 115495
Name Olympic Tower
Alternative Name 641-645 5th Avenue
Construction Type skyscraper
Current Status existing [completed]

Location

Continent Name North America
Country Name U.S.A.
State Name New York
Metro Area Name New York-Newark-Bridgeport Metro Area
Block Number Contact us
Lot Number Contact us
Postcode 10022
Address (as text) 645 5th Avenue at East 51st Street, NE Corner (Wing at 8 East 52nd Street
Olympic Tower

City Name: New York City  
Main Address: 641-645 5th Avenue

District (1st level): Manhattan  
Virtual Address: 3 East 51st Street  
6-8 East 52nd Street

District (2nd level): Midtown

Map

Description

Structural Material: steel  
concrete  
Facade Color: dark brown

Facade System: curtain wall  
Architectural style: international style

Facade Material: glass  
Main Usage: residential  
condominium  
commercial office

Spatial dimensions

Height (structural): 620.08 ft  
Floors (underground): 2

Height (tip): 620.08 ft  
Floors (overground): 51

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Facts

- The Olympic Tower was built in 1976 and was the first skyscraper to combine shops, offices and owner-occupied luxury apartments in the same building.
- The Olympic Place Gallery is a 10 meters high through-block public arcade of gray granite, with potted trees and a waterfall. It also has a connection to a concourse level with retail spaces.
- There is a separate entrance to the apartments from 51st Street. The apartments have 3-meter ceilings and floor-to-ceiling windows. In accordance with the targeting of apartment sales, the occupants have been to a notable degree from Europe and the Middle East.
- On the north side there is a protruding setback and a wing extending through the block to 52nd Street.
- The building replaced the Best & Company Store (1947, Shreve, Lamb & Harmon), although the first, 1970 designs by the original architect Morris Lapidus had the neighbouring Olympic Airlines Building replaced instead.
- The whole facade is clad in brown-tinted glass which gives the 189 meters tall building a solid, almost black, and highly reflective surface.
- The development utilized the air rights of all of the buildings on the blockfront facing Fifth Avenue, and allegedly also the use of air rights above St. Patrick’s Cathedral was considered.
- The framework of the building consists of the unusual arrangement of a steel frame for the lower 21 floors and a concrete frame of in-situ cast walls and slabs for the top 30 floors of residential use.

Involved companies

Architect

Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP
224 South Michigan Avenue, Suite 1000
60604 Chicago
U.S.A.

Phone +1 312 554 9090
Fax +1 312 360 4545
Email somchicago@som.com
## Olympic Tower

### Additional company data available for this building

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Client</th>
<th>Contact us</th>
<th>Property Management</th>
<th>Contact us</th>
<th>Developer</th>
<th>Contact us</th>
<th>Structural Engineering</th>
<th>Contact us</th>
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</thead>
</table>

### Contact Information

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