

= Chrysler Building =

The Chrysler Building is an Art Deco style skyscraper located on the East Side of Midtown Manhattan in New York City , at the intersection of 42nd Street and Lexington Avenue in the Turtle Bay neighborhood . At 1,046 feet (319 m) , the structure was the world 's tallest building for 11 months before it was surpassed by the Empire State Building in 1931 .

It is the tallest brick building in the world , albeit with a steel frame . After the destruction of the World Trade Center , it was again the second tallest building in New York City until December 2007 , when the spire was raised on the 1,200 foot (365 m) Bank of America Tower , pushing the Chrysler Building into third position . In addition , The New York Times Building , which opened in 2007 , is exactly level with the Chrysler Building in height . Both buildings were then pushed into fourth position , when the under construction One World Trade Center surpassed their height , and then to fifth position by 432 Park Avenue which was completed in 2015 .

The Chrysler Building is a classic example of Art Deco architecture and considered by many contemporary architects to be one of the finest buildings in New York City . In 2007 , it was ranked ninth on the List of America 's Favorite Architecture by the American Institute of Architects . It was the headquarters of the Chrysler Corporation from 1930 until the mid 1950s . Although the building was built and designed specifically for the car manufacturer , the corporation did not pay for the construction of it and never owned it , as Walter P. Chrysler decided to pay for it himself , so that his children could inherit it .

= = History = =

The Chrysler Building was designed by architect William Van Alen for a project of Walter P. Chrysler . When the ground breaking occurred on September 19 , 1928 , there was an intense competition in New York City to build the world 's tallest skyscraper . Despite a frantic pace (the building was built at an average rate of four floors per week) , no workers died during the construction of this skyscraper .

= = Design beginnings = =

Van Alen 's original design for the skyscraper called for a decorative jewel like glass crown . It also featured a base in which the showroom windows were tripled in height and topped by 12 stories with glass wrapped corners , creating an impression that the tower appeared physically and visually light as if floating in mid air . The height of the skyscraper was also originally designed to be 246 meters (807 ft) . However , the design proved to be too advanced and costly for building contractor William H. Reynolds , who disapproved of Van Alen 's original plan . The design and lease were then sold to Walter P. Chrysler , who worked with Van Alen and redesigned the skyscraper for additional stories ; it was eventually revised to be 282 m (925 ft) tall . As Walter Chrysler was the chairman of the Chrysler Corporation and intended to make the building into Chrysler 's headquarters , various architectural details and especially the building 's gargoyles were modeled after Chrysler automobile products like the hood ornaments of the Plymouth ; they exemplify the machine age in the 1920s (see below) .

= = Construction = =

Construction commenced on September 19 , 1928 . In total , 391,881 rivets were used and approximately 3,826,000 bricks were manually laid , to create the non loadbearing walls of the skyscraper . Contractors , builders and engineers were joined by other building services experts to coordinate construction .

Prior to its completion , the building stood about even with a rival project at 40 Wall Street , designed by H. Craig Severance . Severance increased the height of his project and then publicly

claimed the title of the world 's tallest building . (This distinction excluded structures that were not fully habitable , such as the Eiffel Tower .) In response , Van Alen obtained permission for a 38 @-@ meter (125 ft) long spire and had it secretly constructed inside the frame of the building . The spire was delivered to the site in four different sections . On October 23 , 1929 , the bottom section of the spire was hoisted to the top of the building 's dome and lowered into the 66th floor of the building . The other remaining sections of the spire were hoisted and riveted to the first one in sequential order in just 90 minutes .

= = = Completion = = =

Upon completion on May 27 , 1930 , the added height of the spire allowed the Chrysler Building to surpass 40 Wall Street as the tallest building in the world and the Eiffel Tower as the tallest structure . It was the first man @-@ made structure to stand taller than 1 @,@ 000 feet (305 m) . Van Alen 's satisfaction in these accomplishments was likely muted by Walter Chrysler 's later refusal to pay the balance of his architectural fee . Less than a year after it opened to the public on May 27 , 1930 , the Chrysler Building was surpassed in height by the Empire State Building , but the Chrysler Building is still the world 's tallest steel @-@ supported brick building . As of November 2 , 2011 , the building 's height was surpassed by the under construction One World Trade Center at the height of 1 @,@ 106 feet .

= = = Property = = =

The east building wall of the base out of which the tower rises runs at a slant to the Manhattan street grid , following a property line that predated the Commissioners ' Plan of 1811 . The land on which the Chrysler Building stands was donated to The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art in 1902 . The land was originally leased to William H. Reynolds , but , when he was unable to raise money for the project , the building and the development rights to the land were acquired by Walter P. Chrysler in 1928 . Contrary to popular belief , the Chrysler Corporation was never involved in the construction or ownership of the Chrysler Building , although it was built and designed for the corporation and served as its headquarters until the mid @-@ 1950s . It was a project of Walter P. Chrysler for his children .

The ownership of the building has changed several times . The Chrysler family sold the building in 1953 to William Zeckendorf , and in 1957 , it was purchased by Sol Goldman and Alex DiLorenzo , and owned by Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company . The lobby was refurbished and the facade renovated in 1978 ? 1979 . The building was bought by Jack Kent Cooke in 1979 . The spire underwent a restoration that was completed in 1995 . In 1998 , Tishman Speyer Properties and the Travelers Insurance Group bought the Chrysler Building and the adjoining Kent Building in 1997 for about \$ 220 million (equal to \$ 320 million in 2015) from a consortium of banks and the estate of Jack Kent Cooke . Tishman Speyer Properties had negotiated a 150 @-@ year lease from the Cooper Union , and the college continues to own the land under the Chrysler Building . Cooper Union 's name is on the deed .

In 2001 , a 75 % stake in the building was sold , for US \$ 300 million (equal to \$ 400 million in 2015) , to TMW , the German arm of an Atlanta @-@ based investment fund . On June 11 , 2008 it was reported that the Abu Dhabi Investment Council was in negotiations to buy TMW 's 75 % economic interest , and a 15 % interest from Tishman Speyer Properties in the building , and a share of the Trylons retail structure next door for US \$ 800 million . On July 9 , 2008 it was announced that the transaction had been completed , and that the Abu Dhabi Investment Council was now the 90 % owner of the building .

= = = Architecture = = =

The Chrysler Building is considered a leading example of Art Deco architecture . The corners of the 61st floor are graced with eagles ; on the 31st floor , the corner ornamentation are replicas of the

1929 Chrysler radiator caps . The building is constructed of masonry , with a steel frame , and metal cladding . The building currently contains a total of 3 @, @ 862 windows on its facades . Inside , there are four banks of 8 elevators designed by the Otis Elevator Corporation . The building was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1976 , and a New York City Landmark in 1978 .

The Chrysler Building is also renowned and recognized for its terraced crown . Composed of seven radiating terraced arches , Van Alen 's design of the crown is a cruciform groin vault constructed into seven concentric members with transitioning setbacks , mounted up one behind another . The stainless @-@ steel cladding is ribbed and riveted in a radiating sunburst pattern with many triangular vaulted windows , transitioning into smaller segments of the seven narrow setbacks of the facade of the terraced crown . The entire crown is clad with silvery " Enduro KA @-@ 2 " metal , an austenitic stainless steel developed in Germany by Krupp and marketed under the trade name " Nirosta " (a German acronym for nichtrostender Stahl , meaning " non @-@ rusting steel ") .

When the building first opened , it contained a public viewing gallery on the 71st floor , which was closed to the public in 1945 . This floor is now the highest occupied floor of the Chrysler Building , it was occupied by an office space management firm in 1986 . The private Cloud Club occupied a three @-@ floor high space from the 66th ? 68th floors , but closed in the late 1970s . Above the 71st floor , the stories of the building are designed mostly for exterior appearance , functioning mainly as landings for the stairway to the spire . These top stories are very narrow with low , sloped ceilings , and are useful only for holding radio @-@ broadcasting and other mechanical and electrical equipment . Television station WCBS @-@ TV (Channel 2) originally transmitted from the top of the Chrysler in the 1940s and early 1950s , before moving to the Empire State Building . For many years , WPAT @-@ FM and WTFM (now WKTU) also used the Chrysler Building as a transmission site , but they also moved to the Empire State Building by the 1970s . There are currently no commercial broadcast stations located at the Chrysler Building .

There are two sets of lighting in the top spires and decoration . The first are the V @-@ shaped lighting inserts in the steel of the building itself . Added later were groups of floodlights that are on mast arms directed back at the building . This allows the top of the building to be lit in many colors for special occasions .

= = Representation = =

The Chrysler Building has been shown in several movies that take place in New York . In the summer of 2005 , New York 's own Skyscraper Museum asked one hundred architects , builders , critics , engineers , historians , and scholars , among others , to choose their 10 favorites among 25 New York towers . The Chrysler Building came in first place as 90 % of them placed the building in their top @-@ 10 favorite buildings .

The Chrysler Building 's distinctive profile has inspired similar skyscrapers worldwide , including One Liberty Place in Philadelphia .

= = Tenants = =

Blank Rome
InterMedia Partners
Regus
Troutman Sanders
Reprive (organisation)
YES Network

= = Gallery = =