

= Frost Bank Tower =

The Frost Bank Tower is a skyscraper in Austin , Texas , United States . Standing 515 feet (157 m) tall with 33 floors , it is the third tallest building in Austin , behind The Austonian and the 360 Condominiums . It was developed by Cousins Properties from November 2001 to December 2003 as a class A office building with 525 @, @ 000 sq ft (48 @, @ 774 m²) of leasable space . It was the first high @-@ rise building to be constructed in the United States after the 9 / 11 attacks . The building was officially dedicated in January 2004 .

The Frost Bank Tower was designed by Duda / Paine Architects , LLP and HKS , Inc . It carries the highest logo in the city at 420 ft (128 m) . This advertises the San Antonio @-@ based Frost National Bank , whose Austin headquarters and insurance division are in the building . Offices in the building besides Frost Bank include the Austin offices of Morgan Stanley and Ernst & Young , as well as the headquarters of the University of Texas Investment Management Company (UTIMCO) , managers of the Permanent University Fund . The silvery blue color glass facade was first used on the Reuters Building in New York City . Cousins sold the building in 2006 to Equity Office Properties Trust for \$ 188 million before they sold the building to Thomas Properties the same year . In 2013 ownership of the building transferred to Parkway Properties .

= = History = =

In 1998 , T.Stacy & Associates consolidated tracts of land at the building site , at the time a vacant lot , and sold it to Cousins Properties in 2001 . Their original plan called for a 352 ft (107 m) building with 27 floors , but the final plan called for a 515 ft (157 m) tall building with 33 floors . As the building began construction on November 27 , 2001 , it became the tallest building in the United States of America to be constructed after the September 11 attacks . Construction was finished about 2 years later in 2003 , and the tower was officially dedicated in 2004 . It became the tallest building in Austin , Texas , and the fourth tallest building outside of Dallas and Houston , Texas (excluding the Tower of the Americas in San Antonio) . In August 2003 cost of the building was estimated at \$ 137 million .

After Austin 's skyscraper construction boom , which began in 2007 , Frost Bank Tower was soon surpassed in height by the 360 Condominiums at 581 ft (177 m) in 2008 . As of March 2011 , it is the 54th tallest building in Texas . In 2006 , Cousins Properties decided to sell the building for \$ 188 million to Equity Office Properties , whom eventually sold it to Thomas Properties . Currently , there are many notable tenants in the building , including Frost Bank , Morgan Stanley , Ernst & Young , UTIMCO , and Heritage Title Co .

= = Architecture = =

Designed by Duda / Paine Architects , LLP with HKS , Inc. as the Architect of Record , the Frost Bank Tower is considered one of the most recognizable buildings in Austin . The building starts with a rectangular shape on the ground that eventually becomes a square point in the crown . The base of the building is expressed in honed finish limestone while the main superstructure of the building is a blue low @-@ e glass skin , which is a thicker type of glass , that covers the entire tower . The Frost Bank Tower is one of only two places in the world with blue low @-@ e glass skin , the other being the Reuters Building in New York City , which was the earlier structure . The folded panes of the building step back to create a segmented pyramidal form . Lighting covers the crown , where a section of the building 150 ft (46 m) lights up , and sometimes changes color for special occasions , such as the 2006 Rose Bowl , when the Austin @-@ based University of Texas Longhorns defeated the USC Trojans . More than 200 @, @ 000 sq ft (60 @, @ 960 sq m) of glass was used for the facade of the building alone and 45 @, @ 000 sq ft (13 @, @ 716 sq m) of glass was used in the crown . The building also contains an 11 level parking garage with spaces for more than 1 @, @ 400 vehicles .

=== Critics ' responses ===

There have been many critics and other people who have stated their comments on the building . John Kelso , a local newspaper columnist , says that the building resembles an enormous set of nose hair trimmers . Austin Chronicle readers voted the Frost Bank Tower as the " Best New Building (Past Five Years) " in 2004 , 2006 , 2007 , and 2008 . It was also voted for best architecture in 2004 and 2005 . The newspaper also says that the " owl face of the Frost Bank Tower " helps keep Austin " characteristically weird " , meaning that it makes Austin unique . The tower was awarded the 2005 International Association of Lighting Designers (IALD) Award of Merit for lighting design by Cline Bettridge Bernstein Lighting Design Inc. for its " second set of narrowly focused accent lights that showcase the vertical mullions at the setback near the building top " and " monumental custom sconces that add scale and create a welcoming frame around the opening portals of the lobby " . The building also won the 2003 Texas Construction Magazine Award of Merit .

=== Amenities ===

The Frost Bank Tower contains a wide variety of amenities . Such amenities in the building include conference facilities , building concierge , 24 @-@ hour cardkey access , fully equipped fitness center , state @-@ of @-@ the @-@ art telecommunication systems , tenant controlled HVAC , upscale restaurants , deli / carry @-@ out restaurants , a coffee shop , and a dry @-@ cleaner . Following tradition , a tin Christian cross was embedded into the concrete of each floor during construction , with the last being added on May 27 , 2003 . Also , a 30 @-@ foot (9 @.@ 1 m) cedar tree was hoisted to the top of the mechanical penthouse during the topping out ceremony .

=== Position in Austin 's skyline ===

Frost Bank Tower is the third tallest building in Austin at 515 ft (157 m) , behind 360 Condominiums and The Austonian in height . The building covers most of its block , which is located near the center of downtown at 4th Street and Congress Avenue . Its location in the skyline , matched with its height , excited Austinites and was known as a centerpiece to the skyline .

=== Gallery ===