

= Eliel Saarinen 's Tribune Tower design =

Eliel Saarinen 's Tribune Tower design or the Saarinen tower are terms used to describe the unnamed and unbuilt design for a modernist skyscraper , created by Finnish architect Eliel Saarinen and submitted in 1922 for the Chicago Tribune 's architectural competition for a new headquarters . The winning entry , the neo @-@ Gothic Tribune Tower , was built in 1925 . Saarinen 's entry came in second place yet became influential in the design of a number of future buildings .

= = Background = =

In 1921 ? 22 , the prominent Tribune Tower competition was held to design a new headquarters for the Chicago Tribune , a major US metropolitan newspaper . It attracted 260 entries . First place was awarded to a design by New York architects John Mead Howells and Raymond Hood , a neo @-@ Gothic building completed in 1925 . Saarinen was awarded \$ 20 @,@ 000 for second place ; his design was never constructed . Many observers felt that Saarinen 's simplified yet soaring setback tower was the most appropriate entry , and his novel modernist design influenced many subsequent architectural projects .

Saarinen was a veteran architect but had never before designed a skyscraper . To arrive at his noteworthy design , he took as a starting place the upward sweep of Gothic architecture , but then advanced this sense of verticality as his primary design principle . He said that through " logical construction " each portion of the design was made to reflect the larger goal of verticality . He was 49 years old when he submitted the design ; the next year he moved from Finland to the Chicago area . In the U.S. , he contributed to an overall design for the Chicago lakefront , and he lectured at the University of Michigan , but none of his skyscraper designs were ever built . Instead , others found success by incorporating his vision . Tribune Tower competition co @-@ winner Raymond Hood adopted Saarinen 's skyscraper style for several of his subsequent projects , and Saarinen 's design was emulated by other contemporary architects such as Timothy L. Pflueger , George W. Kelham , Hubbell and Benes , Holabird & Roche , Alfred C. Finn , and James Edwin Ruthven Carpenter , Jr . , as well as later architect César Pelli .

= = Reception = =

Respected Chicago architect Louis Sullivan offered high praise to Saarinen 's design , and said that his building indicated the future direction for the old Chicago School . Sullivan named Saarinen his stylistic successor . Chicago architects Thomas Tallmadge and Irving Kane Pond were also very vocal in their praise for Saarinen . Pond said Saarinen 's design was by far the best contest entry , that it was devoid of the superficial adornments featured on the winning entry , and free of the " stranglehold of conventional forms . " Tallmadge projected that Saarinen 's design would be transformative for American skyscrapers . He said that under Saarinen 's hand , the spirit of the skyscraper , " rid of its inhibitions and suppressed desires ... leaps in joyous freedom to the sky . "

Skyscraper Museum director Carol Willis , and art consultant Franck Mercurio , curator at the Field Museum in Chicago , offer moderating modern views about the influence of Saarinen 's design . Willis notes that setback architecture was being implemented in New York City highrises because of 1916 zoning ordinances related to building height and sunlight , and that Saarinen 's design was understood to be an embodiment of this trend . Mercurio points to the Tribune Tower competition entry from American architect Bertram Goodhue as having the same modernist features as Saarinen 's , with dramatic setbacks but a more pronounced simplification of the exterior . Mercurio argues that Goodhue 's design is a better example of modernism because it has less ornamentation . Goodhue 's entry gained him honorable mention but no cash award .

= = Buildings influenced = =

The following buildings have been observed to be influenced by Saarinen 's 1922 design .

