

shows I-beams on its surface. These are not the real supporting I-beams. Mies van der Rohe added fake I-beams on the surface so that they would “reveal” the structure underneath. Moreover, so that the visual impression of the building would not be jeopardized, the window shades could stand in only three positions: open, closed, and half-way—probably not the best arrangement to protect against sun glare (Wolfe 1982, pp. 75–76).



FIGURE 14-5. Seagram building

The leading modern architect Louis Sullivan (one of the creators of the high-rise building, the skyscraper, and mentor to Wright, among other things) famously wrote:

Whether it be the sweeping eagle in his flight, or the open apple-blossom, the toiling work-horse, the blithe swan, the branching oak, the winding stream at its base, the drifting clouds, over all the coursing sun, *form ever follows function*, and this is the law. Where function does not change