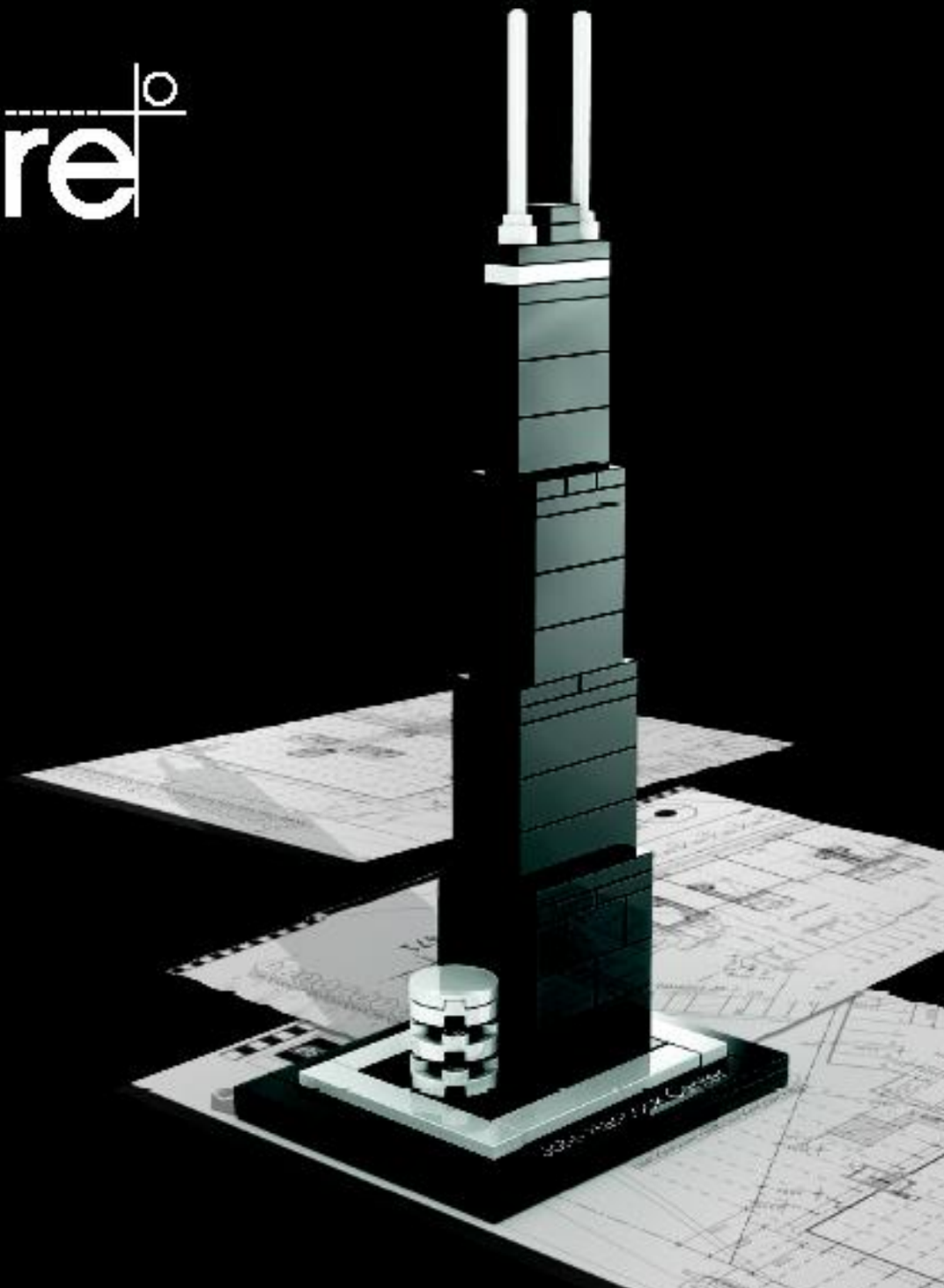
LEGO Architecture



John Hancock Center

Chicago, Illinois, USA

Architecture, Engineering and Construction

The John Hancock Center is one of the most famous buildings representing the structural expressionist style; the skyscraper's distinctive X-bracing and angular facade has made it an architectural icon not only in Chicago, but throughout the world.

The X-bracing exterior is actually a hint that the structure's skin is part of its tubular structural system. This "diagonalized trussed-tube" is essentially the spine that helps the building stand upright during wind and earthquake events. This is one of the architectural techniques building used to climb to record heights which eliminated the need for inner support beams, greatly opening up the floor plan and increasing the usable floor area.

The overall form can be described as a truncated rectangular-pyramid. Shaped like a rhombus or rhomboid, and essentially a parallelogram with unequal adjacent sides in this case composed of four trapezoidal planes.

As a result of the building tapering subtly on all four sides, it narrows by 105 ft. (32.0 m.) or pitching 3.29 deg. on the east & west sides and 65 ft. (19.8 m.) or pitching 5.32 deg. on the north & south equating to a reduction in floor area to 160 ft. x 100 ft. (48.8 m x 30.0 m). This inward leaning effectively reduces the floor area from 43,725 sq. ft. at the base to 16,000 sq. ft. at the top.

The parking garage is accessed by a detached concrete spiral ramp consisting of a double helix making three loops each way between the ground level and the garage.

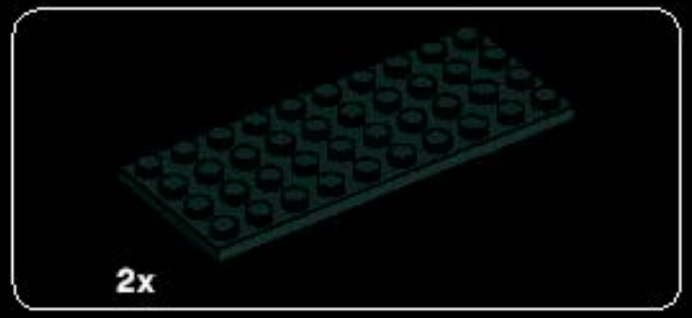
Facts at a Glance

Location:..... 875 N. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, United States
Architect:..... Skidmore, Owings and Merrill LLP.
Classification:..... Skyscraper
Construction Type:.... Steel Frame and Curtain Wall
Materials:..... Glass and Steel
Year:..... 1965-1970
Height:..... 1,127 ft. (343.5 m.)
Footprint:..... 265 ft. x 165 ft. (80.8 m. x 50.3 m.)
Pinnacle Type:..... East Antenna 1,502 ft. (450 m.), West Antenna 1,456 ft. (450 m.)
Stories:..... 100
Cost:..... $95 million (1965)
Floor Area:..... 2,800,000 ft² (260,000 m²)
Zoned:..... Mixed Use: Residential, Communication, Office, Retail & Observation
Elevators..... 50

McShane-Fleming Studios
Chicago, Illinois

Points of Interest

A band of white lights adorn the top of the building and are visible throughout Chicago at night that can transform to colors representing different holidays. The lights change color for Christmas (red & green), Valentine's Day (red & white), St. Patrick's Day (green), July 4th (red, white and blue), and Halloween (orange). Most recently, to honor and show support for "Breast Cancer Awareness Month" the lights are revealed as bright pink.



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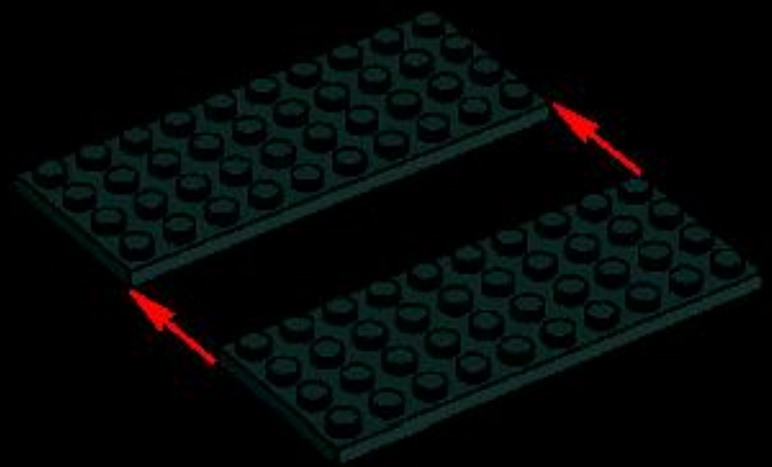

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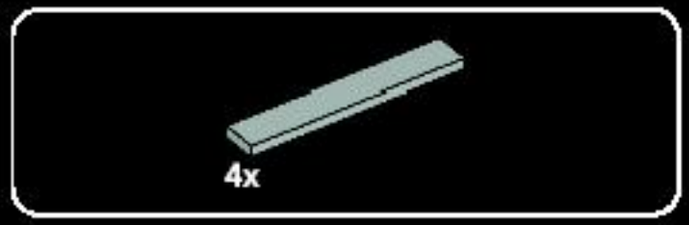

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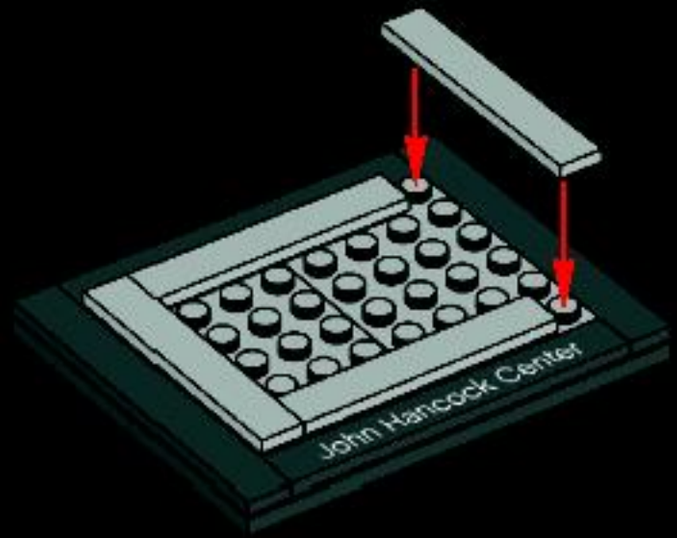

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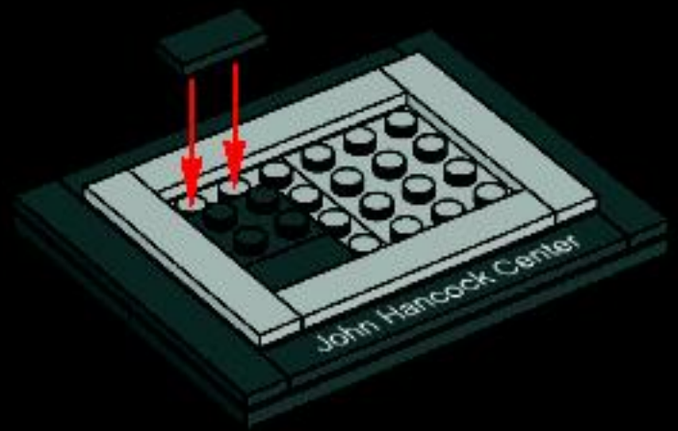

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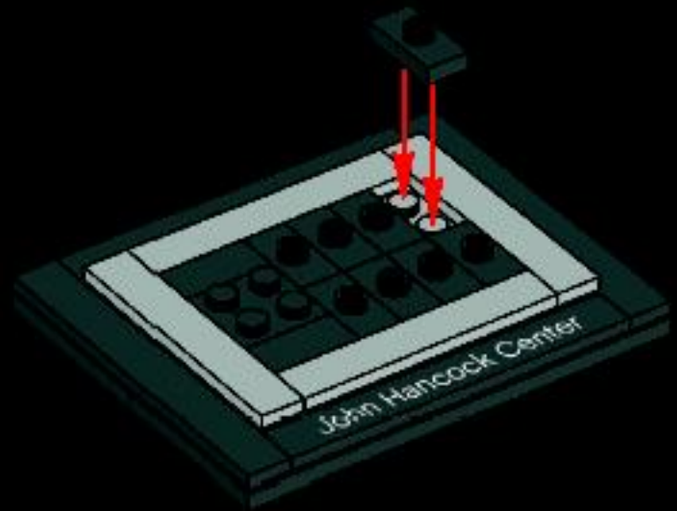

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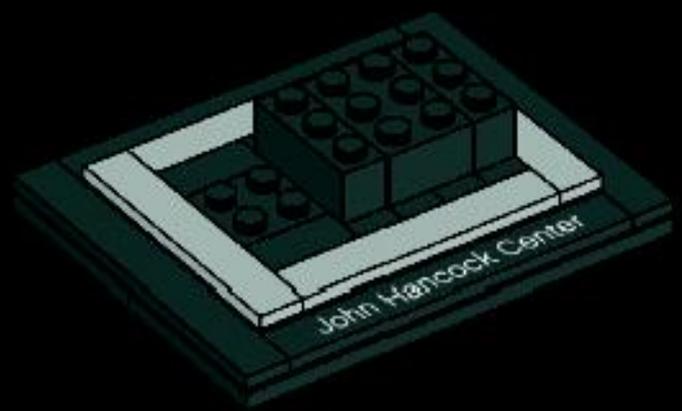

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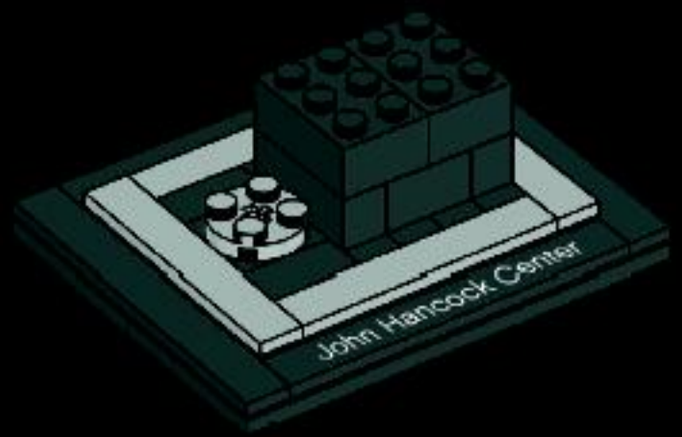

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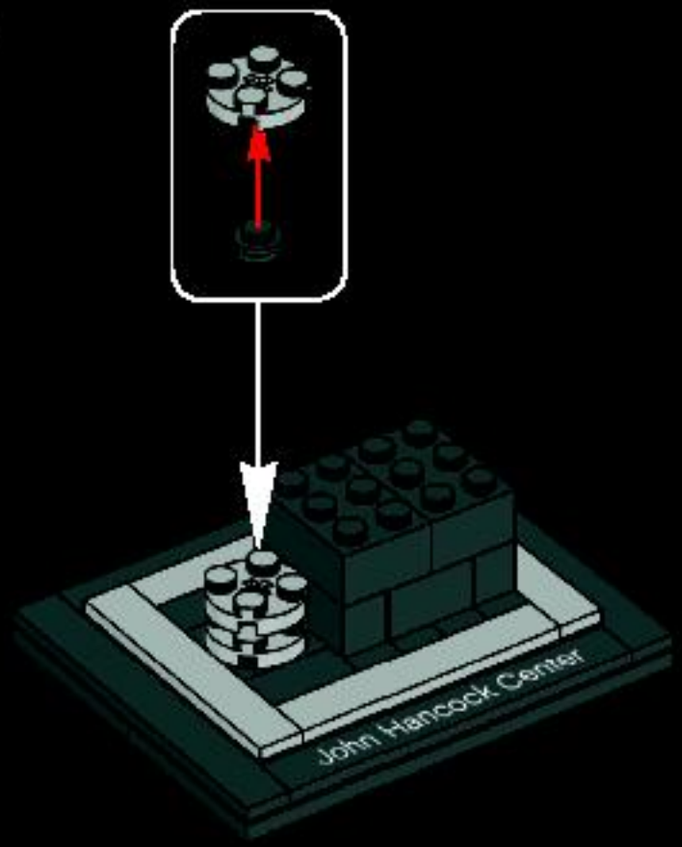

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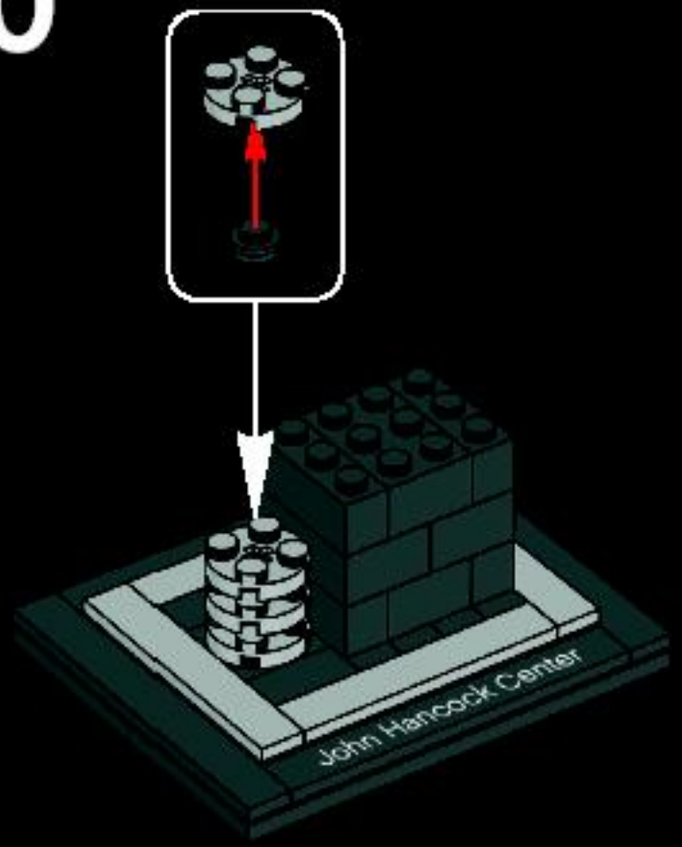

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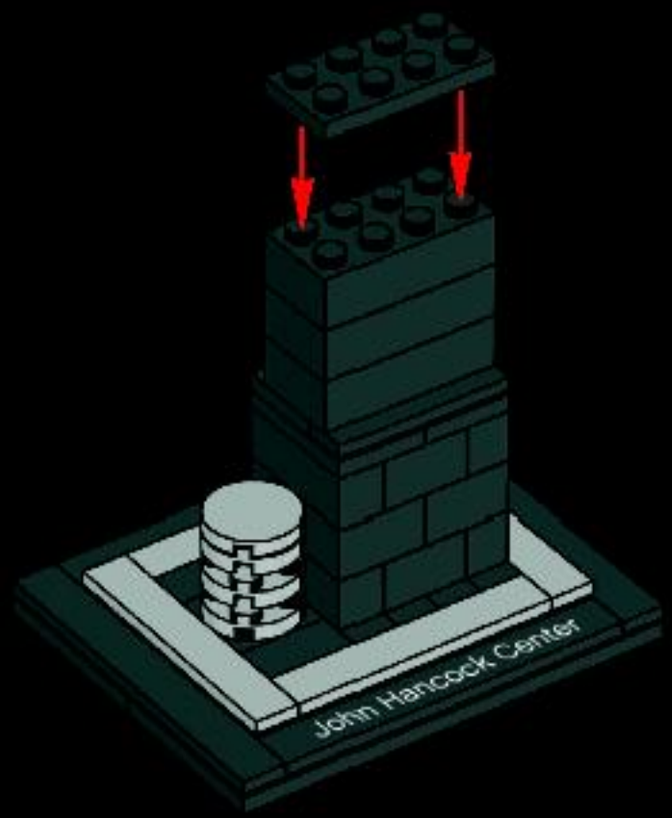

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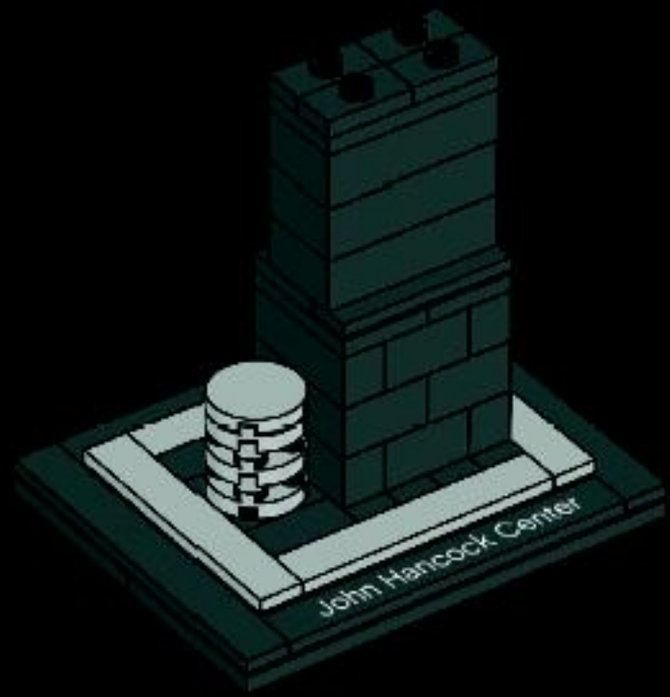

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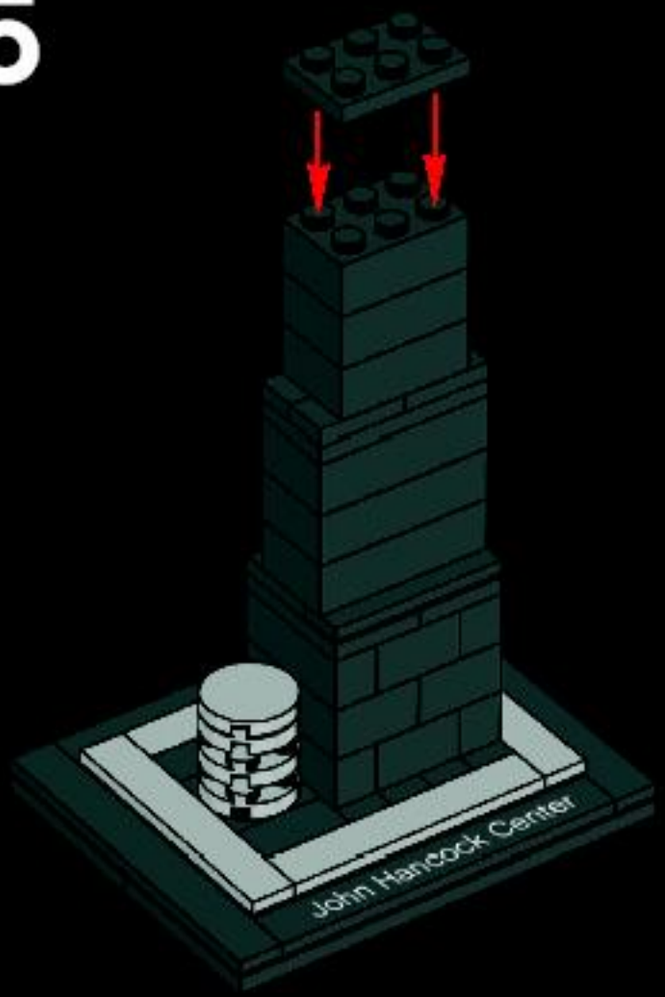

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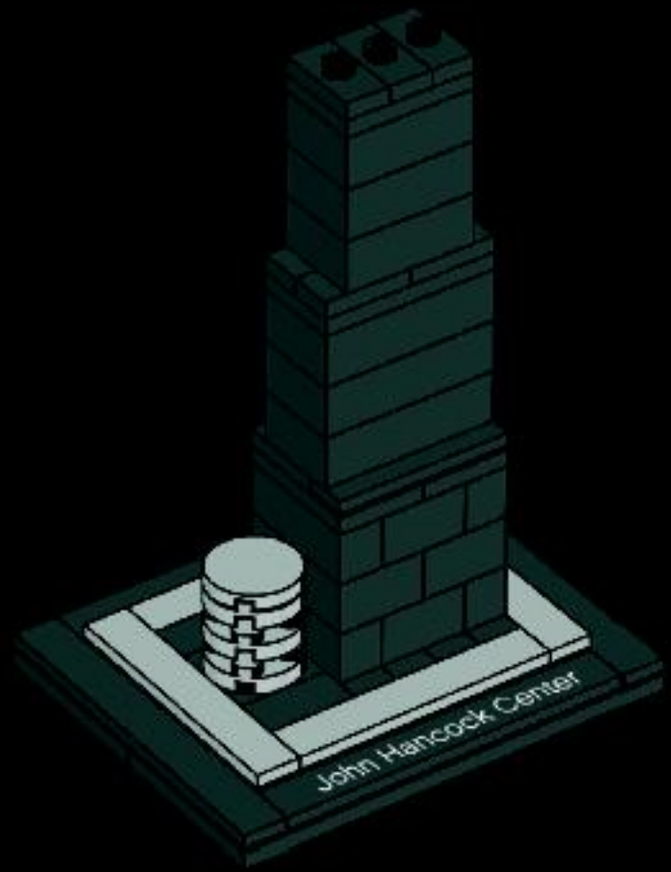

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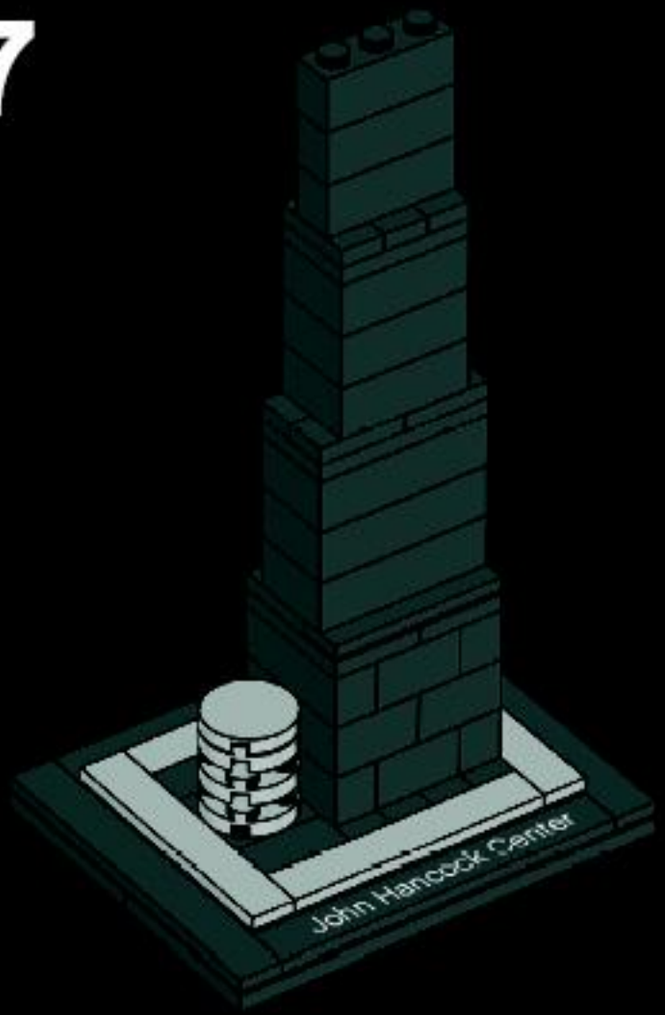

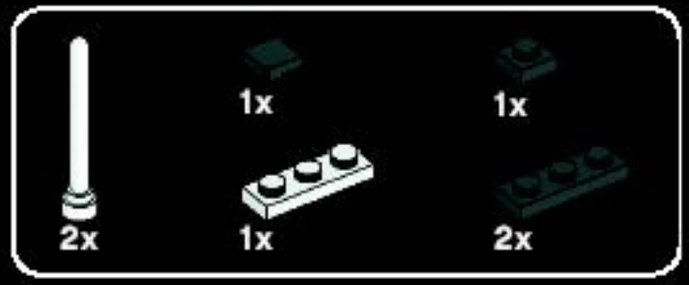

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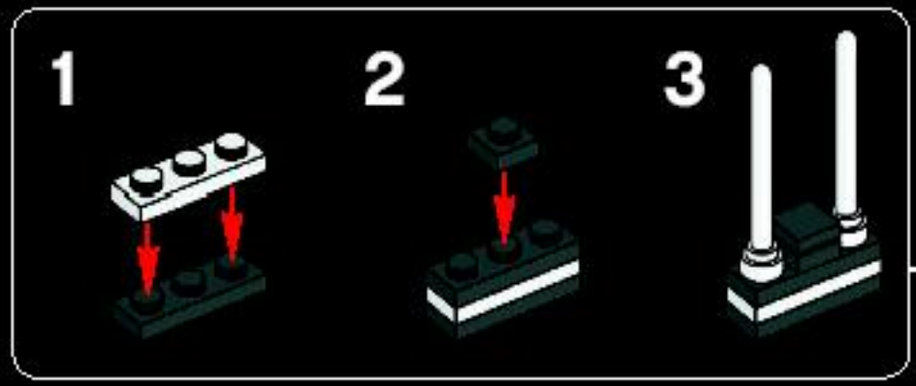

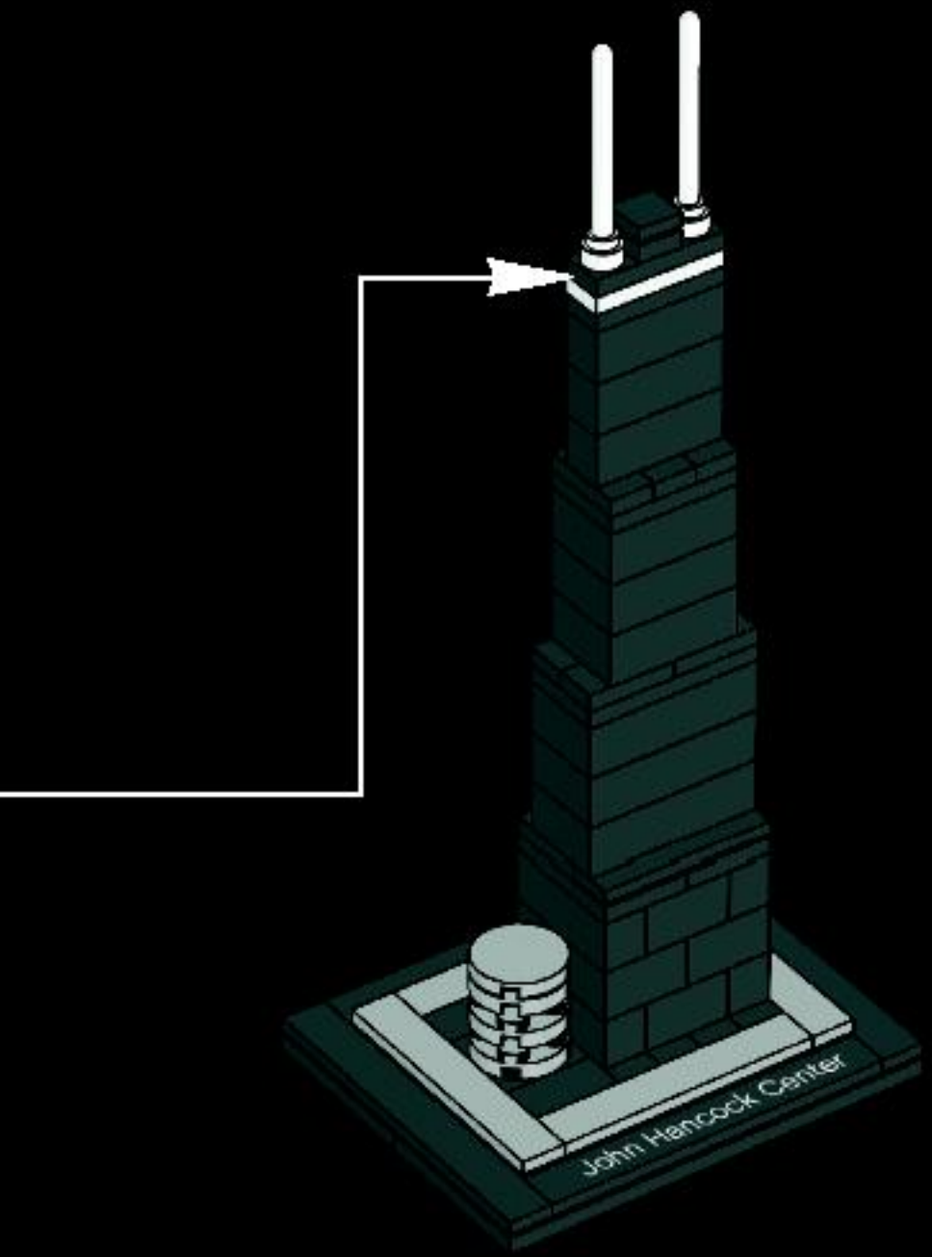

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A Word from the Artist

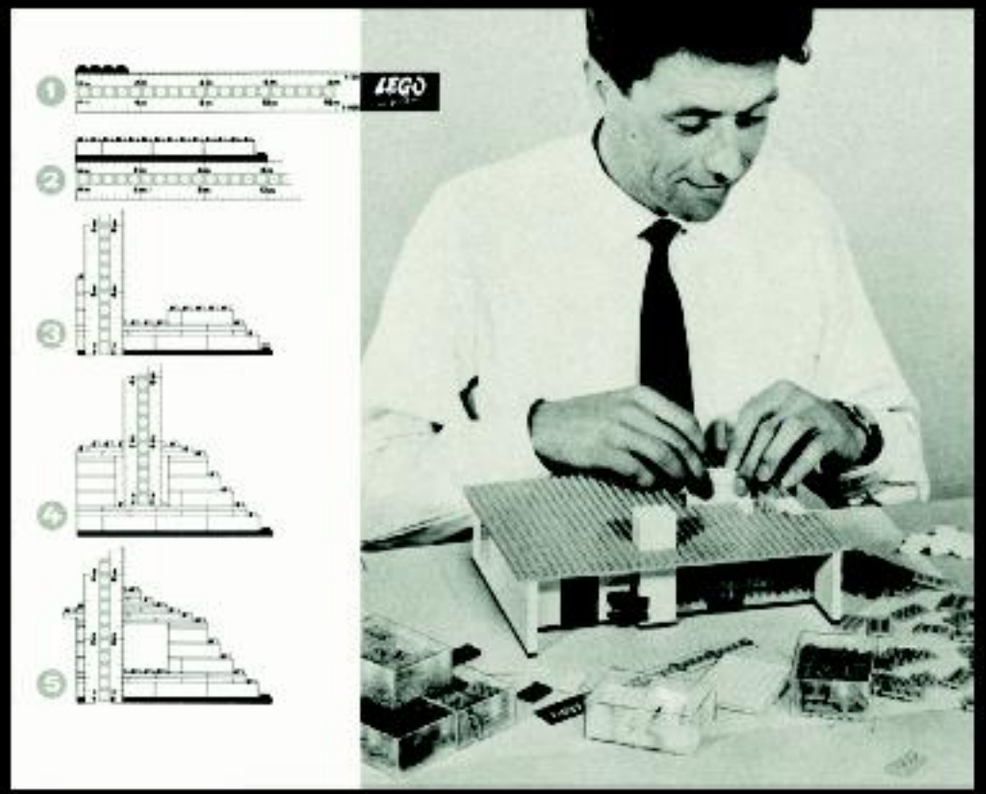
As an Architectural Artist my desire is to capture the essence of a particular landmark into its pure sculptural form, especially at this small scale. I first and foremost do not view my models as literal replicas, but rather my own artistic interpretations, harnessing the essence of these landmark's through the use of LEGO® bricks as a medium. The LEGO brick is not initially thought of as a material typically used in creating art or used as an artist's medium. I quickly discovered the LEGO brick was lending itself as naturally to my applications as paint to a painter or metal to a blacksmith. As I explore how to capture these buildings with the basic shapes of the bricks, I find the possibilities and challenges they offer almost magical.

– Adam Reed Tucker

LEGO© Architecture, bringing two worlds together

The LEGO Group and Adam Reed Tucker are excited to bring you this new line of distinctive landmark building sets. Our hope is that this will inspire minds of all ages whether you're young and eager to learn or young at heart and simply intrigued by these modern day marvels. The idea behind LEGO® Architecture is to celebrate the past, present and future of architecture through the LEGO Brick. Through products and events we wish to promote an awareness of the fascinating worlds of Architecture, Engineering and Construction. Initially, we are featuring a pair of Chicago's most famous landmarks: The Sears Tower and The John Hancock Center. Eventually, we wish to offer other famous landmarks throughout the world celebrating influential architects and movements that have shaped the environment around us. We hope to inspire future architects around the world with the brick as a medium. We hope you enjoyed this experience.

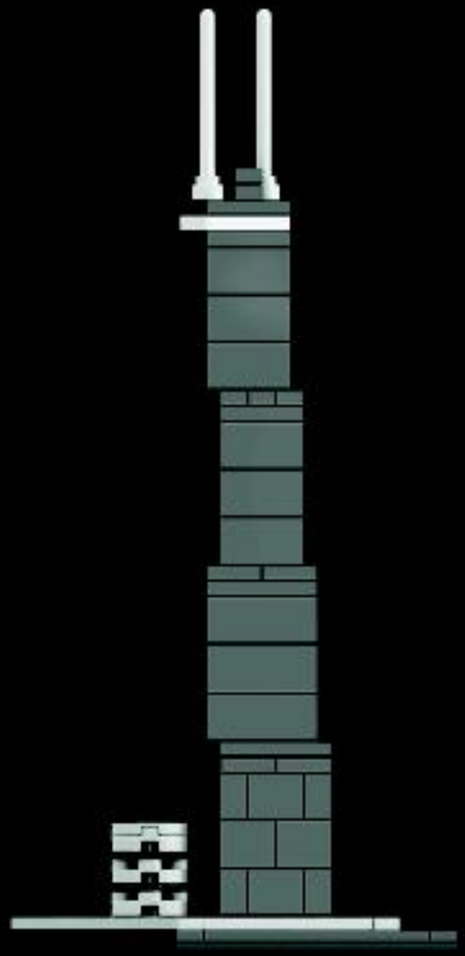
The LEGO Group



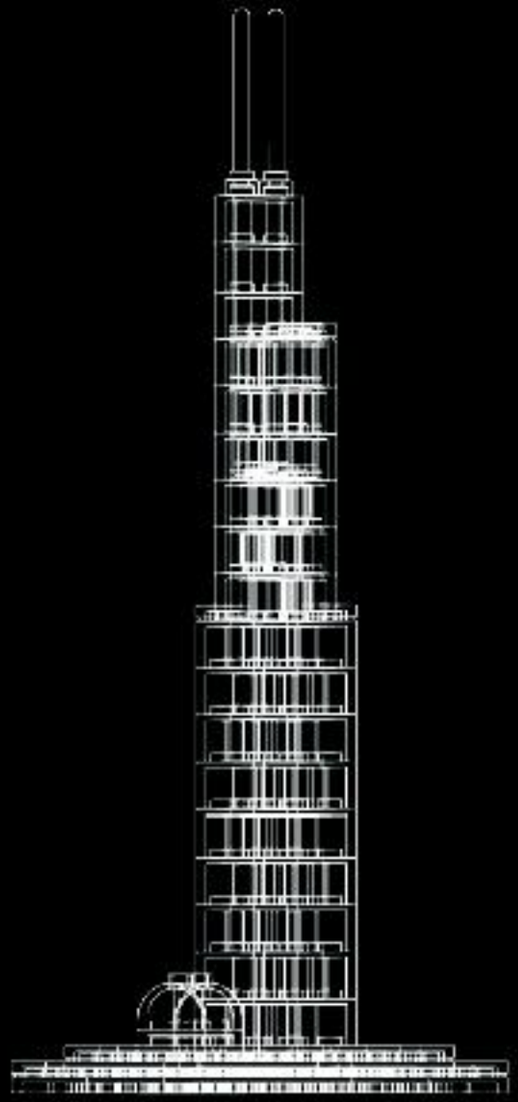
Visit www.LEGO.com/architecture or
www.Brickstructures.com for more information

LEGO Architecture

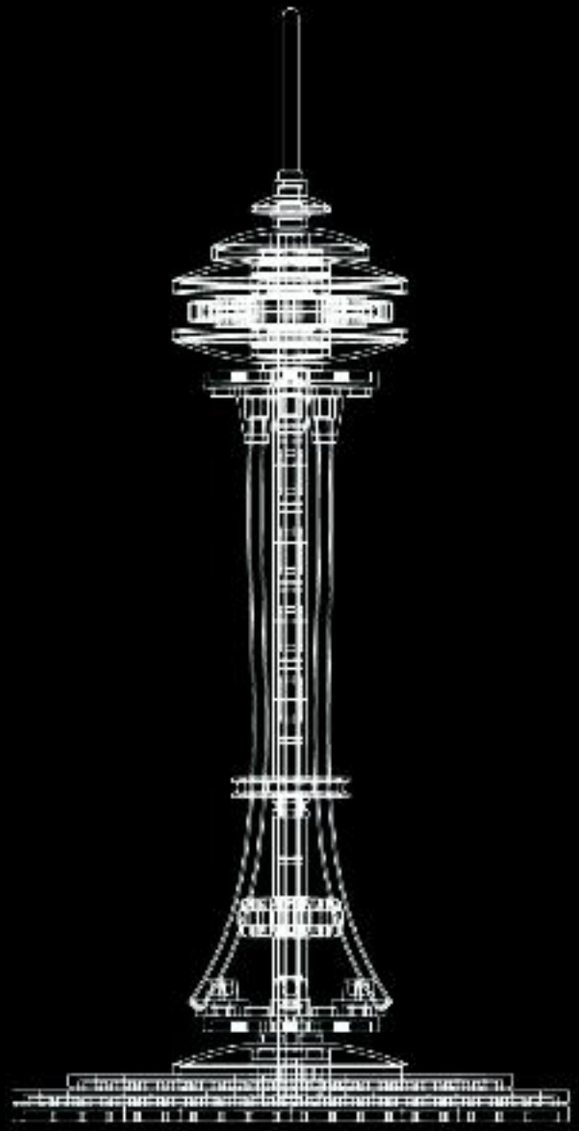
The landmark series



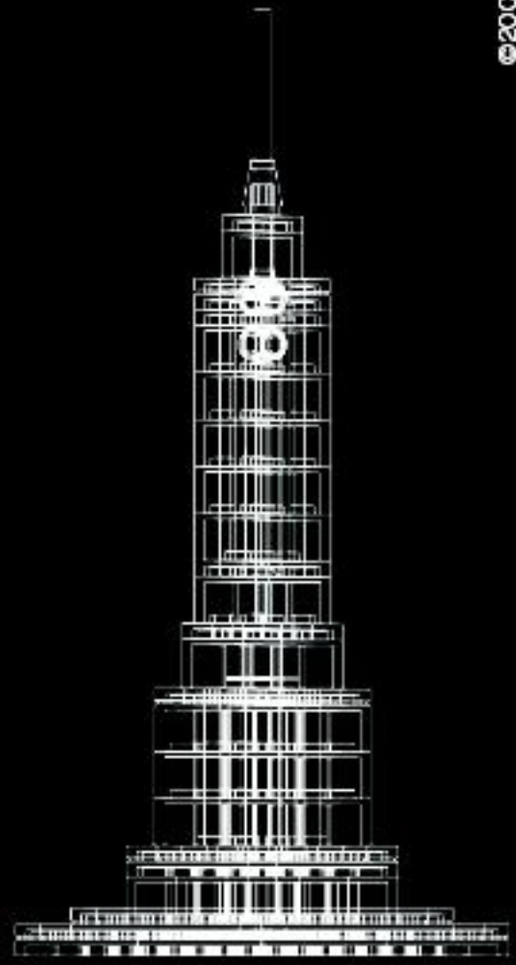
John Hancock Center



Sears Tower



Space Needle



Empire State Building