

HIGH EXPECTATIONS

L.A. now has a new tallest building. How will it fit into the fabric of the city? PAGE 2

FINISHING TOUCHES

In the design of the tower's interior, any detail out of place could spoil the effect. PAGE 6

A RIVER OF GLASS

How the project's signature skylight, inspired by the Yosemite Valley, was saved. PAGE 18

SEISMICALLY CHIC

One of the tallest buildings in an earthquake hot zone had to balance safety and style. PAGE 20

WILSHIRE GRAND

HOW WILL L.A.'S NEWEST HIGH-RISE FIT INTO AN EVOLVING CITY?

By Thomas Curwen

tanding at the base of the Wilshire Grand, architect David Martin shielded his eyes to take in the scope of Los Angeles' newest and tallest skyscraper.

Eight years ago, this shimmering glass tower began its life in his sketchbook as an ink drawing and a splash of blue wash. Now, after four years of construction and \$1.35 billion, it is debuting on the city's stage. Guests have begun to ar-

rive; tenants come later in the year.

The prospect leaves Martin a little nervous.

The expectations for this building are high.

For all its 21st century detailing, the Wilshire Grand is a throwback to a time when Los Angeles dared to dream tall and for three decades — the early '60s to the early '90s — saw a fledgling skyline emerge above Bunker Hill, Century City and West-

But such aspirations can be fickle. That boom, financed in part by Japanese capital, stalled amid an economic recession. Now 30 years later, this new tower rides a new wave of development rippling through downtown and outlying communities such as Hollywood and mid-Wilshire.

Driven by Chinese and Korean investors, this prosperity reflects not only a shift in the world economic order but also a renewed faith in Los Angeles' potential on the edge of the Pacific Rim. (In 2015, South Korea was Los Angeles' No. 3 trading partner, with two-way trade totaling \$23.7 billion.)

When Korean Air, owner of the Wilshire Grand, lighted the building's crown with the red, blue and white swirl of its logo, it captured that historical sweep. The airline's chairman, Yang Ho Cho, first visited downtown Los Angeles on his honeymoon in 1974 and was told to be careful if he went out after dark

dark.

Today he expresses the hope that this building will be an icon for the city as well as a symbol of pride for its Korean community.

But on a late May afternoon, Martin wasn't taking a global perspective. Wandering out onto the pool deck overlooking 7th Street, his concerns were more immediate. The amplified strains of a violinist drifted from a distant sidewalk.

The Wilshire Grand has represented for him a lifetime opportunity to build a downtown landmark, much as his grandfather did with City Hall and his father with such high-rises as the Department of Water and Power and the Arco Towers.

He spoke of the building's parametric sloping, its reflectivity, the alignments between the indoor and outdoor spaces and the overhead "bones," the seismic supports — and he anticipated the critics.

What does the Wilshire Grand offer the city, they will ask. Is it for the wealthy and privileged? Does it advance the science of engineering or a theory of architecture?

"I hope they all like the building," he said.

Every tall building is a unique performance, a blend of grand effects and minute detail. Some strike a single note. Others try for a deeper, almost symphonic complexity.

The gesture might be old-fashioned, reminiscent of the early decades of the 20th century, a

statement that speaks more to the egos of a few than the needs of the many.

But this is what cities do, no matter the expense or impracticality. From a distance, these structures declare their prowess and modernity by lifting themselves above the horizon like Oz, proxies in glass for ambition and power. From the sidewalk, they inspire passers-by to peer skyward, a remarkable feat when daily occupations compel many to look only ahead.

And in Los Angeles — not New York, not Chicago — the raising of these buildings is all the more remarkable in a region where downtown is a mere island in a vast suburban sea.

Conceived during the height of the recession as two towers — one a hotel and one an office — the Wilshire Grand eventually was consolidated into one, driving the height to 73 stories.

Given its complexity, architect Michael Maltzan, whose projects include the apartment complex One Santa Fe and the new 6th Street

Bridge, wants to wait before passing judgment.

"The ability to measure its impact is complicated by time," he said. "A tower, a building of that scale, functions at so many different scales, each of which is measured in different time frames, so it is

hard to say from Day One if it is a success or not."

He cited a few object lessons: The Eiffel Tower and San Francisco's Transamerica Pyramid were mocked at their debuts and today are beloved icons. The U.S. Bank Tower, completed in 1989 a few blocks away from the Wilshire Grand, also received mixed reviews. One critic overlooked the design of what was then the city's tallest structure, focusing instead on its "dizzying, seven-year exercise in deal-making."

cise in deal-making."

Some question whether the Wilshire Grand deserves iconic status. Its claim over the U.S. Bank
Tower, they say, is a cheat, based on a spire that

And if spires count, they add, then what about a 1,215-foot smelter smokestack in Magna, Utah?

gives it an 82-foot advantage.

Yet part-building, part-spire, the Wilshire Grand already has shifted Los Angeles' conception of what its skyline can be — no longer the flat-topped relics of an era that privileged helipads over ornamentation.

For architect Eric Owen Moss, however, any discussion of merit based on height is antiquated. Moss, former director of the Southern California Institute of Architecture, recently designed a 17-story tower near the La Cienega-Jefferson light rail station.

"I'm sure it matters to the developer, but I'm not sure if it matters to the city or to the community downtown at all," he said.

More interesting to Moss is whether or not the Wilshire Grand offers a new understanding of what a tower can be. He wondered how the building will interact with the street or if it will advance a new conception of the city.

"You get to be the biggest building if you demonstrate you have the biggest or most substantial content," he said.

A 60-second ride in a service elevator took Martin to the top floors.

Others may peer at the city, which from this

perspective seems oddly miniaturized.

But as he stepped onto the terrace on the 73rd floor, Martin turned to study the steel-and-glass sail — a technical achievement rising an additional 200 feet along him.

tional 300 feet above him.

A skyscraper, Martin said, is often boring: a big box designed for utilitarian, commercial purposes with design subservient to the cost and speed of construction.

Pushing against those pressures is part of the architect's job.

And Martin counts the sail and the adjoining spire as one of his successes, an elaborate and costly artifice, a hood ornament by any other

As he climbed the stairs into the sail — which will be closed to the public — he was surrounded by wide-flange beams, up to 44-feet in length,

crisscrossing around him like a cat's cradle.

"It's like a ship," he said, proud that this element withstood the months of debates and dis-

agreement.

But he knows that even monumental design is

never fixed in time.

Just blocks away is the City National Plaza,

with its twin towers.

Designed in the 1960s by Martin's father, Albert
C. Martin, these 52-story buildings — the Arco
Towers — have long been honored as a model of

Corporate-International style, austere in their smoked glass, dignified in their identical pairing.

Yet last year the owners modified the top story of the porth tower changing the color of the glass.

of the north tower, changing the color of the glass, adding a ribbon of silver-white around it.

Spoiling the symmetry.

As the afternoon waned, traffic on the 10 Freeway was a ribbon of cars, creeping in and out of downtown, bumper to bumper.

For all the best intentions and design, the future of the Wilshire Grand is linked to the city.

Sprawl — awesome by day and sparkling at night — is one thing, but gridlock, no matter the hour, is another.

For Thom Mayne, one of the city's preeminent architects, the success of the Wilshire Grand depends on how the city rises up to meet it.

Looking at the future, Mayne, the executive director of the UCLA Now Institute, believes that Los Angeles' greatest challenge is an anticipated population increase of 1.5 million by 2050.

He argues for the increased densification of the Wilshire Corridor, 15 miles from downtown to Santa Monica, soon accessible by subway.

To this end the Wilshire Grand, he said, is "useful," but he added, "it is one single building.

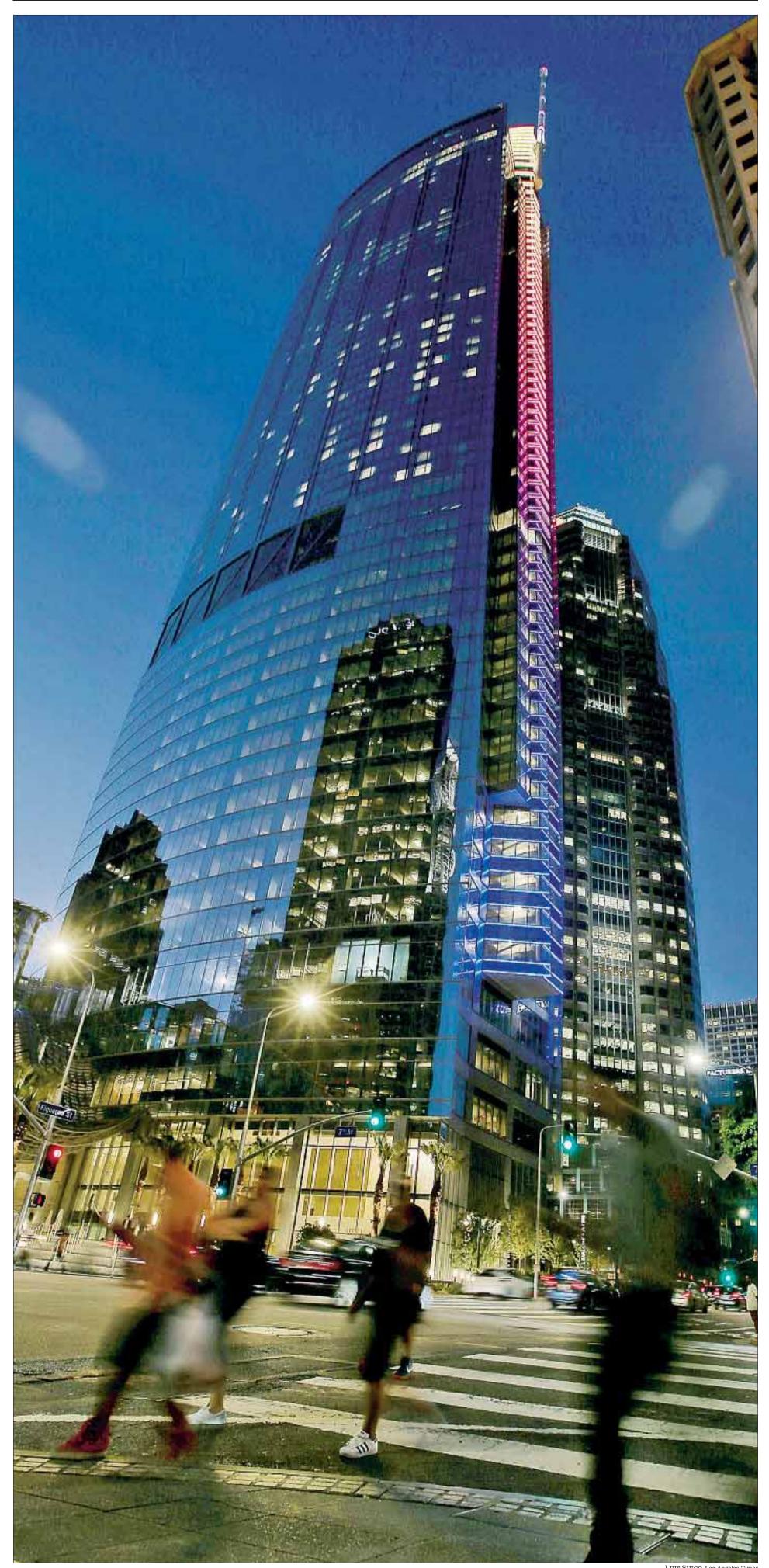
"What's important is for it to be followed by

"What's important is for it to be followed by housing."

Without that step, the skyscraper "is just another random building with no broader connectivity, no synergy, no relationship to some broader strategy of how the city is going to grow and what that means to its citizens — again on human terms, on social terms, on cultural terms."

The city of Los Angeles, he said, must take the next step.

thomas.curwen@latimes.com



S4 TUESDAY, JUNE 27, 2017

AVISION comes into VIEW



Over the course of 257 weeks, 2,500 people put in place 22,000 tons of steel, 54,000 cubic yards of concrete, and 500,000 square feet of glass to build a technically sophisticated, sustainable addition to the skyline of Los Angeles.

Turner

LOS ANGELES TIMES TUESDAY, JUNE 27, 2017 S5









Thank you to our dedicated team, our partners, and our client who made this extraordinary building a reality.

> Download a 3d-printable model of the Wilshire Grand Center at turnerconstruction.com/3d

EMBRACING L.A.

The project grew from a handshake to become the tallest building west of the Mississippi. For three years, Times staff writer Thomas Curwen has chronicled its construction, from the initial planning phase to the topping off and final design touches. On the following pages are his stories of the Wilshire Grand tower.

Architect Chris King isn't entirely sure when Reyner Banham clicked, but the English critic's theories about Los Angeles came to him at just the right time.

Long before demolition crews moved in on the squat and aged hotel that had occupied the corner of Figueroa Street and Wilshire Boulevard, the 41-year-old architect with A.C. Martin Partners tried to imagine what the interior of the new skyscraper — the Wilshire Grand — might look like.

The canvas was huge, more than 2 million square feet, fitting for the city's tallest building, a combination of hotel and offices, public and private space.

King and the design team at A.C. Martin had been brainstorming a variety of concepts that would complement the architecture — its indoor-outdoor spaces, its seismic supports, its vantage upon the city — and they needed to strike a look that would mirror Los Angeles'

Early on they had misjudged, developing a furniture scheme styled after the distinctive Korean roof tiles, *giwa*. They felt it would appeal to the building's owner, Yang Ho Cho, the chairman of Hanjin International Corp. and Korean Air.

But Cho and his daughter Heather, who had taken a lead in the project, didn't want the building to reflect Korean culture. Instead, they insisted that it capture Los Angeles' essential qualities.

What is the big idea, they pressed King.

Accustomed to clients asking about color schemes and materials, King realized that he needed to think larger and more conceptual. The *giwa* furniture style was too small.

Taking to the street, he studied the building site from neighboring buildings, and as the concrete core began to rise, he took the construction elevator to the top floors, where Los Angeles emerged from the rose of the compass: to the west, the swirl of the 10 and the 110 freeways; to the south, the linear grid of subdivisions stretching to San Pedro; to the east, the downtown skyline, and to the north, the San Gabriel Mountains

King realized then that Banham still had it right. Each angle corresponded to the four ecologies: Surfurbia, Foothills, The Plains of Id, Autopia. Each would inform to the interior design of the city's newest building.

On a recent spring twilight, King was out on a rare evening run in Echo Park. Banham was far from his mind when he caught a glimpse of the Wilshire Grand lit up as it had never been before.

In a riot of color, a vertical band of light — blue fading to yellow like the colors of a sunset — played along the building's spine, and as the image lit up Instagram and as technicians fine-tuned the LEDs from inside the tower, King felt a kick of adrenaline.

Four years of construction were coming to an end, nearly 10 years conceiving, planning and drawing, and with hotel guests arriving within weeks, he knew that time was running out.

The punch list — constructionspeak for all the details needing to be completed or repaired — had 35.000 items on it, and King was soon back on site, stepping $through\,a\,clutter\,of\,scaffolding\,and$ cardboard boxes, overflowing dumpsters and pallets of building material that filled the rooms and hallways.

The nature of his job requires that after imagining, drawing and negotiating the high concepts, he bats clean-up, making sure all the details are in place. Perfection seemed elusive as he toured the 70th floor with senior production coordinator, Grit Leipert

A coating of dust clouded the light fixtures hanging in the lobby. A gash marred the parquet angling across the restaurant floor, and a door in the men's room fell well short of its jamb.

They made notes and took pic-

No detail, King said, can ever be too small or fix too minor when delivering a \$1.35-billion skyscraper.

Simply put, he said, "you don't sell a new BMW with a broken headlight.'

Once King understood the role that Banham could play in the design, he and his team turned to the 70th floor — the hotel's lobby

where guests check in, the city surrounding them.

The space, King realized, could be "a synopsis of the entire narrative" and he set about linking the interior to the city, matching details with whatever ecology was immediately in view.

If they got it right, they felt the rest of the design would fall into

"We're trying to choreograph a set of experiences for visitors to the building," said King. "I don't know if I'd call it subliminal, but we are trying to evoke a mood and a feel-

ing."

Through months of debate and discussion, hours of presentations in Los Angeles and Seoul, they finetuned the shapes and form, colors and texture. They consulted with artists, researched materials and dug deep into their collective sensibilities to come up with what they hoped would be a coherent plan.

The stakes may not be as critical as the fire elevators or seismic supports or as sensational as the exterior lighting, but King knew that anything out of place could ruin the desired effect.

They designed a chandelier the color of automotive lights, red, white and amber, hanging from the ceiling above the check-in desk in a pattern based on a schematic of the 10 and 110 freeway intersections. The carpet and furniture in the adjacent lounge feature angular patterns replicating the city's subur-

The club space, facing the mountains, is decorated with pictures of the foothills. The carpet and furniture patterns mimic the lines of a topographic map.

And in lieu of the beaches — too hard to see from this distance they added a fifth ecology, downtown, in acknowledgment of its renaissance, so that the bar with its view of the neighboring buildings has a photo mural of the Studebaker dealership that once stood on this corner and a neon sign capturing the city street name mnemonic:

From Main we Spring to Broadway, and over the Hill to Olive. O, wouldn't it be Grand if we could Hope to pick a Flower on Figueroa?

As they developed the concept beyond the 70th floor, the complexity multiplied. The size of the project was daunting: Some components — the plaza, the restaurant, the health club — were as large as previous jobs.

They championed the improbable, a mash-up in the steakhouse of 18th century Versailles with 19th century California rancho décor, and fashioned the whimsical: the pool deck with its foam stools, buoy lights and the No Dive Bar.

"It felt like we were working on 25 Swiss watches at once," King

By late afternoon, he stood outside the lobby on the ground floor. King stepped among the extension cords, saws, sanders, man-lifts, pavers, drop cloths and bubblewrapped bollards.

Along a broad band of concrete above the entrance to the parking garage, contractors had applied blue masking tape and a vinyl template, the start of a mural.

This space in the porte-cochere had always been a challenge for King, a blank canvas that done right could set the tone for arriving guests. But he didn't want it to compete with one of the project's most-significant commissions.

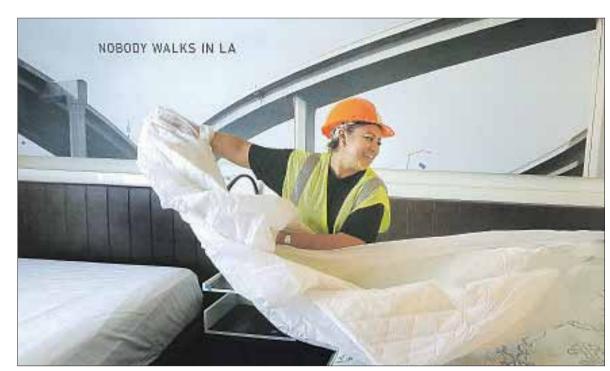
Through the windows of the lobby, a sculpture designed by the Korean artist Do Ho Suh dominates the space, a three-story-high wash of colors, blending like a snow cone from red to yellow to green to blue. Up close, the pattern reveals itself to be nearly 86,000 figurines each a few inches tall — rising atop one another, hands to feet: a highconcept homage to pluralism.

The mural, by contrast, had to be less flashy.

Borrowing from Ed Ruscha's linear documentation of the Sunset Strip, King developed a pastiche of Los Angeles' suburban skyline in silhouette: street lamps, billboards, palm trees and a few icons, Randy's Donuts, the Watts Towers.

"I have always found the skyscape of Los Angeles not banal or unsightly," he said. "It sets the tone for the city.

He now just needed to decide which shade of gray — and there were six to choose from - would best capture this distinct ecology.





FINAL TOUCHES are made on the main path for hotel guests to get from the tower to the pool deck,

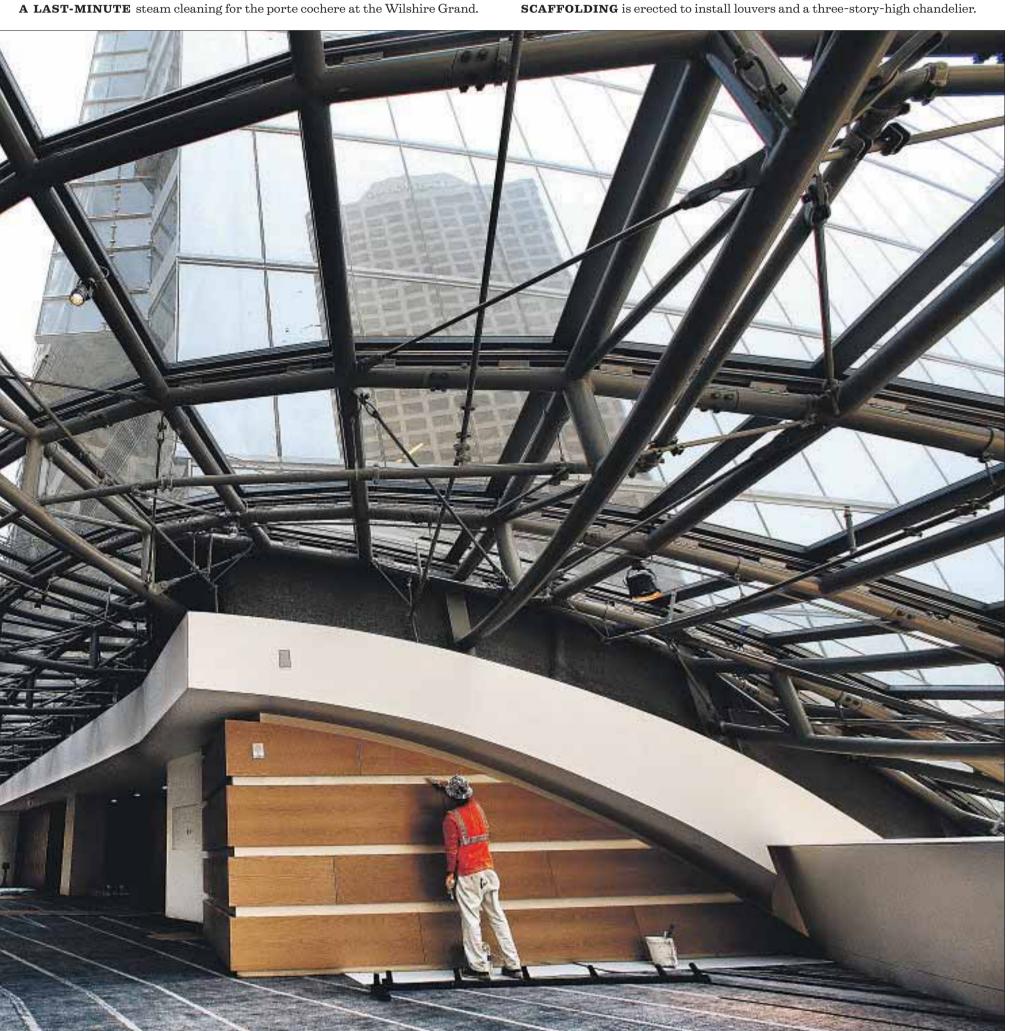


ARTISTS FINISH the splashy mural that adorns the pool area of the InterContinental Hotal.

INSIDE AND OUT







Photographs by MEL MELCON Los Angeles Times which features foam stools, buoy lights and the No Dive Bar. "We're trying to choreograph a set of experiences for visitors to the building," says architect Chris King.



A WATER FOUNTAIN greets visitors in front of the Wilshire Grand Center.



A MARBLE countertop is installed in the master bath of the Presidential Suite.



GEOLOGIST Rosalind Munro descended eight stories deep to verify the stability of the building site prior to construction.



YANG HO CHO, Korean Air chairman, and daughter Heather, executive vice president, at company headquarters in Seoul.



"WHEN WE went to one tower, all the pieces fell into place," says David Martin, co-chairman of A.C. Martin Partners.



CONSTRUCTION WORKERS guide a jumping wall form system into place as it is lowered into posi-

GROUNDWORK PLUS

Eventually all the pieces fell into place. But before the project could get off the ground, someone had to make sure that the ground was solid.

"OK. On down."

Geologist Rosalind Munro spoke into her walkie-talkie. The cage she was standing in shuddered and slowly dropped farther into a shoulder-width borehole drilled beneath the streets of Los

Munro was heading eight stories down to assess the stability of a building site. She needed to know whether the soil would support a skyscraper that would be the tallest west of Chicago and one of the tallest in the world on such seismically sensitive ground.

Looking up past strata hundreds of thousands of years old, she saw the sliver of sky grow smaller than a fingernail.

"Stop." The cage jerked still, darkness

above and darkness below.

A cave-in would bury her in seconds, but the scientist put the thought out of her mind.

She reached for her pick and focused on finding answers for the engineers above ground — and for the two men whose handshake a decade ago had inspired the ambition to build the Wilshire Grand.

For nearly nine decades, members of the California Club downtown have gazed upon this city's evolving skyline from Flower Street.

Los Angeles' first skyscraper, completed in 1904, stood 175 feet tall and was a few blocks east at 4th and Spring streets. The city later imposed height limits on its buildings, and for 40 years City Hall, rising 454 feet, was the most conspicuous exception.

In the summer of 2014, the honor of being the tallest building belonged to the U.S. Bank Tower—an imposing fireplug that looms over the California Club, where on a summer evening in 2004 Chris Martin and Yang Ho Cho met for



CHRIS MARTIN'S family had shaped the city's skyline. With this project, they hoped to redefine and re-energize it.

the first time over dinner on the outdoor terrace.

Their introduction had been arranged by Max Nikias, now president of USC but then the dean of the School of Engineering. He wanted Martin, an architect and USC alumnus, to meet the South Korean businessman, a fellow Trojan

With the city lighting up around them, they talked about their work. The Martin family helped design City Hall, and in succeeding decades had shaped the city's skyline. Martin and his cousin, David Martin, were the third generation to run A.C. Martin Partners.

Cho, 65, oversaw his family's business, which began as a freight company after World War II. Over the decades, Cho and his father developed Hanjin International Corp. into a multi-billion-dollar empire with assets that included Korean Air Lines

Korean Air Lines.

The friendship between Martin and Cho grew easily. They shared a love of airplanes, and they spoke about the challenges of guiding

their children into their businesses. Over time, they visited each other's ranches, one on an island off the coast of Korea, the other just outside of Yosemite National Park.

Five years after their first meeting, Cho dropped in on his friend. On a Friday afternoon in 2009, they sat in Martin's corner office overlooking 5th and Flower streets. Martin got his guest a Coke.

"I own this hotel down the street," Martin recalls Cho saying. "Everyone tells me not to pour any more money into it."

Cho's company had acquired the Wilshire Grand from Hilton Hotels Corp. in 1989 for \$168 million. He had taken steps over the years to improve the property at the corner of Wilshire Boulevard and 7th Street, but wasn't satisfied

and 7th Street, but wasn't satisfied.

"I've spent \$40 million trying to turn this into a four-star hotel, and

I think I've gotten only four onestar hotels," he told associates. Perhaps A.C. Martin could help.

Martin's staff assembled six

scenarios. Five laid out modifications to the hotel. The sixth argued for demolition and construction of a hotel and an office building in two separate towers.

"That's what I want to do," Cho

A previous study Cho commissioned had recommended against demolition, but he didn't agree. He believed a new development would symbolize his company's commitment to Los Angeles, and he believed that in spite of the recession, it was the time to make that statement.

Cho had another request as well, one that offered the Martins an opportunity they had never thought they would see. Cho wanted his friend's company to take charge of the design for the 2.7-acre site.

New high-rises are rare in Los Angeles, and when they do come along, the competition among

architects is fierce.

The Martins knew they weren't starchitects like Frank Gehry.

Their company had a sterling repu-

tation in Southern California but little visibility outside the region. Designing the tallest skyscraper in the West, a building both structurally sophisticated and beautiful, could change that.

But they knew there were no guarantees. Cho had been loyal, but loyalty can be fickle, especially on a high-stakes project like this, budgeted at \$1 billion.

Martin remembered a commission in Jakarta that his firm lost to I.M. Pei when the wife of the owner ran into the acclaimed architect at a cocktail party. Martin knew it was not uncommon for other architects to horn in on big projects once the city permits were secured.

Until the city approved the Wilshire Grand and Cho greenlighted the concept, the Martins wouldn't feel secure.

So they worked fast. The project manager, Thomas Properties Group, began negotiating city approvals, and David Martin began detailing the site with a plaza and a 45-story hotel with condominiums and a 65-story office building with



Photographs by MEL MELCON Los Angeles Times

tion by a crane into the core of the Wilshire Grand tower in downtown Los Angeles.

TEAMWORK

1.5 million square feet of space.

The City Council approved the project in March 2011, and everything seemed to be falling into place.

Then the unforeseen happened. The two towers no longer penciled out.

The market for office space had collapsed.

If a skyscraper is raised on the speculation that businesses will support it, then hope is raised on its aesthetic allure. The equation is a delicate one, and in Los Angeles in recent years, neither had balanced out.

"Following the stock market crash of '87, we thought that was it for Los Angeles," David Martin said. By the time the economy rebounded in the early '90s, businesses were shifting away from traditional office space toward more mobile work forces, he said.

"No more big buildings."

Cho hoped to reverse that trend, and early estimates had supported his gamble.

The footprint of the project, including the height of the towers, had been calculated so that the value of each floor, based on use, would pay the cost of construction.

would pay the cost of construction.
But by 2011, that calculation had soured. The demand for downtown office space plunged during the recession, recalled Ayalushim Getachew, who worked for Thomas Properties in managing the project.

With vacancy rates climbing to 19%, tall buildings were emptying out.

Bringing 1.5 million square feet of new office space on the market suddenly made no sense. Cho's advisers searched for new ideas.

They wondered if they could de-

They wondered if they could develop the project in phases: first the hotel, and then the office tower

when conditions improved.

But that idea introduced problems. Would guests want to stay at the hotel once construction

the hotel once construction started on the adjoining office tower?

Other suggestions followed:
Could they swap the towers

Could they swap the towers, putting the hotel and condos in the taller one? Or could both buildings become hotels, one more upscale than the other?

Cho's team ran hundreds of financial projections. None added

up.

Looking for answers, Cho began

to doubt Thomas Properties' role in managing the project.

During interviews for the job, Jim Thomas had shown a bold vision that set him apart from other candidates, whose presentations frustrated Cho because they lacked specifics.

"These people have traveled halfway around the world to hear your ideas," Martin recalled Cho telling one candidate. "Tell us about the project, or I'll throw you out of the room."

Thomas, whom Martin had known for 25 years, recommended demolishing the old hotel, and Cho hired him immediately.

But two years later, Thomas Properties seemed "stuck in office buildings, and there was never any progress," Cho recalled.

Cho asked Martin to take over management of the project.

No, Martin recalled saying.

"That's what Jim Thomas is for."

The impasse over the design broke when Cho's daughter, an executive vice president with the family's company, presented a new idea.

A graduate of Cornell University's School of Hotel Administration and USC's Marshall School of Business, Heather Cho managed operations of the hotels owned by Korean Air.

She had had reservations about building an office tower.

"We are a hotel and hospitality company and should rely more on our core values and expertise," she said.

No one Heather Cho spoke to could justify adding so much office space. She proposed combining the two towers into a single taller one with much less room for offices

Her father swiftly signed on, but he remained adamant about replacing Thomas Properties.

Martin finally agreed to take over and broke the news to Thomas, who according to Getachew felt betrayed.

Thomas declined to comment for this story.

On April 19, 2012, David Martin unveiled the design for a 73-story building with 900 hotel rooms and 400,000 square feet of office space, nearly a quarter of the original amount.

"When we went to one tower, all the pieces fell into place," he said. All but one. Martin and the engineers didn't have enough information about the stability of the

building site that was to support

the massive structure.

In the borehole, Rosalind Munro rotated the cage, her headlamp illuminating the closed-in walls. Down there, the musty air was tinged with the smell of petroleum and hydrogen sulfide, the odor of rotten eggs.

She hacked at the rock with her pick, careful not to trigger a cavein, and uncovered a seashell, a fragment of calcium carbonate nearly 4 million years old, encased in stone. She was looking for soil the consistency of Play-Doh, or for sediment that had changed color. Each would signal a weak bed for the foundation.

At the bottom of the hole, she suddenly heard the alarm. Oxygen levels had been falling as the sedimentary rock absorbed the element. She had completed her research. It was time to get out.

"Bring me up."
The cage jerked in its ascent.

She passed the layer of sand, silt and gravel deposited from the streams and rivers that had poured off the San Gabriel Mountains 100,000 years ago.

She passed the layer of fill, dirt packed with wood fragments, brick and concrete hauled here more recently.

more recently.

It could date to 1873, when Samuel Calvert Foy built a home thought to be the first three-story building in the city. Or maybe it went back to the days of the Studebaker dealership built after the Foymansion was moved. Or perhaps it had been shoveled here in 1950 after the Paul G. Hoffman Studebaker agency was leveled to make room for the new hotel.

Munro's couldn't guess. Her findings confirmed what her employer, the geotechnical consulting firm AMEC, had learned from previous tests.

Set upon bedrock known as the

Fernando Formation, the Wilshire Grand was going to have as perfect a base in the Los Angeles basin as any engineer could hope for.

Compressed by an ocean that once lay on top of it, the siltstone could be clawed, scraped and shaped for any foundation.

As the cage rose out of the hole,

the drilling crew swings it to a side and lowers it to the ground. Face streaked with dirt, Munro stepped into the sunlight, its rays

catching the tarped relic of the old

hotel slowly being torn down.

Descent into the borehole

On Feb. 23, 2013, geologist Rosalind Munro with the geotechnical firm AMEC stepped inside an open-air cage and was lowered into a borehole, 86-feet deep, at the corner of Wilshire Boulevard and Francisco Street. She conducted a visual inspection of the soil that was excavated to support the Wilshire Grand.

Special equipment

Rock shield keeps dirt and rocks - from falling inside the cage.

Aluminum cage provides a platform to stand on, approximately 21 inches in diameter and 7 feet tall.

Hard hat comes equipped with... LED headlamp

Air hose blows fresh air into -- the borehole.

Walkie-talkie allows Munro to talk to acolleague, positioned at the opening of the borehole to take notes and watch and listen for any emergency.

Safety harness attaches to the cage.

Boots are fabricated with a steel shield over the toes.



borehole. Working for at least six hours, the crew drilled a hole that was 24 inches in diameter and 86 feet deep.

Collar protects the rim of the hole from caving in and from rocks falling in.

Underground

Top strata

Beneath 12 inches of the asphalt roadbed,
Munro encountered soil containing wood fragments, brick and concrete, evidence of fill that had been moved to this site possibly as

long ago as 150 years.

Middle strata

For 20 feet, Munro encountered a combination of sand, silt and gravel, alluvial run-off from the San Gabriel Mountains 100,000 years ago.

Discoveries

FEET

20

25

60

65

70

75

80

The alluvium is mostly sand. Smaller than gravel, larger than silt, it is comprised of fragments of quartz and feldspar from the igneous rocks of the San Gabriel Mountains that were deposited here by the Los Angeles River 100,000 years ago.

Gas meter detects dangerous gases

and a drop in

oxygen levels.

The air smells musty, tinged slightly with the odor of petroleum and hydrogen sulfide, like the smell of rotten eggs.

"She reported a seepage, possibly from local irrigation or a tree trough on sidewalk.



Lower strata Starting at 23

Starting at 23 feet, Munro encountered rock-like siltstone, the Fernando Formation, created nearly 4 million years ago as the bottom of an ancient sea.

Pecten bellus

(scallop)

End of boring at 86 feet

At 50 feet, she unearthed a fragment of a seashell, a small swirl of calcium ... carbonate encased in stone.

At 51 feet, she found a tie-back, a steel rod that had been driven through the soil to support the excavation for the building across the street.

In the siltstone, she discovered numerous layers of concretions, rock formed millions of years ago by the interaction of silt and water and calcium carbonate.

Working with her pick, she freed a number of nodules, golf ball-sized concretions encased in the siltstone and often formed around shells.

With the cage resting on the bottom of the borehole, Munro finished examining the siltstone just before the alarm on the gas meter sounded. The siltstone, unexposed to air for millions of years, was drawing the oxygen out of the hole. She needed to get out.

(Soil textures are not to scale)

Sources: AMEC, Shoring Plan, Cefali & Associates, California Academy of Sciences
Graphics reporting by Thomas Curwen

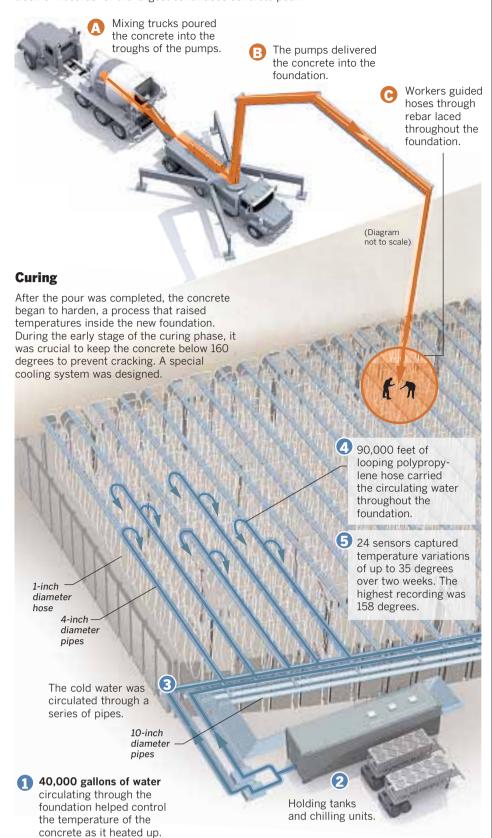
Lorena Elebbe, Javier Zarracina Los Angeles Times

The footprint of a giant

The Wilshire Grand is the tallest structure in Los Angeles. On the weekend of Feb. 15, 2014, construction crews, led by Turner Construction Co., laid the concrete foundation for the building that transformed the skyline of Los Angeles.

Pouring

Nothing on this scale had been recorded since 1999, when the foundation of the Venetian in Las Vegas was poured. The success of the Grand Pour put the Wilshire Grand in the Guinness Book of Records for the largest continuous concrete pour.



Sources: Turner Construction Co., Brandow & Johnston, Inc., AC Martin Inc. Graphics reporting by Thomas Curven, Lorena Elebee

The Wilshire Grand

The hotel and office complex include:

889 rooms

office space

- 376,441 square feet of
- 53,556 square feet of restaurant and retail space
- 5-level underground garage with 1,092 parking spaces
- · Terrace on the 73rd floor

Los Angeles Wilshire (900 Wilshire Blvd.)

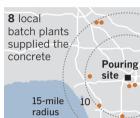
1,100 feet

The Grand Pour ballet

Organized and timed deliveries of concrete were crucial in the pouring of nearly 82 million pounds of the slurry, which had to be laid within 90 minutes of the initial mixing.

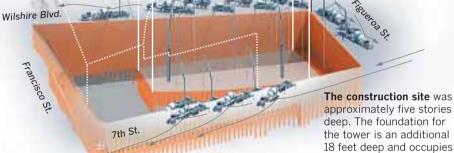
By the numbers

262 drivers 227 mixing trucks 19 pumps 13 hoses



The foundation The 2.8-acre area bears a

73-story tower, a seven-story podium with ballrooms, terraces and a pool. The tower's foundation was specially designed to help the building withstand earthquakes and windstorms.



LORENA IÑIGUEZ ELEBEE, JAVIER ZARRACINA Los Angeles Times

Orchestrating the laying of an ambitious concrete foundation was job of a lifetime

Michael Marchesano gazed out the window of his third-floor office in downtown Los Angeles and didn't like what he saw. In a far corner of an excavated pit, five stories deep and the size of a city block, stood a mound of dirt as big as a small house. It wasn't supposed to

weekend construction crew, looking like toy figures, was occupied with other jobs: tying together steel reinforcing bars, stringing polyethylene tubing, arcwelding a raker beam into a lag

be there.

It would be three more years before the completed Wilshire Grand tower would rise 1,100 feet above the corner of Figueroa Street and Wilshire Boulevard. With an open promenade and an enormous swoop of glass above the entrance, the translucent airplane wing 73 stories tall promised to redefine architectural possibilities in a city not known for its tall buildings.

Beneath its design was the engineering of what is arguably the most complicated high-rise ever built in the United States. Calculated to sway during powerful Santa Anas and absorb ground movement during the most severe earthquakes, it is wedded aesthetically and technically to the unique footprint of the region.

But what mattered in early 2014 was a pile of dirt.

Marchesano, a general superintendent for Turner Construction Co., knew he had no time to haul it away. A countdown clock on the wall gave him 7 days, 11 hours, 36 minutes, 7.8 seconds before the start of the Grand Pour, an ambitious attempt to lay the foundation of the building's central tower in one overnight session.

Of all the sites Marchesano had worked in the course of 30 years, none had been this complicated.



MICHAEL MARCHESANO, left, general superintendent, and Bill Depasquale, field operations superintendent, on the foundation. "How could you not want to be part of this?" Marchesano asks.

Nor, he suspected, would any be in the future.

This skyscraper, the tallest structure in the western United States, represented a career-defining moment, a daunting and glorious job that had to be approached one step at a time if sanity was to prevail.

The dirt mound was the next step. Just off to a side, they would have to work around it until it could be removed.

Then they would be ready to receive 2,120 truckloads of concrete in a hole 18 feet deep and nearly two-thirds the size of a football field. It had to be poured without

interruption in less than 30 hours. Nothing this size had ever been recorded. In 1999, construction of the Venetian in Las Vegas included

a continuous pour that made the Guinness Book of World Records. If the Grand Pour succeeded, it would be bigger.

Marchesano and his team had begun preparing nearly a year earlier: filing permits for street closures, having bus lines rerouted, ordering backup equipment and calculating drive times.

More than 350 workers would be on site, and 227 trucks on the road, looping from batch plants to downtown and back. Any glitch, injury, accident or freeway snarl would jeopardize the plan, and that wasn't even taking into account the weather. Rain or a heat wave could force delays. God would weigh in on that.

For a system as finely tuned as a rocket launch, everyone banked on success, leaving Marchesano to worry about failure.

Let other skyscrapers in other cities be built upon piles and caissons driven into bedrock. The foundation for the Wilshire Grand is a concrete slab.

Its specifications were drawn up by engineers who, after calculating the height and weight of the tower and the forces associated with earthquakes and windstorms, determined that it needed to contain 21,200 cubic yards of concrete and 7.1 million pounds of reinforcing steel.

By some calculations, those ingredients are enough to build an entire 10-story office building.

Design decisions are compromises driven by safety and cost. If the slab were to contain less concrete and be more shallow, it would require more reinforcing steel, and if it were to contain less steel, it would have to extend deeper into the bedrock. Eighteen feet was the

a portion of the site.

middle ground. For a time there had been talk about layering the foundation in two pours, each 9 feet deep. But given how difficult it would be to connect the two slabs, the idea was

The numbers for the Wilshire Grand - including 900 hotel rooms and 400,000 square feet of office space - had always impressed Marchesano, who at first was uncertain whether the pour would be

To pull it off, he knew he would need to find room for all the equipment on an already crowded site. He would also have to find a supplier who could make and deliver that quantity of concrete. Neither was a sure thing.

Such problems didn't exist in the open fields of Orange County where Marchesano learned the construction business in the 1980s. After graduating from high school in Irvine and digging trenches for an underground utility, he turned to construction.

He opened a demolition and concrete-cutting company that he named after his wife and children, but the economy turned on him. He lost his home. His mother died. His father had a stroke, and he and his wife split up.

Leaving the state in 1990, he found work on a cattle ranch in Colorado, earned the nickname "Hollywood" and moved up from cleaning feed troughs to riding and doctoring the herd. A year later, a phone call brought him back to Orange County to work for a local builder. He rented an apartment on Balboa Island where he lived with his three children, and he eventually remarried.

He joined Turner in 1999 and supervised the construction of such projects as Disney's Grand Californian Hotel and the Terranea Re-

[See Foundation, S15]



A Note from the Chairman

The Wilshire Grand is the realization of a dream and the completion of a promise.

When we purchased this property in 1989, we knew it had an elegant past but had seen the best of its days. I dreamt of a luxury hotel, stunning offices, high-end stores, popular restaurants and public plazas that would invite relaxation. The Wilshire Grand Center today is that dream come true.

We promised Los Angeles a unique property that would attract the best of the best. We delivered the crown jewel of Figueroa Street with 900 luxury hotel rooms, the first new downtown offices in 30 years, and architecture that redefines the essence of downtown.

The Center's tower is the tallest structure in the west and is creating a new Los Angeles skyline. Its unique exterior LED lighting will make the Center an iconic new landmark for the region.

I know the Wilshire Grand Center's InterContinental Hotel Downtown will help draw the international community to this beautiful site and the new hotel rooms will add to the City's ability to attract conventions and the Olympic Games.

The Wilshire Grand Center symbolizes our trust and faith in the strength and power of Los Angeles, the Capital of the Pacific Rim. Los Angeles is my second home and I am proud to make this contribution to its future success.

Some say the Wilshire Grand Center is perfect. But, according to the famous Buddhist monk Bubjung,

Perfection is not something that already exists;
Perfection lies in the in the ever-changing moments that comprise our lives.

This is one of those moments.

Thank you.

Yang Ho Cho Chairman Korean Air & Hanjin Group

Thanks to all who helped n



KOREAN AIR Jihee Jun Jongchul Kim Jong Chul Choi Jong Seok Yoo MinJong Cho Myeongsun Kim Oh June Kwon Sangjun Lee Seong Bae Cho Seungbum Lee Tae Woo Lee Wan Sang Park Yei Mok Kim

Jason Williams Jason Follett

Javier Garay

Jeff Marrs

Jerry Opzeeland Jesse Arrelano

Jesse Sanchez

Jesus Rodriguez

Jim Bock John Napoli John Yvellez John Carrillo John Boncich Yongwan Kim John Trumbul Johnathon Smith **AC MARTIN PARTNERS** Araceli Gomez Brad Carpenter Bruce Konschul Bryan Chavac Calvin Boyd Carey McLeod Charnice Burns Christine Tran Christopher Kin Christopher King Christopher C. Martin David C. Martin Joshua McLaughlin **Donna Clandening** Elisa de Dios-Hernandez Juan Mendoza Justin Lekos George vanGilluwe Justin Lekos Ken Stohr Gerardo Ramirez Kenny Tang Lanard Jenkins Greg Prelogar Grit Leipert Leo Fierro Luis Sanchez Inga Newso Isaac Luna Marco Giron J Jay Zapata Jennifer Anthony Jesus Banuelos Joanne Camach Jon Starr Jorge Medrano Ken Lewis Lalida Nakatan Michael McDermott Michael Black Melisa Sharpe Michael Lewis Mesrop Alimazyan Michael Kondo Michael Chang Michelle Shadpour Miguel Martinez Michelle Martini Mike Antonacci Naoko Miyano Milt Goodman

Tammy Jow Timothy Redmon Rashaun Sanders Ray Renneke Ricardo Palomar Hal Roach Richard Hand Jean Matsunaga Richard Yates Kathy Patito Richard Mcdonald Rick Riley Rj Falasca Oliver Santos Robert Bonte Ricardo Cruz Robert Dak Stephane Irankunz Rodolfo Ramire Rodolfo Ramire:

rick M. Martin

Nelson Aducaver

Nolon Orozco

Omar Beltrar

Paul Cuella

Ron Galbreath

Ron Galbreath Ron Falasca Ron Galbreath Ronald Canales Roscoe Nix Ruben Fabunan Ruben Mariscal

Rudy Troncoso Rudy Ramirez

Russell Meives

Sandy Britton

Scott Windisch

Saul Castro

Scott Clark

Sean Perrier

Soriano Sergio

Steven Lope Steven Ross Steven Wahlquis

Steve Britton

Vince Smith

Vrej Isagoulian Wayne (Marvin)

William Gonzales

Alfredo Garibay

Andrew Zarate

Arthur Gutierrez

Chris Miller

David Salgado

Oscar Salazar

Randy Gonzales

Ricardo Sandova

Robert Ovalles

Ronnie Lechnya

Steve McDaniel

Steven Mellard

Abelardo Orona

ARAGON

Patrick Ortiz

David Stec

Son le

Alexander Aguia Alvin Carstenser Anibal Chaldez Anthonie Alvarez Anthony Gutierrez Antonio Arellano Bark Tong Benjamin Gage Brandon Scott Brett Fredenburg Bryan Graha Buck Franze Christopher Zich Craig Reynolds Daniel Puckett David Habecke David Garcia David Habe

Elvarado Banuel Eric Frazier

Eugenio Maldonado

Eric Porras

Erwin Chavez

Fareed Thomas

Frank Quinonez

Friolan Ramirez

George Drake

George Ortiz

Fernando Vasquez

Fernando Lizarraga

Albert Johnson Edward Maldonado Eric Garo Eric Garcia
Ernesto Mellado
Francisco Vazque:
Frank McCracken
Humberto Ibanez
Ivan Maldonado
Jesus Hurtado
Joe Pasillas
John Rubio
Lose Zambrano Jose Zambrano Kristofer Gonzalez Leonard D. Ayala Matt Aragon Raymond Bennett Reginald Edwin Hardly Richard Abbott Roberto Loza Roman Campos Ruben Lopez Santiago Montes Tirharga Stone Yiovang Sanchez

ASSA ABLOY DOOF ASSI SECURITY Jose Franco Mario Rivas Jr Orane Miller Robert Roman Valerie Kelly

Waldo Castro BAGATELOS Alan Lombarde Armando Barraza Cory Clerico Danny Schoonover David Mendoza Kevin Curton Kevin Studebak Sal Gomez Steve Wells Victor Aguilera

Brian Labit Dave Cullinan Derek McDermed Jessica McMurtrie Jesus Rodriguez Jesus Diaz Luis Valenzuela ses Hernande Omar Sadova Santiago Mora Sergio Lopez Zach Portillo

BAPKO eiandro Villaseno Francisco Starkweath Francisco Ordaz Frank Garcia Gilberto Orejel Jason Corder Jason Kisner Jeff Ahmadzai Jorge Marroqu Juan Carlos Rios Julio Valadez Kyle Stamper Léonel Blancas Manuel Fukay Ricardo Martine Roberto Marque

Wilson Boliva BENSON INDUSTRIES, INC

BORBON
Alejandro Valdez
Alfonso Becerra
Alfredo Robledo
Allen Carberry
Aureo Gutierrez
Camilo Ramirez
Carlos Estrada
Carlos Galeano BORBON Carlos Galeano Carlos Mouncada Cory Street Daniel Gonzalez Daniel Reyna **David Morales** Eddy De Leon Edwin Zamacona Eider Bucso Eladio Perez Espiridon Garcia Everett Jimenez Federico Rodria Fuentes Lima George Santanden George Ramos Geovanni Mazariegos Gerardo Orozco Harry Velasquez Hernan Villarreal Ignacio Melindez Jaime Diaz Jason Hernandez Jason Hernandez Jesse Aguirre Jesus Romero Jesus Rincon Jesus Marquez Joel Larticchia Johnny Abyad

Jorge Arevalo

Jorge Reynaga Jorge Arrealo

Jorge Andrade

Jorge Arejaid Jose Monroy Jose Torres Julian Andujo Kevin Egan Lance Copley Leobardo Arambulo Luis Gonzalez Maria Valencia Marico Arevalo Mario Yanez Marlon De Leon

Mauro Gaytan Michael Felix Michael Salas Miguel Ayala Nick Jaramillo Octavio Gallardo Pablo Nazario Sergio Ramirez Sergio Lopez **Uriel Reveles** Victor Palamor

Virgina Megueriar Wilmar Velazquez **BRADFORD** Aubrey Johnson Clemente Martinez **Daniel Martinez** Edgar Medina Eduardo Ordaz Eric Smither Francisco Ordaz Hilano De La Clare

Victor Lopez

Beth Aldrich Gerard M. Nieblas Jaime Orozco Jeff Lubberts Jefferson Hang Josh Gebelein Mike Fotch Peter J. Maraniar Phuoc Tran Sema Akvurek Servando Torres Shigeru Kono Steve Lam Steve Carrillo

> **BRANDOW &** JOHNSTON/ UDC-CIVIL & ENVIRONMENTAL Dr. Amit Kanvinde BREEN ENGINEERING, II Evan Fernandez

Paul Breen Chris Forney Drew Shula Melanie Bontusa Scott Lewis Adrian Castillo

Adrian Baeza Alexis Salgado Brian S. Mccarty Bruno Basulto **David Montes** David Vidrio David Corona Eduardo Salgado Elov Constantin Jose Diaz Nicolas S. Gutierrez

Ramon Sanchez Raul Robles Rodger Culpeppe Sergio Ludwig Vicente Salgado CBS Alcadia Lopez Johnny Murillo Jonathan Munoz Jorge Juarez Jose Romisa Jose Lopez Jose Luis Villanueva Josue Figueroa Juana Maldando Lucia Alvarado

Osmar Albillo Paulin Balder Pedro Albillo Sonys Rodriguez Wilber Melgar

CHOATE PARKI **CONSULTANTS, INC** Emerson Flint Fernando Sanchez Hector Ultreras Michael Vetters Richard "Rick" Choate **CINI LITTLE** Daniel Kwon James H. Little, FFCSI Joseph Grijaly

CITY OF LOS ANGELES, DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING AND SAFETY Aldo Ubau Charles Chang Charmie Huynh Darla Abel **Donald Crichlow** Francis Ysaguire Frank Bush Ifa Kashefi James Powers Jameson Lee John Hua John Weight

Johnny Yutronich Joseph Eikenberr Kim Arther Leslie Trujillo
Luis Figueroa
Marcus Levias
Michael Mclay
Mike Packard
Osama Younan
Pascal Challita
Peter Callae **BRANDOW & JOH**

Richard Dockus Rickey Jacksor Ryan George Sorin Varciag Stephen Dawson Steve Palchanis Tim Wang Wai Lau Adam Maldonado

Alan Sandahl Teo Francu Alberto Aranda

Arnoldo Rodrigue Arnulfo Garcia Benjamin DeLeor Billy Mantos Bryan King Carlos Castillo Carlos Gonzalez Carlos Saucedo Christian Morales Christian Morale Christopher Logan Chuck Ellis Claudio Melara Dana Goar Daniel Rodriguez Daniel Ramos Daniel Martinez Daniel Garibay Darash Iranneja David Smith David Ortiz David Hernandez **David Harris** David Espinoza

Doug Westling Eduardo Padilla

Gabriel Castaneda Ralph Satterfield Guadalupe Jimenez Gus Asaad Gustavo Guzman-Arrieta Gustavo Gutierrez Haik Abrahamian Hugo Morales Jack Ulloa

lgnacio Rodriguez Jack Ulloa Jr Jaime Cerda James Anthony Per Jonathan Fuente Jorge Cureno Jorge Hernandez Jorge Lopez Jorgw Portillo Jose Gutierrez Jose Alcantara Jose Jaquez Jose Estevez Marbella Albillo Marcos Ortiz Mario Gardea Jose Alvarado Maybelin Guzmar Jose Hernandez Jose Raygoza Monica Hurtado

Juan Mendez Julian Quijaoa Kevin Roland Ji Kevin Maloney Kevin Hapes Leonel Isidoro Margarito Velasquez Mario Cerda Martin Delgado Mathew Bill Mauricio Pareues Michael Savage Michael Ditri

Miguel Castaneda Miguel Esquivel Castaneda Jr Oscar Cont Oswaldo Larrina Raul Chora Kerry Bowden (retired) Lily Gin Marleen St. Marie Michael Perigard Philip Steeves

> Ruben Saucedo Ruben Uribe Salvador Soto Santos Servin Steve Bloomfield Thomas Torres Tim Pwebb COMET ELECTRIC

Ronnie Perez

Ignacio Cobian Jeff Flannery Jose Garcia Leonardo Martir Leonidas Lara Zuniga Miguel Rodriguez Omar Camargo Othoniel Lopez Pedro Durar Revnaldo Sierra Victor Gonzalez **CLEVELAND MARBL**

CONCO Aaron Zanudo Adam Meraz Andres Cruz Gonzalez Angel Maulion Anthony Procto Antonio Heredia Antonio Cortez Antonio Avalos Antonio Perez Armando Salazar Art Aguilar Art G. Aguilar Arturo Hernandez Atenogenes Vasquez Barry Christopher Basilia B. Calderor Branden Whittlesey Brandon Weil

Christopher Becerra Daniel Golden **Daniel Varelas Daniel French** Daniel Yruegas Daniel Varelas Danny Arriola David C. Yanez Chavez Ernest Pulido Ernesto Escudero Ernesto Flores Eziquel Becerra Fausto Albino

Felipe Garnica

Fermin Vazquez

Fernando Fierro

Fernando Cervantes

Fernando Francisco

Fidel Gonzalez .lr

Fortino Suarez Francisco Salazar Francisco Hernandez Frank Chavoya Frank Carpenter Fredy Salazar George Domingo, Salas Gerardo Aldapa Gerardo Meija Gerardo Mejia Gerardo Torres Gilbert Brizuela Gonzalo Vasquez Gorge Carrillo Greg Child Guadalupe Meraz Guillermo Arteaga Gustavo Pelayo Gustavo Valencia Henry Campos Herbert Palacios Fred Weiss Heriberto Garci Hervin Flores Hugo Martinez

Janice Ohta Hugo Martinez Hugo Martinez Ignacio Diaz Ilario Sahagun Ines Ney Arelland Isaac Reynoso Ismael Castaned Ismael Gallegos Ivan Hernandez Jesse Zavala Jr Jonathan Teieda Jose Gariba Jose Gariba Josh Fricke Osvaldo Rivera Rita Reyna Romero Gonzalez Ruben Naranjo Saul Casillas Sergo Gonzalez Spencer Wilson Steve Decker Thomas Pico Jaquinius Robinsor Javier Hernandez Jaye Villa Jessi Casillas Jesus Orozco Torres Jesus U. Landeros Jesus Valencia Ibarra Zacarias Francisco Jimmy Gomez **CONTRACT DÉCOR** Joel Gutierrez John Hipolito Johnny Lockett Jonathon Sanc Jony Ochoa David Stewar **Gregg Cooper** Jony Ochoa Jorge Villalobos Jorge Gomez Jorge Hernandez Jorge A. Rodriguez Jorge A. Velasco Jorge A. Chong Jose A. Ambriz Vareld Jose L. Padilla Jose Velasco Leonard Welch

Jose Aguera Jose Trujillo Jose Miranda Jose Villegas Jose A. Vazquez Jose A. Diaz Jose A. Torres Jose L. Perez Jose L. Marquez Jose L. Cardenas Jose Luis Sotelo Jose Luis Bodrique Jose Luis Aguila Juan Ortiz Juan Velasco Juan B. Ramirez Juan Carlos Gonzalez Julian Torres Karo Topchyan

Kevin Sillas Lee Whyms, III Leonel M. Gallegos eopoldo Alcocei Luis Marquez Luis Casillas Manuel Velasco Manuel Robles Manuel Landeros Manuel J. Castro Mariano De Paz Mariano De Paz Mario T. Pierce Martin Hernande: Martin Ledezma Martin A. Sanche Maurice D. Murph Miguel Lopez Miguel Andrade Nick Alpaugh

Rodolfo Rey Salvador Arroyo Steve Robles Tomas Estrada Aaron Alarcon Adapto Garcia Onesimo Campo: Andres Alvarez Osvaldo G. Amezcua Andrew Ramirez Parriss Stull, Sr Eric Gomez Pascual Barron Eric Villapondo Pascual Gomez Erik Loaza Patrick J. Schiavello Gilbert Franco Philip Buck Ramiro Del Rio Jose Alarco Ramiro Ruiz Ramon Hernandez Raymond M. Lope Raymond M. Lope Refugio Perez Refugio Perez Reynaldo Cienega Ricardo Granados Ricardo Hernando Ricardo Ruiz Ricardo Garay Walter Young Richard Walder Richard Lindstrom Ricky Millan Adan Cruz Rigoberto A. Varela Fredy Lopez Robert Alfredo Munoz Geovanni Elias Rodolfo Heredia Humberto Vasquez Rodolfo Hernandez Jason Brannon Rodrigo Lopez Rony Sotelo

Jesus Diego

Meliton Torres

Kyle Woodward Malcolm Douglas

Rony Otero-Gadea

Ruben Perez

Ryan Dove

Victor Chairez DURAY Salvador Gallegos Daniel Olswan Gerardo Varga: Robert Lepik Scott Morgan **ELLJAY ACOUSTI** David Santibane. Eduardo Garcia Ernesto Trejo Frank Goodie Tomas Camargo

Vicente Arciaga-Rangel Mitch Rethwisch Virginio Ruiz Zeferino G. Rodriguez Monce Romero Nikolay Vinnikov Randy Harris David Barraza Robert Duran Dennis Mebane Scott Kelsey Sergio Guerrero Steven Kirby Giovanny Gomez **FORTUNE SHEPLER** Jamie Fortune Jim Fortune Scott Sheple

GERDAU Anthony Tuvalu Anthony Thompso Armando C. Altamirano Audelino A. Ramirez Branden Walker Brian Byrd Bruce Ball Calbert Begay Chad Fiscus Chris Walker Chris Lee Christian Robles

Marcos Mendez Mathew Centen Nicholas Schaub Nicholas Wright Robert McCulloch COURTNEY Abraham Basaldya David Vargas **David Range** Davon Tittle, Sr. Dent Tadaka **Derek Santos** Devonte Merrifield Dominic Rabay Donovan Passi Doug Jordan Efrain Vega Douglas Rottier Duwone Oard Enrique Órozco Enrique Sanchez Dylan Campbel Esteban Sanchez Evaristo Sanchez Felipe Gonzalez Fernando Jacobo Fernando Jacobo Florence Begay Francisco Islas, Jr Francisco Ramire: Gabriel Orellana Gary Hartwig Fernando Ochoa Filberto Rizo Francisco Badillo **Gariel Cervantes** German Estrada Gary Jr., Wynglar Ignacio Mongui Jaime Gonzalez Glen Candelaria Heath Perrault **Hector Uribe**

Henry P. Diaz

Isaiah Buffingtor

Jacinto, Rubio Pascua

Jacqueline Pruit Jose Tadeo Jose Lara Javier Munoz Jose Aguirre Joshua Beeks Juan Balderrama Julio Juarez Ken Hawthorne Luis Chavez Luis Gonzalez Jovante Frysor Luis Antonio Gonzalez Juan Perez Manuel Abrego Marcos Suorez Julio Alvarez Julio Varela Julymer Ediza Keith Kurovsky Kelvin Williams Kendall Moore Kenneth Latu Lamonica B. Dillor Lee Colledge Luis Sanchez Luis Polanco Manuel A. Martine

Michael Waller Noah Farshad Oscar Lopez Parriss (Mikel) Stull, Sr. Paul Olivas Paul Olivas Pedro Banda Perry Bell Rafael Marquez Rafael Chavez Raul Aleman Raul, Jr. Carraso Raymond Gray Rene Guerra Rex Kamoss Richard Smith, Jr. Richard Segura Richard Santiago Richard T. Johnson Robert Norris Robert Berumen Robert Berumen Ronnie Charley Ruben Laurente Ryan Fisher Sebastian Alonzo Sefi E. Dery

Steve Velez

Tony Cerza

Tony P. Cerza

Traves Smith

Victor Aquila

Tony Lemmon

Zack E. Palfy GLUMAC Brian Johnston

Joseph Fong Kameron Beek Kimberly Tran Laurie Michelon Michael Ho

Kristopher Haycook Mirno Del Rosario Nune Yegiazaryan Shamir Mohideen Souren Torossian Steve Straus Steve Hoerig Sung Ju Tee Yatpiyakul **GOODWIN CONSULTING** Bob Goodwin HASSON

Andrew Piscopo Anthony Costello Aristeo Hernandez Arlo Valverde Arnold Hall Arnulfo Solis **Baltimore Wagner** Cesar Avalos Christopher Whitzel

Craig Bergfors Douglas Coromac Edgar Serrantos Enrique Gil Ervin Lasane Jr Fabio Moreno Jorge Lemus Jose Cedillo Jose Avila Jose Noyola Juan Perez Lenny Siordia Leonel Jimenez Luis Ramirez Manuel Olmos Pedro Aguilar Prospero Hernandez Raul Canizalez Rene Ramblaz Richard Tarin Robert Rodriguez Robert Gordon Robert Rasm **RObert Cristobal** Rodolfo Lopez

HEITMANN &
ASSOCIATES, IN
Andy Andrews
Charles Kilper
Glenn Heitmann
Phil DeSautell Adam Rincon Alan Olick Alberto Hernandez Alvaro Santiona Alvaro Garcia Angel Vargas Antonio Mejia Armando Villa Arturo Lopez

Rodrigo Ceballos Ronald Jones

Brandon Burnett Brittney Zuniga Bryan McLeod Bulmaro Villa Carl Maldonado Carlos Santizo Carlos Escobar Charles Nightingale Christina Greystone Cody Gerstel/new LN-Dykstra Dana Barone Dana Barone Daniel Haro Daniel Aleman Daniel Perez David Ramos Edson Bernal Eduardo Villa Enriquez Marfrid Eric Peebler Erik Garcia

Felix Estrada Fernando Arreola Fernando Armenta George Garibay Gerardo Camon Gerardo Camon German Villa Gerrad Gerber

Ivan Gonzalez

Jaime Jimenez
James Lesperani
James Kennedy
Javier Ramon
Jesse Cervantes
Jesse Alvarez
Jesus Villanueva
Jesus Zapian
John Barlow
Jorge Reina
Jose Fuerte Jose Fuerte Jose Dondiego Greg Timmerma Jose Rodriguez Guillermo Adame Jose Gomez Jose Medina Guoxiang Zhony Hector Vazquez Joseph Kirkland Hector Anguiano Juan Parra Henry Torres Henry Magana Juan Torres Juan Reyes Juan Gonzalez Humberto LopeZ Ignacio Meza Irvin Castillo Irwin Pacheco Kevin Kinyon Kimberly Woodbury Kyle Winn Jacob Campbell Javier Montoya Javier Galvan Javier Valencia Leland Richardson Jesus Lugo

Leonel Mendez Leonel Estupinan Lilyan Menendez Lorenzo Rusconi Lorenzo Rusconi Louis Hernandez Lucas Smith Lucio Fernandez Luis Bermudez Luis Torres Manley McNinch Manuel Degadillo Marcus Bevel Jorge Avina Jorge Cardona Jose Rueda Jose Quintero Mario Estrada Joshua Collins Mark Mc Carte Josue Fierros Katelynne Tyle Martin Gallardo Lacey Zaycher Luis Ortiz Melinda Gonzalez Micah Roberts Luis Flores Miguel Simental Mario Noriega Mark Loeffler Michael Mendor Nancy Rangel Olga Avila Paul Duniad Miguel Sanche Philip Rowland Phillips Jones Rafael Santana Misael Pastrana Nick Elle Nick Angulo Octavio Villagomez Onesimo Munoz rafael Ambri: Pascual Cubias Patrick Doran

Paul Quintero Pedro Hermosillo Philip Rivera Salvador Hernandez III Rafael Ramirez Rafael Escoba Rafael Castillo JR Rafael Castillo Shad Mohammed Steven McClam Rene FLores Tamara Hawes Thomas Anderson Tomas Rosoles Victor Delgado Victor Correa William Hickman L2 SPECIALTIES Anthony Thompso Robert Luna II Rodolfo Zatarair Rogelio Lozano

Rouben Sarian

Ryan Luna

Steve Gorbutt

Victor Marque

ISENBERG &

KINYON Aaron Gibson Abel Tejada Adam Harleman

Adrian Barragar

Alberto Naranjo

Alberto Ramirez

Alfonso Delgadillo

Alex Espinoza

Alfredo Aguilar

Angel Holguin Anthony Tineo

Anthony Meade

Antonio Rodrigu Antonual Brice

Armand Franco
Audrey Ceja
Boris Flores
Brandon Vizcarra
Brett Evans
Bryan Butler
Carlyn Mcdonald
Cesar Carlos
Christopher Flores
Christopher Moren

Craig Lynn

Crystal Ramirez

Daniel Castro

Daniel Flores

Danny Messe

Darnell Lucky

David Felix

Dominic Gome

Dominic Gome Edgar Ramirez Eduardo Felix Edwin Lopez Edwin Aguirre Efren Jimenez Ernesto Godoy Evrol Andrews

Fernando Tshmblanga

Gabriel Bermundez Sr

Francisco Orellana

Gabriel Burmudez

German Rodriguez

Gilberto Camarena

Guadalupe Duncan

Hans Crawley Heriberto Garcia

Irma Rodriguez

George Cabrera

Gilmar Domingo

Gabriel Loera

Alex Correl

Thomas Macearland

Eduardo Estrad Nicholas Hernandez Richard Linnastruth Ruben Zarco Shane Leasher Sonny Esquiue

> Steven Tamayo **LERCH BATES** Kevin Thompson Lance McMasters **LIGHTING DESIGN ALLIANCE** A.G. Dilshad Ahamatt Amy Pennebacker Andrew "Andy" Powell Arex Soontharu Charles "Chip" Daniel Cortes

MALCOLM DRILLING Adan Mendez Alvaro Lozano Andrew Mackie Anthony Castanor Arturo Bautista Brendon Cendejas Chandler Noble Christian Alvarado Daniel Ortiz Emilio Simental Eusebio Garcia **Garrett Nanos** Gustavo Medina Juan G. Rodriguez Juan Manuel Aragon Jr Kevin Castanon Luis Jimenez Manuel Ayala

Manuel Ayala

Miguel Bernal

Miguel Favela

Rich Elwart

Ramiro Hernande:

Thomas Le Beau

MARTIN BROTHERS

Angel Yanez Arturo Salcedo Augelbento De Dios Aurelio Lepe Carmen Ortiz Cesar Jimenez Che - Phi Hy Daniel Olivas edgar cisernos edgar cisernos Efren Grave Elfego Lopez Eloy Duarte **Erwin Torres** Fidel Quiroz

Robert Paplia Scott Lee Theron Soteros Thomas White Tim Novwels Travis Davis Victor Escobedo Victor Rodriguez Wayne Conelana

William Le Maste

Abel Castro-Garcia

Acacio Reyes Alejandro Mayer

Angel Romero

Antonio Avelai

Armando Murillo

Barbaro Hernandez

Bernabe Pastrana

Calixto Rodriguez

Enrique Castano

Esteban Morales

Everardo Jimenez

Everardo Jimenez

Felipe Quinonez

Fenerico Ibarra

Fernando Navarro

Francisco Natividad

Felix Bravo

Carlos Lopez-Caballero

Calixto Segura

NORTH STAR

Evidulfo Librado Eziquel Rodriguez Fausto Gaxiola Fernando Borjas Gadi Lopez Jaime Nunez Jason Almonte Cesar Arredinda Clemente Rodriguez Clemente Rodriguez Dario Rojas David Lopez Edgar Alvarez Edgar Galicia Eduardo Hernandez Elizabeth Torres Emmanuel Lopez Juan Juarez Leonardo Martinez Luis Rojas Manuel Cortes Manvel Morales Martin Rodriguez Miguel Acosta Miguel Manzo Miguel Acosta Nelson Romero Pedro Antonio Campos Ramon Garcia Reyes Palma Ruben Sanchez Sabas Martinez Salvador Hernan Victor Borjas

Fredy Carayeo Gabriel Mendez Gabriel Martinez Geraldo Santiago German Gonzalez Wence B. Padilla Hector Felix Andrea Ramella Christopher C. Martin. Danielle Martin Spicer

Melinda Walker MBJ Jesus Castaneda Anthony Monroe Anthony Wayne Jesus Borojas Fagan, Jr. Arron Hoskins Jonathan Torres Jorge Sainz Jose Izaquirre Chris Fultor Jose Martinez Jose Santaneno Jose Guadalupe Juan Morales Juan Zamudio Doug Gray Jonathan Young Juan Pablo Velasque Jose Alvarez Joseph Hightowe Julian Del a Luz Khary Daise Lawrence King Lawrence Blanno Leo Jimenez Medran Robinson

Melvin Kidd MCKENDRY DOOR

Mario Solorzano

Navarro Arnulfo

Norberto Rios

Omar Navarro

Oscar Gutierrez

OScar Gutierrez

Osvaldo Gonzalez

Oscar Ayala

Pablo Lopez John Maniard Pedro Martinez Michael Luce Sergey Tokarets Rafael Juvencio Rafael Juvencio Adam Vallejo Adrian Sanchez Adrian Sanchez Alfons Wetzstein Alfredo Barcenas Angelo Serigna Anthony Barcenas Sergio Quiroz Sergio ROdriguez Antonio Mora Brent Ghent Ventura Sanchez

Darin Ravy

Frank Luzano

Gabriel Diaz

Jose Quintero

Keith Cyons

Moises Torres Jr

Nate Novwels

Nick Gutierrez

Norm Sanborr

Octavio Hernande

Wilson Barrios Abel Alvarado Adrian Baeza Andy Burgos Anthony Macedo Daniel Casarez Armando Morales Arturo Esparza Brvan Kester Fernando Gutierre: Chris Wilson Francisco Carrillo Chris Driscoll Frank Quintero Daniel Perez Daniel Herrera Edward Normar George Hernandez Jesus Torres
Jose Cruz
Maurice Hale
Michael Aguirre Jose Rodriguez Manuel Osuna Marcus Correia Mathew Hernandez Matt Fredericks

Rany Prak Rene Rodriguez Albert Monfort Alexander Reyes Allen Ward Andrew Johnson Andrew Vallowe Anthony Meehl Anthony Phillips Ben Mathis Benjamin Bejarano Branden Long Brent Nix Bryon Chiles

nake this dream come true. Yang Ho Cho Chairman Korean Air & Hanjin Group



Chad Weave Chris Miller
Chris Elbery
Chris Frazier
Colin Pearson
Corey Gibas
Cuauhtemoc Castro
Daniel Markley
Dantonio Mckinney
Darlyn Rosario
Dave Gentzler
David Rodriguez
David Smith Dean De Las Alas Dennis Martin **Douglas Wright Eddy Toapanta** Elias Kotto Emmanuel Moreno Eric Tate Eric Venegas Eric Bronikowski

Neptali Millaville Omar Galnoo Patricia Herron Rey Jimenez Richard Ibarra Richard Alvarez Robert Nelson Robert Walczak Robert Miranda Rodrick Nicholss

Rodrick Nicholson Ryan Meyer

Sergio Carmona

Sergio Reyes

Sergio Segura

Lopez Shawn Bowen

Servando Hernandez-

Travis Curtis

Tracy Gillard Tristan LaLove Troy Teutsch PARK WEST Cameron MacDonald Cameron MacDonald
Carlos March Rodriguez
Carlos Gonzalez Garcia
Cesar Ruelas
Damien Barajas
Daniel Navarro
Edgar Alvarado
Eduardo Avila
Emmanuel Lozada
Ezequiel Betancourt
Fernel Gamez Feleix Duc Duc Truona Garrett Daly Gerard Degan Giancarlo Guanvechio Giancarlo Guanv Gil Alvarez Greg Barnes Henry Luna Jake Reiter James Denton James Head Jason Ricchiardi Javier Garcia Jeff Long Jeff Engholm Jeff Gibas Gilberto Saucedo Hector Enciso Heriberto Garcia Jesus Navarro Ruiz Jeremy Horton Jose Sandoval Juan Roman Juan Moreno Juan Carlos Ceja Manuel Rojo John Kriss Manuel Rivas Jon Henning Mario Maya Lopez Mark Fragola Oscar Hernandez JOn Pover Jonathan Salaza Jorge Gutierrez Rafael Lopez Ramiro Velazquez Joshua Sluka Justin Gibbs Sergio Lopez Summer Munez

Alex Mack Domingo Elizarraraz Dominio Elizarraraz Ernesto Canchola George Rice Helmer Prtillo Joe Alfaro Joe Barragan Jorge Moreno Julio Topete Miguel Henderson Karl Douroux Liana Tagaloa Nicholas Metzger Nick Barta Luis Aldana Oscar Vasquez uis Martinez OScar Astorga Paula Bryant Richard Tapia Rob Rayne Roberto Huerta Santiago Marir Roberto Ordone Nestley Varga Russ Elmore Ryan Siebers Ryan McKinno William Mesi PEREZ CONSTRUCTION Adriel Martinez Alberto Siordia Alexander Galindo Allan Sanches Andrew Silva

Sam Johnson Scott Congrove Scott Springfield Scott Jones Sergio Delgado Shawn George Steve Guthrie Trevor Mass Tyler Achroyd Vicent Rodrigue Angel Hernandez Angel Perez Brandon Beck Carlos Gomez Christian Gomez Ciro Castillo Yvette Martinez PAN PACIFIC Albert Armijo Alfredo Gonzalez Alvaro Guadarrama Andrew Davalos Jose Antonio-Lopez Andy Wightman Anthony Giddens Jose Hernandez-Perez Jose Suarez Juan Rodriguez Juan Carlos Parada Juan Carlos Bello Cody Zaruba Louie Rivera Luis Cruz Marco Avalos Mario Roias Mario Acosta Noah House Omar Ruiz Raul Martine: Fernando Nevarez Gilberto Villalobo

Jamal Maxey Stephen Gireer Travis Gandara James D. Stremple James D. 'Suess Jesus Chavez Alexander Reyes Angel Gomez Jimi Priest Anthony Coppa Jimmy Timmons Joe Briley Joel Preston Benjamin Hernandez Jose Martinez Charles Harris Cody Deschamp Daniel Pena Daniel Quezada John Martinez John Patin John Schmidt Jonathan Schug Larry Jones Mario Avalos Luis Aceves Manuel Mendoza Mark Madrid Mario Gonzalez Mark Shafer Mark Gonzalez Margues Hooper Mark Bell Mathew Long Michael DePalma Michael Diaz Michael Van Ness Mike Rutherford Michael Menear Michael Sanchez Patrick Esquerra

Robert Diaz

Robert Jr. Ortea

Ruben Lomeli

Miguel Cortez Mitchell Miles

Mychal McQueer

Hector Prado

Hector Ochoa

Hiram Mendez

Humberto Huizar

Ivan Hernandez

lacient Montei

Javier Ruiz

Jay Orozco

Jerry Flores

Jerry Reyes Jesse Muro

Jesus Rendor

Jesus Mora

Jesus Guerra

Jesus Lopez

Jesus Baraias

Jesus Gonzales

Jesus Martinez

Iber Garcia

Joe Chavez
Joe Prall
John Pelayo
Johnny Estrada
Johnny Urieta
Jose Espinoza
Jose Montero
Jose Nevarez
Jose Espinoza
Jose Jimenez
Jose Jimenez
Jose Javago Jose Zayago RAYMOND GROU Jose Garcia Aldo Garcia Jose Sanchez Alejandro Rangel Jose Garcia Alejandro Castro Jose Zaragoza Alejandro Gonzale: Alejandro Rodriguez Jose Magana Alex Rodriguez Joseph Ruiz Joseph Lazo Alex Carreon Alexander Valentor Joshua Smith Alexander Rodriguez Jovani Ramire: Juan Estrada Juan Gomez Anastacio Lopez
Angel Martinez
Angilberto Correa
Anthony Cuevas
Anthony Thomas
Anthony Corona
Anthony Ochoa
Anthony Garcia Juan Estrada Julio Monroy Keifer Kinkaid Kevin Aguilar Antonio Flores Kevin Bernard Antonio Montano Kevyn Molina Kii Holloway Antonio Vandre Armando Espinoza Ladd Carlson Lane Centanni Arturo Holguir Leo Quiroz Benito Davila Leonardo Muno Blady Ambriz Leslie Card Lorenzo Delgado Louie Navarro Brad Regalbuto Brian Medina Chris Cardero Clayton Viter Luis Lopez Luis Rodriguez Daniel Olivas Luke Montez Daniel Arias Daniel Navarro Marcos Duanos Daniel Aguilar Daniel Aguilar JR Mario Ruiz Mario Reyes Martin Guzman Danny Lewando Danny Estrada Martin Aguila Martin Banuenos David Medina David Marshal Martin Beltran Mel Quiroa Michael Licea Michael Herande Donte Dunlap Dylan Griffin Eddie Seja Edgar Sanchez Edward Hanley Edward Montano Edwin Espinoza Efrain Castro Efrain Rendon Elias Martinez-Cor Elijah DeLuna Norman Cabrera Octavio Martine: Enrique Chavez Jr Octavio Garcia II Orlando Ordones Eric Westlund eRIC Hutchins Oscar Hernandez Eric Leatherwood Oscar Huizar Erick Solorio Pablo Gomez Erik Valdespino Paul Castelland Paulino Garcia Ernesto Rodrique: Ernesto Rodriguez Erwin Melgar Esteban Albarran Esteban Quiroz Ezequiel Moreno Fausto Aguila Felipe Noel Felipe Morales Felipe De Jesus Rios Jr Felix Fanti Fernando Vasquez Fernando Aispiro Randy Espinosa Fernando Aispirp Randy Centanni Raudel Carlin Fernando Perez Clemente Raul Martinez Filimon Herandez Ray Cortes Francisco Rendon Raymond Gonzalez Francisco Ramirez Raymundo Avendano Francisco Mendoza Raymundo Lopez Frank Montero-Camacha Reves Mendoza Freddy Johnson Ricardo Alvarez Freddy Pena Fredy MOlina Ricardo Reves Ricardo Ayon Richard Nworisa Gabriel Angulo Richard Beachma Richard Beachma Richard Rannis Rigoberto Pena Robert Nunez Robert Beidemar Robert Camino Roberto Ramirez Gregorio Perez Gregory Negrete Roberto Nunez Jr Roberto Gamino Guillermo Garcia Rodolfo Nuno Rogelio Chavez Gustavo Sigala Rogelio Chavez Ron Centanni Hector Ochoa Ronald Contrera

Joe Romero Joe Rangel Joel Greenfield John L. Franklin Johnny Ayala Johnny Reyes Johnny Monk Jonathan Valencia Jonathan Morales Jonathan Baker Jonathan Stacv Daivd Leach Daivd Leach
Dana Baudoin
George Flores
Jaime Chavarin
Miguel Nunez
Omar Romero
Rene Romo
Ruben Maldenado
Tan Huyna Jonathan Stacy Jonathan Swick Jonika Ingram Jorge Vazquez Jorge Anguiano Jose Barbarin Blake Highton Jose Cervantes Brian Olenslager Jose Rosas Alamilla Burt D. King Jose Jimenez Craig Meye Daniel Mullican Jose Siordia Devin Gregory Donnie Tremper Jose Anya Jose Arrieta Eddie Orton Jose Canongo Jose Eduardo Figueroa Fred Houck Joseph Garganus Josh Puckett Joshua Marmolejo **Grant Woodward** James Kelley Jason Gillespie Joshua Mandevil Joshua Anderson Josue Zamora Juan Ramirez Juan Gonzalez Juan Fang Julio Ochoa Justin Reves Jeff McAndrews Joe Ramirez
John Taafee
Johnny Gardner
Joseph Aguilar
Joseph Deitrick
Josh Foley
Josh R. Wiggins
Keith Anfuro
Keith Bryant
Kenneth Jones Justin Reyes Kenneth Yaeger Kevin King Kenneth Jones Marco A. Chavez Marco A. Chavez Lance Denning Lawrence Fung Lee Hennum Mark Walker Michael Loprinzi Luis Gabriel Michael Beck Luis Pena Maleek Trice Peter Wantland Marco Foschetti Robert Tipton Robert Oliver Mario Hidalgo Robert Jeffers Mario Hidaigo Mark Borja Martin Cervantes Mathew Munoz Mathew Apker Mathew Johnson Michael Marcelin Ronnie Airhart Ross Ginn Ryan Townsend Stephen Walborn Stephen Brandstrom RELM Nicholas Timas Nigel Moran Noe Medina Anthony Bertolini Noel Serrano Omar Magana Otto Rene Mayen Paul Pistone Paul Reyes Phillip M. Roberts Phillip M. Roberts Quincey Morton Rafael Valadez Ralph Gomel Raul Meiia Alejandra Chavez Ray De La Luz Raymond Wood Alexander Potasi avmond Buhlma Alfred Gomez Rene Perales Alfredo Iniguez Andres Lopez Angel Torres Anthony Galasso Anthony Toledo Antonio Muno Art Salazar Artur Jagoda Avo Missakiai Avo Missakian Benjamin Rubalcava Benjamin Soria Bernardo Lutt Boud Hollingworth Brian Petersen Brian Smith Brian Chung Camron Clay Carfos Ramirez-Mari Chad Bowman Chee Kwan Christian Espinoza Christian A. Gutierrez Christopher Herrera Christopher Schulze Christopher Weiste Collette Reynolds Craig Hoback Curtis Tong Daniel Brach Daniel Sigueros Danilo Vispo David Lewis David Pantoia David Atkinso David Elliott
Dennis Sandersoi
Dimitrus Mitchell
Douglas Pointon
Duncan MacLead
Edward Alonzo
Edwin Johnson
Flijah Samuel

Ricardo Hodrigue Ricardo Lomas Ricardo Nunez Ricardo Gutierre: Roberto Ceja Roberto Lutt Robin DeLeon Ronald Graham Ruben Santiago Ryan Harris Ryan Davis Ryan Welling Saheed Inaw Salvador Manduiano Salvador Serrano Salvador Rothenhausle Sam Wallace Saul Rincon Scott F. Bylande Sean Taylor Sergio Lopez Sergio Correa Shawki Ingram Silverio Rodriguez Steve Gordon Steve Hugge Todd Pa'ala Vicente Rodriguez Victor Gonzalez Vincent Hernandez Walter Britton William Preston William Zungia Wilv Ardon Xavier Kennedy Andrew Prado Angelita Martinez Anthony Ramirez Art Jimenez Carlos Munoz Christopher Flores Daniel Donaldsor Daniel Martin Danny Cabrera David Revnosa David Valdez
Donald Cardiel
Dustin Ramos
Edward Becerril
Enrique Rodriguez
Eric Valdez
Felix Lopez Jr
Gary Garcia Hugo Hernande: Jesus Rojas Jimmy Patton John Rich John Long John Martin John Long Ji John Long J

Emmanuel Soriano

Eric Hacock

Erick Figueroa

Esaul Galvez

Felix Antonio Mejia

Fernando Aragoń

Garibay Esteban Gaspar Gharapetia

James Salazar

Jason Rubalcava

Jason Montoya

Jason Meeks

Jason Sanchez Javier Martin

Jeffery Nelson

Jeremias Davis

Jeremy Ryan Jesus Acosta

Jesus Valdez

Jason Zigler

James Shaw

Etuate Vaki

Fidel Lopez

Fred Aquilar

Ronald Lee McVey

Ruben Ponce

Rvan Westlund

Salvador Perez

Salvador Cabre
Sammy Perez
Samuel Ortega
Saul Gaytan
Sergio Amador
Sergio Maciel
Sergio Dlaz
Sergio Huizar

Silva Aurelio

Silvano Juarez

erence Oliver

Tony Gonzales

Travis Winsor

Victor Soto

Victor Agulian

Victor Cardiel

Ulysses Hawkins

Uriel, Jorge Orozco Victor Fuentes

Thomas Hammaug

Sálvador Galeana

SAFWAY

Agustin Garcia

Armando Perez

Arnold Lopez

Daniel Cruz

Edwin Garibay

Gutavo Martine

Jose Talavera

Juan O. Vargas

Kevin Wopershall

Mario De LaCruz

Juan Rizo

Luis Garcia

Luis Garcia

Marco Loera

Rene Avelar

SCHUFF STEEL Abel Herrera Adam Ramirez Adam Ramirez Alan Naranjo Alan Salazar

Alejandro Sanchez

Andrew Blunt

Andrew Reavis

Andrew Ramirez

Andrew Gonzalez

Anthony Hannan

Avery Steel Bacilio A. Henera

Austin Áhrens

Brito Francisco

Joseph J. Comeaux

Efran Castro

Jorge Herrera Jose Hidalgo Jose Trevino Jose Esquivel Juan Preciado Juan Garcia Justin Torres Ken Gates JR Luis Godinez Luis Rico Luis Ramos Luis Viramont Carlos Spain
Cam Patterson
Carlos Del Barco
Carlos Sanchez-Pleites
Carlos Alvarez, Jr.
Chad Ambrose Chad Ambrose Cheryl Thomas Cheyne mascarena Chris Chapon Christian Rosby Christopher Ahrens Christopher Brewer Chuck Zillner Cody Elliott Luis Viramontes Mackario Andrade Manuel Estrada Mario Gonzalez Mario Perez Martin Bustamante Michael Abeyta Daniel Gomez Miguel Mercado Daniel Novak Nicholas Griffin Daniel Daniel Garcia Nick Carrasco Oliver Maya **David Walters** Omar Rico **David Glover Derick Shannor** Oscar German
Oscar Gonzalez
Patrick Thomas
Paul Rodriguez
Randall Papp
Randy Fernandez
Raymond Garcia
Rick Harvey
Robert Gomez
Rohert Herrrera Dwayne King Ed Lowe Eddie Rivera Eddie Lopez Edward Stedham Frwin O. Torres Robert Herrrera Roberto ROmero Gabriel Ruiz Ronald Rummel Gregory Orozco
Guy Hill
Hector Gonzalez
Henry Short Ruben Padilla Salvador Ramos Samuel Anguiano Skylar Sloan lan Vergiels Jaime Gomez James Rutledge Steven Valdez Steven Tolman Thomas Richardson Vicente Barelland Jared Velasco Victor Roias Jeremiah Thomas Jerry Gandara Walter Patrick Jesse Flores Jesus Palomino Jody Gonzales Brian Seeley Brian Calderor John Morris Facundo Gonzalez Johnny Vivian Henry Navarro Jesus Miguel Chavez-Rodrigue Jorge Lopez Justin Cline Jose Rivas Jose Ortiz Jose C. Rodriguez Jose Felipe Alvarado Joseph Tolman Joseph Cordero Joseph Asturino Joshua Novak Juan Soto Luis Calderon Obdulio Castellor Raymundo Arellano Tim Cline Keylor Quinonez Kyle Negrete Lon Steel Louis Neal Marco A. Herrera Rafael Ramirez Marcos Moran Rene Vera Mark Harrison Sergio Chamorro Mark Lazarz Victor Hluz Mark Delery Adriana Costa Martin Johnson Aimee Smith Albert Brooks Martin Bruno Albert Brooks Brenda Lutz Bryce Lang Cory Paine Frank Kriksic Gary Stone Greg Austin Jaime Fischer Michael Jimenez Michael Anderso Michael Forster Ngoan Le Omar Hertado Jan Dale Jason Garber Omar H. Palomin Oscar (ED) Alfaro Pablo Camarillo Patrick Bolden Paul Pearse Paul Graham Jerry Oliver Joe Valeriote John Cui Josh Ward Katie Reipas Michael Pieterse Mike Craig Mike Soligo Nigel Rostance Randy Rodrigue Priya Patel

Efrain Quintero Enrique Villa Erick Valdez Ernesto Flores Esteban Contreras Faustino Fausto Felipe Bernal Fidel Vargas Hugo Gutierrez Humberto Lopez **Humberto Macias** Ignacio Sanchez Isidro Pumatz Jack FLores Jame Sweeney James Young Jason Tallmar Jose Flores Richard Robledo Richard Cavrian Jose Valle Richard Kiser Jose Antonio Delgado Robert Diaz Jose Luis Guido Robert Mansfield Jose Y Rivas Roger Ramirez Joseph Llanes Rosario (Gino) Catania Joshua Hildreth Ruben Lomeli Kamron Jones Kelly Danaher Sam Maracle Kevin Clark Samuel Howard Larry Perez Leoncio Franco Luis Perez Luis Soto Snaider Cabrera Alvarado Vicente Campos William Lopez Zeferino A. Sanchez, Jr Nelson Vasque: SELBERT PERKINS DESIGN **Nelson Rosales** Nicholas Lopez Cheri Devlin Oscar Hernandez Edgar Godov Jonny Petersor Robin Perkins Patrick Doran Brian Kuhn Pedro Jimenez Kevin LaMalva Peter Lopez Matt Yin Nathan "Nate" Wittasel Ramon De La Rosa Ozzie Mercado SITE SAFETY Ramon ROdriguez Raul Vaasquez David Garay Rene Chave: Kelvin Williams Kevin Sterling Siranush Martirosyan Alejandro Yebra Ali Zereh Nazi Rodrigo Diaz Ron Estes Ronnie Hendersor Cesar Rey Luna Devin Wilson Ronnie Massey Diono Romero Roy Aviles Ruben Queada

Ed"Jose Salac Gema Hernandez Gene Schwab Isidro Juan Garcia Jaime Lizarraga Jesse Padilla

Jose Rosas Cruz

Florentino Gonzalez Joel Serrano Joey Gonzalez John Tosti Kyle Knight Paul Martinez Ruben Morale Cade Walsh Greg Topp Jose Perez Jose Bobadilla Josjua Maize Juan Serrano Lionel Ruiz Richard Harp Tom Oltman Justin Brown Osmar Ibarra Wayne White Will Ziegenmeyer STANDARD DRYWALL Abel Diaz Antonio Rodrigue: Art Cervantes Aurelio Lopez Ausencio Sandoval Austin Hendricks Bloas Altamirano Bobby Johnson Bruno Rojas Carlos Lizama Carlos Lizama
Chester Leal
Cheyvonne Grayso
Chris Lemieux
Chris Smith
Chris Corday
Chris Anderson
Christopher Lopez
Ciro Castillo
Connor Multon
Corey Spaise
Curtis March
Daniel Guerrero Daniel Cruz Daniel Paoletti Darnell Lowe **Darryl Digges** David Corona Derek Warrick **Dustin Jeffers** Dylan Birchfield Earl Richardson J Earl Richardson III Eduardo Zamarro Epitacio Mendoza Ernesto onavoz Esteban Tello Vega Francisco Contrera Francisco Olivan Gilberto Benitez Hector Lopez

William Gonzalez

Adolfo Delgado Albert (David) Nicho Antonio Salazar Bobby Griego Bryan Rangel

Christopher Hernandez

David Donovan

David Carey

Eric Soto

SMG MARBLE

Abel Vasquez Abel Vasquez

Abraham Gonzalez

Adrian Hernandez Alberto Ramirez Aldo Maldonado

Boris Fabian

Braulio Fuentes

Camiar Ghojeh

Carlos Morales

Carlos Pinedo

Carlos Umana

Carlos Pahua

Leo Jimenez

Mark Steiner Mark S. Louk

Martin Gonzalez Mathew Medina

Mathew Lemieux

Michael Ramirez

Mickey O'Neall

Miguel De LaCruz Miguel Rojas

Mike Kirkpatrick

Mohamed Amour Monty Vickrey Nathaniel Berry

Nicholas perez Norman Eckles Norman Eckles

Rafael Cervantes

Rahim Kendrick

Randall Haase

Randy Morris

Raul Martinez

Ray Vasquez

Remy Conteras

Ricardo Ramirez

Mickey Braun

Maya Bartur

Maximliano Garcia

Efrain Meza Erik Mojica Ever Rodriguez Gilberto Palacio Jeremy Manuel Jesus Flores Joe Sandoval Jorge Garcia Jorge Anguiano

Jorge Anguiano Jose Villa

Luis Carbajal Luis Gallegos

Luis Partida

Mario Reyes

Oscar Medina Jr

Richard Jaime

Rigoberto Tapia

Roberto Medina

Samuel Venegas Silvestre Menera

Thomas Sanchez

TERRA-PETRA

Daniel Valdez

David Akers
Diego Sauceda
Eduardo Rangel
Efrain Torres
Fernando Monay
Hector Flores
Jake Gallo
Jesus Mora
John Conaway
Josh Heidt
Justin Conaway
Raul Ramirez
Ricardo Sanchez

Bing Guerin

Jason Lorcher Justine Mouror Melanie Onnen

Justin Schwaiger Kerem Gulec

Leonard Joseph

Ola Johansson

Thomas Weir

Montri Dechpormsuk

Stephan Eisenreich

Adalberto Gomez

Alejandro Martinez

Carelton Emersor

Carlos Rodrigues

David Calzada

Enrique Vargas Ezequiel Villanueva

Florentino Pulido

Glen Sutherland

Gregori Abundio

Hector Gonzalez

Ismael Acevedo

Javier Rodriguez

Jesse Cisneros J

Joaqiuin Castillo

Jose Barragan Jose Oscar Romo

Martin Villalpando

Martin Victoriano

Mauricio Garcia

Miguel Hernande:

Miguel Castellanos

Jesus Rivera

Jose Ramos

TRADEMARK CONCRETE

Roberto Molina Steven Rubalcava Ted Adamson Thomas Schmitt Thomas Vickrey Thomas Jimene Thuy Nguyen Tommy Andrade Tony Perri Travis Dickson Tyler Neal Victor Lopez Zachary S., Miederhoff STANDARD VISION Jeffers Egar Jeremiah Montova Josh Van Blankenship Katie Slaughter Mark Escibano Martin Gonzalez Maya Bartur Maysam Ghaffar Michael Sykes Ralph Nadeau Raul Cristobal STO DESIGN GROUP Ken McPhie Mariela Bautista Victor Castro SUNBELT ELECTRIC Aaron Search Imari Conway Anthony Galvan Au (Ken) Trinh Ivan Escudero Jaime Marcial Bruce Misch James Hart Byron Balsells Cornelius Kroon Jeff Miederhof Earl Tunnell Jerson Lopez Jesus Nava Floyd Shaw Fulgencio Marquez Henry Contreras Hung Tran James Newton Jesse Sanchez John Barber Jorge Salaza Jose Juarez Josh VanBlanken Josue Rodriguez Ronnie Daddio Juan Torres Sean Erickson Juan Delayo Juan Talavera Sheron Arzu Juan Contreras Alonso Curiel Andres Medina Justin Gonzales Angel Morales

Justin Flores

Karl Nickoley

Kelvin Glass

Kevin Greer

Kevin Barner

Kevin Bernard

Rudolph Espinoza Ruel Ditoro

Salvador Verduzco

Salvador Luna

Seferino Mendez

Silvio Echemenda

Angel Gudino

Antonio Rodriguez

Augustine Rodriguez

Arturo Acuna Jr

Augusto Gambo

Benjamin Cuenca

Carlos Rodrique

Carlos Chave

Miguel Castellanos Moctezuma Meza Paul Barragan Roberto Gonzalez Savladro Aguilar- Vences Sergio Gonzales Silvano Gulierrez Victor Barragan TRAXX
Albert Hernandez
Charles Lowe
Darrell Carmouche
Felipe Meza
Guadalupe Alvarez
Jose Martinez
Julio Salcedo Julio Salcedo Miguel Santizo

Craig Morrisor Daniel Garcia Abner Estrada Dave Martin Alex Montoya Allen Chow Donald Stidham Alvaro Giron Drew Castro Andrew Rosenberg **Dustin Shope** Andrew Petronakis Enrique Paredes Eric Ramirez Arturo Diaz Ben Tajik Ben Nobakht Fariu Samual Sarkisian Bernard Miranda Felecia Culpeppe Billy DePasquale

David Teper Edgar Velasco-Vallin Efrain Meza Blanca Diaz Brendan Murphy Christina Alvarado Christina Älvarado
Cole Ulanoski
Crystal Ho
Dan Dorn
Daniel Sistrunk
Dave Bushnell
Dennis Orchard
Dennis Kim
Didith Uy
Dustin House
Edgar Sanchez
Fausto Hernandez
Gar Manalastas
Gavin Banks Marcelino Mendoza James McLaughlin Jared Posvistak Jason Jones Jeff Baker Jessie McCourt John Stoian John Raitt Jonathan Crabill Jordan Katt Jose Alday Joseph Pobanz Juan Hernande Karen Urosa Keith/Kerwin Booker Mohammad Kahn Nick Pettengill Paul Dempsey Ricardo Sanchez Richard McClanahar Rachel Ibrahaim-Watkins THE GREEN DINOSAUR, INC. Rick Dockins Chih-Jen (Tomo) Cheng Emily Greenstreet James Powell Scott Holmstrom Shawna Brierly Steve Damaso Vesna Conroy THORNTON TOMASETTI Benjamin Howes Bruce Gibbons Chelsea Kemmerrer

nnne Marchand Celeste Campbel Cruz Joe Eduardo Pacheo Edward E. Reyes Eric Maynard Ernie Marques Francisco Tapia Fred Borowiel Gage Pinion George Servantes Gilbert Mendoza Gillis Leonard (Lenny) Glenn Bunn Juan Martinez Kenneth Jones Manuel Quiroz Mark Mendonca Mark Starvis Mathew Whartor Matt Stone Michael Hollingsworth Michael Mitchel Miguel Curiel Paul Darlin Humberto Vargas Tuttle AB Wanda Lanier Will Jameson Leobardo Ruvalcaba William E. Jeffers Leonardo Ruvalcaba VENEKLASEN Michael Sanchez Nicolas Haynes Angel Murillo Orlando Ayor Rick Winkles

William Gonzalez

ndon Lopez

Fernando Zepeda

Ismael Mondragor

Jerry Hernandez

Jose Hernandez

Joseph Hawkins

Juan Jauregui Justin Walters

anuel Avala

Marco Arroyo
Mark Hanna
Mark Rooney
Michael Hopper
Mike Folch
Nickalus Marlowe
Octavio Almada
Octavio Floras

Octavio Flores

Rene Mendez

Robert C Cruz

Salvador Alonzo

Stephan Guerra

Vahe Tovmasyan Victor Paredes

Victor Magana

Todd Perkins

Richard Acevedo

Francisco D. Gonzalez, III

Samantha Rawlings

WASHINGTON IRON

Ara Aghavans

Albert (David) Nicholso

Francisco Pavedez Gabriel Miranda Jesse Flores Joel Nava John Gonzalez John Gianone Johnny Riley Jorge Bejaranu Jorge Bejarano Jorge S. Marquez Jose Reyes Jose Rivera

Joseph Lopez Juan C. Lara Kevin Macias Lolesio Lito Mark O'Donell Marques Jorge
Martin Maldonado Cayo
Melvin Romero
Michael Wood
Michael Guzman
Miguel Manriquez
Miguel A. Ramirez
Miguel A. Castellano Miguel A. Castelland Nicholas Besteiro Patrick Vilte Paul Loome Preston Barton Randy Rodriguez Roberto Salazar WESTCOAST Armando Flores Christopher Slaver Fernando Rodriguez Greg Simpson Gustavo Mireles Miguel Carranza Rafael Olvera Richard Andrade Robert Gutierrez Ronald Canales Tolentino Martinez William Rodriguez Zack McGonigle WILSON ASSOCIATES Jerry Beale Jessica Houlemard Pranav Sinha Brad Taylor Cesar Perera Daniel Olinger David Perez Dennis Bartholoma Donald Johnson



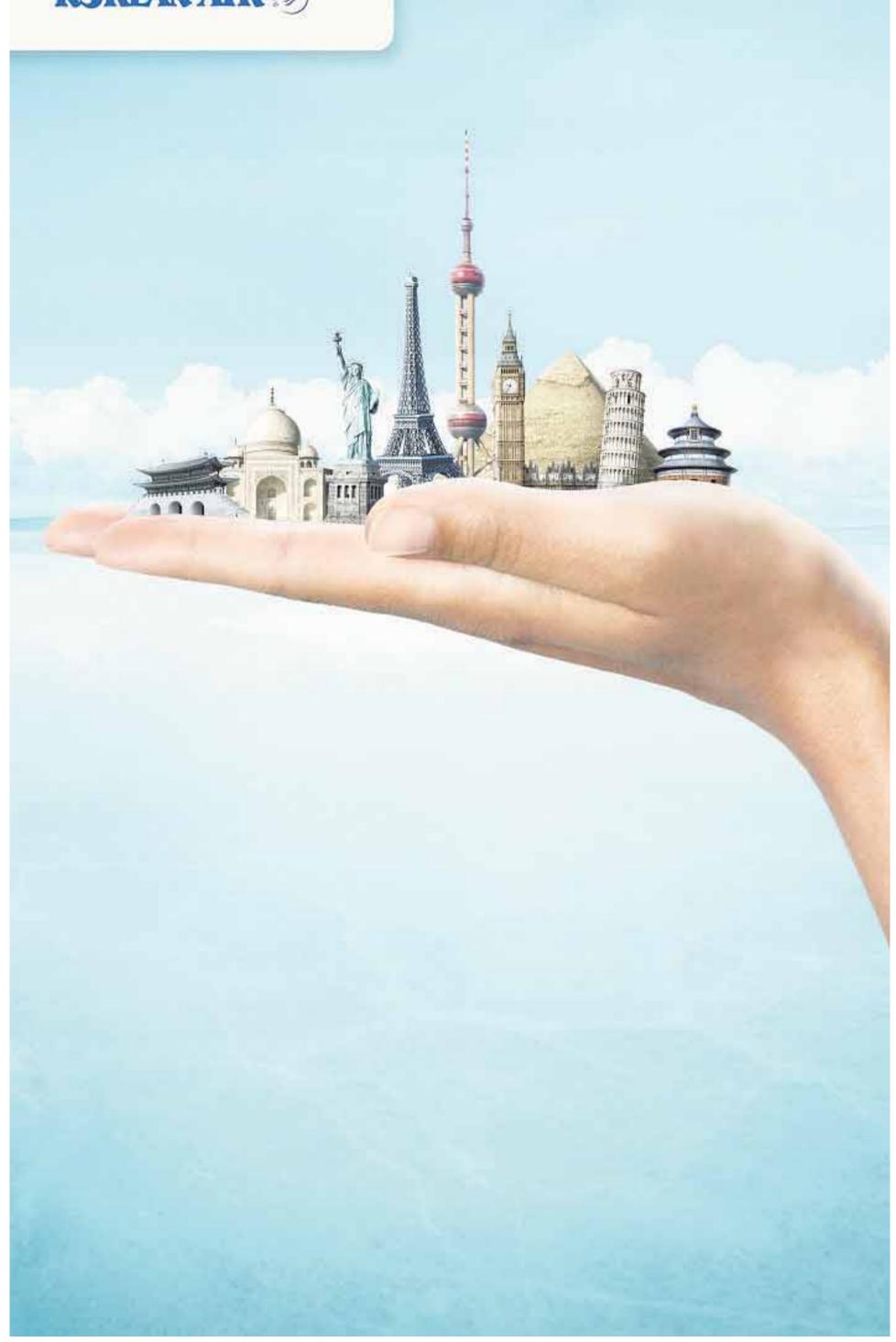
Our global network is all about you

Our network includes 129 cities in over 46 countries. You'll be connected to more places in the world for all your business needs. Fly anywhere and everywhere with the convenience you deserve.



www.koreanair.com





THE FIRST, BIG STEP

[**Foundation,** from S10] sort in Rancho Palos Verdes.

Above his desk, he keeps a photograph from one of his first jobs, almost 25 years ago.

Back to the camera, he stands looking at a two-story tilt-up that has just been raised in Fountain Valley, the prefab concrete wall held up with braces. "I'll never forget that moment," he said.

In the Turner offices in 2014, schematic drawings and cross-sections of the skyscraper were hung next to sketches scribbled on walls in erasable ink. Overhead, a banner read, "Communication promotes progress," words borrowed from Rick Warren, pastor of Saddleback Church in Orange County, where Marchesano lives.

Momentum was critical, Marchesano said, for a building whose budget was once set at \$1 billion and had already risen by \$750,000. Time was money for the owner of the property, Korean Air, whose parent company, Hanjin Group, is chaired by Yang Ho Cho.

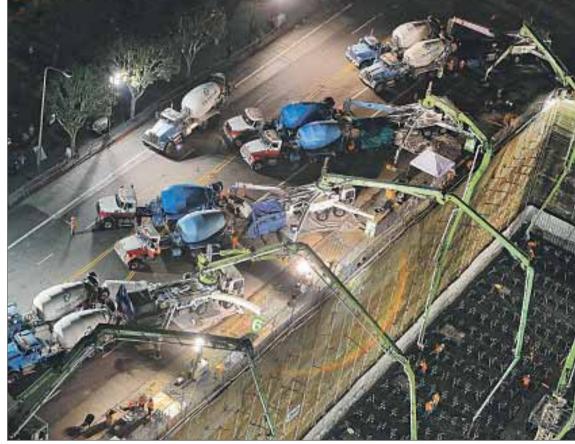
First came dismantling the old Wilshire Grand piece by piece, followed by hauling away about 250 truckloads of dirt each night for nearly six months. Then Marchesano had to make sure that the pour was even possible.

He penciled out the con-

For one, the concrete had to be laid within 90 minutes of being mixed; otherwise it would begin to set and not meet the requirements for the job. Also, the work had to be completed in less than three shifts; otherwise the truck drivers would violate federal regulations and exceed their allowable 15 hours on the road.

As Marchesano did the math, he wondered if the site had room for the pumps needed to ferry the concrete from mixing trucks into the pit. He turned to the computer geeks down the hall, wizards at plotting and spinning in cyberspace the footprint of the construction site and the surrounding streets

They found room for 19, more than enough, and calculated their placement, each within a foot. Anything out of alignment, and Marchesano would have a safety hazard and traffic jam on his hands.



Photographs by MEL MELCON Los Angeles Times

TRUCKS DUMP their loads into pumps that send concrete through booms into the foundation. The trucks' positions were plotted to the foot to ensure room.

With each pump averaging 100 cubic yards an hour, the job would take approximately two shifts and no more than a weekend.

Marchesano found that Cal-Portland Co. had eight mixing plants no more than a half-hour drive from downtown. He locked up the concrete, and Cal-Portland began shipping supplies early: cement from Mojave and Colton, aggregate from Irwindale.

The most critical aspect of the pour, however, would take place some 16 hours after the last truck left the site.

Often described as a fruitcake, concrete is a mixture of cement, aggregate and, in this case, fly ash that heats up when water is added, forming crystals that lend the material its strength. The heat typically dissipates in most pours, but the size and the depth of this slab

meant the temperature would increase over the course of nearly two weeks. If not controlled, it would eventually crack the crystal structure, turning the slab into gravel.

With the help of a national expert in the field of concrete thermodynamics, Turner installed a radiator system in the foundation: a succession of looping hoses, 90,000 feet of polypropylene, that would draw off the heat by circulating 40,000 gallons of water chilled to 45 degrees. The hoses, eventually filled with grout, remain in the slab.

Because of concrete's sensitivity to heat, the construction company monitored long-range weather forecasts. A heat wave — mid-80s or higher — would increase the temperature of the delivered concrete beyond the capability of the chilling system.

As the countdown clock ap-

proached zero, mechanics and supply trucks were poised to repair the concrete pumps if any failed. An infirmary was staffed, and tarps and tents were stockpiled in case of rain. The outside temperature was within margins.

At that point, only a lightning storm would delay the pour. The booms, angling into the pit, could serve as conductors.

By late afternoon on Feb. 15, under clear skies and with temperatures dropping from a high of 78 degrees, the convoy of mixing trucks had followed their instructions: Exit the 110 Freeway at 6th Street and either continue to Flower and turn right on 7th, or turn on Figueroa, before being directed to the site.

At 4:47, after the VIPs had finished their speeches and with the USC marching band playing, concrete began flowing into the forest of reinforcing steel.

Throughout the night, pumps fed the mix through booms, angled like scorpion tails from the road down to the hole.

Crews stood on top of the forest and with long, snake-like vibrators dispersed the mixture as it flowed from the booms through the tremies, flexible nozzles shaped like elephant trunks that deposited the slurry into the bottom of the pit.

When the last of the concrete reached the pit at 11:30 Sunday morning, the slab measured 17 feet, 7 inches deep. The remaining five inches would be added at a later date to provide a more polished look.

The particles of cement, fly ash and water began to crystallize. Long chains of calcium silicate hydrate filled the spaces between the sand and aggregate, and for the next two weeks, sensors would record the increasing temperatures in the slab.

They varied by as much as 35 degrees throughout the foundation, an acceptable difference, with some reaching 158 degrees, two degrees shy of the limit.

John Gajda, the expert in thermodynamics, was satisfied. "It was a logistical nightmare," he said afterward. "I would call it a dance, but it was really a ballet."

An adjudicator from Guinness World Records confirmed the accomplishment.

Turner Construction Co. had beat the Venetian for the largest continuous pour by 200 cubic yards, enough to lay a suburban sidewalk for almost a mile.

Marchesono allowed himself a

Marchesano allowed himself a moment of reflection. "How could you not want to be part of this?" he asked, thinking back to the photo on his desk. "It beats doing a tiltup."

Then he began looking ahead.

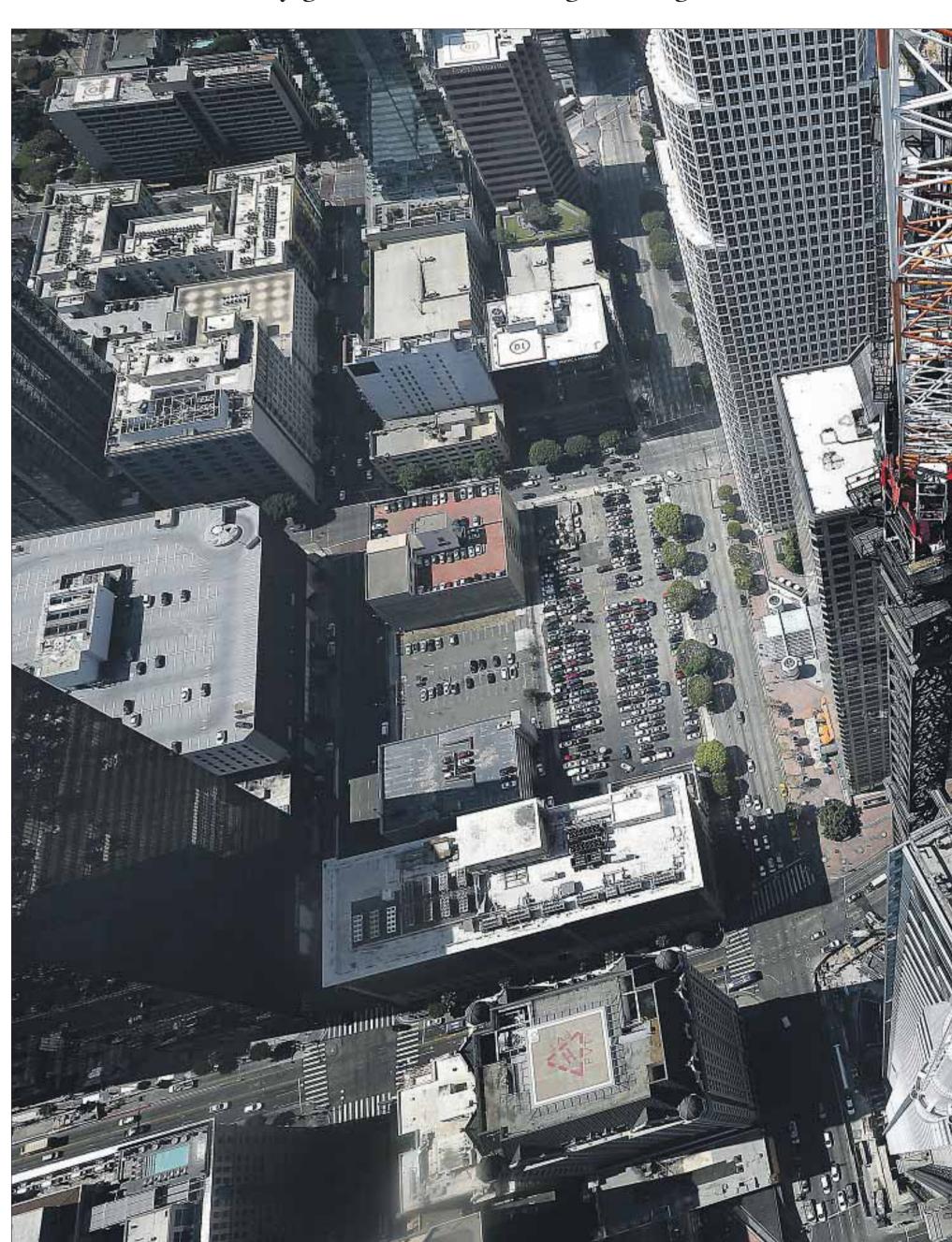
He needed to start building a platform on top of the concrete for crews to assemble a climbing system that would start pouring the concrete tower.

And now he could get rid of that mound of dirt.



LIFTED ABOVE

For all its 21st century grand effects and engineering feats, the Wilshire



IRON WORKERS Pete Veliz, Vince Parker, and Ray Shoats can almost touch the sky from inside the spire attached to the Wilshire Grand. Rising 1,100 feet — not counting



WORKERS POSITION pipes into place while standing above an 18-foot hole that will be filled with concrete to form the foundation for the project.



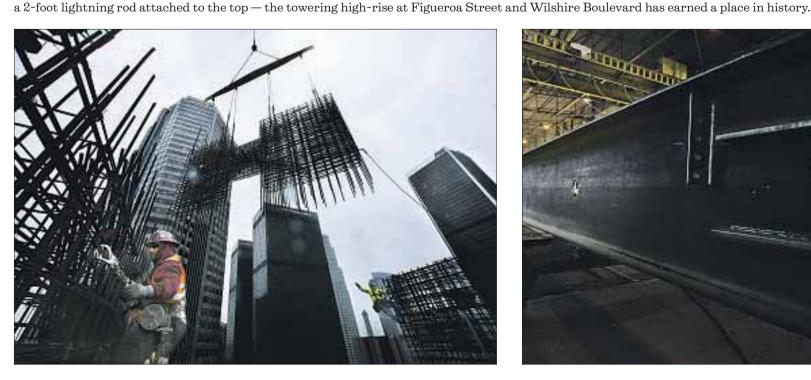
CEMENT FINISHER Jaime Velasquez, center, smoothes out a concrete deck after it is poured on the 9th floor of the concrete core of the Wilshire Grand.

THEHORIZON

Grand is a throwback to a time when Los Angeles dared to dream tall



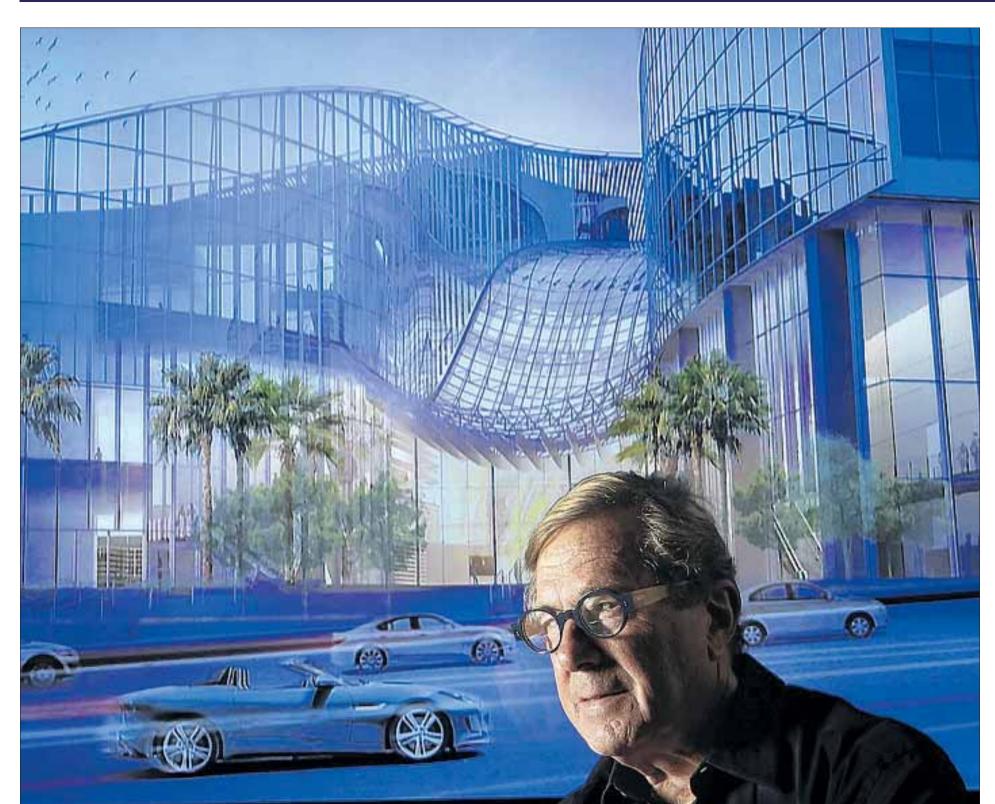
Photographs by MEL MELCON Los Angeles Times



IRON WORKERS perform a delicate ballet amid towering walls of rebar. Structural crews are known for an intensity that comes from the dangers of the work.



A WELDER attaches clips onto a steel column at Schuff Steel in Phoenix, where the Wilshire Grand project's steel was fabricated.



ARCHITECT DAVID MARTIN'S concept for the Wilshire Grand's skylight was inspired by the Yosemite Valley and the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II in Milan.

A VISION'S OUEST

That signature skylight, inspired by Yosemite, was almost scrapped. Here's how it overcame financial realities and engineering concerns.

Construction manager Scott Borland had no doubt that the skylight rising above the entrance to the Wilshire Grand would be spectacular.

But then, everything looks good

on paper. Draped between the 1,100-foot skyscraper and its seven-story companion, the skylight runs nearly the length of a football field, dropping 65 feet — like a ski slope — as it flows between the two buildings and marks the entrance to the

Architect David Martin called it the signature element of the project, a river of glass inspired by the Yosemite Valley. Martin also evoked the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II in Milan, the glass-ceilinged arcade located between the city's cathedral and opera house, known as il salotto di Milano, Milan's living room.

But neither a living room nor Yosemite came to mind as Borland studied the plan.

"You've got to be kidding me,"

he thought. Twenty years' experience on high-rises in Manhattan had made Borland a practical man. As construction executive in charge of day-to-day operations for the Wilshire Grand, he found the skylight an extravagance that would certainly cost more than the \$3million estimate.

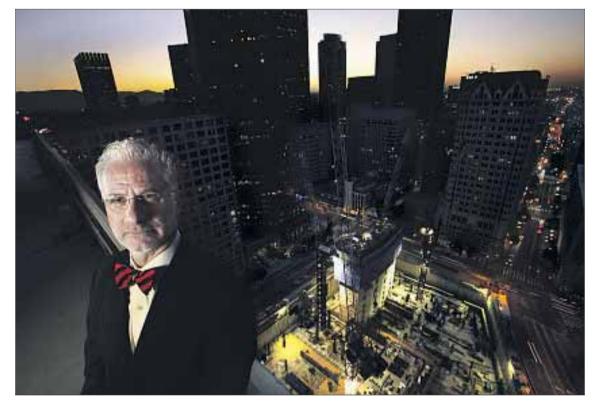
 $He \, wondered \, if \, it \, were \, even \, pos$ sible to build such a structure. Then how would it react during an earthquake? Could it support the weight of a cleaning crew?

Martin and his design team might not like what Borland had to say, but he couldn't keep his opinion to himself.

Raising a tall building is an exercise in compromise and negotiation, a choreographed clash of disciplines intended to make the project better or safer - and economical.

Architects advance designs. Engineers, accountants and consultants step up with their cri-

Forget vanity or hubris: The principal function of a tall building



KENNETH ASPIS was responsible for keeping the Wilshire Grand project within budget. "We're not always viewed as the friendliest people in the room," he says.



TAMMY JOW, senior designer with A.C. Martin, defended the skylight concept as "lyrical and poetic" in design. "In the eyes of estimators and contractors, anything square is better," she says.

is to make money, and beauty, if it doesn't bring in tenants and guests, can become a heated point of discussion.

Martin likened the debate to a game of poker, with each design el-

ement a hand to be played. "You have to know when to hold

them and when to fold," he said.

The stakes for the Wilshire Grand were especially high. The project presented Martin with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to build a landmark in downtown Los Angeles, much as his grandfather did with City Hall and his father did

with a number of high-rises, including the Department of Water

and Power Building. He had never expected to dream this big. By the fall of 2014, he was 71 and had spent more than 50 years at the family firm watching as market conditions limited his aspi-

All that changed in 2009.

A friendship \bar{t} hat his cousin and business partner, Chris Martin, had struck with South Korean businessman Yang Ho Cho, the chairman of Korean Airlines, led to a coveted commission. A.C. Martin Partners would design a hotel and office complex at Figueroa Street and Wilshire Boulevard.

David Martin began by dusting off plans shelved in 2005. He had designed a 55-story tower for the Grand Avenue Project near City Hall, but the project was awarded to the city's most celebrated architect, Frank Gehry.

The decision was a blow for Martin. He retreated a little before finding his way back, said senior designer Tammy Jow, who has worked with Martin for two decades. Creating a 73-story skyscraper, the tallest building in the West, gave him a new reason for coming into the office. "He was very accomplished before this, but this was the icing on the cake," Jow said.

A window ledge in Martin's modest downtown office grew cluttered with cardboard and plastic models. Pages in his sketchbook filled with ideas.

Rendered in black ink and a blue wash, the tower's beveled and faceted facades described a surprisingly slender building that, in spite of its height, seems light, even

"Diaphanous," Martin said.

With echoes of the Case Study houses in Los Angeles, the arcade in Milan and all the piazzas in Europe that he visited as a student years ago, he hoped to create a more intimate space, an invitation for visitors to explore, linger and, as he explained, "develop a relationship with the property."

He poured himself into the project, and even though he knew he had the support of the owner, he prepared for the clashes.

Opening salvos were fired during weekly progress meetings. Seated around a long table each Tuesday, more than 20 of the project's engineers, architects and managers discussed every element of the design.

Concrete versus drywall. Wood versus vinyl. Paint versus wallpaper. Stone versus carpet.

The start of big projects is often quarrelsome, and the Wilshire Grand was no exception. One of the first arguments took place in the fall of 2012 and came from an unexpected quarter.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority objected to the excavation plan for the foundation, arguing that the dig, nearly 100 feet deep in some places, could release pressure in the adjacent soil where the Red Line ran under 7th Street. If the soil moved, the subway tunnel might shift and crack.

A.C. Martin had wanted to dig within five feet of the tunnel. The project's subterranean garage needed nearly 1,100 parking spaces, and every foot mattered.

But Metro thought five feet was too close.

As the dispute escalated, civility got lost to expediency.

At one point, engineer Marty Hudson, who chaired meetings on behalf of the builder, knelt in a parking lot beforehand to pray for composure, especially if everyone else lost theirs.

"This was the highest level of stress that I have had in my career," Hudson said.

The transit agency suggested seven feet, said Carey McLeod, lead project manager for the architect, then in a later meeting, eight feet. Finally Metro made it clear: Five feet or 50 feet, the agency wouldn't propose a plan.

"We're not in the business of doing the engineering for third parties," Metro engineer Matthew Crow later explained.

frustrated comment McLeod. New York, London and other cities with subways have established standards for such digs. Why couldn't Metro just provide a number?

But Metro held firm. It wanted the builder — not taxpayers — to pay for a thorough analysis before any decision was made.

'So it will cost you a few million extra to evaluate and instrument the subway," Sam Mayman, one of Metro's executive officers, said, according to two people at the meeting. "Big deal."

nearly \$1.5 million for analyses and

When completed, the excavation came within seven feet of the subway tunnel, which shifted half

Borland's suspicions that the Wilshire Grand would face cost

Balancing the interests of the designers and the project managers fell to Kenneth Aspis, president of the firm overseeing the development. His responsibilities included keeping the project within budget and, if necessary, finding less expensive ways to achieve the same results.

forced Martin to defend his choices. He found it irritating.

angular," Martin said. "If you asked a leasing agent, it would be square. If you asked a wind expert, it would be round. This is why you ask the architect to design a building and not the consultants."

lating glass wall that surrounds a rooftop pool, deck and gardens, Martin argued that glass added visual momentum to the structure. It was shortened by 15 feet for a sav-

When asked about a \$3-million aluminum screen covering mechanical equipment visible from the hotel, Martin explained that guests don't want to look down upon compressors, cooling towers and exhaust vents. The screen re-

each hotel room?

Martin admired the Case Study houses with their floor-to-ceiling panes of glass that opened to the outdoors. He wondered: How can you do that in a larger context?

answer, but the cost, \$8 million, was too high. So for \$3 million less, they would be put in the premium rooms only.

Maybe the savings could be applied to the skylight: Martin's grand vision had begun to unravel.

Grand featured a plaza, a high-rise tower and a secondary building, known as the podium, housing a restaurant, a pool and ballrooms.

Connecting the elements be-

Guggenheim Museum-like rotunda. Another tried extending the tower's facade over to the podium. Neither worked.

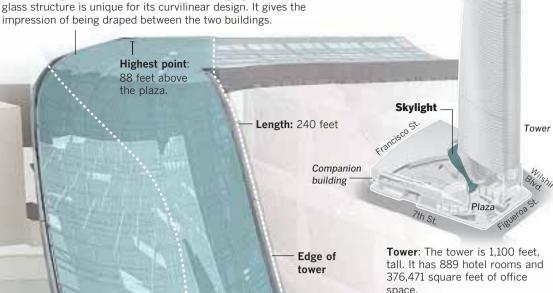
Finally, in the winter of 2012, Martin hit upon a skylight, a sweep of glass that unified the space and created an atrium where guests entered the hotel.

ment that thrilled the design team.

River of glass

The skylight at the Wilshire Grand marks the entrance to the hotel and creates an atrium between the tower and companion building. A controversial element of the design, the skylight was so challenging that a construction executive wondered if it could even be built.

Glass ceiling: Composed of 430 panels averaging 5 feet square, the glass structure is unique for its curvilinear design. It gives the impression of being draped between the two buildings Highest point:



space Atrium: The skylight forms the ceiling of the interior space, which has a row of trees and a cafe surrounded by wood panels. Skylight

Width: 60 feet

Plaza

Glass

Glass 5/16 of an inch thick

Adhesive 1/16 of an inch thick

Glass 5/16 of an inch thick

Seismic joint

Lowest point:

23 feet

Eventually, the builder paid monitoring.

an inch but did not crack.

overruns came true.

More reinforcing steel had to be ordered for the foundation. A restaurant was added on the 69th floor. The bathrooms in each hotel room needed to be reconfigured to accommodate separate showers

Plans were scrapped, redrawn and recalculated.

Costs crept from \$1 billion to \$1.1 billion, and the debate sharpened over what was important to the de-

"We're not always viewed as the friendliest people in the room," Aspis said.

The discussions about costs

"If you ask a structural engineer to design a building, it would be tri-

When asked about an unduings of \$400,000.

And the windows that open in

Growing up in Los Angeles,

Casement windows were the

The design for the Wilshire

came the challenge.

One plan included an ambitious

Jow said the solution was elegant and dramatic — a eureka mo-Then reality struck.

Layer by layer

Rain gutter: An opening

Edge of companion building

in the skylight directs

water into a series of

downspouts.

The laminated glass is 11/16 of an inch thick. Laminated glass is stronger than single-pane glass. Because the glass has a low-iron composition, it does not have a hue and is referred to as ultra-clear. It is also covered with a dot matrix that will mitigate sunlight penetrating the glass.

Aluminum frames hold panes of bent glass, creating the curves.

15 feet apart. A steel frame and diagonal tie rods secure the

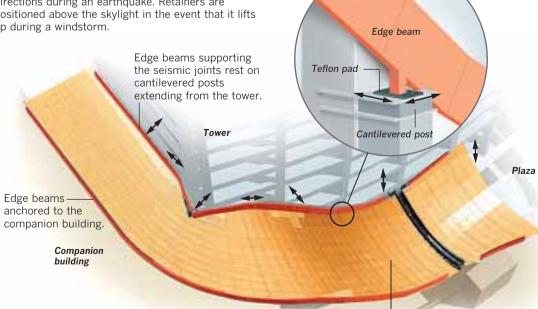
trusses and anchored to the podium and support the seismic connections to the tower.

Louvers, a series of fixed vertical plates, provide shading from the

Dot-matrix screen Arc-shaped trusses support the glass and aluminum frame. The 19 trusses are 3 feet deep and spaced trusses. Edge beams are fastened to the

Engineered for safety

The skylight is be able to move up to 15 inches in four directions during an earthquake. Retainers are positioned above the skylight in the event that it lifts up during a windstorm.



Cold bending

Glass manufacturers provided **Degrees of warping** specifications for bending glass without heat. The glass was warped — in this Flat 3/4 of an inch instance, no more than 3/4 of (minimum) (maximum) an inch — then snapped into 34 of an inch an aluminum frame that holds the shape.

Sources: Tammy Jow, Joseph Varholick, Isaac Luna, A.C. Martin; John McDonald, Catena Consulting Engineers; Melissa Johnson, Benson Industries Inc Graphics reporting by **Thomas Curwen**

LORENA IÑIGUEZ ELEBEE Los Angeles Times

Borland and Aspis had to protect the budget and started to question the complexity of the de-

Martin's early vision, rendered by computer, included convex and concave curves that required individual panels of glass to be custom

bent, an especially costly process. Seismic tests also determined that the structure would have to move 15 inches - side to side between the tower and the podium in the event of a major earthquake, and it would have to be restrained from lifting up in a windstorm. No one was certain if it could be engi-

Then there was the question of how it would be cleaned.

One design suggested two catwalks 3 feet wide for cleaning crews, but the structures encroached on the view. Another recommended trapdoors, but they detracted from the appearance.

As other costs on the project rose, the skylight became a target.

"In the eyes of estimators and contractors, anything square is better," Jow said. "The fact that we had something lyrical and poetic in the design is a conflict in their minds.'

That's not the way Borland saw it. "The difficulty is that the client has a vision for the project that isn't in keeping with the budget," he said. "And the design team always wants more."

The budget for the skylight was cut in half to \$1.5 million, Jow said, and that was before cost estimates came in for the steel and its design: more than \$5 million. And the custom glass panels would add more. To ease tensions within the

team, Jow deferred further discussion until she and the designers could answer the most persistent complaints. She and designer Joseph

Varholick traveled to Europe to learn about a process in glass design known as cold-bending. Instead of heating glass to shape it, fabricators contort the cold glass slightly, then snap it into frames that have been engineered to hold the shape. Huddling at his computer,

Varholick calculated that with 475 glass panels, the skylight would have the sweep and grandeur that Martin had called for. And each of the panels would be essentially flat, bending no more than threequarters of an inch.

His work helped ensure that the glass would cost no more than \$2 million.

Jow's team took its findings to the engineers and budget managers. The designers thought they were making headway, only to discover later that the skylight was still listed for elimination. Martin tried to hold fast. The

 $skylight\,was\,a\,defining\,stroke.\,Still,$ he grew so frustrated that he yanked the skylight from the plans. As Jow explained, he was tired

of being second-guessed by cost managers who "would prefer to drop in a plaster, stucco box at the front door."

"Any designer would be insulted," she said.

Martin even presented an alternative: an open-air trellis much like the Lath Palace at the Botanical Building in San Diego's Balboa Park. But priced out, that idea saved no money.

So he took the issue to cousin Chris, who had the authority to set budget guidelines for the project. He knew it was a gamble, but the debate needed to be settled. Chris could either vote against the feature or make a concession. Eventually Chris agreed that

the skylight would remain but with one stipulation. With the glass already priced at \$2 million, he insisted that the steel and its design cost no more than \$5 million. The design team then reconsidered the structural beams that

supported the skylight. They curved as they followed the contour of the podium and tower. After studying the elevations and cutaways, the designers realized that the beams would not need special fabrication to flow be-

tween the buildings. The same ef-

fect could be achieved for less mon-

ey with straight pieces, segmented

to follow the curves of the struc-

The solution was a breakthrough. By Jow's estimate, it saved about \$500,000 and ensured that the steel would come in under budget.

Shortly afterward, engineers were able to devise an attachment that allowed the skylight, fixed to the podium, to move on the tower side during an earthquake. And to support cleaning crews, they added ring hooks in the tower and made the glass thicker to withstand up to 300 pounds.

In early September 2014, the project's engineers, architects and managers gathered for one of their weekly meeting.

Martin and Jow were eager to discuss the skylight. They had decided that they had found the least expensive and best solution. They wanted it approved. And at last, it was — 21 months after Borland first saw the plan.

For \$6.5 million, the Wilshire Grand would have its river of glass.



FOR MORE THAN two years, Leonard Joseph has been consumed by the challenge of making the skyscraper stand up to Southern California's fierce quakes.

BUILT TO STAND FIRM

One of the tallest towers to be erected in an earthquake hot zone is a hard-fought compromise between safety and style

On engineer Leonard Joseph's computer screen, the Wilshire Grand was an apparition of white

lines floating calmly in black space. Then Joseph clicked his mouse, and the 73-story tower began to move, slowly at first, then more violently, as a simulated earthquake, magnitude 7.8, shook its foundation.

The skyscraper bowed, swayed and wobbled.

Joseph was incredulous.

"It's like those inflatable figures on the roadside." he remembered thinking.

If the tower were to dance like that, he realized, it would never stand. The more it bent, the more the gravity load would increase the bending, and down this billion-dollar hotel and office project would

Joseph knew the computer had amplified the movements 50-fold to make the trouble spots obvious, a 150-foot bend being more conspicuous than a three-foot bend.

Even so, he found the images disturbing, a reminder of the risk of raising a skyscraper in Southern

The structure at the corner of Wilshire Boulevard and Figueroa Street is one of the tallest ever built in a seismic hot zone. Its design has undergone the most sophisticated earthquake modeling performed on a building in Southern Califor-

But even that has its limits. "Earthquake design is a fuzzy proposition," said Joseph. "You can't ask an engineer to guarantee that a building will never collapse in an earthquake. That is not fair....

"You can ask that it will behave as well as possible, meeting at least the code requirements. Even that's a heavy responsibility."

By the fall of 2014, the challenge of making the Wilshire Grand stand up to fierce ground movements had consumed Joseph for two years.

Early tests showed that the tower needed special bracing at three points to prevent catastrophic failure, but there was another problem.

On the top floor, an earthquake could deliver a whiplash up to 4gs of acceleration, more than space shuttle astronauts experienced during launch.

The results doomed the architect's original vision for the top of this soaring edifice: a filigree of steel encased in glass and topped by a spire. Rising 300 feet above the tower, the features — too tall, too light — would never survive those top-floor forces.

On that point, there was no room for debate.

"There are some things you can't negotiate. You can't negotiate with God or Isaac Newton," Joseph said.

If every building is an act of defiance against the laws of physics, then a skyscraper is a brazen assault. Vertical forces push down, and lateral forces push sideways, each capable of damaging if not

toppling the structure. Before leading a team of engineers who designed structural elements of the Wilshire Grand, Joseph hadhelped shape some of the world's most distinguished skyscrapers: the Petronas Towers in Malaysia, Taipei 101 in Taiwan and

Shanghai Tower in China. Los Angeles' tower, however, proved to be in a class by itself.

Architect David Martin wanted large windows in every room, which required a relatively new style of construction using a concrete core.

To make space for an adjoining plaza, he pushed the tower to a corner of the site, limiting the size of the foundation.

To increase energy efficiency, he gave the skyscraper two narrow sides and two broad ones, like a domino standing on end.

The result was a slender, airy design whose purpose was to be a beautiful hotel, not a fortress against earthquakes.

The engineers were left with the job of having to fortify it.

The Wilshire Grand's design had to have the right combination of structural elements to keep the building erect when pushed down by gravity or pushed sideways by

windstorms and earthquakes, the principal forces that lead to failure.

In 1884, William Le Baron Jenney designed the 10-story Home Insurance Building in Chicago using steel columns and beams instead of bricks and mortar to support the building. For most of the next century, steel girders angled like jungle gyms above American streets.

But steel-frame buildings lose their efficiency at about 60 stories.

In the 1970s, a new technique allowed buildings to shoot skyward. In place of the jungle gym, buildings were held aloft by perimeter columns. With its twin towers standing 110 stories, New York's World Trade Center was the nation's grandest example.

The perimeter columns had one drawback, however. They obstructed views.

In the 1990s, advances in concrete technology had led to the conception of a high-rise as two interdependent structures: A concrete core, rising the height of the tower, serves as the central support for a skyscraper built around it. Exterior columns are still necessary, but they are much smaller.

High-rises with narrow concrete cores can be additionally supported with structural elements known as outriggers: braces that form giant triangles with horizontal and diagonal members extending from the core to the perimeter columns.

Together, the outriggers and columns act like ski poles for the concrete core, helping to resist vertical and lateral forces.

The style met Martin's require-

ments for the Wilshire Grand. Thirty outriggers, positioned between the 28th and 31st floors, the 53rd and 59th floors and the 70th and 73rd floors, extended from the But that didn't mean the tower

could survive earthquakes.

To engineer Marty Hudson, earthquakes are like fingerprints. No two are alike, which makes it impossible to design a building as unusual as the Wilshire Grand from the equations found in building codes.

Hudson was asked to create simulated earthquakes to test the tower design.

Working with data prepared by the California Geological Survey and the Southern California Earthquake Center, he began by cataloging nearly 100 local faults, poring over analyses of their geometry, type, slip rate and maximum possible magnitude.

Hudson studied how waves of energy, generated by earthquakes ranging from magnitude 4 to the low 8s, moved through the earth across Southern California. From that, he extrapolated how the earth movements would translate into shaking at the corner of Wilshire Boulevard and Figueroa Street.

The goal was to evaluate the greatest jolt that the building could experience.

Hudson then needed to understand how that energy would play out, second by second, as the earth

The evolution of building design

There are many ways to hold up a tall building. Over the last 100 years, structural styles have come and gone, depending on the availability of materials and the building's needs. While

Los Angeles may not be known for its high-rise culture, the city has a diversity of styles.



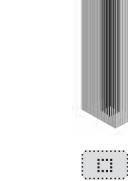


Masonry **Bradbury Building** 304 S. Broadway Completed: 1893



Moment-frame Union Bank Plaza 445 S. Figueroa St.

Completed: 1968



Braced core Aon Center 707 Wilshire Blvd.

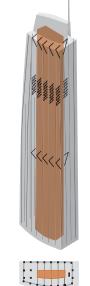
Completed: 1973



Tube system U.S. Bank Tower 633 W. 5th St. Completed: 1989



Concrete core Chase Plaza 801 S. Grand Ave. Completed: 1986



Concrete core with outriggers Wilshire Grand

900 Wilshire Blvd.

moved. So he turned to records of actual earthquakes around the world that came from faults similar to those in Southern California and were transmitted through comparable soil conditions.

Data in hand, the next step was to test the information against the Wilshire Grand's specifications.

Engineers turned to their computers, entering 112,500 lines of information that included such details as the size and location of the beams, columns and walls, along with their strengths, springiness and behaviors when overloaded.

Then they began running a program that pitted Hudson's earthquakes against the building.

The computations were so complicated that the computer needed nearly three days to run the simulations. The results provided visual representations of the building's movements and numeric spreadsheets that pinpointed failings.

The team scrutinized the data. Blue numbers meant that a brace or a wall had survived the shaking. Red numbers were trouble.

The tests helped the engineers refine the size and depth of the foundation, which would need to resist as much as 13.2 million pounds of force pulling up and 25 million pounds of force pushing down on each of the 20 perimeter columns as the tower swayed during an earthquake.

The numbers also pointed out a major problem. Strained by the force of Hudson's earthquakes, the outriggers jammed into the core, delivering more stress than the concrete could absorb. The inside walls between the elevators and stairwells were failing. Joseph saw wide cracks forming in the core.

Looking for solutions, engineers settled ona device known as a buckling-restrained brace. It consisted of a long steel bar encased in a steel box filled with grout. When a building moves, the steel box allows the bar to compress or stretch like taffy without buckling.

Joseph replaced each of the original wide-flange diagonal braces with one or more bucklingrestrained braces.

He ran new tests, and the core survived. The Wilshire Grand would have 170 of these braces.

Joseph wasn't finished. He kept returning to the animation.

The 7.8 earthquake — derived from the one that struck Tabas, Iran, in 1978 — turned the skyscraper into a snake with broad undulations coursing throughout the structure. He knew the building could sway up to 8 feet in an earthquake, but these cobra-like movements were different.

Much as harmonics, overlapping vibrations, arise from a plucked guitar string, multiple vibrations occur in a building that has been shaken by an earthquake. These vibrations are waves of movement that travel up and down the structure.

Because of the height of the Wilshire Grand, it can produce more than 200 of these harmonics, jiggling that is caused and compounded by the speed and duration of the seismic waves.

Movement at the base of the tower could amplify into a roller coaster ride at the top. With possible accelerations of 4gs, engineers worried that the crown and spire might buckle or even land in the street "like a Hollywood production," Joseph said.

Removing those architectural elements was out of the question.

Luminous by day, illuminated by night, the sail-like crown was the building's hood ornament, a distinctive mark in the city's skyline. As an aesthetic decision — to show off its musculature — the sail was surrounded by glass.

Architect Martin wanted it to look delicate and lacy with long, Aframe diagonals. He had hoped that its light weight would enable it to withstand strong lateral forces. A magazine editor looked at drawings for the concept and said it looked like the Eiffel Tower, and the analogy stuck.

But Joseph knew that this Eiffel Tower would be unsafe. He had hoped that the reinforced outriggers would solve the problem by controlling the movement of the tower.

They didn't.

Engineers considered anchor $ing \, the \, sail \, to \, the \, building \, with \, long$ cables that would allow a gentle rocking. But further tests showed the sail would rock so violently that it would damage the concrete core.

A redesign of the sail into a shorter feature offered no advantage, structurally or financially.

Skeptics talked of eliminating the sail entirely, especially as its cost started to rise.

Martin insisted that it remain. But he had to compromise. The sail had to be sturdier, less light and airy.

Engineers refigured his Eiffel Tower into a 500-ton complex of wide-flange braces, ranging from 22 to 44 feet in length, crisscrossing like a cat's cradle. "We decided to go with brute force," Joseph said.

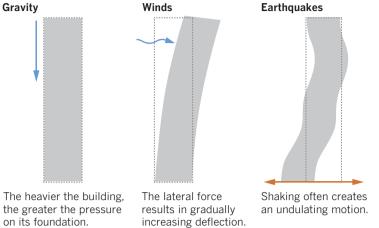
For Martin, the solution meant that the Wilshire Grand would retain its soaring prominence. Not flat-topped like the city's other high-rises, it could join City Hall as Los Angeles' other crowned edifice, adapted to the precarious reality of Southern California.

Man vs. nature

The Wilshire Grand is one of the tallest structures raised in a severe seismic zone. Its unique requirements forced engineers to find the right combination of structural elements that would keep the building standing during a catastrophic earthquake.

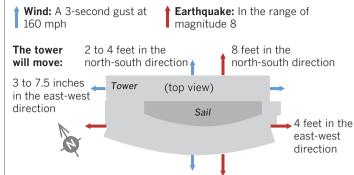
Physics 101

For every force in nature, there is an equal and opposite reaction. In the design of skyscrapers, gravity, winds and earthquakes are the greatest forces that the building reacts to.



From the 73rd floor

Guests on the top floor of the Wilshire Grand will need to hold on tight in the event of a major earthquake. Computer simulations and wind-tunnel tests allowed engineers to calculate movement during "maximum considered events."



No matter the distance, the tower will take 7 seconds to sway from north to south and 3.5 seconds to sway from east to west.

Underlying support

The architect's requirements for the Wilshire Grand — large windows and a narrow profile — helped determine the basic structural elements for the skyscraper.

Combined strength

All structural elements of the Wilshire Grand play a role in supporting the skyscraper. If shaking If shaking in the in the north-south east-west

direction Concrete core 50%

Perimeter columns and outriggers **50%**

Wilshire Spire: Rises Grand: almost 175 feet 1.100 feet above the crown.

Crown: Rises almost 100 feet above the outdoor terrace on the 73rd floor. Its sides are covered with glass.

direction

80%

20%

It is 78 inches in diameter at the base and tapers to 32 inches at the top.

Concrete core Conceived of as a building within a building, the Wilshire Grand has a concrete core that serves as the central support for

the tower built around it. The strength of the core allows for smaller exterior columns and uninterrupted views from the rooms. The core is 841 feet. 6 inches tall, with walls 4 feet thick at the base, tapering to 2 feet near the

Outriggers The concrete core is supported with a series of structural elements

known as outriggers. These braces form giant triangles extending from the core to the exterior columns. There are 30 outriggers located on floors 28-31, 53-59 and

Perimeter columns Surrounding the concrete core and defining the faces of the building. 20 columns work with the outriggers, helping to resist lateral and vertical forces that come from gravity, winds and earthquakes. The columns are concrete-filled steel

Foundation The most crucial element of the Wilshire Grand is its foundation, which was designed to carry the weight of the building and to resist forces from the movement of the tower. Eighteen feet thick, the foundation contains 21,200 cubic

yards of concrete and 7.1 million

pounds of reinforcing steel.

Refining the design

The Wilshire Grand underwent an extensive series of tests that led to significant changes in two aspects of its structural design.

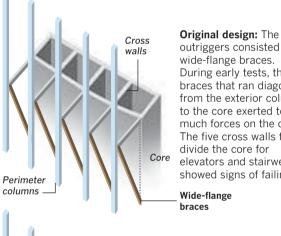
Crown During a severe earthquake, the top of the building would experience up to 4gs of lateral shaking. This acceleration

forced changes to the original design of the crown: a decorative filigree of steel surrounded by glass. Original design: Long, A-frame diagonal braces created an Eiffel

Improvement: Shortening the braces and adding more cross members made the crown stronger and sturdier.

Buckling-restrained braces (BRBs)

The undulating motion that occurs in the skyscraper during an earthquake exerts unique forces on the outriggers. Early tests showed that these forces would damage the core.



outriggers consisted of wide-flange braces. During early tests, the braces that ran diagonally from the exterior column to the core exerted too much forces on the core. The five cross walls that divide the core for elevators and stairwells showed signs of failing. Wide-flange

Tower-like look for the

top of the building. The

length of the braces put

them at risk of buckling

during an earthquake.

columns

Improvement: Engineers replaced the wide-flange braces that ran diagonally from the exterior columns to the core with special braces, known as bucklingrestrained braces.

Bucklingrestrained braces

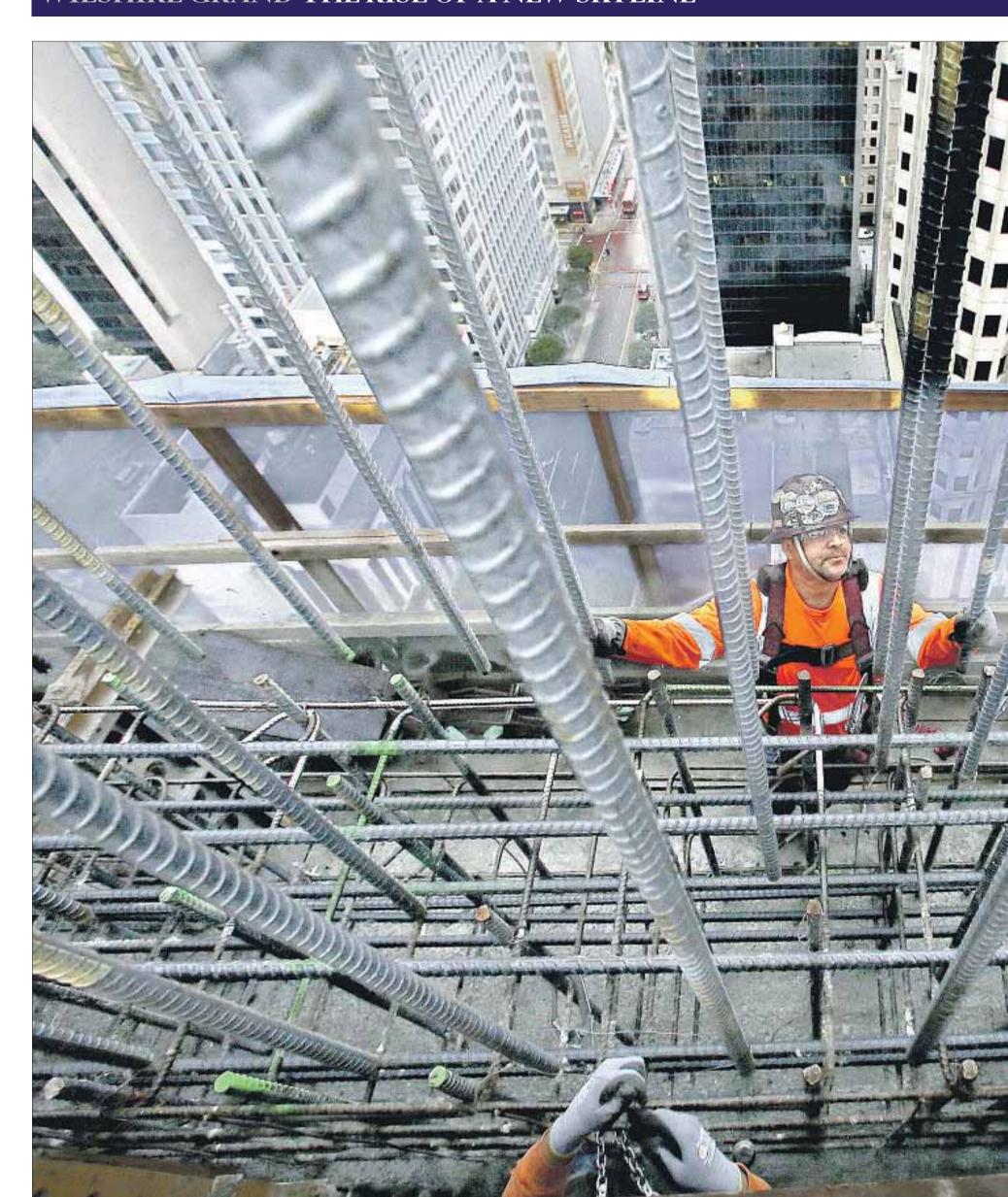
A closer look at the BRBs

There will be 170 of these braces, with some outriggers receiving more than one. Each consists of a long steel bar encased in a steel box that is filled with grout. As the building moves, the bars compress or stretch without buckling.

Comparing braces Buckling-restrained brace under stress Steel box Grout Wide-flange brace under stress

LORENA IÑIGUEZ ELEBEE Los Angeles Times

Sources: Leonard Joseph, Thornton Tomasetti; Tammy, Jow. Joseph Varholick and Noel Moreno, A.C. Martin; Steve Carroll, Schuff Steel: Ian Aiken, SIE Inc.; Nippon Steel Engineering USA, Graphics reporting by THOMAS CURWEN



IRON WORKER Javier Jimenez guides a rebar wall into position as it hangs from a crane above. Rebar, which provides strength to concrete that would otherwise crack

NEW FRONTIER OF

Skill, daring and ego were as essential as steel and concrete as hundreds of workers pushed the ambitious project skyward

The elevator doors snapped shut behind Otto Solis and his fellow ironworkers. With a quick shudder, gears kicked in for a rattling 90-second ascent through the concrete structure rising at the corner of Wilshire Boulevard and Figueroa Street in downtown Los Angeles

The men huddled in the confined space. Wearing hard hats, bandannas, kneepads and gloves, they looked like gladiators ready to fight.

It was the start of their 6:30 shift, a dark morning in December 2014 under drizzling skies at the construction site for the Wilshire Grand hotel and office project.

Foreman Solis and his crew of 10 belong to a class of ironworkers known as rod busters. Their job that day was on the 24th floor, where they would place steel that in three days would be encased in concrete, taking the structure up another story.

Consisting of small-diameter rods known as rebar, the steel provides strength to concrete, which would otherwise crack and crum-



GLASS FOREMAN Gary Wahlenmaier, right, looks on as glaziers Carlos Riviera, left, and Joe Guevara sign their names on a 35-foot-long, 2,100-pound steel beam bound for the 72nd floor.

ble over time. Rebar is a crucial component of this skyscraper that at 1,100 feet is the tallest building west of Chicago.

The central element is the concrete structure known as the core. It houses the elevators and stairs and is surrounded by a skeleton of structural steel that supports the rest of the building.

The elevator jerked to a stop at the 19th level. The rod busters stepped onto a small platform and started climbing. Stairs, suspended from a deck nearly 30 feet overhead, swayed in rhythm to their steps

Their final ascent was up a series of ladders. Twelve rungs to the first deck, then 20 to the second, 12 to the third and 24 to the top level—

the gantry—open to the sky.

Even with the concrete core standing just a third of its eventual height of 73 stories, the view was

spectacular. To the northwest: the

observatory at Griffith Park and the Hollywood sign. To the west where Ballona Creek reaches the sea: a small blue line of ocean, obscured by squalls.

On Figueroa Street below, pedestrians with umbrellas moved like dots on the sidewalks.

Rain fell harder as Solis put on his tool belt: 15 pounds of equipment, including wrenches, tape measure, torpedo level, pry bar, pliers and a spool of annealed wire. He stepped into his safety harness, straps wrapping over his shoulders, around his hips and groin.

He made sure the lanyards extending from the harness were not tangled. When snapped onto the steel, the lines would catch him if he fell.

Twelve years ago, Solis was working maintenance for a McDonald's in Hollywood for \$7.75 an hour. He had come to this country from Guatemala and never dreamed that in his first year as a rod buster he would make \$36 an hour.

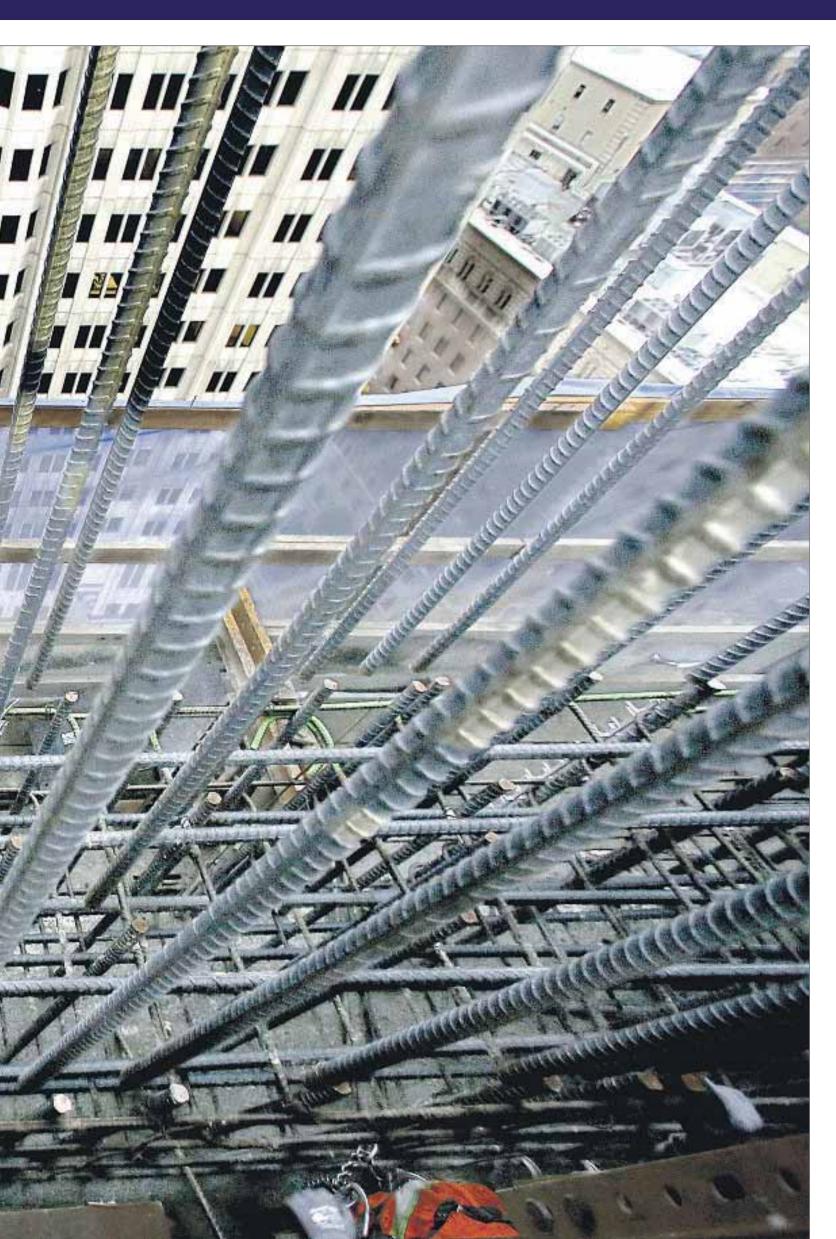
He has a home in La Puente, where he lives with his wife and three children.

"This is dangerous work," he said, "but it can change your life."

The rebar in the Wilshire Grand began its journey in a Rancho Cucamonga scrap yard.

Crushed steel was dissolved into liquid using a 3,000-degree furnace and amended with carbon, manganese, silicon and sulfur. The molten brew then was cast and cooled into 20-foot-long billets, 6 inches square, which were run through a series of rollers that shaped them into 225-foot lengths of rebar.

Cut and bent, the rebar was stacked in a crosshatched pattern and wired together by hand to create three-dimensional checkerboard structures through which concrete could flow. The structures, averaging 3 feet deep, 8 feet wide and 19 feet tall, are known as cages.



Photographs by MEL MELCON Los Angeles Times

and crumble over time, is a crucial component of this skyscraper that at 1,100 feet is the tallest building west of the Mississippi.

SKY(()WB()YS

Assembled in San Bernardino, cages were trucked to the construction site, stitched together on the ground to form even larger cages and lifted by a crane to the top of the concrete core.

Once the cages were positioned, steel plates were attached to their sides and concrete poured into the gap, enveloping the rebar. After the concrete hardened, the plates were removed. Every four days, a new story was added to the core.

Suspended midflight, the first cage sailed over Solis and his men.

J.C. Cortez and Alvaro Reyes grabbed ropes hanging from either end of the structure and pulled it into position. Thirty feet wide, it weighed 22,000 pounds.

'Cuidado con los dedos," one man called out. Watch your fingers.

In December 2014, nearly 400 workers were on the job at the Wilshire Grand site, almost a third the number that would be there when the workforce peaked. They included ironworkers and the concrete gang, as well as carpenters, plumbers, electricians, glaziers and other specialists, each trade defined as much by ego and pride as by skill. The various crews had learned

how to negotiate a site no bigger than a city block. Crowded with rebar, plywood.

structural iron, scaffolding and machinery, the Wilshire Grand space offered little room for storage or staging. Each day, project managers

oversaw a carefully scripted sched-

ule of truck deliveries and crane lifts for the immediate placement of materials.

'We knew that this job and this site would require patience and collaboration," said Michael Marchesano, a general superintendent for Turner Construction Co. "We needed to get into a rhythm with one another.'

That rhythm was tested by a new phase of construction: the erection of the structural steel beams, columns, braces and girders weighing up to 51,000 pounds —that would surround the concrete core.

On their first day working the Wilshire Grand, structural ironworkers Miah Thomas and Paul Graham performed a ballet 15 feet above a concrete deck.

With safety lanyards fastened beneath them, they walked a $7^{1/2}$ -inch-wide beam as if it were a sidewalk, spud wrenches hanging from their belts like swords. With wedges and crowbars, they aligned drill holes and bolted the beam into

"Being a structural ironworker," said Chris Ahrens, a weld-

er who watched the performance, 'well, there is not much higher than that as far as being in the building trade." Structural crews are known for their swagger and an intensity that

some argue comes from the dangers of the work. Some working in other trades view them as prima donnas whose willingness to take risks makes it easy to question their intelligence.

Round bolt, round hole, one

carpenter said as Thomas and

Graham worked. How hard is that? "Now being a carpenter, that takes brains," he continued. "Most project managers began as car-

penters. Jesus Christ was a carpenter. That's all I'm saying." Structural crews know they

have a reputation as daredevils and hard partyers — and are trying to move beyond it. We cannot be viewed as the

'crazy guys up there,'" the union advised its membership in an article on its website. "We must replace myths and lies with the truth."

The Wilshire Grand crew turned down repeated interview requests from The Times.

'I learned to do as the old-timers taught me," said foreman Craig Castor. "Keep your mouth shut and work hard."

On the gantry, as the rain continued to fall. Johnny McCormack with the concrete company Conco gave the go-ahead to a pump operator working with the mixer trucks as they arrived off 7th Street.

From the pump, the mix flowed through a 5-inch-diameter pipe across the construction site and up

300 feet. McCormack manipulated two toggles on a wireless remote control board hung around his waist,

directing the movement of a long robotic arm that held a nozzle for dispensing the concrete. Thirty years ago, delivering

concrete to such a height would

have been impossible, but chemi-

cal breakthroughs have changed

Special additives introduce tinv air bubbles, which act like ball bearings to help the mixture's flow. Other chemicals make the concrete movable and cohesive like gelatin, and some put a negative electrical charge on the grains of cement so they don't stick together.

Balancing on top of a rebar wall, a worker positioned the nozzle over a steel cage. The concrete dropped with the sound of a coffee percolator. Two men snaked electric vibrators through the rebar and into the mix, knocking out any air pockets.

If concrete is poured too fast, it will place too much pressure on the steel walls and they will bow out. If poured too slowly, the concrete will start to set and not bond to the next layer.

Five passes were needed to fill the western half of the core, a process that took almost 10 hours. A little before noon, Solis de-

cided that the weather had become dangerous. Wind gusts were clocking up to 20 knots, unsafe for flying steel, and satellite images of the storm showed showers increasing for the rest of the day.

Solis halted the work. He had hoped to fly seven cages, but they

managed just three. The rod busters headed to the

ladders that would take them to the stairs and the elevator. Solis stashed his tool belt in an

equipment locker and grabbed his They would have to make up for

lost time the next day.

The height of daring design

With a steel spire as its calling card, the skyscraper offers a preview of what a more liberated skyline might look like

Lying in unremarkable repose, the last piece of steel to be raised atop the Wilshire Grand skyscraper rested among the dirt and debris of the job site, a baton awaiting the perform-

At 7:22 a.m. on Sept 3, the tower crane began to lift the 58foot section of the building's spire on an eight-minute journey to the top, where, once bolted into place, it would give the Wilshire Grand the distinction of being the tallest building in the western United States.

Rising 1,100 feet — not counting a 2-foot lightning rod attached to the top — the towering high-rise at Figueroa Street and Wilshire Boulevard has earned its place in history as one of the loftiest structures structures to be built in an active earthquake zone.

But for Angelenos, the Wilshire Grand is most remarkable for changing the skyline of Los Angeles.

After years of negotiations in its early planning stages, its architects won concessions from city officials to shake off the old requirements of highrise design — boxy and flat-roofed — and create a more stylish, vertical ornament for the building's roof.

For more than 40 years, the skyscrapers of Los Angeles have followed a building code that required landing sites for helicopters on top of all highrises to be used in the event of emergencies. Architects for the Wilshire Grand, however, proposed an alternative that took a more modern approach to safety, which the city accepted and soon adopted for future con-

struction. Today the Wilshire Grand offers a preview of what a more liberated skyline in the city might look like. Urban designers and architects have applauded the change, believing that one day the airspace above the ubiquitous sprawl will incorporate the more daring and aesthetic shapes that have emerged in cities around the

"The flat-topped building has created one appearance to the high-rises of downtown." said Los Angeles-based architect Michael Maltzan, "but this evolution allows architects to do more and to have a broader palette.'

The spire, designed in tandem with an adjoining structure of steel and glass known as the sail, serves as the Wilshire Grand's calling card. Its final 18 feet, a column of perforated $stainless\,steel, glows\,with\,one\,of$ four LED lights: red, blue, green

Luminous by day, illuminated by night and branded with the logo of the building's owner Korean Airlines — the spire and the sail are visible throughout the region and, for visitors downtown, an invitation from the street to gaze skyward to some imaginary vanishing point.

"Who knows what this will lead to and how skyscrapers will continue to evolve in the city?" said Maltzan.

For architect David Martin, who viewed the spire's final assembly from a rooftop two blocks away, the end of construction culminated a dream put in motion nearly 10 years ago when he first began drawing a concept for the \$1-billion complex.

He never doubted he would succeed.

"The nature of being an architect," he said, "is to be a dreamer."

By 8:06 that morning, ironworkers finished bolting together the inside collar of the spire assembly, and the connection to the crane was released. The FAA navigational beacon on its tip glowed red.

'Towers first and foremost represent the ambitions, aspirations and identity of the developers and the corporations inside of them," Maltzan said, but they also represent the city that they are in.'

