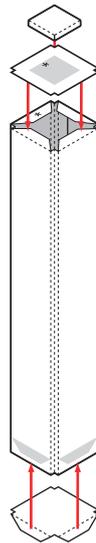
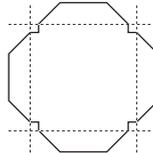
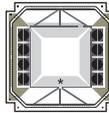
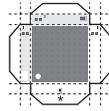
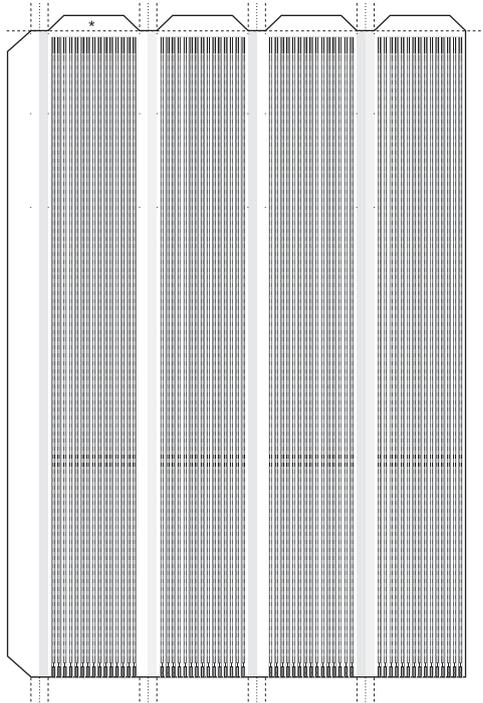




Amoco Building



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Build this BANAL BOX The thirteenth-tallest building IN THE WORLD and a superb monument to CORPORATE HUBRIS

Completed model



Built in 1973, in a relatively undeveloped area east of Michigan Avenue, this unadorned 82-story box soars to 1136 feet above the street. That's nine feet taller than the John Hancock Center, making the Standard Oil Building one of the five tallest in the world when it was built. Locals nick-named it "Big Stan," a partner to "Big John," the John Hancock Center, the two lone giants on the city skyline at that time.

But the folksy nickname failed to stick to the building's anonymous façade, and the Standard Oil Building, like the eponymous corporate machine inside it, faded into a pragmatic secrecy about its presence in the city landscape. While the John Hancock welcomed attention with a friendly, accessible, and recognizable caricature for the city skyline, the blank box of the Amoco Building has no public spaces, no public observation deck, no recognizable features or antennae. Few visitors, or even residents of Chicago, realize that it is in fact the second-tallest building in the city, at present the thirteenth-tallest in the world.

If the building achieves any sort of notoriety, it is for its unusual construction materials. When it was built, it was originally clad in fine Carrara marble, a thousand feet of gleaming pure translucence, the highest construction in marble ever attempted. Over local outcry, the same quarries where Michelangelo acquired the stone for his sculptures were completely depleted in the quest for enough marble to clothe the soaring walls of the building.

Perhaps as if cursed, in a few years time the thin marble sheets began to buckle and crack, unable to withstand the extremes of Chicago weather. Rather than risk an accident, the entire building was stripped of its stonework and re-clad in a light-colored North Carolina granite.

Due to the machinations of corporate restructurings and mergers, the building has changed its name yet again. The sign on Randolph street now labels it "Aon Center," in honor of the new major tenant. No one seems to have noticed the change, as many locals still walk up to the door asking "This the Standard Oil Building?"

Scale = 1:4000

AR-CHI-81

This miniature model designed and prepared in a cubicle in the northwest corner of the 38th floor of the Amoco Building.



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