

COMMENT

VIDEO

Top 5: Living in a Tower

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BEST OF



Every residential tower in our top selection offers spectacular views, impressive architecture and the very best quality of life. Two of the five are even located in the same city.

5. Merdeka 118 Kuala Lumpur

In the centre of Kuala Lumpur, the 118-storey *Merdeka 118 Tower* soars to a height of 678.9 metres. This makes it the second-tallest building in the world after the Burj Khalifa. The skyscraper was completed in 2023 by Fender Katsalidis in collaboration with local architectural firms *RSP* and *GDP*, as well as engineering firms *Robert Bird Group* and *LERA*. In addition to offices, a shopping centre and the *Park Hyatt Hotel*, the tower also houses a small number of luxury apartments for permanent residence. The majority of the apartments are located in the two adjacent towers. *Merdeka 118* is the world's

tallest LEED Platinum (BD+C) building. As such, the tower sets new standards in sustainability for skyscrapers. Through clever planning and innovative technologies, it achieves a 28% reduction in operational energy consumption and a 32% reduction in drinking water consumption compared to conventional buildings of this scale. A full 95% of construction waste was diverted from landfill. The open spaces around the main tower and the two residential towers are car-free and have been designed as a local recreational area for the public.

4. Central Park Tower New York

Anyone living in *Central Park Tower* has – at least financially – done something right. The 472-metre-tall skyscraper was designed by architect Adrian Smith and completed in 2020. From the 32nd floor upwards, the tower contains 179 spacious luxury apartments, offering between 133 and 1,626 square metres of living space. A three-storey penthouse with its own ballroom and observatory spans the 129th to the 131st floors. The purchase price for the penthouse is reported to be around USD 250 Mio. Communal facilities – such as the fitness and wellness area – are available to all residents on floors eight to twelve. The spectacular views over New York City and neighbouring Central Park make the property a highly sought-after residence.

3. One Park Drive London

The *One Park Drive* skyscraper in London, designed by architects *Herzog & de Meuron* and Tom Dixon, is also a luxurious development. All 483 flats across 58 storeys feature outdoor spaces and exclusive interior fittings. The penthouse flats have double-height ceilings and even several terraces. The interior boasts unique features such as an imposing, sculptural spiral staircase. The architectural concept, with its interlocking bay windows and balconies, creates privacy and shields the outdoor areas from the wind. The cylindrical shape of

the residential tower stands out from the rectangular towers in the Canary Wharf district, making the building – which opened in 2022 – a London landmark, situated directly on the dock and overlooking the water. Amenities for residents include a dedicated fitness centre with an indoor pool, a library, concierge services and a cinema on the ground floor. In 2021, the skyscraper won awards at the *International Property Awards* in the categories of *Best Apartment* and *Best Residential Development*.

2. Valley Amsterdam

The *Valley* project in Amsterdam's Zuidas district, designed by the architectural firm *MVRDV*, was completed in 2022 and named *Best New Skyscraper in the World* at the 2021 *Emporis Skyscraper Awards*. The complex appears as if hewn from stone, intended to reflect a strong connection to nature. Large glass surfaces in the office complex break up the imposing stone façade with a touch of grace. The mixed-use building complex covers a total of 75,000 m². The tallest tower rises 100 m above the flat landscape, whilst the other two towers are 67 and 81 m high. On the top two floors of the tallest tower, visitors can enjoy the panoramic view from the Sky Bar. And the residents of the 200 flats also have a remarkable view from their terraces, roof gardens and balconies. Each flat has a unique floor plan, making it one of a kind. A wide range of housing types – from small studio flats to spacious family homes – is available. Landscape architect Piet Oudolf is responsible for the landscaping. A total of 13,000 plants bring nature to the Valley all year round. Shops, offices and spacious, publicly accessible green spaces and terraces bring plenty of life to the complex.

1. HAUT Amsterdam

Standing 21 storeys tall, *Team V Architecture, Lingotto, Arup and J.P. van Eesteren* have built one of the tallest wooden skyscrapers in the world. The building is the first residential development in the Netherlands to be certified as BREEAM Outstanding. The 73-metre-high hybrid timber tower is equipped with solar panels on the roof and façade, a highly efficient low-temperature heating and cooling system, and electric charging points for commercial vehicles. The

roof garden features a rainwater storage tank and nesting boxes for birds and bats. To ensure safe construction at height, the foundations, basement and core of the building are made of concrete. The floors and walls are constructed from timber. The irregularly arranged balconies and the double-height spaces facing the Amstel create a striking façade and the highest quality of life – with the lowest possible environmental impact.

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