

Sky high

Four new buildings are soon to lift the global skyline – we look up at Nanning China Resources Tower, Vincom Landmark 81 (Ho Chi Minh), Central Park Tower (New York) and Wuhan Greenland Center (Wuhan, China)

While New York's Hudson Yards took the mantle for tallest top-out in 2018, China remains the world leader in skyscrapers – especially in the sheer number of projects in the pipeline. Here is a sneak preview of who might get there in the next two years.

HO CHI MINH

Atkins Global-designed hotel and residential tower Vinmark 81 became Southeast Asia's tallest (and the world's 14th tallest) completed building in July 2018. The investor and primary developer

for the project is Vinhomes, a Vietnamese corporation that is also the country's largest real-estate company. Dominating Ho Chi Minh City's skyline, the 461-metre tall, 81-storey mega skyscraper is built on the western banks of the Saigon River in the city's Binh Thanh District, located just north of the historic centre and to the immediate south of Saigon Bridge.

The tower is at the heart of the \$1.5b high-end mixed-use urban area called Vinhomes Central Park with a development that comprises hotel and conference facilities, luxury apartments, high-end retail

spaces, restaurants, bars, and a multi-story observation deck at the tower's crown. Superseding Keangnam Landmark 72 and Bitexco Financial Tower, the top two floors offer a stunning view over the sprawling Ho Chi Minh. vinhomesapartment.net.vn

NEW YORK

Taking every cubic millimetre of blue sky possible, the Central Park Tower will be the world's tallest residential building upon completion later this year, with cantilevers to the east, creating park views for all north-facing residences. In terms of roof height (not spire) the 472-metre 99-storey building will be the US' tallest building, with only One World Trade Centre and Sears

Tower taller. Located on West 57th Street, or 'Billionaire's Row', the structure has been designed by Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill architecture, the firm behind the world's next tallest building – the 'Jeddah Tower' – now under construction in Saudi Arabia.

Starting on the 32nd floor, the 179 two-to-eight-bedroom residences – designed by Rottet studio – range in size from 1,435 square feet to over 17,500 square feet. The 'Central Park Club' will offer approximately 50,000 square feet of luxury amenities spread across three floors. Its base will include a seven-story Nordstrom flagship store. centralparktower.com

NANNING

With a population of more than 10 million people, Nanning is already home to seven buildings taller than 100-metres, including the Diwang International Commerce Center (276m) and World Trade Commerce City (218m). ►

Below: Central Park Tower looms above the famous park with panoramic views over New York – the mixed-use commercial/residential project will be completed in 2020





Above: The Wuhan Greenland Center in Central China's Hubei province Below: Nanning China Resources Centre in the south

Set for completion in 2019, construction began on the Goettsch Partners-designed Nanning China Resources Center Tower in 2015. Famous for Al Hilal Bank Office Tower in Abu Dhabi and Abu Dhabi Global Market Square, Goettsch Partners have designed monumental glass structures across the world. The Nanning China Resources Centre is located in Nanning, capital of the Guangxi Province, and is situated along Minzu Avenue in the heart of the city's Fengling District.

It is linked to public transportation through underground connections, and to adjacent buildings via indoor and outdoor pedestrian corridors at the ground and sixth floors, respectively. Its multiple uses will include 170,000 sq.m of Class A office space, 5,000 sq.m of boutique retail, and a 45,000 sq.m luxury Shangri-La hotel.

The angled geometries of the façades are designed to reinforce the crystalline form while celebrating the tower's verticality. Entirely encased in floor-to-ceiling high-performance glass, the skin design features integrated ceramic shading elements that offer added solar control while

maintaining ample natural light without obstructing views. "The overall effect of the tower is of a crystalline form ascending to the sky; culminating in an illuminated beacon that will define the new Nanning skyline," says Paul De Santis, LEED AP, Principal at GP.

The building was designed to LEED-NC Gold standards and the high performing façade is one of many features that are holistically integrated toward reducing the project's environmental footprint.

"The tower will not only be a symbol for Nanning's fast-growing economic prosperity but a bold symbol of its dedication to environmental responsibility upon its completion in 2019," says Travis Soberg, AIA, principal at GP. gpchicago.com

WUHAN

Plans for the rocket-shaped Wuhan Greenland Center had to be cut down from 636 metres to 500 metres after local authorities decided to opt for airport safety over municipal pride.

The revision in plans for the building in the city's Binjiang central business district – some 250 metres from the Yangtze River – follows an expansion of the city's air transit hub completed in 2017, which put the 126-storey tower within the path of planes approaching Tianhe International Airport.

With construction starting in 2012, this mega mixed-use tower, designed by the architects of the world's current tallest building Burj Khalifa, will house

residences, offices, retail and a five-star hotel.

Sloping columns and triangular floor plans made for an Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill-designed building that was set to surpass the Shanghai Tower, but will now have to settle for China's fifth-tallest building ahead of the Shanghai World Financial Centre.

In conjunction with Thornton Tomasetti Engineers, Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill won the design competition to build an energy-efficient tower for Greenland Group, a real estate developer owned by the Shanghai city government.

The latest plans are for the Center to be completed in 2019. greenlandsc.com/en ■

