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# ONE WORLD TRADE CENTER

## Biography of the Building

By Judith Dupré

From Judith Dupré, author of the international bestseller *Skyscrapers*, comes **ONE WORLD TRADE CENTER: Biography of the Building** (Little, Brown and Company; April 26, 2016), the definitive book about one of the most complex collaborations in history.

OWTC has been scrutinized more closely than any building or public work in the modern age, and yet until now the complete story of the project—from political, economic, structural and technological, artistic, and civic angles—has never been fully told. The only author given unfettered access to the Trade Center site, team, and archives by The Port Authority of New York & New Jersey, Dupré presents the story of One World Trade Center in its entirety: from Mayor Rudy Giuliani's vow to rebuild on September 12, 2001, through the complex, often contentious interactions between the many public and private agencies with a stake in the project, to the topping out of the most advanced skyscraper ever constructed. Incorporating over seventy interviews and behind-the-scenes moments with the people who brought the project to life, the book includes boldface names such as architects David Childs, Daniel Libeskind, and Santiago Calatrava as well as engineers, ironworkers, government officials, private developers, and civic and museum leaders. Award-winning author and architectural historian Dupré employs rich imagery and novel graphic design features to weave together as only she can the full story of this fascinating fourteen-year project.

Dupré frames OWTC from every angle. The book:

- Explains how the very scale of the public's hopes, coupled with the project's complexity and the sheer numbers of people involved, held OWTC in limbo but ultimately resulted in a project that celebrates innovation and also helps reconcile the losses suffered on the site.
- Examines how rapidly changing technologies, structural innovations, and expanded safety standards influenced the project's evolution, including the ways in which the tower helped rewrite the New York City Building Code, essentially moribund since 1968, forever influencing every project that will come after it.

- Scrutinizes the Trade Center’s political and financial underpinnings, and shows how the push and pull of many diverse interests and the agendas of OWTC’s multiple stakeholders produced better buildings than a lesser struggle would have. Dupré also reveals how the mandated 2014 overhaul of the Port Authority triggered a sea change, making OWTC the last great project undertaken by the agency before its essential structure, established in 1921, was dismantled.

In addition to the One WTC skyscraper, the book examines the other eight major structures that comprise an interconnected ensemble of buildings at the Trade Center. Chapters on each of them emphasize specific issues ranging from the vicissitudes of the real estate market to the notion of the sacred in a secular setting.

Designed in collaboration with DBOX, a celebrated group of architectural renderers who created the first visualizations of the new Trade Center, the book features more than 250 stunning photos (many never before published), an illustrated timeline of construction milestones from 2006 to 2015 that documents the project’s extensive scope, a time-lapse montage of OWTC’s evolution, a map that shows contributions to OWTC from nearly every state and from across the globe, and annotated panoramic photographs from One World Observatory that define New York’s major landmarks from an aerial perspective.

Written in a crisp, anecdotal style, Judith Dupré’s ONE WORLD TRADE CENTER provides an illustrated record of an emotional, technically demanding undertaking that has occupied global headlines since September 2001. This “biography of a building” is also a story of American hope, ingenuity, and pride.

Judith Dupré is passionate about the built environment. A *New York Times* bestselling author published in eleven languages, she writes books about history through the lens of a single building type, whether skyscrapers, bridges, memorials, or churches—all building types found at the WTC. Her iconic *Skyscrapers* remains the bestselling book in the world on that topic. Above all, she seeks to engage and delight those who profess not to “know much” about architecture. A graduate of Brown and Yale universities, Dupré is the recipient of numerous prestigious awards and was a 2015 National Endowment for the Humanities Public Scholar.

<http://www.onewtcbook.com>

<http://www.judithdupre.com>

## ONE WORLD TRADE CENTER

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## ONE WORLD TRADE CENTER: By the Numbers

- At 1,776 feet and 104 stories, One World Trade Center is the tallest building in the United States and the Western Hemisphere and the seventh tallest building in the world. OWTC also extends 85 feet down, anchored in Manhattan bedrock.
- Totalling 3,500,000 square feet, OWTC includes offices, a 3-level observatory, and broadcast facilities. Below ground, it houses parking, storage and loading docks, and retail establishments and restaurants, along with access to the PATH train, eleven subway lines, and Brookfield Place. OWTC's four immense doorways are the largest ever used in an office tower.
- It is the most expensive skyscraper in the world, with an estimated final cost of over \$3.9 billion.
- Its superstructure consumed 45,000 tons (90 million pounds) of structural steel, 90% of it recycled.
- 208,000 cubic yards of concrete were used to make the tower, enough to make a sidewalk that stretches from New York to Chicago. The core includes concrete that measures 14,000 psi (96.5 MPa), the strongest concrete that's ever been used in a skyscraper.
- 1 million square feet (92,903 square meters) of crystal-clear glass—the safest, most sustainable, and largest panels ever to clad a skyscraper—cover its upper reaches.
- OWTC was constructed over live rail lines; the PATH train and No. 1 subway ran continuously through the site during construction.
- One World Observatory (Levels 100–102 of OWTC) is the highest public vantage point in New York.
- One World's five elevators are the fastest in the Americas, traveling a hundred stories in less than a minute. The project includes seventy-one state-of-the-art elevators in total, developed by a global team of collaborators from Brazil, Germany, China, South Korea, and the United States.
- The project is projected to earn LEED Gold Certification by the US Green Building Council.
- Nearly every state in the United States contributed skills, technology, or materials to One World Trade Center (a map graphic in the book illustrates this in detail). Forty-nine trade unions built it. Other countries also provided key structural components.
- There were no deaths during construction of the WTC, extraordinary for a project of this complexity and scope.