LONDON CONSTRUCTION MAGAZINE

Tallest Buildings in London Ranked: Heights and Who Built Them

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The Shard remains London's tallest completed building at 306 metres under the current Council on Vertical Urbanism architectural-height standard. 22 Bishopsgate is second at 278.2 metres, followed by One Canada Square at 236 metres.

Height tells only part of the story. The ranking below also identifies the architects, structural engineers and main contractors behind the 20 tallest completed buildings in Greater London, from Renzo Piano, WSP and Mace at The Shard to the teams behind Canary Wharf's residential towers and the City's latest office buildings.



The Shard at London Bridge remains London's tallest completed building. Photo: London Construction Magazine.

London tall buildings explorer

LCM DATA TOOL

London's tallest completed buildings

Ranked by architectural height. Tap a building to see who designed, engineered and built it.

FILTER THE RANKING

All 20 | Office | Residential | Mixed-use

1	**The Shard** Southwark · Mixed-use · Completed 2013	306m · 1,004ft
2	**22 Bishopsgate** City of London · Office · Completed 2020	278.2m · 913ft
3	**One Canada Square** Canary Wharf · Office · Completed 1991	236m · 774ft
4	**Landmark Pinnacle** Tower Hamlets · Residential-led · Completed 2020	233.2m · 765ft

The 20 tallest completed buildings in London

Rank	Building	Height	Floors	Completed
1	The Shard	306m / 1,004ft	73	2013
2	22 Bishopsgate	278.2m / 913ft	62	2020
3	One Canada Square	236m / 774ft	50	1991
4	Landmark Pinnacle	233.2m / 765ft	77	2020

How LCM ranks London's tallest buildings

The ranking uses architectural height, the standard used by the Council on Vertical Urbanism for its tallest-building tables. The measurement starts at the lowest significant open-air pedestrian entrance and runs to the architectural top. Permanent architectural spires count; antennas, signage, flagpoles and functional technical equipment do not.

This explains why figures found elsewhere can differ. The Shard is often described as 309.6 metres high, but the current CVU architectural-height record used for this ranking is 306 metres. LCM uses one measurement system throughout rather than mixing roof, tip and architectural heights.

A building also has to be complete. Under the CVU completion criteria, it must be structurally and architecturally topped out, fully clad and open for business or at least partially occupiable. A tower that has simply reached its highest structural level does not enter this list.

The geographic scope is Greater London, following the CVU London dataset. It therefore includes the City of London, Canary Wharf, Southwark, Nine Elms and North Acton rather than restricting the ranking to the Square Mile.

The Shard remains London's tallest building

The Shard has held first place since completion in 2013. Its 306-metre architectural height leaves it 27.8 metres above 22 Bishopsgate and 70 metres above One Canada Square.

Renzo Piano Building Workshop designed the tower for Sellar Property Group. WSP was structural engineer and Mace delivered the main construction works. The building mixes offices, restaurants, hotel accommodation, apartments and public viewing levels within the tapered structure.

The structural design changes as the tower rises. WSP describes a building that moves through different structural systems to suit the changing floorplates, with a concrete core and a prefabricated steel pinnacle at the top.

22 Bishopsgate is the City's tallest completed tower

22 Bishopsgate stands at 278.2 metres and is the tallest completed building wholly within the City of London. PLP Architecture designed the 62-storey office tower, WSP provided structural engineering and Multiplex completed the £591 million construction contract in December 2020.

Its engineering is tied closely to the failed Pinnacle development that previously occupied the site. WSP reused all of the existing foundations and half of the basement, with new structural work threaded through the retained substructure. Multiplex records the completed building at 1.275 million sq ft.

One Canada Square still ranks third after 35 years

One Canada Square reached 236 metres in 1991 and remains London's third-tallest completed building. César Pelli & Associates designed the tower for Olympia & York, with M.S. Yolles & Partners among the structural engineers and Sir Robert McAlpine delivering the main construction work.

It was London's dominant height benchmark until The Shard overtook it. Its continued third-place position also shows how unusual London's tallest three buildings remain: only two completed towers have passed 250 metres.

Who built London's tallest towers?

The top 20 shows a small group of engineering and construction firms recurring across several generations of London high-rise work. WSP appears on The Shard, 22 Bishopsgate, Landmark Pinnacle, Newfoundland, Aspen, Valiant Tower, Harcourt Gardens, Wardian and Amory Tower. Arup's structural work includes Salesforce Tower, the Leadenhall Building, 8 Bishopsgate, 8 Canada Square and The Scalpel.

The contractor list is more fragmented. Mace delivered The Shard; Multiplex delivered 22 Bishopsgate and One Nine Elms; Skanska built Salesforce Tower and The Scalpel; Laing O'Rourke delivered the Leadenhall Building and Valiant Tower. Canary Wharf Contractors appears repeatedly across the docklands generation.

LCM has examined the engineering side of this market separately in its analysis of the structural engineers behind London's tallest buildings.

Canary Wharf dominates the Top 20 by number

Eleven of the 20 buildings are in Tower Hamlets, principally Canary Wharf, the Isle of Dogs and Marsh Wall. Six are in the City of London. The remaining three are The Shard in Southwark, City Tower at One Nine Elms in Wandsworth and Icon Tower in North Acton.

That concentration also shows the shift in building use. The older City and Canary Wharf generation is dominated by offices, while much of the post-2020 high-rise growth around the Isle of Dogs is residential.

Tallest office and residential buildings

22 Bishopsgate is the highest office-only building in the ranking at 278.2 metres. Landmark Pinnacle is the highest residential-led entry at 233.2 metres, while Valiant Tower at 214.5 metres is the highest entry in this ranking classified as residential-only.

The Shard remains the tallest mixed-use building and the tallest building overall.

What could change the ranking next?

London's next wave is still outside this table because completion status is the dividing line. One London, the redesigned 1 Undershaft scheme, is planned at about 309.6 metres but remains in demolition and pre-construction. Other large City proposals and live projects could eventually enter the upper half of the ranking.

LCM tracks those schemes separately in its guide to the biggest London skyscrapers under construction. Buildings approaching handover are tracked in the separate London skyscrapers completing in 2026 list.

Frequently asked questions

What is the tallest building in London?
The Shard is London's tallest completed building. Its current CVU architectural height is 306 metres, or 1,004 feet.

What is London's second-tallest building?
22 Bishopsgate is second at 278.2 metres. It is also the tallest completed building wholly within the City of London.

What is the tallest building in Canary Wharf?
One Canada Square remains Canary Wharf's tallest completed building at 236 metres.

Who built The Shard?
Mace was the main contractor. Renzo Piano Building Workshop was the architect and WSP was the structural engineer.