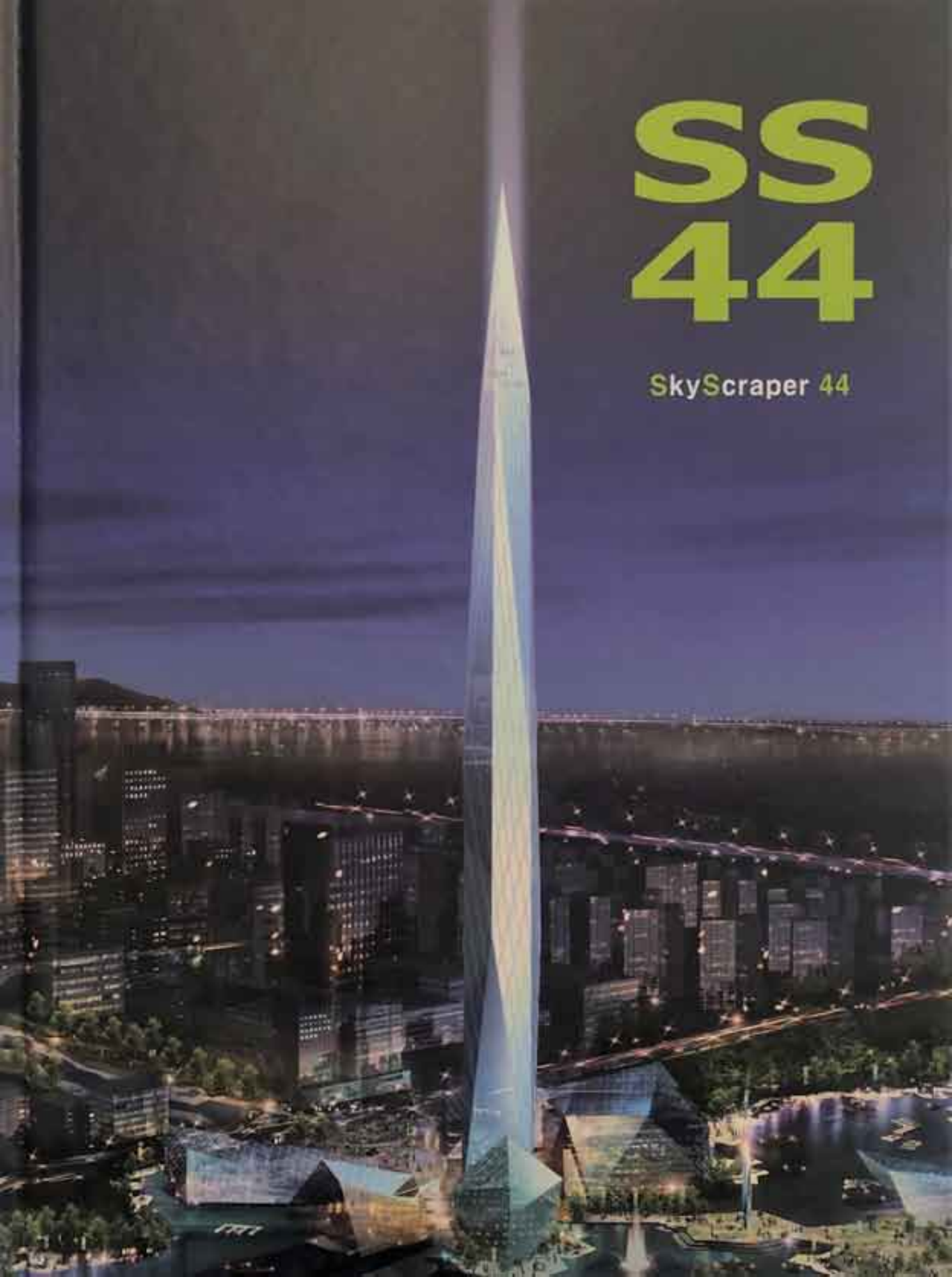


SS 44

SkyScraper 44





MoMA Tower at 53 W 53

Axis Mundi

- **Location** : New York, USA
- **Height** : Approx. 183m
- **Bldg area** : 1579m²
- **Stories** : B2, 50FL

Rethinking Hines tower site

Beckmann proposes a conceptual alternative to business-as-usual, choosing the site of the proposed 53W53rd, among the city's largest skyscraper proposals in one of the most overbuilt parts of Midtown. Hines, the developer, engaged Paris architect Jean Nouvel, who designed an 82-story hotel and residential tower higher than the Chrysler Building. The site was purchased from the Museum of Modern Art with the proviso that the project would house additional gallery space for the museum. The Axis Mundi proposal is timely since the Hines MoMA tower is currently moving through the city's Urban Land Use Review Process (ULURP).

Flexible floors, Open to views

The architectural diversity Beckmann envisions starts with a double-ring, multi-level floor-plan unit, anchored by two cores that run the full height of the building, containing elevators, stairs and other vertical services. The ring units called 'SmartBlocks' make possible a wide variety of floor plans. Single-unit layouts can mix with duplex, or triplex layouts. The units can shift in and out, adding rich texture to the surface, creating vertical garden space, and linking the units in unique ways. The malleability of the ring units accommodates living and working, extended families, and new forms of tenancy and ownership. Any grouping of these could be purposed for a hotel. The building is enriched by the multiplicity of forms and textures people create within their vertical neighborhoods. By varying the mix of the floor plan units, the Axis Mundi design leaves space for vertical fissures that move irregularly up the tower. These bring light and breezes into the open centers of the double-ring units and frame spectacular, theatrical vistas to the city through the building's own structure.

Fitting in with porous, Richly variegated surface

Axis Mundi has conceived the tower at a scale akin to, rather than dramatically exceeding, the heights of this very densely built-up Midtown neighborhood. The richly modeled surface and the fissures of space help to reduce the structure's apparent scale and join it more seamlessly to a neighborhood that mixes offices and residential towers, brownstones, apartment buildings, hotels, and clubs. A dramatic through-block public arcade connects W. 53rd and W. 54th streets, offering access to new MoMA galleries on up to three levels above. Contiguous with the museum's existing exhibit space, the galleries twine back on themselves, like a Mobius strip. Above that, Axis Mundi sets aside a three-story-high volume that can be developed as a community-gathering space.

Concept & Lead designer

John Beckmann

Design team

John Beckmann, CarloMaria Ciampoli, James Coleman (LAN), Nick Messerlian, Margaret Janik, Pauline Marie d'Avigneau, and Taina Pichon

Parametric modeling

CarloMaria Ciampoli, James Coleman (LAN)

Renderings

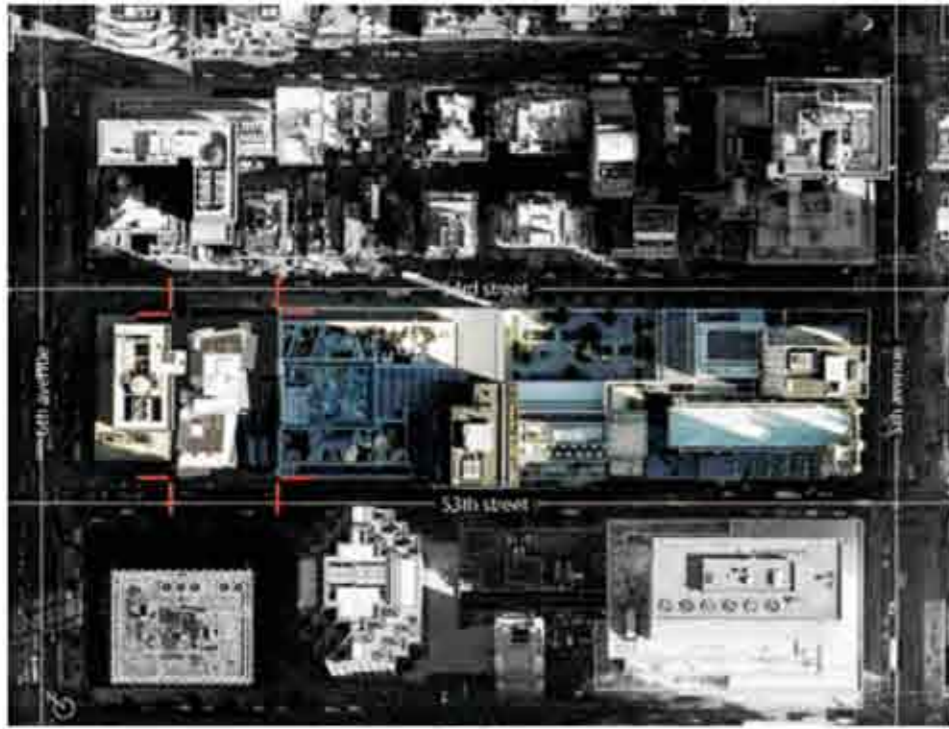
Orchid 3D

Illustration

Michael Wartella

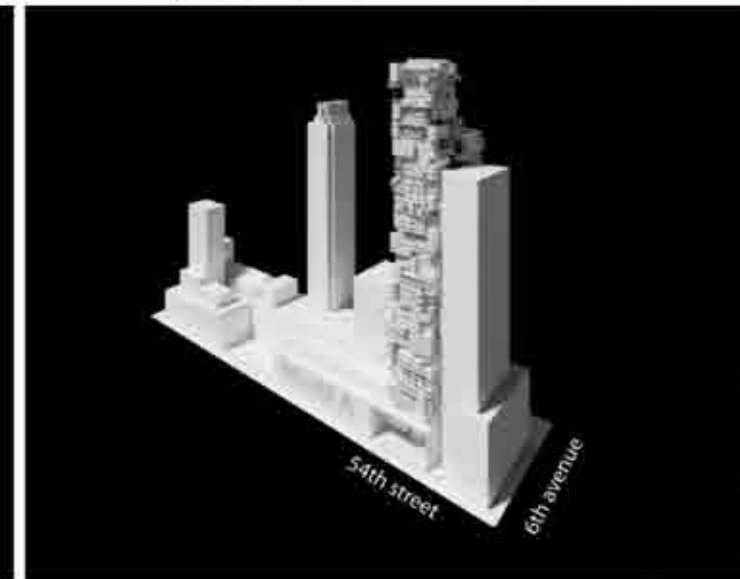
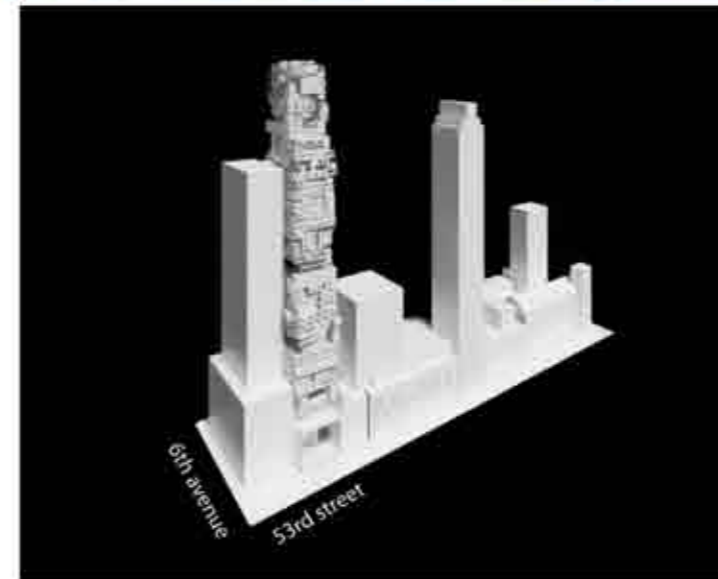
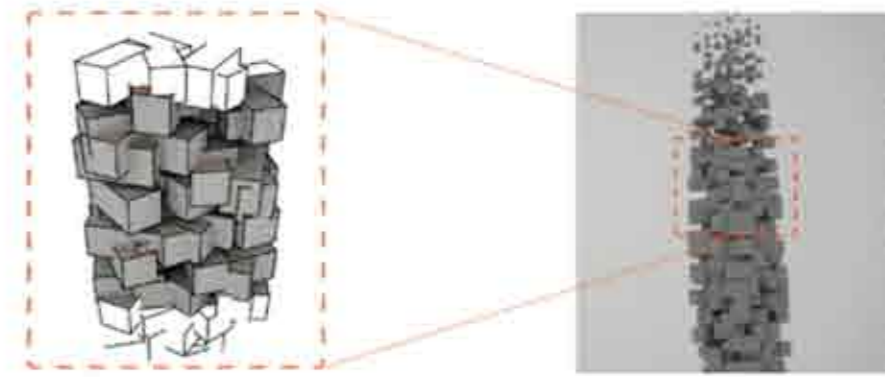
Axis Mundi

Axis Mundi is a creative New York based design firm founded by John Beckmann. The firm's architectural, interior and furniture designs have recently been featured in Metropolitan Home, Spaces, and The New York Times. The work of Axis Mundi reflects a passionate commitment to timeless design. Beckmann is direct when it comes to his process of arriving at thoughtful solutions to complex problems. "I'm not interested in chasing novelty. I'm more concerned with how the work will be perceived in the future. Our work is very concise, pragmatic and contextual. For me, an important idea—be it art, object, or a building—should seem as if it has always existed. That it was, in fact, necessary to exist."

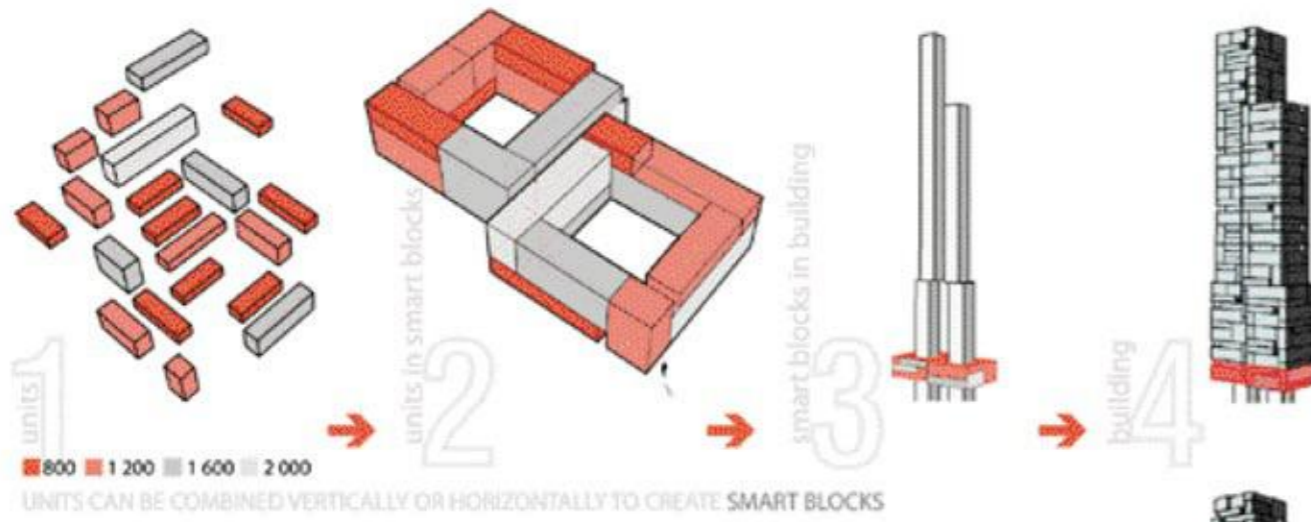


Site plan

■ Process models



Smartblock unit



DENSITY CONTROL



In



■ Program

