



Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat
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About the Congress

CTBUH World Congresses differ from our annual conferences in that they examine tall buildings and future cities through a salient topic and are substantiated by paper-based proceedings. The most recent CTBUH World Congress, held in 2012 in Shanghai, centered around the rise of skyscrapers in Asia. The theme of this year's Congress—taking place in the Council's home city of Chicago—is 50 Forward | 50 Back: The Recent History and Essential Future of Sustainable Cities.

Through a multifaceted approach, the evolution of the urban landscape and its relationship to the people that inhabit it, will be explored with an eye to the unresolved tension between human-centric and technologically-efficient design in the cities of the past, present and future. With 68% of the population projected to live in cities by 2050, it is clear that cities will be the environments in which the majority of the world's daily lives will unfold⁽¹⁾. For this reason, the Congress will explore how the quality of life in cities can be maximally enhanced through thoughtful approaches to density, the effects of climate change, connectivity, and several other pertinent issues. At this critical juncture, there is no better time to convene the city builders and thought leaders of today to have the conversations that will shape the next 50 years of our urban planet.

Programming will take place at the Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel, consisting of dedicated tracks, technical workshops and symposia; a standalone, day-long symposium will be hosted at the Chicago Architecture Center; and dedicated off-site programming in both prominent tall buildings in Chicago, and a regional city program extending to other cities in North America.

Footnote:

1. [2018 Revision of World Urbanization Prospects, United Nations](#)