



Skyscrapers on the Waterfront

Date

ca. 1930

Primary Maker

Jafir

Medium

etching

Description

The union of metal skeleton construction, designs employing iron and glass as major building materials, and the high-speed passenger elevator, produced the modern skyscraper and satisfied the nineteenth century's need for more commercial space in areas where land was limited.

The term "skyscraper" actually has its origins in 13th

century Italy, where the term referred to the new heights of towers. The outline of Manhattan's towers seen against the sky is the world's most famous skyline, and of those towers, the 102 story Empire State Building, located in mid-town, is probably its most recognizable. When this icon of engineering ingenuity was constructed as commercial rental space between 1930 and 1931, it was the tallest building in the world. Conceived by John Jacob Raskob and built by the architectural firm Shreve, Lamb, and Harmon, the Empire State Building conforms to the traditional organization of skyscraper mass -- base, shaft, and capital -- based on the division

Dimensions

Sight: 10 7/8 x 8 7/8 in. (27.6 x 22.5 cm) Sheet: 14 5/8 x 12 in. (37.1 x 30.5 cm)