

African Union Headquarters



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Figures

Height: Architectural	117.7 m / 386 ft
Height: Occupied	86.4 m / 283 ft
Height: To Tip	117.7 m / 386 ft
Floors Above Ground	21
Floors Below Ground	1
# of Elevators	13
Top Elevator Speed	2.5 m/s
Tower GFA	21,261 m ² / 228,851 ft ²
Development GFA	50,537 m ² / 543,976 ft ²
# of Parking Spaces	604

Facts

Official Name	African Union Headquarters
Structure Type	Building
Status	Completed
Country	Ethiopia
City	Addis Ababa
Street Address & Map	Roosevelt Street
Postal Code	1110
Building Function	office
Structural Material	concrete
Proposed	2007
Construction Start	2008
Completion	2011
Official Website	African Union Headquarters

Companies Involved

Owner/Developer	African Union
Architect	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Design Tongji Architectural Design (Group) Co., Ltd.
Structural Engineer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Design Tongji Architectural Design (Group) Co., Ltd.
MEP Engineer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Design Tongji Architectural Design (Group) Co., Ltd.
Project Manager	Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China
Main Contractor	China State Construction Engineering Corporation

About African Union Headquarters

The building was designed to be an icon of the African Union's progression, symbolizing the stabilization, rejuvenation, and peace of the united continent. The Grand Conference Hall's ellipsoidal volume was placed in the center of the complex as a prominent feature, emphasizing the importance of inclusion and communication.

The connection to African culture was important in the character of materials and spaces; stone and wood cladding was used for public areas and daylighting was prioritized. Exterior vertical shading fins were incorporated into the tower façade to reduce solar gain, and natural ventilation is provided in the main meeting spaces to minimize reliance on air conditioning. In the tower, double-height atria were placed at the center of the layout along the northwest façade with operable windows to facilitate natural ventilation. Lastly, a garden was created between the old and new African Union buildings to host indigenous plants from each country.

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