

## Versatile Tower, New York

# A response to a site dilemma

Mega cities like New York have very few open spaces left, and when they exist they are often occupied with major infrastructures. In this specific case, it is occupied with ground transportation that takes, every day, millions of people from a dense urban environment to their home or other getaway spaces.



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The diagram A simulates the exploitation of the site with a mixed use development of 5 to 6 floor high buildings in relation to their close surroundings. The diagram B describes the same building area occupation compiled vertically, thus the height of the building is determined.

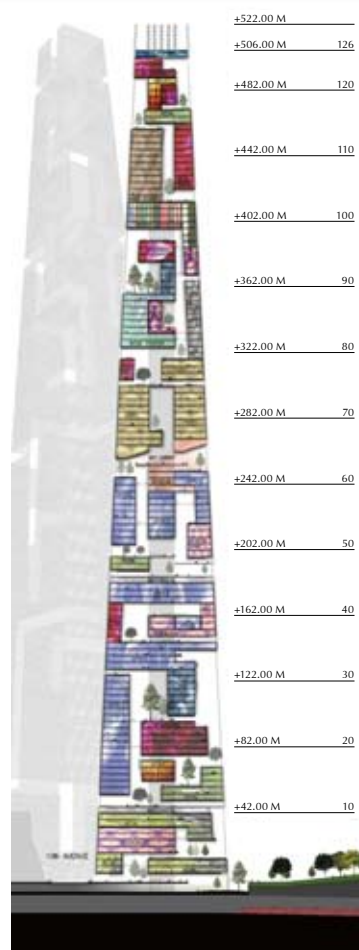
Freeing almost entirely the similar site, the skyscraper offers a new open park to New York City. Major issues of mega cities among others are quality of life, environment and stress. Versatile tower is a contemporary response to its environment.

Versatile tower is aiming to achieve the vertical layout of its horizontal environment in which it is composed of mixed program building blocks and public open spaces made of streets, plazas and landscape. Its transcription to a vertical layout defines a new "city grid" animated with similar components, such as blocks, vertical streets, and gardens and plazas. Its occupants find a familiar way of circulating and interacting with the way they do horizontally. The interaction happens by mixing the program

throughout the tower, such as a typical New York environment, the pedestrian walks from their office to a restaurant, from their house to the gym club, from their hotel room to a museum, from a retail store to the coffee shop...by crossing streets, passing through gardens, and by consequence interacting with a diverse crowd and exchange of ideas. At night the public spaces are lit such as New York City streets.

Intelligent skin is the outer layer that provides to the versatile tower its way of interacting with the outside. This second grid skin composed of tubes is equipped with both sensors and led light dots. It operates as an environmental device to reduce the use of thermal energy by capturing the sun heat on its sensors to redistribute it inside the building. It secondly provides sunshade to reduce the impact of the sun.

Its very tall height makes it an icon for the city that can be seen from very far away; versatile tower will be used as a new media resource to the city, to celebrate, honor, or display special events for the city.



“ *Its rational development creates West Park in the heart of the city.* ”



The illustration shows Versatile Tower displaying a Roy Lichtenstein exhibition opening at the MOMA

High Rise research project