Citicorp Center: New York, NY

A Structural Analysis

Architect: Hugh Stubbins

Structural Engineer: William LeMessurier



General Information

Architect: Hugh Stubbins

•Structural engineer: William LeMessurier

•Site: Lexington Avenue & 54th Street

•Construction Date: 1974-1977

•Height: 915 ft (7th tallest structure in New York City)

•Height of atrium: 114 ft

•# of floors: 59, 46 of office space

•Total square footage:

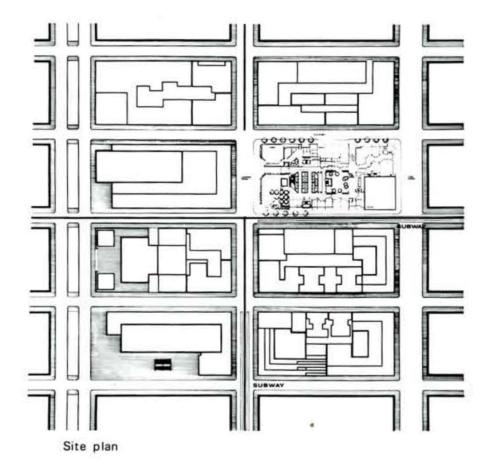
•Office Level: 24400 ft²

•Plaza Area: 9000 ft²

Building Use: office

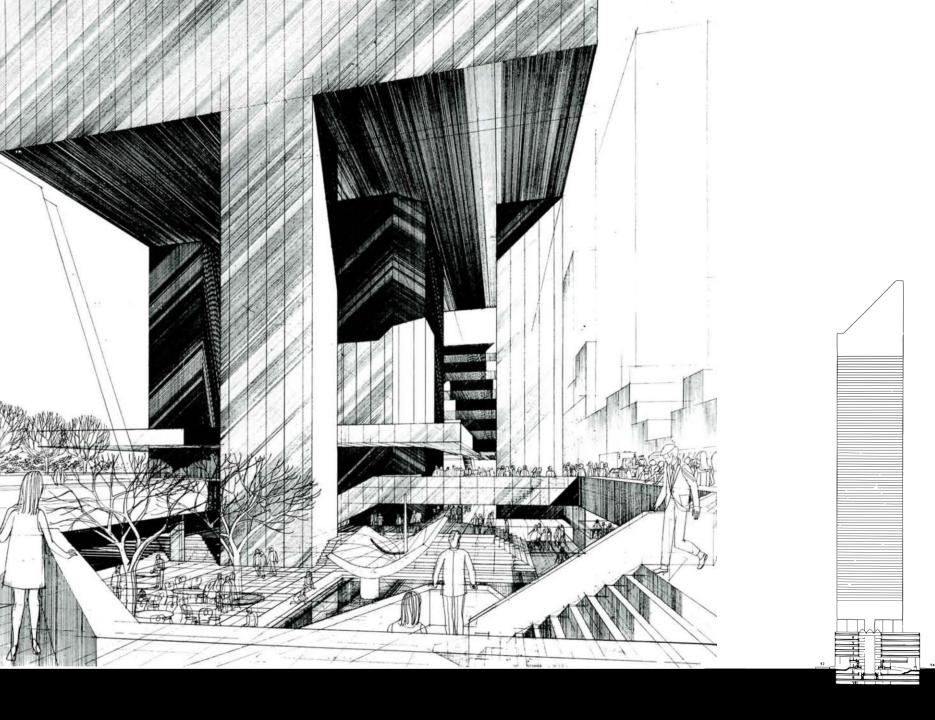
•Building Cost: 195 Million

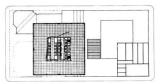




Unique Structural Considerations

- Existing buildings on the site
- Major subway station located underneath
- •Air rights were sold to allow development overtop





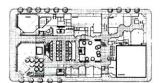
typical floor plan



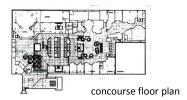
third floor plan



second floor plan



first floor plan



Concourse Level

- Open to street level
- Connected to the subway
- Church located on Northwest corner
- Office/Retail on the Southeast corner

First, Second & Third Floor

Connected to retail & restaurants

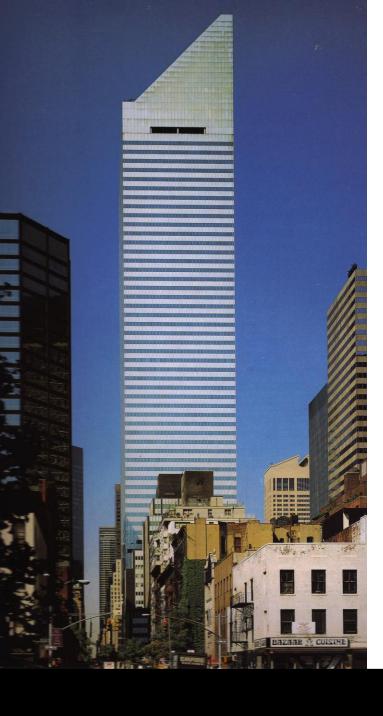
Typical Floor Plan

- Open office floor plan
- •4'-9' building module throughout
- Centrally located elevator core
- •Exterior columns with diagonal cross bracing



Materials

- Structural Steel Members
 - •W21x44-45 for horizontal floor plates
 - •W14x550 for diagonal bracing
 - •W8x24-31-48 for vertical columns
 - •W12x40-58-85 for interior columns
 - •Columns were reinforced with steel to protect against terrorist attacks
- Concrete
 - •Reinforced concrete throughout floor plates
 - Reinforced concrete columns
 - •Steel reinforcement allows concrete spans and cantilever
- Aluminum
 - Exterior building cladding
 - Light weight and cheaper than steel
- •Glass
 - Mirror finish
 - Aesthetic from mirror and aluminum finish



Aluminum & Glass Cladding

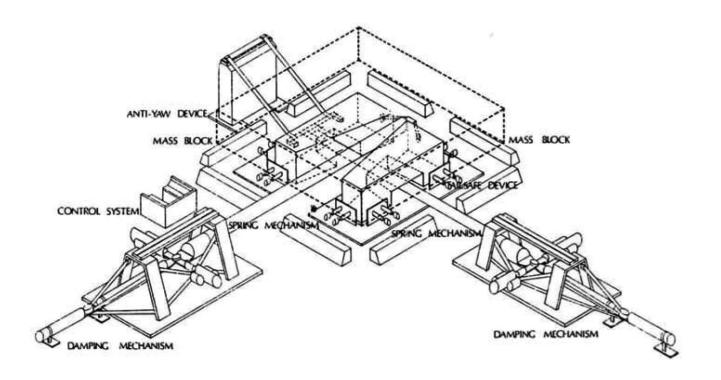
- •Aluminum Material Properties
 - Light weight
 - Cost
 - •Satin mirror finish reflects light
 - Hides interior structure
 - Post-Modern Period
- Mirror Glass Façade
 - •Emphasizes Post-Modern
 - Allows natural light
 - •46% of exterior façade
 - Binary bands





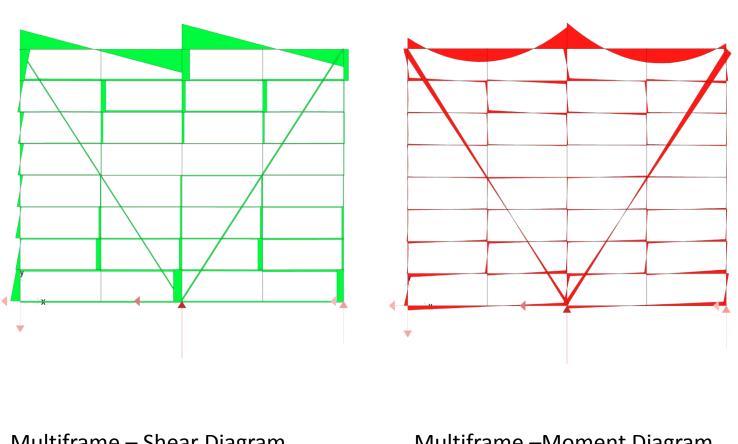
Building Construction

- •6 8 Story modules
 - •Each structural independent
 - •One full chevron bracing per module
- •Each corner cantilevers out 45 feet
- •Sitting on four columns located at the center of each side with a central core
- •Loads are transferred from the six modules through the chevron bracing to each of the columns



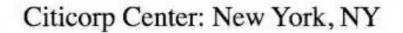
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- •400 ton concrete block
- •Uses two hydraulic pumps to stabilize the block
- •Located at the uppermost full floor plate



Multiframe – Shear Diagram

Multiframe – Moment Diagram



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- •The slender profile has a tendency to produce a periodic shedding of vortices
- A main design concern for the Citicorp Center was avoiding lock-in
- •Flutter was alleviated by welded connections which limited torsional movements





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References:

Braybrooke, Susan. <u>ARCHITECTURE: The Design Experience.</u> New York: John Wiley & Sons

Ichinowatari, Katsuhiko. <u>PROCESS: Architecture no. 10</u> Tokyo: Process Architecture Publishing Co.

Citigroup Center's Secrets http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bXpyukjQoGw

Music:

"O Fortuna" - Carl Orff

