

AP[®] ART HISTORY
2006 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 5

Left slide: Louis Sullivan, Carson, Pirie, Scott Building (originally Schlesinger and Meyer Store), Chicago, 1899–1904.

Right slide: Blank

5. Identify the architect of this building. How did the innovations in this building lead to the development of the modern skyscraper? (10 minutes)

Background:

Throughout the nineteenth century, growing urban congestion and the rising cost of commercial property led to the need for taller buildings. New technology, especially the hydraulic and then electric elevator (1889), made it possible to command high rental fees even for attic spaces. As improvements in the production of structural iron and steel made the possibility of raising the height of commercial buildings a reality, the stage was set for a new modern architecture in American cities.

Chicago was filled with balloon-frame wood buildings until the fire of 1871. By the late 1880s, Chicago architects began to design buildings in which an internal metal skeleton carried the weight of an external masonry shell. These buildings paved the way for the American skyscraper and the work of Louis Sullivan (1856–1924), who studied architecture at MIT and the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris. Sullivan settled in Chicago in 1875 and began to shape his personal philosophy of architecture. He saw space as flexible and adjustable to the needs of its users, which gave rise to his dictum, “form follows function.”

Sullivan was the first truly modern architect; his Guaranty Trust (now Prudential) Building (1894-95) in Buffalo is one of the earliest skyscrapers. In that building, as in his Wainwright Building (1890-91) in St. Louis, Sullivan emphasized a balanced verticality. He described his aims in his *The Tall Office Building Artistically Considered* (1896), when he wrote,

What is the chief characteristic of the tall office building? And at once we answer, it is lofty. . . . The force and power of altitude must be in it. . . . it must be every inch a proud and soaring thing, rising in sheer exultation that from bottom to top it is a unit without a single dissenting line.

As a department store, the Carson Pirie Scott Building expressed the twentieth-century desire for the large-scale consumption of mass-produced items. The structure sits on the corner of a city block with its huge entrance accessible from all directions, both welcoming customers and controlling crowds. The cylindrical corner tower emphasized the verticality of the building. As a department store, the building required broad, open, well-illuminated display spaces, all made possible by the minimal steel skeleton. Sullivan also used a white terracotta sheathing that followed the grid of the steel frame and emphasized the interior support structure. The exterior avoids references to past styles but does include an Art Nouveau fantasy in cast iron at the main entrance to welcome shoppers.

Students have two tasks:

- (1) They must identify Louis Sullivan as the architect of the building.
- (2) They must analyze how the innovations present in this building lead to the development of the modern skyscraper.

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Question 5 (continued)

In this building, the innovations that lead to the modern skyscraper include:

- Verticality
- A skeletal structure that allows for a nonstructural skin
- Elevators
- Large windows that provide abundant lighting for work and shopping
- The rejection of traditional architectural styles
- An open and flexible interior space

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Question 5 (continued)

Scoring Criteria

Score Scale 0–4

- 4** Identifies Louis Sullivan as the architect. These essays fully and accurately address how the innovations present in this building lead to the development of the modern skyscraper with no significant errors.
- 3** Identifies Louis Sullivan as the architect. These essays address how the innovations present in this building lead to the development of the modern skyscraper, but the analysis is less well developed and may contain errors.
- OR**
- Incorrectly identifies the architect but is otherwise a 4.
- 2** Identifies Louis Sullivan as the architect. These essays provide only a general discussion of how the innovations present in this building lead to the development of the modern skyscraper and may contain errors.
- OR**
- Incorrectly identifies the architect of this building but is otherwise a 3.
- 1** Identifies Louis Sullivan as the architect but has no other discussion of merit.
- OR**
- Incorrectly identifies the architect but is otherwise a 2.
- 0** The student makes an attempt, but the response is without merit because it restates the question or makes only incorrect statements.
- This is a nonresponse, such as a blank paper, crossed-out words, or personal notes.

5. Identify the architect of this building. How did the innovations in this building lead to the development of the modern skyscraper? (10 minutes)

The architect of this building is Louis Sullivan. Many innovations in this building helped lead to the development of the modern skyscraper. The first was the use of steel. By using steel in the building it allowed for a stronger, more stable building that could allow things to be built much higher. ~~Another~~ This was critical in allowing the height of a modern skyscraper. The next innovation was the use of reinforced concrete. This allowed the building to be much more sturdy and also thinner. It would allow the thinness of modern skyscrapers. Third by raising the building higher with a lot of windows through the help of reinforced concrete and steel, it inspired ~~and~~ allowed people to build higher buildings with more windows. The last innovation was the use of the elevator. Developed in the 1900's this allowed the people in the building to get to the top floor with ease and not having to walk up a ton of flights of stairs. This was another important innovation that allowed for a skyscraper because now you could go high and actually have the top of the building be used for something, it meant no more stairs ~~to~~ ^{so you could} go 20 stories or

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

5A₂

higher.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

5. Identify the architect of this building. How did the innovations in this building lead to the development of the modern skyscraper? (10 minutes)

The architect of this building was Paris Hilton (:)
The new innovations at the time were the use of reinforced and concrete. This made it possible to build taller buildings that were completely safe. The steel made it possible to open up the walls for windows because they were not needed for structural support. For this particular building it was necessary to have many windows because it was a department store. This building also began to move away from the decorative style of Art Nouveau. The bottom level is still decorative but the upper levels are very plain and accurately show the building's interior plan.

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5. Identify the architect of this building. How did the innovations in this building lead to the development of the modern skyscraper? (10 minutes)

The architect of this ~~is~~ building was Bramante. This building appears to be semi modern and the height of this building is what makes it appear this way. This building is ~~is~~ relatively tall, which was a change during the time in which it was made because buildings were not typically this tall. The height of this building led to the development of the modern skyscraper because it is taller than buildings during the time it was made and buildings continued to get taller after this. The windows are also innovative because before this buildings could not stand without fear of crumbling if there were this many windows on it. The large windows are seen in modern skyscrapers as well and the architect of this building had to design a structure that could stand despite the windows. This planning and innovation led to the development of the modern skyscraper as well.

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AP[®] ART HISTORY
2006 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 5

Overview

The intent of this question was to have students examine modern architecture from a visual, technical, and functional standpoint. The question asked students to identify the architect, Louis Sullivan, and to analyze how the innovations of the building led to the development of the modern skyscraper. Since the Carson, Pirie, Scott and Company Building was, and is, a department store, the question required students to analyze how visual and technical innovations, and new display elements in Sullivan’s design, were used in later skyscraper design. Students were not asked to describe the characteristics of the early skyscraper—they had to use and apply their knowledge, not simply repeat it.

Sample: 5A

Score: 4

This essay identifies the architect as Louis Sullivan. It notes that the use of steel allows “for a stronger, more stable building” that could be built “much higher” than past structures. Furthermore, with the support of steel and reinforced concrete, more windows were possible. The essay points out that the elevator was a critical innovation that allowed people “to get to the top floor [of a building] with ease,” thereby making the upper floors usable.

Sample: 5B

Score: 3

This essay fails to correctly name the architect of this building. It begins with a discussion of reinforced concrete but moves quickly to identify steel as the material that makes taller buildings possible and safe. It notes that steel makes it “possible to open up the walls for windows” and further explains that the windows are necessary because this building is a department store. The use of Art Nouveau decoration on the bottom level and the more plain decoration on the upper levels accurately reveal the building’s interior plan.

Sample: 5C

Score: 2

This essay fails to correctly identify the architect of this building. The first half of the response addresses the height of the building as key to the development of the modern skyscraper. The second half addresses the large windows as part of this building and of modern skyscrapers in general.