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## **Preface**

On the occasion of the one hundredth anniversary of the tall building, the natural question emerges: What will the second century hold?

When one looks at the past, the most telling thing is how quickly we've adjusted to the high-rise life and work habitat. Up until about one hundred years ago, we could not live much higher than we could climb. But all of that has changed. In one hundred years mankind has abandoned the habits learned over hundreds of millions of years. Although some well-publicized problems have developed, it is remarkable that we have adapted as well as we have.

In all likelihood, then, we will continue to adjust to the new environmental conditions that present themselves, if not physically, then sociologically.

So much for preamble. Since the papers in this book were prepared by leaders in the field, one finds a practical flavor in their projections. Although breakthroughs can occur, by and large new schemes are incremental. (The new "world's tallest" is seldom more than 10% taller than the previous world's tallest). Even the most visionary projections in this book have an air of practicality about them, which augurs well for their applicability to professional practice.

A few overriding considerations seem worthy of comment at this point:

We learned in the "first century" that we could not ignore the cultural and social effects of the built environment. So we will see more research on how to build better and more pressure to consider social and cultural factors in planning and design.

As happened in Western Europe, the United States is reaching an urbanization plateau or will reach it in not too many years. Since the correlation is fairly direct, so also will come a plateau in tall building construction. Less and less will tall buildings be designed to meet new needs, and more and more will they be instruments for renewal and the inevitable recycling of the city.

Quality will be strongly emphasized, because of more experience, greater sophistication of the client, and the availability of information in readily accessible form to explain the "how." The computer will become ever more significant, and greater attention will be paid to using it correctly.

The way the users of tall buildings relate to their habitat will also change. People have an opinion about tall buildings and they are expressing it. Tenants are becoming more sophisticated. For office buildings, the one major