



# Sir Norman Foster (Foster + Partners)

Lift the spirits

Norman Foster was born in Manchester in 1935 after graduating from Manchester University School of Architecture and City Planning in 1961 he won a Henry Fellowship to Yale University where he gained a Masters Degree in Architecture.

He is the founder and chairman of Foster + Partners. Founded in London in 1967 it is now a worldwide practice, with project offices in more than twenty countries. Over the past four decades the company has been responsible for a strikingly wide range of work.

from urban masterplans, public infrastructure, airports, civic and cultural buildings, offices and workplaces to private houses and product design. Since its inception, the practice has received 470 awards and citations for excellence and

Current and recent work includes the largest single building on the planet, Beijing Airport, the redevelopment of Dresden Railway Station, Millau Viaduct in France, the Swiss Re tower and the Great Court at the British Museum in London, an entire University

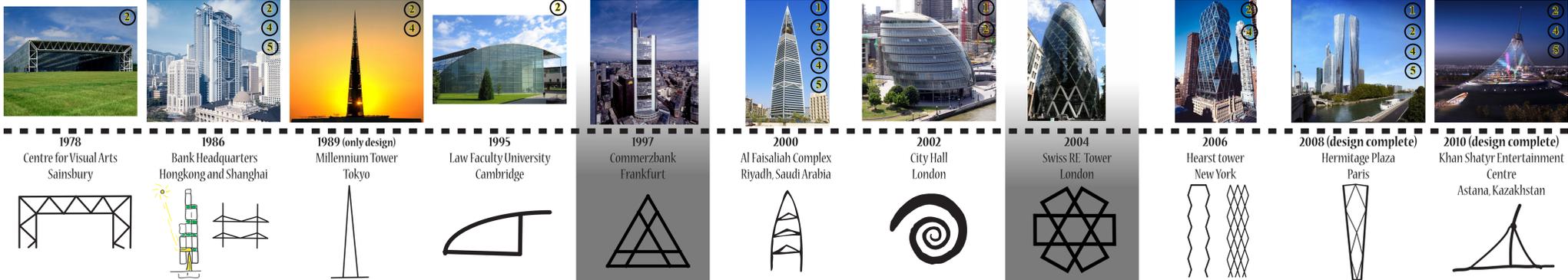
Complex for Petronas in Malaysia, the Hearst Headquarters tower in New York, Boston Museum of Fine Arts, the Robert and Arlene Kogod Courtyard at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington and research centres at Stanford University, California.

F+P believe the best architecture comes from a synthesis of all the elements that separately comprise and inform the character of a building, the structure that holds it up, the services that allow it to function, its ecology, the quality of natural light, the symbolism

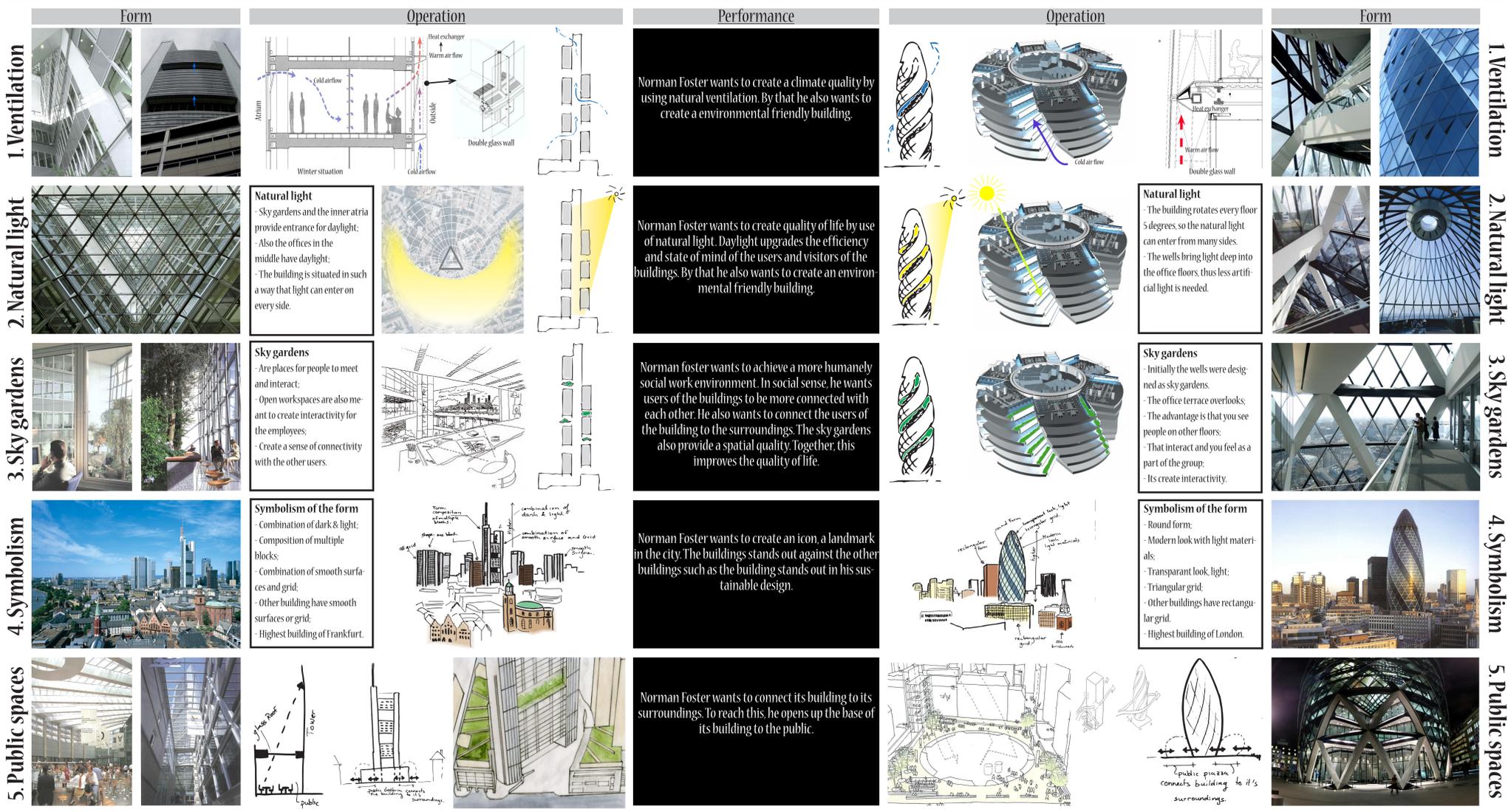
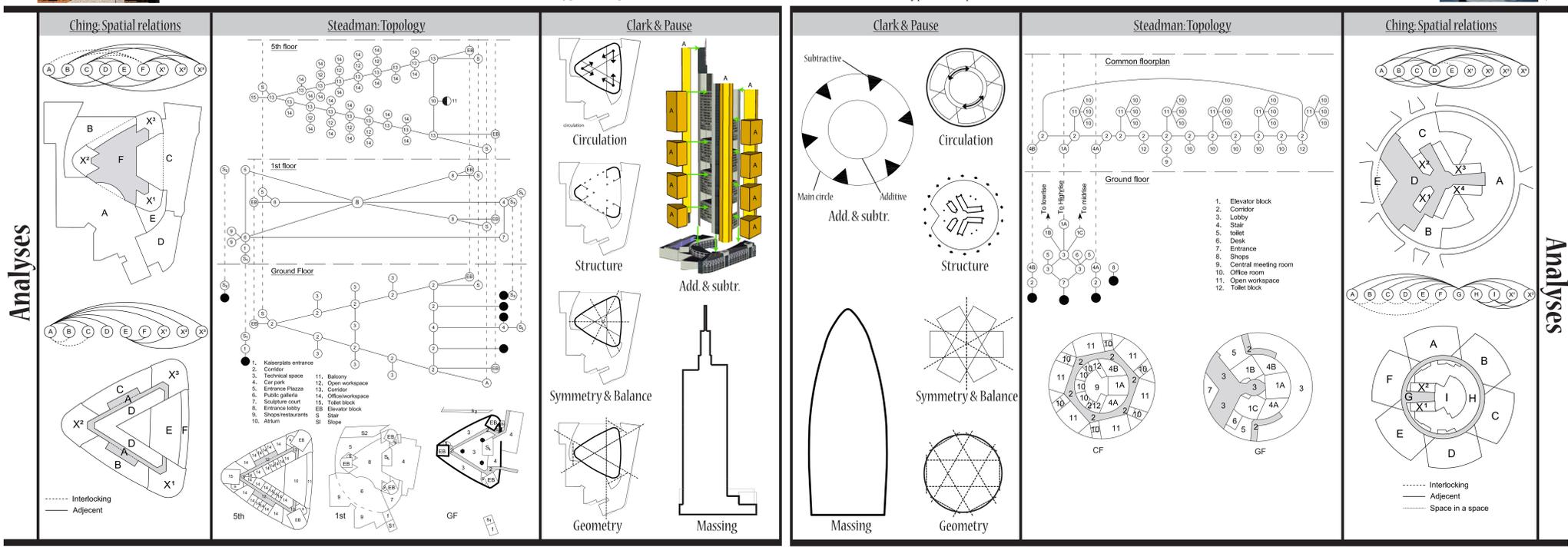
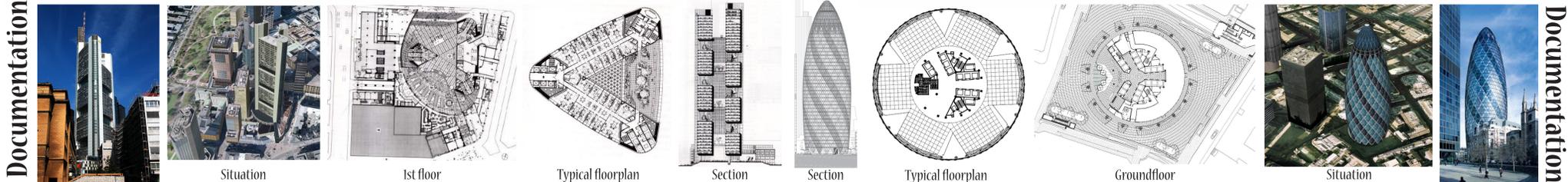
of the form, the relationship of the building to the skyline or the streetscape, the way you move through or around it, and last but not least its ability to lift the spirits. This holistic approach is augmented by a strong commitment to the clients we serve, and also to the public domain and the many users involved. A high degree of personal service, coupled with respect for the precious resources of cost and time, therefore characterises our client relationships.

COMPRISE AND INFORM THE CHARACTER OF A BUILDING | THE STRUCTURE THAT HOLDS IT UP | THE SERVICES THAT ALLOW IT TO FUNCTION | ITS ECOLOGY | THE QUALITY OF NATURAL LIGHT | THE SYMBOLISM OF THE FORM | THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE BUILDING TO THE SKYLINE OR THE STREETSCAPE | THE WAY YOU MOVE THROUGH OR AROUND IT | AND ITS ABILITY TO LIFT THE SPIRITS

Group 2  
Ronald van den Berg -1316834-  
Rob Heukhorst -4063368  
Niels Lewis -4075986  
Method & Analyses



1997 - Commerzbank headquarters - Frankfurt - 259 meter      2004 - Swiss RE Tower - London - 180 meter



**Conclusion**  
The Commerzbank was one of the first ecological buildings designed by Norman Foster, a more recent building was the Re Swiss building. We have chosen this two buildings because they seemed different and we want to analyse the difference and investigate whether there are some similarities.  
The Commerzbank has three cores at each side of the triangular shape. Elevators are located there. When entering a common floor plan, the routing is around an inner open space and a atrium, can be entered. The floor plan rotates 20° every four floors. The Re Swiss has a round shape with elevator shafts in the centre. When entering a common floor plan, the routing is circular around the core. When walking around the core there will be six wells on the outside, such that you can look a floor up and down. This floor plan rotates 5° every four floors such that the open spaces spiral up.  
The open spaces seem to spiral up to the sky which brings us to the theme: Lift the spirit. Norman Foster likes to bring designing buildings to a higher level, to improve the quality of life and to create an iconic building. By creating ecological buildings, he serves a higher goal.  
The spiral form of the vides at the Re-Swiss tower, allows a flow of natural ventilation through the whole building. The atrium at the Commerzbank also allows air to enter the building and flows through the inner open space upwards through the building. Although it looks different, it functions in the same way. The atria at the Commerzbank bring the light to the other side and floors of the building. The vides at the Re-Swiss function in a same manner by letting daylight enter lower floors which have no direct sunlight. At last, people at the Commerzbank can see the inner gardens from their offices. At the Re-Swiss, people can see others working at the other floors. In this way people can interact with each other creating a synergy effect.  
Both towers are constructed in a very special and smart way. The Commerzbank was constructed in steel and has three cores, stabilizing the building and containing the elevators. This creates a very open and column free space inside. The Re Swiss tower is stabilized by its facade with its triangular grid. This grid is fantastic to see and accentuate the spiral form. It also uses less steel than a rectangular grid. It also contains a large open and column free space. Both buildings look very transparent and are real icons for the city.  
So at first sight, the buildings look very different but work in more or less the same way, also the ideas behind it are the same. Concluding the design of the two towers provide a better quality for the inhabitants in an ecological manner and integrates this in a iconic design for the city in this way Norman Foster really takes designing to a higher level and lifts the spirits

**Bibliography**  
Books  
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