

Sources: Molto Piano by Paul Goldberger, The New Yorker, May 29, 2006 [accessed June 24, 2014]; Renzo Piano quotations from 1998 Laureate Acceptance Speech, Pritzker Architecture Prize Ceremony on June 17, 1998, the White House (PDF)

High-tech style of architecture

High-tech style is characterized by countless use of new technologies in the construction of the buildings and their technical equipment. Technical elements, such as blinds or solar cells, are a kind of modern ornament, especially when put together in repetitive sequence.

High-tech architecture wants to integrate the technical equipment of the building in its structure. This strengthens the impact of the object in a high-tech style, both in terms of functional and visual matter. So arises the so-called intelligent building, in which installations and construction are designed as an integral whole.

The most famous architectural high-tech works are: Town Hall in London, standing next to Tower Bridge, London's Millennium Dome and Wembley Stadium, office building Lloyd's in London Olympic Stadium and the Allianz Arena in Munich, the Eiffel Tower and the Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris, HSBC headquarter in Hong Kong, Zizkov Television Tower in Prague, Hotel Arts Skidmore and the Torre Agbar in Barcelona, the National Centre for the Performing Arts in Beijing, Hearst Tower in New York, the Beetham Tower in Manchester, John Hancock Center in Chicago, Mode Gakuen Cocoon Tower in Tokyo.

Renzo Piano, Pritzker Prize-Winning Architect

Renzo Piano's work has been called high-tech and postmodernism. His 2006 renovation and expansion of the Morgan Library and Museum in New York shows that he is much more than one style. The interior is open, light, modern, natural, old and new at the same time

Famous buildings: 1977: Centre Pompidou, Paris, France (with Richard Rogers)--1994: Kansai Airport Terminal, Osaka, Japan; 2002: Parco della Musica Auditorium, Rome, Italy; 2012: The Shard (London Bridge Tower), London, UK; 2015: Whitney Museum of American Art, New York City

Selected Awards: 2013: Named a Senator for Life by Italian President Giorgio Napolitano; 2008: Gold Medal, American Institute of Architect (AIA); 1998: The Pritzker Architecture Prize; 1989: Royal Gold Medal for Architecture, Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), London, U.K.

Renzo Piano's designs show technological shapes and materials. However, human needs and comfort are at the center of Piano's designs. Piano is also celebrated for his examples of energy-efficient green design. With a living roof and a four-story rainforest, **the California Academy of Sciences** claims to be the "world's greenest museum" to convey the passion for knowledge of nature and the fact that the earth is fragile.

Piano Quotations:

" There is one theme that is very important for me: lightness....In my architecture, I try to use immaterial elements like transparency, lightness, the vibration of the light. I believe that they are as much a part of the composition as the shapes and volumes."—Piano, 1998

POMPIDOU CENTRE

High-tech buildings are often called machine-like. Steel, aluminium, and glass combine with brightly colored braces, girders, and beams. Many of the building parts are prefabricated in a factory and assembled later. The support beams, duct work, and other functional elements are placed on the exterior of the building, where they become the focus of attention. The interior spaces are open and adaptable for many uses. The High-tech Centre Pompidou in Paris appears to be turned inside out, revealing its inner workings on the exterior facade.