

Rising Skyline - The Tallest Buildings in Europe, 1875-2007

Tall buildings are major feats of engineering, showing off to the world the industriousness, economic might, and technical prowess of the people who built them. As such, competitiveness and a desire for prestige have been major factors driving their construction. Medieval cities competed for the largest and tallest churches to glorify God and themselves. Early in the Cold War, Stalin ordered the construction of some of the tallest buildings Europe had ever seen in order to avoid embarassment at how Moskva's skyline compared to that of capitalist cities. More recently, the growing wealth of Turkey and Russia has led to a spate of new highrises which demonstrate their increasing economic clout. Building higher continues to be a way for one group of people—a city, a state, a corporation—to show off to others. This map shows the location of each of the one hundred eighteen buildings that, at some point between 1875 and the end of 2007, were ranked among the thirty tallest in Europe.



Increasing Data Density with Multivariate Symbols

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