



2019
Skyhive Skyscraper Competition

What is Sustainability?

Our plea

We wanted to design a skyscraper that was sustainable. But what is sustainable? In architecture and construction, sustainability is today often referred to in connection with passive houses. Renewable energies are considered sustainable. Expensive technology that provides good ventilation, climate and intelligent power distribution is considered sustainable. But are these things really sustainable? Most buildings are made of concrete and steel. Two materials that even with the best technology can never be considered sustainable, as they require vast amounts of 'grey energy' to manufacture. And yet they are used to build buildings that are then labelled as sustainable with the help of the latest technology. Thermal insulation, technical installations and all the installed technology require a lot of maintenance and cannot be reused or disposed of sustainably if they no longer function. We are of the opinion that all these things are not sustainable.

But what is sustainable?

We cannot give a definitive answer to this question. But we can try to answer it as best we can. We want to make use of answers that have long been given. Wooden roof trusses in old half-timbered houses last well over 500 years. Wood is one of the few building materials that hardly needs to be processed after it has been procured. And although it has similar properties to steel, it is not used. That's why we want to design a wooden skyscraper. The second answer to sustainable building that has long been given is that of autochthonous building. Buildings that don't need technology to cool or warm are truly sustainable. We would also like to use this in our high-rise building. Buffer zones, adiabatic cooling and a chimney effect should create a pleasant climate in the building.