Race to the Sky:
Two American Skyscrapers
1889 & 1991

Kathleen H. Crowther
President,
Cleveland, Ohio USA
✓ Listed on the National Register of Historic Places
✓ American Arts & Crafts Style = Symbolizes Cleveland Industry + its Artistic sophistication
✓ Cleveland’s first “skyscraper”
✓ Locally quarried stone
✓ Ornate banking lobby, board room, interior light well
✓ Original furniture and fixtures
Cesar Pelli, Architect
b. 1926
Argentine American
Cleveland’s Tallest Skyscraper: Key Tower

- Completed 1991
- 57 Stories high
- Visible from 20 miles (32 km) away
- 1.5 million square feet (139,355 m²) of office space
- Tallest Building in Cleveland and state of Ohio
- 18th in the United States
- 104th Tallest in the World
Design Considerations:

- New building steps back from historic; carried upward as well
- Continuation of cornice lines
- Similar but toned down color palate
- Recessed section east elevation showing stark difference between buildings
Is this a successful heritage project?

No:
- Design principals offend the Washington Charter via incongruous height (10 vs. 53 stories) and massing (at base at least 2x)
- Offending the Venice charter -- new building is built into historic building; historic fabric is removed

Yes:
- The historic building saved from outright demolition
- The new building is deferential to the historic building
- The new building in many ways is inspired by the historic building

Conclusion:
- This project is mostly successful because it melds a historic building with an admirable building of a different generation.
- A major bank was retained in the city, important to the local economy.