

Race to the Sky:
Two American Skyscrapers
1889 & 1991



Kathleen H. Crowther
President,
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Public Square showing Euclid Avenue,
Business Section.

Cleveland
1907-1910







REAR VIEW OF BUILDING FOR BRYAN'S OFFICE

DETROIT PHOTOGRAPHIC CO.



- ✓ 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

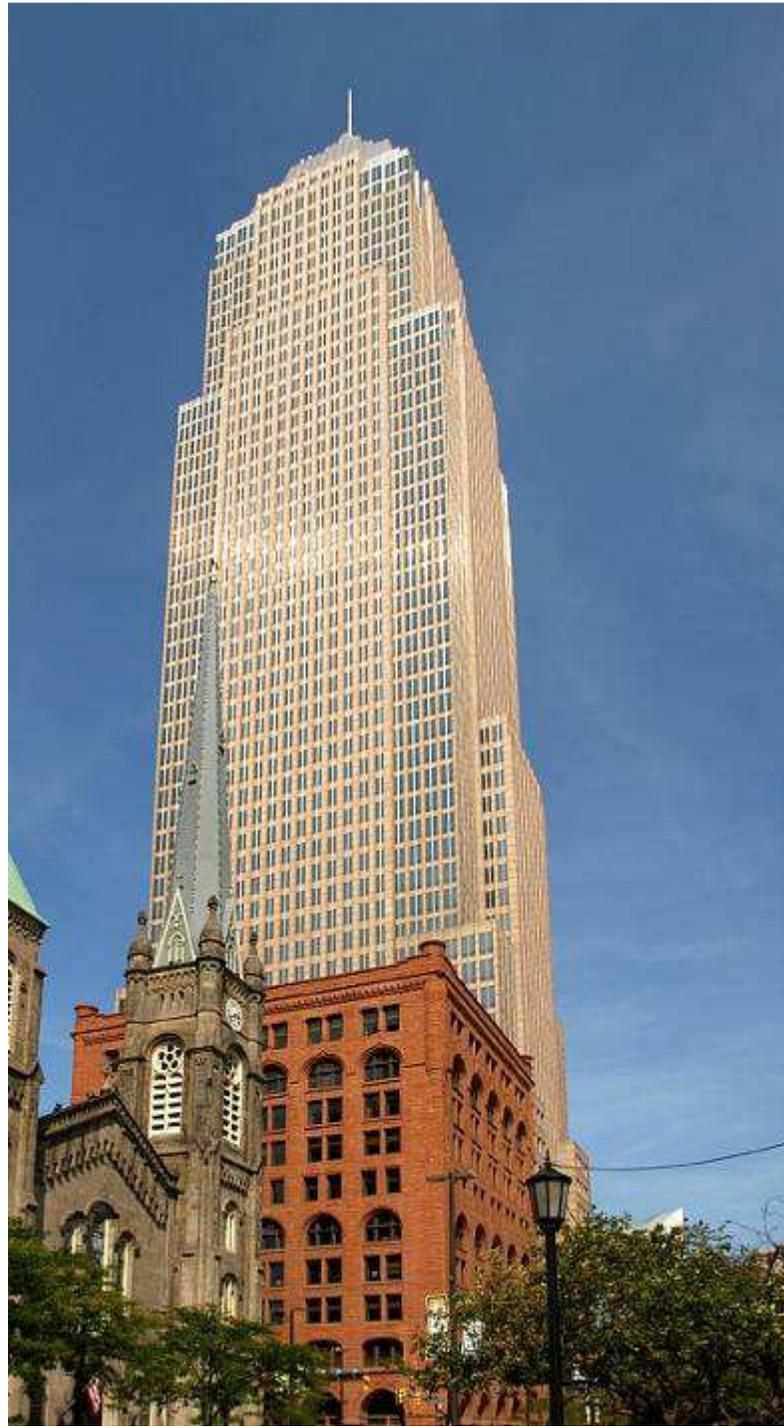
- ✓ Completed 1991
- ✓ 57 Stories high
- ✓ Visible from 20 miles (32 km) away
- ✓ 1.5 million square feet (139,355 m²) of office space
- ✓ Tallest Building in Cleveland and state of Ohio
- ✓ 18th in the United States
- ✓ 104th Tallest in the World



Design Considerations:

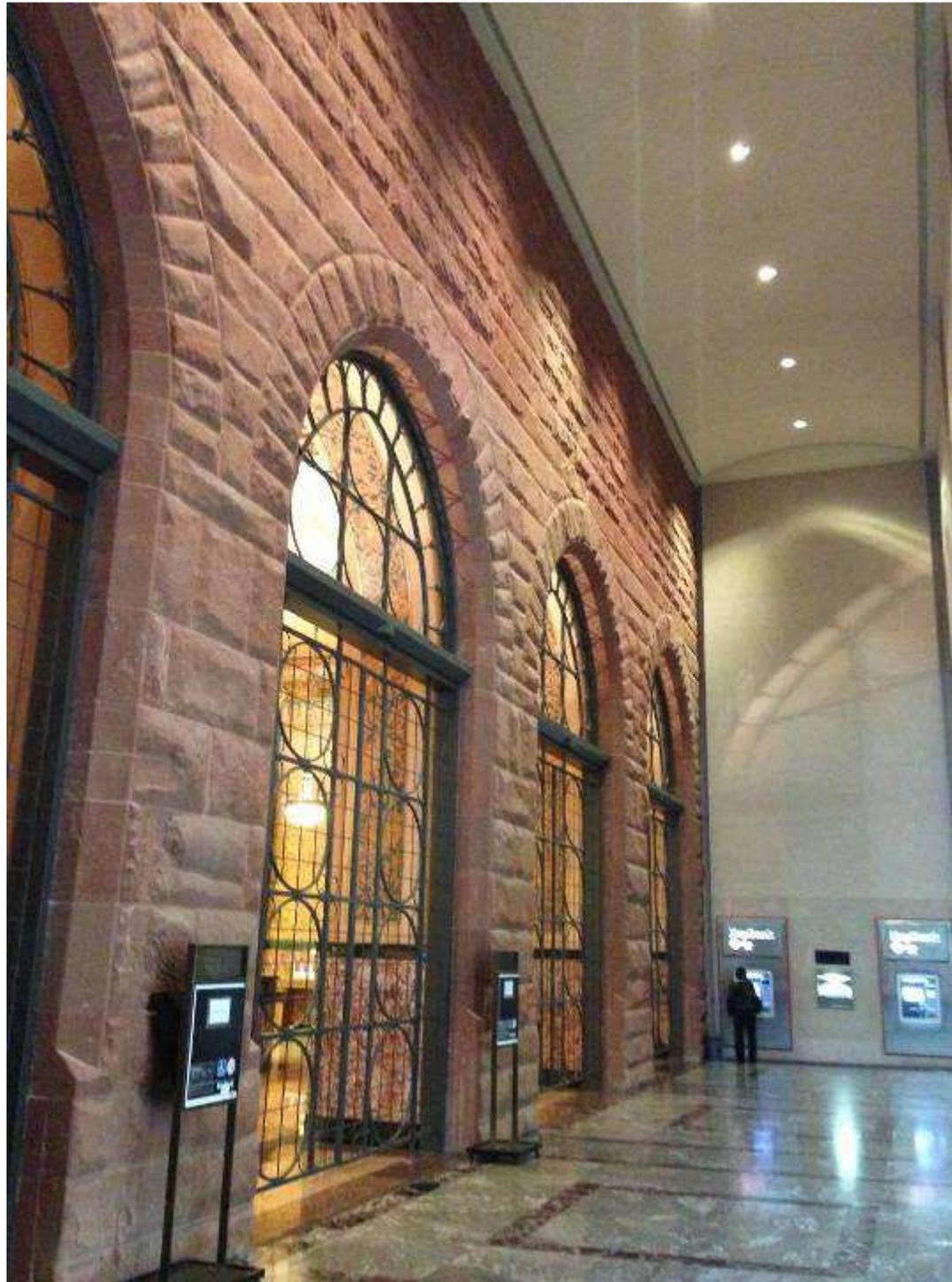
- ✓ New building steps back from historic; carried upward as well
- ✓ Continuation of cornice lines
- ✓ Similar but toned down color palate
- ✓ Recessed section east elevation showing stark difference between buildings

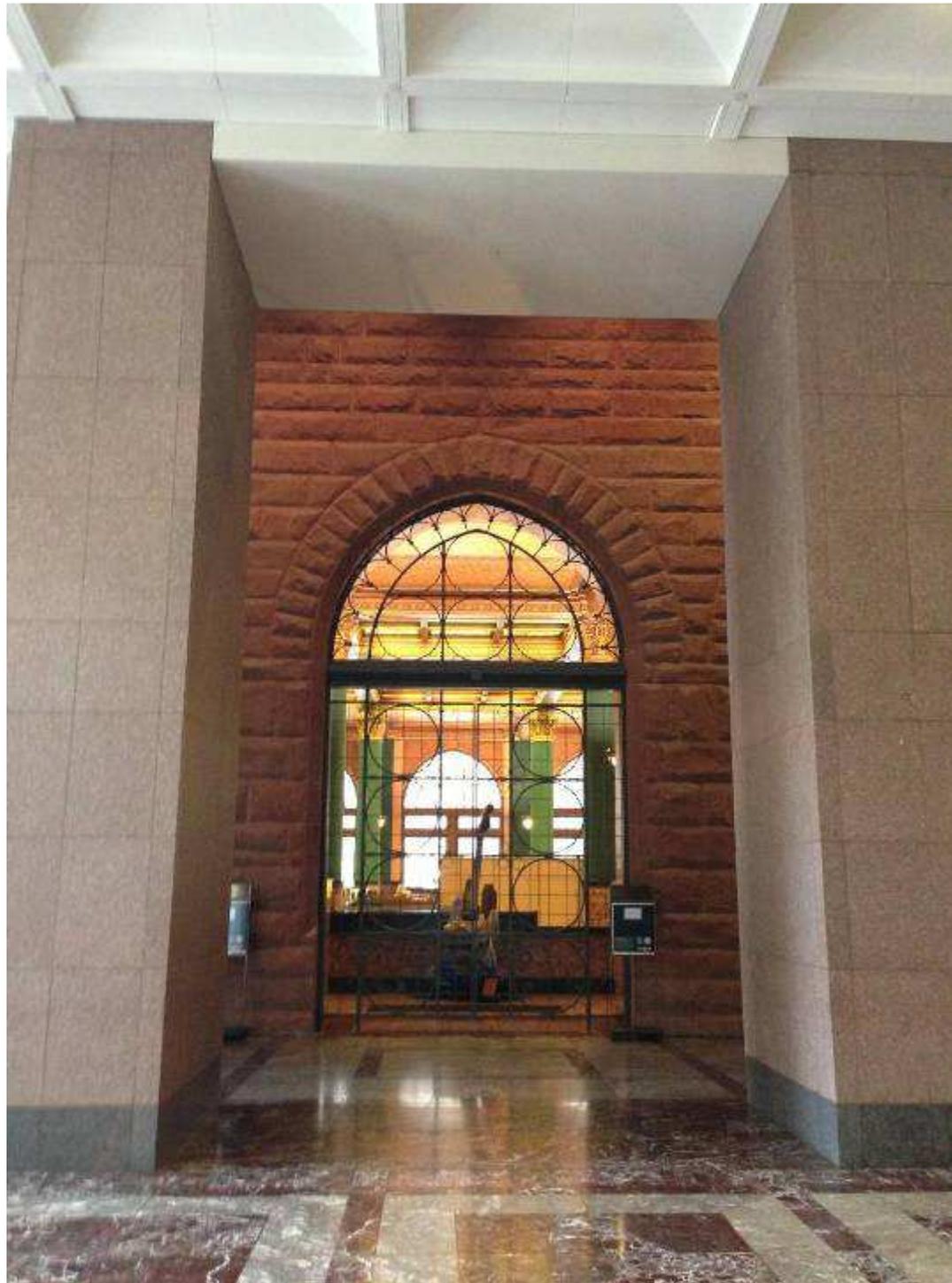




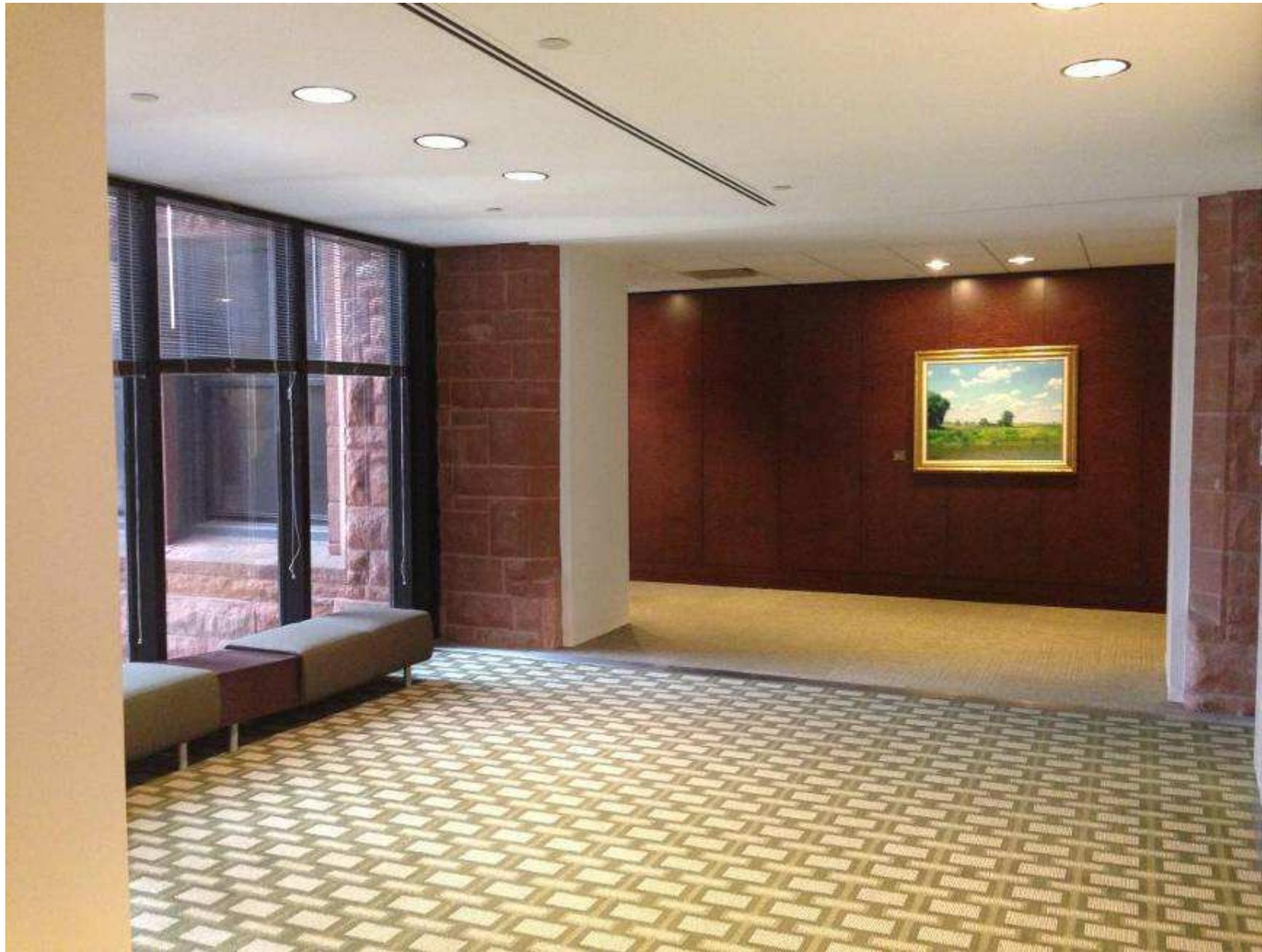












Is this a successful heritage project?

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.