



# SPACE NEEDLE FACTS

## About the Space Needle

- The Space Needle was built for the World's Fair, a celebration where people from all over the world came to Seattle and the economic boom of the West.
- The Space Needle took 400 days to build and was finished in 1962. Because of how fast it was built, it was nicknamed "The 400 Day Wonder."
- The Space Needle was built to look like it was from the future. In the first design for the building, it looked like a big balloon connected to the ground. Later, the architects changed their minds and designed the Space Needle to look like a "flying saucer," or a way for aliens to travel to Earth.
- The original nickname of the Space Needle was "The Space Cage."
- The Space Needle is 605 feet tall – the same height as 1,320 Milky Way candy bars.
- There are 848 steps from the bottom of the basement to the top of the Observation Deck.
- To balance its 605-foot structure, the Space Needle's concrete foundation (the part of the building that supports it from underneath) is 30 feet deep underground.
- The Space Needle sways 1 inch for every 10 miles per hour that the wind blows. It can withstand winds up to 200 mph.
- On a hot day, the Space Needle expands about one inch.
- The Space Needle changes its "outfit" depending on what's happening in Washington. For example, the colors of the roof changed to purple and gold when the University of Washington football team won the Rose Bowl in 1992, and to blue and green for the Seattle Mariners' 2003 winning season.

## About the Renovation

- When the work is finished, all of the walls around the Observation Deck will be made of glass.
  - There will be 100 to 170 workers at the Space Needle working on the project at a time. Workers will be there 24 hours a day. There will be carpenters, plumbers, technical engineers, ironworkers, painters, and more.
  - A special elevated lift platform will be built on top of the SkyLine level at 100 feet and hoisted by 12 independent cables and motors to sit just under the restaurant level at 500 feet. Over a few weeks a closed-in space will be built, creating a safe workspace rain or shine.
  - Thousands of pounds of glass and other materials will be moved from the ground to the platform.
  - 10 different types of glass are being used in the project, and all of them have to be specially cut to fit just right.
  - Imagine the top of the Space Needle as a pie cut into 6 pieces. The workers will work on one piece of the pie at a time.
  - Visitors to the Space Needle (like you!) will be able to see the construction while it is happening.
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## Profile of Ann Lin, Architect

Ann Lin is an experienced architect working on the Space Needle renovation. The job of architects is to plan and design buildings and structures. Architects turn ideas into buildings and think about how buildings will work for the people who use them. Architecture requires skills in art, science, math and design.

Ann was always interested in using her imagination as a kid. “My biggest interest was in drawing and art. I loved to draw and imagine fantasy situations and I spent a lot of time doing that.”

Ann learned about architecture in high school when she took an art history class. She says, “I remember thinking, there is a profession like art which uses the creative process, and through engineering and calculations turns it into something that people can enjoy.”

Ann is the main project manager for the Space Needle renovation, a big, complicated project taking place over several years and involving many people. She says: “My role is to get the right people involved in the right project at the right time to work together. This means a lot of problem solving and calculations as well as making ideas a reality.”

Ann earned a Master of Architecture from the Graduate School of Design at Harvard University. She has designed colleges, libraries, banks and airports. She is very excited about working on the Space Needle. “The Space Needle is an historic landmark in the middle of Seattle. It is a landmark that is the soul of the city. It is on billboards, weather reports, advertisements...it’s everywhere! Our goal is to make it more inviting and compelling to people from all over the world. It is also a complicated project because of its historic nature, and there is a lot of stuff you have to pack into a small area.”

It wasn’t easy for Ann to become an architect, but she never gave up. She has this advice for young people like you: “You can do anything! When I started out I thought, ‘Wouldn’t it be cool if I were an architect?’ and I thought, ‘Why not?’ Don’t be afraid if people tell you it’s too hard or you can’t do it. It is about breaking your dream down into goals, taking small steps, and getting people who support and understand you.”