

Block 9

Fargo, North Dakota

At 18 stories in height, Block 9 is the tallest building in the city of Fargo and the second tallest in North Dakota. The \$117 million structure is home to offices, a 125-room luxury hotel with event space, residential condos and a plaza for public events. Block 9 was designed to blend in with a five-story podium surrounding the tower's west and south sides. The design also honors the area's agricultural roots as the tower's shape mimics the vertical architecture of grain silos. Structurally, the Tower utilizes a reinforced concrete core with a post-tensioned flat plate floor system, and the podium is steel construction to facilitate construction sequencing. The post-tensioning tendons for the Tower slabs are curved in plan to follow the principal stresses of the slabs – this innovation resulted in approximately a 15% material savings for the tendons. Foundations for the project were challenging, requiring some of the longest auger cast piles in the region to reach the glacial till 120 feet below the surface.

Jim Pawlikowski served as the senior project engineer during his tenure at SOM.

