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which the skyscraper has evolved the early 1990s, at least in the hands of its most gifted practitioners, the kind who are proposing-and even producing, but usually in other nations-buildings that don't resemble the dull boxes that crowd most American downtowns. Engineering is, among others, a path to new kinds of beauty. Just look at Renzo Piano's London Bridge Tower, a slender glass pyramid that forms a glittering stalagmite against the old city's skyline. You get a grasp of what ingenious engineering is all about from the London Headquarters of the insurance firm Swiss Re, designed by Norman Foster. Even before it opened in April, it was known as the small cucumber because it rises against the sky like a green pickle. But the building's single feature is the inclusion of larger interior gardens throughout. But there's a dematerializing spirit even in a building that didn't require new fears of engineering-the Arcos Bosques Corporativo in Mexico City, an arched tower with a vertical slot down its center that lightens the building's mass brings the sky itself into play. "Not only did American invent skyscraper", says the Spanish designer Santiago Calatrava, "it invented the skyline." But American skylines have got a little dull. With some work, the world's architects might bring them back to a very tall standard. 100Test 下载频道开通，各类考试题目直接下载。详细请访问 [www.100test.com](http://www.100test.com)