



EDIFICE REX by REX DINGWALL

There are few structures in the world as identifiable as the **Washington Monument** (indeed, I decided not to include a full image of it because you already know what it looks like!). The mostly marble and granite **obelisk**, built to honor the first American president, **George**, took over 40 years to complete, mostly due to funding issues and differences of opinion. Though officially opened in October of 1888 as the **world's tallest structure**, it only held that title for a year until a French engineer with the first name of **Alexandre** finished his little project in **Paris**. At just over 550-feet high, the D.C. landmark still holds the record as the *tallest stone* structure. Oh, and *tallest obelisk*. Take that *Alexandre Eiffel!*

The original design had a colonnade around the base, full of fussy statues of Washington and other American revolutionaries, but fortunately that element fell by the wayside, leaving what appears to be a modern masterpiece on the skyline of Washington.

Addendum: The great postmodern architect **Michael Graves** was hired in the late 1990s to design the scaffolding for the structure's renovation, which was in part funded by the chain **Target**. This relationship led to his being hired to create the enormously successful line of consumer goods for their stores.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"George Washington as a boy was ignorant of the commonest accomplishments of youth—he could not even lie. —Mark Twain