

BRICK BUILDINGS - HOW TALL?

Assuming that the brick building uses brick as a monolithic building material, where each brick bears the full weight of the walls above. That method requires walls to be substantially thicker at the building's base than at the top. Walls at the bottom floor in late nineteenth century buildings could easily be up to 2 metres thick, and the building would still be limited to about 16 stories. See the bank and insurance buildings in Martin Place built at the end of the 19th century:



Economics play a part as the highest valued ground floor is reduced in size, the higher the masonry building.

Modern buildings tend not to use brick this way.

Modern construction, brick is hung as a thin veneer (usually 260mm thick) on a frame of steel or concrete. The brick is interrupted at each floor by a steel relieving angle that transfers the weight of the brick back to the building frame.

This way, the height of a brick building is practically unlimited.