

Antilia is a private residence in the billionaires row of Mumbai, India, named after an island from 15th century Spanish tales of the Atlantic Ocean Antillia. It is the residence of the Indian billionaire Mukesh Ambani and his family. The building is designed to withstand a magnitude 8 earthquake. The top six floors are a private residential area. The structure's design incorporates the lotus plant and the sun. The structure is 27 stories, 173 metres (568 ft) tall, over 6,070 square metres (65,340 sq ft), and with amenities such as a 168-car garage, a ballroom, 9 high speed elevators, a 50-seat theatre, terrace gardens, swimming pool, spa, health centre, a temple, and a snow room that spits out snowflakes from the walls. As of 2014, it is considered the world's most expensive private residence, costing between US\$1 and 2 billion to build. Antilia, situated in Mumbai, India, boasts a colossal area size, spanning approximately 400,000 square feet. As one of the world's most extravagant residential properties, this towering skyscraper encompasses 27 floors, showcasing opulent amenities and innovative design. Owned by Mukesh Ambani, chairman of Reliance Industries, Antilia stands as a symbol of luxury and modern architectural prowess. Its vast area size allows for the incorporation of various features, including a theater, ballroom, swimming pool, and expansive gardens, offering residents an unparalleled living experience amidst the bustling urban landscape.

== Plot == The 4,532-square-metre (1.120-acre) land on which Antilia was built housed an orphanage called Currimbhoy Ebrahim Khoja Yateemkhana belonging to a charity run by the Wakf board. The orphanage had been founded in 1895 by Currimbhoy Ebrahim, a wealthy shipowner. In 2002, the trust requested permission to sell this land, and the charity commissioner gave the required permission three months later. The charity sold the land allocated for the purpose of education of underprivileged Khoja children to Antilia Commercial Private Limited, a commercial entity controlled by Mukesh Ambani, in July 2002 for ₹21.05 crore (US\$2.6 million). The prevailing market value of the land at the time was at least ₹150 crore (US\$19 million). The sale was in direct contravention of § 51 of the Wakf Act which requires that any such sale of land should be done after the permission of the Maharashtra State Board of Waqfs. The Waqf minister Nawab Malik opposed this land sale, as did the revenue department of the Government of Maharashtra. Thus a stay order was issued on the sale of the land. The Waqf board also initially opposed the deal and filed a PIL in the Supreme Court challenging the decision of the trust. The Supreme Court, while dismissing the petition, asked the Waqf board to approach the Bombay High Court. However, the stay on the deal was subsequently vacated after the Waqf board withdrew its objection. In June 2011, the Union government asked the Maharashtra government to consider referring the matter to the Central Bureau of Investigation. A PIL was filed a decade later by Abdul Matin, against the orphanage and the Charity commissioners permission. As of 2018, the case was being heard by a special bench of the court.

== Design and construction == The building was designed by two US architecture firms Perkins & Will, based in Chicago, and Hirsch Bedner Associates, based in Los Angeles. They were consulted after Nita Dalal Ambani was impressed by the contemporary Asian interiors at the Mandarin Oriental, New York, also designed by them. The building plan was approved by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation in 2003, and construction started in 2006 with Leighton Asia initially taking charge, and

completed by B. E. Billimoria & Company Ltd. The architects altered floor plans and design concepts as the construction of the building progressed. The home has 27 floors with extra-high ceilings. (Other buildings of equivalent height may have as many as 60 floors.) The home was also designed to survive an earthquake of magnitude 8. It is considered by some to be the tallest single-family house in the world, but others disqualify the Antilia because it includes space for a staff of 600. The interior design uses the shapes of the lotus and the sun. These two features are repeated throughout the building using crystals, marble, and mother-of-pearl. However, no two floors use the same materials or plan, the idea of the design is of consistency, but no repetition. The building has three helipads, however, they are not operational. The helipads in India have to be certified air-worthy by the Director-General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), and have yet to get approval from the central defence and environment ministries. The house warming was done in November 2010, but Ambani did not immediately move in for fear of "bad luck". In June 2011, almost 50 renowned pandits were invited to conduct pujas and address vastu issues in the building, after which the Ambanis took up residence in September 2011.

== Cost and valuation == Prior to construction, the worth of the plot and unbuilt house were estimated to be more than US\$1.2 billion. During planning, the house was expected to be the world's largest and most expensive home, with a cost of about US\$2 billion. As of 2014, it is considered the world's most expensive private residence.

== Incidents == On 10 July 2017, a fire broke out on the ninth floor, and it was extinguished within a few minutes. Six fire tenders reached the building within 10 minutes of getting the call. However, the fire was extinguished by Antilia staff before the fire brigade team arrived, using a small line of fixed firefighting systems and fire extinguishers. The fire was confined to the 4G antenna and plastic framing of the vertical garden. On February 25, 2021, a car containing 20 explosive gelatin sticks and a threatening letter targeting the Ambanis, was found near Antilia. The car was parked about 400 metres from the building on Carmichael Road bordering Altamount Road. A security officer at Antilia placed a call to the police control room regarding the suspicious vehicle, and the police rushed to the spot, joined by the bomb detection and disposal squad. After the sniffer dogs detected explosives, the bomb squad removed the gelatin sticks, which were found to be not assembled, and had no battery or detonator. The probe was led by the Mumbai's crime intelligence unit head Sachin Vaze. The case was handed to the National Investigative Agency, which found out that Vaze was himself involved in this incident, and he was arrested.

== Public reception == Tata Group former chairman Ratan Tata said Antilia is an example of rich Indians' lack of empathy for the poor. Tata said, "The person who lives in there should be concerned about what he sees around him and asking how he can make a difference. If he cannot, then it's sad because this country needs people to allocate some of their enormous wealth to finding ways of mitigating the hardship that people have. It makes me wonder why someone would do that. That's what revolutions are made of."