Collapse or Explosion?

A photo essay
by Liam Scheff
THESE PEOPLE ARE FALLING, BUT NOT EXPLODING...
These buildings are falling over.

They are also not exploding.
These buildings have collapsed, most due to earthquake, or to poor construction and age.

Note that they are not exploding or bursting into flames or sending parts of themselves flying hundreds of feet through the air at cannonball speed.

Where the buildings have collapsed, the floors or roofs and other solid parts of the buildings still hold together and are stacked on top of each other...

...these are called pancakes, though you wouldn’t want to eat them.
These buildings were on fire, some for a long, long time, and on every floor. The buildings were made of steel. And the next day, all of them were still standing.

These buildings were also made of steel:
THEY WERE MADE OF A LOT OF STEEL, AND BUILT IN THE LATE 1960S TO EARLY 1970S, WHEN ARCHITECTS HAD BEEN MAKING BUILDINGS FROM STEEL FOR A LONG TIME. THE STEEL WAS THICK AND WIDE, AND WELDED TOGETHER AT EVERY SEAM.

These buildings were famous and grand and wonderful. Some people thought they were ugly, but they were glamorous, and they showed a country with limitless possibilities:

The sky is the limit - and maybe we can even go higher!

They were symbols of the American dream, and of the possibilities that this country offered to newcomers and citizens alike.
THEY WERE NEW YORK...

THEY WERE COLE PORTER...

...THEY WERE THE TOP OF THE WORLD...
These buildings were tough, so tough, and built to withstand any disaster that could come to them.

Even Cookie-Monsters.

They were even built to withstand a direct hit from the largest jetliner that was flying at the time of construction - a big plane, the Boeing 707.
The architects and engineers had to take precautions against such events, because the Empire State Building had been hit by a US Army bomber at the end of WWII - a B-25, on its 79th floor. That caused a fire, and killed the three crewman, and 11 office workers, and injured two dozen more.

The building itself was fine, of course, because it was made of steel, even though it was built 40 years before the two grand newcomers to the New York skyline.

The building in the lower left-hand corner is of course, not the Empire State Building. It is not even a steel-framed building. It is a reinforced concrete apartment building that was also hit by an airplane - a smaller airplane to be sure - but an airplane nonetheless. Here it is, with its small fire, that was put out eventually. The apartment is called the Belaire, and you can still rent or buy a condominium there, if you can afford it.
In fact, planes have hit buildings... too many times...

Usually the planes are small...

...but not always.

I suppose it's still far fewer accidents than happen on the road everyday.

And in any case, the buildings always survived, more or less intact...

I guess it's still the safest way to travel...
SO, THESE TWO SKYSCRAPERS WERE DESIGNED WITH AIRPLANE IMPACTS IN MIND. IN FACT, THE CONSTRUCTION MANAGER FOR THE TWIN TOWERS PROJECT SAID THAT HE FELT THE BUILDINGS COULD EVEN WITHSTAND "MULTIPLE IMPACTS" FROM JETLINERS.

HERE ARE SOME BUILDINGS THAT WERE ON FIRE FOR A LONG TIME, AND BURNED THEMSELVES TO THEIR FRAMES...

YOU CAN SEE THE FIRE IN THE MIDDLE IMAGE. AT THE TOP AND BOTTOM YOU CAN SEE WHAT WAS LEFT THE NEXT DAY...*

BOY, DID THOSE BUILDINGS BURN, BUT THEY DID NOT EXPLODE, NOR DID THEY FALL DOWN.

THEY WERE IN A COMPLEX OF BUILDINGS THAT DID BURST INTO FLAMES AND EXPLODE AND FALL DOWN, WHICH WE WILL GET TO IN A MOMENT. SO WHY DID THESE TWO BURN AND BURN, BUT NOT EXPLODE AND FALL STRAIGHT DOWN?

*WTC 5 AND 6
These are explosions, this is what explosions look like.

Or, that is, three of them are explosions, and one of them is not supposed to be.

Can you tell the difference?
ONE OF THE EXPLOSIONS (THAT ISN'T SUPPOSED TO BE AN EXPLOSION) IS ONE OF THE TWO TOWERS MENTIONED ABOVE, WHICH WERE EACH MADE OF DENSE WELDED STEEL, STACKED LIKE A CASTLE WALL OF THICK METAL, WITH THEIR CORES HOLDING STRONG, EVEN WHEN THE OUTSIDE SWAYED.


THE OFFICIAL EXPLANATION DOESN'T TELL WHAT HAPPENED WHILE THEY WERE EXPLODING, OR FALLING DOWN, ONLY THAT THE STEEL WAS WEAKENED BY FIRE WHERE THE AIRPLANES HIT, AND THE STEEL IN THE FLOORS SAGGED, AND THE FLOORS PULLED AWAY FROM THE OUTSIDE WALL... AND SO THE FLOORS FELL DOWN. THAT'S THE OFFICIAL EXPLANATION.

OR, I SHOULD SAY... IT WAS THE OFFICIAL EXPLANATION, UNTIL THE OWNER OF THE BUILDINGS, MR. LARRY SILVERSTEIN, COMPLAINED THAT IF THE FLOORS HAD PULLED AWAY FROM THE WALLS, HE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO COLLECT HIS INSURANCE MONEY. THAT IS, IF THE FLOORS PULLED AWAY FROM THE WALLS, THEN IT WAS THE BUILDING'S FAULT. AND THAT MEANT NO INSURANCE MONEY FOR MR. SILVERSTEIN.
So, a new official explanation was entered into the record, which happens to be the exact opposite of the first, but it's the official story in any case. It goes like this:

The fire caused the floors to sag, and the floors pulled against the wall, but the rivets and welding were so strong – not weak, like in the first explanation – but so very, very strong, that they pulled the walls inward and that caused everything to begin to collapse...

...but the report stops at "begin."

It just gets to the sagging and pulling away, or pulling inward part. It doesn't get into what happened after the first floor fell down.

(IT was no longer "the building's fault," so Larry got paid.)
That is, the government report doesn’t give any explanation for how the buildings actually blew up, or came down.

Or how the immense strength of the welding and rivets pulled the whole building apart and blew it up into dust that covered all of Manhattan... somehow.

I don’t think it’s a very good explanation myself, so I’d like to ask your help.
These pictures are hard to look at. They're hard for me to look at, they've been hard to look at for a long time.

But can you tell me, are these buildings "pancaking" downward, the floors stacking up on top of the next...

...each breaking the steel weld that holds it tightly at hundreds of points to the walls and core?

Is that what's happening here?

Or are these buildings exploding? Bursting open from some force, shattering their pieces, their insides, their exteriors and interiors? Decimating their strong, thick steel; somehow turning thick concrete to dust, and hard metal into twisted and distorted slivers?
THIS IS TOWER ONE. YOU CAN SEE THAT THERE IS A FIRE, AND THEN THE TOP STARTS TO LOWER ITSELF INTO...WELL, ITSELF.

IT SEEMS TO BE BLOWING ITSELF OUTWARD INTO MORE AND MORE DUST AND DEBRIS. YOU CAN SEE THE NEEDLE ON TOP DESCEND AND DESCEND, AND THEN JUST DISAPPEAR IN THE CLOUD OF, WELL...

...OF WHAT USED TO BE THE BUILDING, OF THE CONCRETE THAT SOMEHOW TURNED INTO VERY FINE EXPLODING POWDER.

BY THE END, THE TOP OF THE BUILDING IS GONE, IT HAS TURNED TO DUST. THERE IS A GREAT DEAL OF BUILDING BENEATH IT. BUT NOT FOR LONG.
With most of the building on top of it gone, having somehow turned into exploding concrete, what is pushing down on the rest of the building beneath it? What is causing more 'sagging and pulling,' that also makes all of it, all the way to the bottom, also turn into exploding concrete?

This is the same building from a little higher up...

How did all of that concrete learn to explode into those giant plumes of dust?

Was there a hidden volcano in the building?
Now we're farther away. You can see the building at a distance, as the top of the building explodes, with its magical exploding concrete...

...that also tears the thick steel into ribbons and throws it hundreds of feet away from where it was sitting comfortably for all those years.

After just a few seconds, the whole top of the building looks like the puffy top of Mount Saint Helens, when it exploded and buried a lot of Washington in dust and rock and ash and soot.

How did that happen? And what's left to push down on the building beneath it?

Except I suppose that maybe the concrete in the floors below caught something, like a virus, from the concrete that had already exploded, and couldn't stop itself from exploding too.

The little squares are magnifications of where you can see concrete exploding in other places on the building.
HERE IT IS AGAIN, INFECTIOUS EXPLODING CONCRETE, CAUSED BY SAGGING AND PULLING, OR SOMETHING...
THIS IS TOWER TWO:

You can see the top begin to tilt over and over, like it’s going to fall all the way down. But it doesn’t.

It starts to tip, but instead decides to fall straight down. But then, it too catches the exploding concrete bug, and tears itself apart all over the place, until it’s just a cloud of dust.

Soon, there’s nothing left on top of the building, but it’s too late, because the rest of the tower must have already caught the virus, and now it too will explode all the way down to the ground.
HERE IT IS AGAIN. AHHH-CHOOOOO! IT CATCHES THE EXPLODING CONCRETE BLOG, AND IT'S ALL OVER...
THIS IS THE FIRST BUILDING AGAIN.

THE TOP HAS EXPLODED INTO DUST, BUT FOR SOME REASON, THERE IS A LINE OF MAGICAL EXPLODING CONCRETE...

...MOVING LIKE AN ADVANCING ARMY AT FULL GALLOP DOWN ALL FOUR SIDES OF THE BUILDING, EQUALLY, AT THE SAME SPEED...

...AT THE SAME HEIGHT, ALL INFECTING THE EXISTING BUILDING WITH THE MAGICAL EXPLODING CONCRETE VIRUS.

HERE IT IS AGAIN, TURNED INTO A PHOTO-NEGATIVE

(THSE IMAGE ARE FROM A MOVIE WHICH YOU CAN WATCH YOURSELF, IF YOU'RE CURIOUS. THE FOOTAGE IS FROM FOXNEWS ON THE DAY THAT IT ALL HAPPENED).

CAN YOU SEE THE ADVANCING ARMY THUNDERING DOWN THE BUILDING?
But it had to end sometime. Fortunately, I suppose, the magical exploding concrete virus didn’t infect the earth beneath the towers, and cause the earth to also explode. That would have been even worse for everyone!

You can see what remained after the buildings, well...went away.

Not much left, of all that thick steel, all those concrete floors.

Nothing at all of the giant steel core, the second building inside the first, which was designed to hold the building up in case of exterior damage.

In fact, very soon, there was nothing left at all, because for some reason, the U.S. government had almost every piece of broken and twisted and splintered steel put on boats...

...and shipped to China and other foreign countries...

Nothing left of the building beneath the point of airplane impact.

...where it was melted down - recycled.
I’m all for recycling, but shouldn’t they have waited a little while to see if examining the pieces of metal might have given a clue to what caused the exploding-concrete virus?

I think so....

Well, it’s all a terrible story, an unpleasant story, a story no one wants to hear or talk about except that a lot of people do talk about it.

- The steel frame structure was almost completely dismembered.
- Cut up and ready for shipment

For example, this guy talks about it:

He was an architect, is an architect, I mean, who builds steel buildings.

He’s pretty sure that he has figured out what caused the twin towers to become infected with the exploding concrete virus.
Does this look like a gravitational collapse??

WTC North Tower
Broken Down
to Shippable Lengths

I hope he doesn’t catch the disappearing citizen virus.

In the meantime, maybe you can tell me:

Did these buildings fall down, or did they blow up?

He has a website.

Here it is: http://www.ae911truth.org/.

You can look him up, if you want.

His name is Richard Gage.

That’s happened from time to time to people who talk too much about unpleasant things.
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A PHOTO ESSAY BY LIAM SCHEFF

HTTP://LIAMSCHEFF.COM

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