

Contents:

- FOSTER TALLEST IN MOSCOW?
- CHICAGO'S SKYLINE UPDATED WITH AQUA
- SEATTLE PUSHES FOR HIGHER
- STRIKES AT BURJ DUBAI
- GLOBAL WARMING – INCREASED FLOODING?
- ASIAN CITIES SHAPE THE FUTURE
- INTERNATIONAL SNIPPETS.....

FOSTER TALLEST IN MOSCOW?

Foster and Partners have been commissioned to design a mixed-use tower in Moscow set to become the tallest building in Europe. The Rossiya Tower will reach almost 2,000 feet (610 m) and will form the centrepiece of Moscow City, the Russian capital's rapidly expanding business district. 'The tower's slender volume will narrow toward the top, consisting of a tripartite structure joined around a spine. Its 118 floors will enclose a total area of over 5.5 million square feet. The tower will be equipped with a system of natural ventilation, harnessing rainwater and snow while maximizing environmental recycling. The grounds will also contain a public ice rink and underground parking...'

<http://archrecord.construction.com/news/daily/archives/060323foster.asp>

It's due for completion in 2010. 'City authorities are understood to have wanted a distinctive skyscraper that could become a landmark similar to Lord Foster's Gherkin in the City of London...the tower plan was proposed by Shalva Chigirinsky, a Russian property tycoon...' 'We're not poor people. We will invest as much as it takes...'

http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,13509-2097094_00.html

It will surpass the Federation Towers, currently under construction in Moscow...

<http://www.mosnews.com/money/2005/07/25/skyscraper.shtml>

CHICAGO'S SKYLINE UPDATED WITH AQUA

Studio Gang Architects has released its design for an 82 story residential high-rise called 'Aqua' for Chicago at the Lakeshore East development just north of Millennium Park. The \$300 million project also includes a hotel, offices, retail, conference facilities, amenities, and parking totaling over 1.9 million square feet. The design achieves its undulating appearance from the shape of its floor plates whose edges transform over the height of the tower. Jeanne Gang, design principal at Studio Gang wanted the changing floor plates to "create generous exterior terraces" in order to offer outside spaces and real connections to the city. The terraces are sculpted to respond to view corridors and provide solar shading. "It has the same intelligence and elegance of her smaller-scale work..." said Blair Kamin, Architecture critic for the Chicago Tribune.

<http://www.studiogang.net/studiogang.net/projects/pages/lakeshoreeast.html>

Most tower designs, driven by economy and speed of construction, rely on repetitive floor plates with small alterations from tier to tier. Studio Gang's utilization of digital design tools has made their vision of mass-variation at Aqua possible. Digital construction technology such as GPS (global positioning system) will aid the contractor in realizing the building's dimensions in the field.

<http://www.lakeshoreeast.com/aqua>

SEATTLE PUSHES FOR HIGHER

The Seattle skyline - famously capped in 1989 by height restrictions to curb the city's growth - is now set for a burst of tall buildings. In a move aimed at bringing more residents into the city and slowing suburban sprawl, the city council has repealed the restrictions. Several developers have already prepared huge residential and office towers to take advantage of the new rules. Successful applications will require planning gain payments for social housing. Consultants say conditions 'are ripe for a surge in downtown high-rises, driven largely by empty-nest baby boomers who want to live near cultural amenities...how high a building can go depends on location. Under current rules, the tallest building allowed downtown is 540 feet. Now there will be no limit...'

<http://tinyurl.com/hh3jk>

STRIKES AT BURJ DUBAI

The two worlds of Dubai collided last month when a strike by labourers working on the Burj Dubai tower escalated into rioting. Around 2,500 workers at the site of what will be the world's tallest building when completed downed tools in protest over pay and working conditions. A subsequent riot wrecked cars, offices and construction vehicles, causing an estimated \$1m worth of damage. Pay for the workers ranges from US\$7.60 per day for a skilled carpenter, with labourers getting \$4 per day.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/business/4836632.stm>

Violence is a sign of 'the growing unrest among foreign workers who are the linchpin of Dubai's breathtaking building boom...' There have been strikes in recent months in Qatar and Oman. Bangladeshis stormed their own embassy in Kuwait, protesting about working conditions that human rights activists have denounced as slave-like'...

<http://tinyurl.com/gnyaz>

The government line: strikers had no grounds 'as they have always been treated fairly by their employer...they should see how workers in other companies are treated before going on destructive strikes...their current living conditions are in line with their agreed contracts...'

<http://www.7days.ae/2006/03/26/on-shaky-ground-2.html>

The construction strike may now be over, but the spotlight remains on working conditions there. 'Far from the high-rise towers and luxury hotels, the workers turning this swath of desert into a modern metropolis live in a Dickensian world of cramped labour camps, low pay and increasing desperation...'

<http://www.iht.com/articles/2006/03/26/news/dubai.php>

GLOBAL WARMING – INCREASED FLOODING?

A new report on global warming has warned that melting ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica could flood some of the world's major cities - including London and New York - by the end of the century. The study combines computer models of rising temperatures with ancient climate records, indicating that sea levels could rise by up to 20ft (6m) by 2100. 'Such a rise would threaten cities such as London, New York, Mumbai and Tokyo. Large parts of the Netherlands, Bangladesh and Florida would be inundated, and even smaller rises would flood extreme low-lying areas, such as several Pacific islands and New Orleans...'

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2-2100776,00.html>

'At the current warming rate, Earth's temperature by 2100 will probably be at least 4 degrees warmer than now, with the Arctic at least as warm as it was 130,000 years ago...'

<http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory?id=1760562&technology=true>

ASIAN CITIES SHAPE THE FUTURE

A theme seems to be developing in recent articles on the rise of the Asian metropolis. The new mega-cities are driven not by urbanism, but by optimism... Rana Dasgupta says the 21st Century belongs to the fertile chaos of the third-world metropolis. 'This is all the more thrilling for its improbability: surely, those suffocating slums are too exhausted to bring forth futures?...The idea of the total, centralised, maximally efficient, planned city has long since lost its futuristic appeal: its confidence and ambition have turned to anxiety and besiegement...'. 'What is more disconcerting is that third-world cities have got to such a place without following the rules. According to the time-honoured process of "development", cities and states attain maturity only when they have standardised the population into one language and cosmology, contained poverty, made clear divisions between different kinds of land use - humans and animals, factories and residences - and imposed a unified code of law. Clearly, these things have not happened in Mumbai or Shanghai...It is an alternative kind of modernity: a swirling, agglomerative kind that seems, at this point in history, to be more capable than western modernity of sustaining radical diversity...'

<http://www.newstatesman.com/Arts/200603270031>

INTERNATIONAL SNIPPETS.....

NEW YORK: The New Residential Vernacular. 'For years New Yorkers were much more likely to work in glass towers than live in them. No more...'

<http://www.metropolismag.com/cda/story.php?artid=1846>

TORONTO: Beijing based MAD Architectural Design Studio has been announced as winners of the ground breaking international competition for a new 50 storey condominium project in Mississauga, Toronto. The project has been chosen from the 92 firms that entered and was chosen by 6000 residential votes.....

<http://archrecord.construction.com/news/daily/archives/060412toronto.asp>

MEXICO: Pascal Arquitectos' Sheraton...

<http://tinyurl.com/odcvk>

UK: Eye architects Marks Barfield on future projects, including the I-360 sky tower, an urban wind turbine, and the River of Light - a rethink of illuminations along the Thames.

<http://arts.guardian.co.uk/features/story/0,,1740429,00.html>

Marks Barfield's proposal for a 600-ft observation mast. 'It would carry a pod holding up to 100 people gently upwards, providing dramatic and sweeping views of up to 25 miles on a clear day...'

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/britain/article/0,,1746714,00.html>

LONDON: Renzo Piano's 'gem' building, a companion to his nearby Shard tower. 'The scheme will involve the demolition of an existing 20-storey office tower and replacing it with a 600,000 sq ft office and retail building...'

<http://www.london-se1.co.uk/news/view/2103>

SCOTLAND: A dozen pensioners trapped on the upper floors of their care home since Christmas could be stuck there for another three weeks...

<http://news.scotsman.com/scotland.cfm?id=434612006>

The lift broke down on Christmas Day, and there have been 'delays getting a replacement lift gearbox from the Italian manufacturers...'

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/4819966.stm>

BERLIN: Mark Braun Architekten's glass office tower in Friedrichstrasse. Mark Braun Architekten have completed a design for a modern and transparent office building at key location Friedrichstrasse in Berlin, eighty-five years after Mies van der Rohe first submitted his spectacular glass tower design for the same site...
<http://tinyurl.com/lkr4c>

MOSCOW: Despite a frenzy of commercial construction, the city still has the lowest vacancy rate for high-end office space in Europe. Office stock almost doubled to 4.6 million square meters between 2001 and 2005, yet vacancy rates for prime space are just 3%, lower than London (7.3%) and Paris (5.7%).
<http://www.iht.com/articles/2006/03/29/properties/remoscow.php>

ISTANBUL: Zaha Hadid wins the competition for a vast municipal 'recreational development project - office towers, housing, opera house, parks, hotels, restaurants and a large marina...' Ken Yeang gets the 'large urban transformation project'...
<http://www.ibb.gov.tr/en-US/Haberler/HaberDetay.html?HaberId=934>

DUBAI: Infinity Tower, designed by SOM, will stand 80 stories high at 330 meters and will be the world's tallest tower to feature a 90 degree twist...
<http://tinyurl.com/jzrjp>

TOKYO: KPF Associates' 20-storey tower 'places the vertical service elements along the north side of the site to allow for office space...'
<http://tinyurl.com/fqrbt>

THAILAND: Profile of the practice Architects 49, one of the country's best known firms, and part of the wave of home-grown alternatives to international design imports.
<http://www.property-report.com/archives.php?id=405&date=0604>

SYDNEY: Located in Sydney's prestigious mid-town precinct, the \$600 million Foster & Partners – designed Regent Place development will comprise two towers. The 56 level Lumiere at Regent Place residential tower, incorporating 456 luxurious apartments and extensive lifestyle, commercial and retail facilities, including a fully equipped gymnasium, 50 metre indoor/outdoor heated swimming pool, steam rooms, saunas and theatrettes.
<http://www.regentplace.com.au/>
meanwhile, local winners for the design competition to create a new precinct at East Darling Harbour.
<http://tinyurl.com/ov5kk>

MELBOURNE: Residential tower by Bates Smart
<http://tinyurl.com/o637s>

SECURE DESIGN: Architect Barbara Nadel on the principles of 'transparent security' for vulnerable buildings.
<http://www.buildings.com/Articles/detailBuildings.asp?ArticleID=2982>

TALL BUILDINGS: Of the ten tallest new towers, only one is in America. 'For better or worse, in this monetarised, post-industrial age, the skyscraper has replaced the factory as the more potent symbol of national clout, and in the race to top, the United States is beginning to be left in the dust...'
<http://lynnbecker.com/repeat/ctbuh/ctbuh.htm>

CTBUH Tall Building News is a monthly round up of Tall Building news from around the world for CTBUH members. The editor welcomes comments, ideas and contributions. Please reply to: antony.wood@nottingham.ac.uk

Please note: The CTBUH does not in any way endorse the views or contents of the web pages. It is also not responsible for the content of external sites.

This email is intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom it is addressed. If you have received this email in error please notify the sender.