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HUMMINGBIRD TAKES THE SKIES

Studio Daniel Libeskind's redesign of the 45-year-old Hummingbird Centre for the Performing Arts includes a new arts and a cultural facility, the Centre's existing theatre, as well as a residential tower. The development will offer a new strategy for 21st century living whereby inner city life is actively integrated with culture and the arts. The residential tower component comprises 420,000 sq.ft of the redesign and is situated atop the cultural facilities. It will contain approximately 300 units and rise to a height of 50 stories, providing stunning views over downtown Toronto and Lake Ontario. The 77 million euro project is set to be complete in 2007.....

<http://www.worldarchitecturenews.com/index.php?fuseaction=wanappln.showhome>

DUBAI PLANS WORLD'S LARGEST HOTEL

Plans are moving ahead for a \$27 billion resort in Dubai that will include the world's largest hotel. Developer Tatweer has presented images of the Bawadi project which show 'a 10 km (6.2 miles) long resort strip that resembled Las Vegas without the casinos - its 31 hotels modelled on ancient Egyptian palaces, Hollywood, London's Houses of Parliament and even the moon...' The megaplan is part of an overall tourism drive aiming to increase Dubai's 6 million tourists a year to 15 million over the next decade. Between 70,000 and 80,000 new hotel rooms will be needed. Bawadi alone will have more than 29,000...

<http://www.ibnlive.com/news/dubai-plans-worlds-largest-hotel/9216-2.html>

Developers announced that Pelli Clarke Pelli has already started work on the 'architectural and engineering design of the world's largest hotel, the Asia Asia...'

<http://www.gowealthy.com/realestate/news/1334/detail.asp>

'For now, billboards made of scaffolding and plywood are in place...' and they look spectacular in their own right...'

<http://transcity.eu/main/article/11/dubais-potemkin-city>

NEW SKYLINE FOR LONDON

The first signs that the expected crop of new skyscrapers for the City of London could soon be underway are becoming apparent with initial works being carried out on site. First up the project that's been around the longest - the Heron Tower at 110 Bishopsgate. Although the site is still occupied by Norton Rose the works are now no longer simply being carried out by Thames Water. Contractors, Skanska and Mace are onsite redirecting the services and in particular the sewer to help prepare for a running start to construction. There are also some interesting rumours that the tower might get yet another height increase, but they are still rumours at this stage. It's already had one that boosted it from 183 metres to 202 metres tall, another would presumably knock it up by a further 19 metres. At 122 Leadenhall Street where the Leadenhall Building will be going contractors are now making boreholes on the edges of the site to check out what the soil is like there as the foundations will have to be a whopping 18 metres deep. British Land are eager to get this one off to as quick a start as possible when they take control of the site in early 2007. Finally, at the site of the Bishopsgate Tower, Keltbray have commenced piling. The site is still occupied by Crosby Court so obviously this is not construction, rather we understand that test piles are being driven into the ground first. Once this is completed then Keltbray will begin on the demolition contract will be clearing the site.

<http://www.skyscrapernews.com/news.php?ref=695>

NASHVILLE GROWING UP

With approval for a redesigned high-rise in its pocket, the developer of what may become Nashville's tallest building and the tallest tower in the U.S. outside Chicago and New York City, is moving full-steam ahead. The plan is to break ground in January, after financing is secured for the 1,057-ft-tall, hotel-residential condominium tower. The goal is to have financing wrapped up in November. But before that happens, the developer must lock in a hotel operator and an equity investor. "So far, we are funding the estimated \$300-million project out of pocket," says Ted Kromer, development director for Giarratana Development LLC, Nashville. Signature Tower is Giarratana's second try for the site. The first building, which had office space as well as a hotel and residential units, was rejected by the city because, with punched windows, it looked too much like other buildings, says Kromer.

http://enr.ecnext.com/free-scripts/comsite2.pl?page=enr_document&article=nebuar060731a

FUTURE-PROOFING IN CHICAGO?

Chicago architects lead the way in future proofing... As the density of our cities spirals upwards so the premium for brownfield sites grows apace. Increasingly architects will be tasked with urban regeneration schemes involving existing towers. The cost of these projects is huge when demolition and loss of revenue are added to construction, not to mention the environmental impact. Chicago architects Goettsch Partners have future-proofed this tower by preparing for upwards extension at the original design stage. Could this be the start of a new generation of buildings?

http://www.worldarchitecturenews.com/index.php?fuseaction=wanappln.projectview&upload_id=451

Meanwhile, work starts on Hines Tower: 300 North LaSalle brings new architects to Chicago. A global architectural firm with projects in Houston, Montreal, Shanghai and Kuala Lumpur will soon leave its mark on Chicago as well. As construction started this week on the Hines office tower at 300 North LaSalle, it marks the first project in Chicago for the Connecticut-based Pickard Chilton. Anthony Markese, a design principal with the firm, said designing a building in Chicago means not only following some of the greats - but making a contribution as well. "Chicago has such a tremendously rich architectural heritage, as the birthplace of the skyscraper. This represents a tremendous opportunity to be in the rich context of Sullivan, Wright and Mies," he says.....

<http://e2ma.net/go/333433312/258650/7609096/goto:http://www.irej.com/>

TOBACCO, WIND AND CHINA

SOM have recently announced a new 69 storey, 303 metre tower, in Guangzhou, for China National Tobacco Corp. The Pearl River Tower epitomizes the super tall corporate headquarters building of tomorrow: an iconic, high performance structure that is designed in such harmony with its environment that it potentially produces as much energy as it consumes. The building's sculptural form guides wind to a pair of openings at its mechanical floors. The rapid winds push turbines that generate energy for the building's heating, ventilation and air conditioning.....

http://www.worldarchitecturenews.com/index.php?fuseaction=wanappln.projectview&upload_id=475

INTERNATIONAL SNIPPETS.....

CHICAGO: A profile of architect Jeanne Gang's studio in Chicago, where CAD and the aggressive recycling of materials are producing innovative new built forms. One scheme - the redevelopment of the old Illinois Central rail yards into a residential neighbourhood with more than 5,000 apartment units - will be constructed 'using the architectural equivalent of mass-customisation'. Model elements are cut directly by laser cutter from CAD. And 'the unique shape of each of the concrete floor slabs will be staked out by construction workers via GPS, directly from the project's CAD files...'

<http://tinyurl.com/hmvmhm>

Also, a \$20m restoration of the 1930 Board of Trade Building, 'a chiselled, perfectly proportioned Art Deco skyscraper'.

<http://tinyurl.com/mb5wn>

SEATTLE: The city's mayor wants Kyoto initiatives. 'Seattle City Light became the first major US electric utility to achieve zero net emissions of greenhouse gases last year...'

<http://www.enn.com/today.html?id=11005>

SAN FRANCISCO: How architects, engineers and client developed the structural solution for a 55-storey condominium tower. A concrete core with outriggers, and a 12 ft thick concrete and steel foundation based on bedrock...

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2006/07/02/BAGD5JO3A41.DTL>

TORONTO: A civic report on Strategies for a Creative City. 'Creativity means business...it has become the ultimate economic resource, adding a new dimension to the competitive potential of cities around the world...'

<http://www.canadianarchitect.com/issues/ISArticle.asp?id=58561&issue=07252006>

<http://www.imagineatoronto.ca/>

SANTIAGO, CHILE: Cesar Pelli has designed what will be the tallest skyscraper in South America once built, as part of the four building complex, the Costanera Centre in Santiago, Chile. The Gran Torre Costanera at 257 metres tall will contain 60 floors of brand new office space whilst at the same time substantially trumping the current tallest in the city which is only 143 metres in height

<http://www.skyscrapernews.com/news.php?ref=697>

LONDON: A new tower, only a smidgeon under 100 metres tall has been designed by Burland TM Architects for a fringe site just to the east of the City of London off at 33-35 Commercial Road.....

<http://www.skyscrapernews.com/news.php?ref=699>

The Elephant and Castle area is London's missing quarter. Situated further north than Victoria Station and enjoying exceptional levels of public transport connectivity, the site has the potential to become a prime location at the heart of the capital. This new masterplan will reconnect the communities living and working around the heart of the Elephant and Castle, knitting them together into a vibrant new urban community. Transport routes will be rationalised in order

http://www.worldarchitecturenews.com/index.php?fuseaction=wanappln.projectview&upload_id=453

Meanwhile, GC Bankside have recently submitted a detailed planning application for a residential scheme at the Holland Street site, which borders the Tate Modern, London. Designed by Richard Rogers Partnership, the landmark scheme comprises 229 apartments in 5 buildings, providing a total of 300,000 sq ft. of accommodation.....

http://www.worldarchitecturenews.com/index.php?fuseaction=wanappln.projectview&upload_id=458

LIVERPOOL: Mersey Property Company Ltd has submitted a planning application for a major mixed use scheme in Liverpool. The centrepiece of the development is an elegant 135 bedroom hotel and a residential tower with 183 apartments extending to 36 storeys high designed by RMJM. The development also accommodates offices, mixed commercial uses and car parking for over 330 vehicles. At the heart of the grand design is a semi-enclosed plaza with cafes and seating areas, enjoying views.

http://www.worldarchitecturenews.com/index.php?fuseaction=wanappln.projectview&upload_id=468

LEICESTER: Designed by architect Ian Simpson Architects and financed by the Royal Bank of Scotland, No. 1 Westbridge will be an iconic landmark complex that will comprise 354 luxury apartments, shops, bars and restaurants as well as public squares and a riverside walkway.....

http://www.worldarchitecturenews.com/index.php?fuseaction=wanappln.projectview&upload_id=449

BLACKPOOL: Architects Gensler, have been hired by developer Re-Blackpool to design their planned casino quarter for the sea-side town in its bid to reinvent itself as the British Las Vegas. The £350 million project will contain a 170,000 square metre development of an 800 room hotel, entertainment and gambling facilities plus a 3000 seat auditorium in a conference centre and 5,000 square metres of exhibition space

<http://www.skyscrapernews.com/news.php?ref=691>

ZURICH: A 'concept store' built from 17 recycled freight containers by Daniel Freitag. 'There is a staircase to climb to the shop levels and to the tower. The construction respects the Swiss norms, it's therefore very safe...'

<http://www.we-make-money-not-art.com/archives/008809.php>

FRANKFURT: COOP HIMMELB(L)AU, designers of a new building for the European Central Bank (ECB) are aiming to start construction on the site of the Grossmarkthalle (Wholesale Market) in Frankfurt next year, after the project went to planning this March.

http://www.worldarchitecturenews.com/index.php?fuseaction=wanappln.projectview&upload_id=441

PAKISTAN: Construction work has begun on the Centaurus Hotel in Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan, that has been nicknamed "the ski jump" by locals thanks to its unique profile. Designed by British firm Atkins who are getting quite a name for themselves in the world of international architecture thanks to their boldly futuristic designs, the 278,000 square metre scheme will contain as its centrepiece, a 30 floor hotel with 350 bedrooms topped by a restaurant and observation level

<http://www.skyscrapernews.com/news.php?ref=692>

SUSTAINABILITY TV SERIES – USA.

A PBS documentary on sustainability, design:e2, in a 6-part series narrated by Brad Pitt will be airing on a regular at digital PBS stations in Chicago on Aug 25th at 9:30pm, and airing frequently in the coming weeks. It premiered in NYC on WNET on Friday, August 18 at 10:30pm, and will run in that time slot for the next six weeks. It will also air on Sat, Aug 19th from 2-3pm for a few weeks with a series of reruns on Channel 13 (See:

<http://www.pbs.org/designe2/airdates.html?station=WNET>).

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