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#### FOSTER, HEARST AND OTHER ENDEAVOURS

There are times when Norman Foster looks like two entirely different kinds of architect. Which one you get depends on which side of the Atlantic you happen to be. In London he has become a ubiquitous, monochrome presence, dressing everything from Wembley stadium to the Asprey jewellery store in the uniform of self-confident corporate modernism, like a reliable machine. But in New York, where he still has something to prove, and is operating at the top of his game, he is unbeatable as a brilliant architectural innovator. In the city that perfected the skyscraper then repeated the formula endlessly, he is the European who has taken on the apparently impossible task of rescuing the high-rise from creative exhaustion. His just-completed new headquarters for the Hearst magazine empire, on Eighth Avenue, close to Central Park, succeeds in doing that, and deservedly is getting astonishingly enthusiastic coverage.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/arts/reviews/observer/story/0,14467,1681461,00.html>

Images: <http://www.emporis.com/en/wm/bu/?id=135112> and <http://www.hearstcorp.com/tower/gallery/>

#### NEW NEW LONDON BRIDGE HOUSE PROPOSED

The legal arguments that threatened to derail London Bridge Tower have been resolved along with the official revealing of its sister tower on the site of New London Bridge House. The scheme had faced descending into acrimony after Syrian tycoon Simon Halabi had wished to invest on an equal basis to Irvine Sellar and CLS Holdings in the new scheme who have now relented from their position and agreed he can be an equal partner. The sixteen floor office tower shares an architect with its taller neighbour having been designed by Renzo Piano and will have about 55,000 square metres of grade A office space and 2,000 square metres of retail on the lower floors. With the Van Der Rohe inspired transparent base on New London Bridge House Piano has claimed in wonderful architect-speak that "float like the rock of Magritte above the ground", presumably transparent cheese thanks to the glass curtain cladding the upper levels will be covered in. The new building will also be shorter than the current building however this has a major advantage of increasing the emphasis of height that its taller neighbour will have visible from certain angles - currently it would be hemmed in around the base by substantially shorter towers reducing the ability to showcase the Shard. The inclined roof of the building will set a new record in the amount of solar panels used on a building in London with a whopping 3,500 square metres of PV cells on it, this should be sufficient to power at least 10% of the total requirement of the building.

<http://www.skyscrapernews.com/news.php?ref=508>

#### ENGINEERING KOOLHAAS

Once the sensational impact of Rem Koolhaas' CCTV headquarters in Beijing had subsided, admiration for its audacious design gave way to public speculation on how it could actually be built. Now under construction, the building is being engineered by Arup. Not only did the team have to work out to achieve the designer's concept of a massive, continuous 'twisted tube' to house the occupants. It had to meet tough performance-based targets, including 'no structural damage when subjected to a level 1 earthquake...' Due to the vast number of model components: '10,060 elements representing nearly 90,000 metres of steel and steel-reinforced concrete sections and the multitude of load cases, four postprocessors were run in parallel, one for steel columns, one for SRC columns, one for braces, and another for the edge beams that together form the continuous tube...' Detailed structural analysis:

[http://www.architectureweek.com/2006/0111/tools\\_1-1.html](http://www.architectureweek.com/2006/0111/tools_1-1.html)

#### BRIGHTON BEETHAM SET FOR APPEAL

Prolific tower builder Beetham, is due to appeal against the latest setbacks its plans have faced in Brighton following the rejection earlier in 2005 for their plans of a residential tower near the railway station that would have dominated that portion of the city at New England Square. Originally floated in 2004, they had hoped to build a 122 metre tall residential tower designed by architects Allies and Morrison. With 42 floors it would accommodate 146 new apartments in the tower block and attached podium plus a brand new four star hotel - the same sort of formula that has proven so success for the developer in Manchester. The main face of the tower is basically a sheer wall with floor to ceiling glazing and yellow highlights on the sides of the cladding. The tower has the ends of it consist of balconies that are partly protected by a serrated metal face running up it giving the corner areas the appearance of being partially transparent from a distance. The design soon ran into trouble with many feeling that it was lumpen or simply uninspired when compared to the more sartorially elegant Wilkinson Eyre imagined Brighton Marina that showed off the white Regency past of Brighton

<http://www.skyscrapernews.com/news.php?ref=513>

#### YOUNG AT HEART OF THE CITY

According to a new study, the preference of 25-34 year-olds for inner city areas has increased dramatically in the last decade. Researchers looked at the population profiles of 'close-in' US neighbourhoods - within three miles of metropolitan city centres. 'Simply put, the metropolitan areas with the highest levels of educational attainment are chiefly those with the highest rates of young adult college attainment in their close-in neighborhoods - cities attractive to young people, like Seattle, Boston, Chicago, and New York'. In 1980, 25-34 year-olds were about 10% more likely than other Americans to live in a close-in neighborhood. 'In 1990, 12% more likely. But by 2000, they were 34 percent more likely, and this trend was pervasive...'

<http://www.planetizen.com/node/18472>

#### GLOBAL TRENDS?

The Urban Land Institute gathered a group of 'architectural and development professionals and thinkers' to discuss recent trends across the globe. 'Shanghai is trying to be another New York. Hong Kong wants to be another Shanghai. But denser and taller cities consume more energy resources. In 20 years, we'll probably need to break down these megapolises and start connecting smaller cities with fast transit...' 'In the United States, over 90% of the growth over the next generation will occur at the edges of cities...' 'Sustainable design is becoming more broad, covering everything from planning to building design and materials, to how buildings are oriented on the site, to natural light and natural ventilation. We are so concerned about the efficiency of floor plates, but sustainability is not always about what's the most efficient...' 'Within a decade, India and China will have to provide the same environment as in the United States. So it's not true that foreign countries will always be able to provide things more cheaply...'

<http://tinyurl.com/8urfj>

#### INTERNATIONAL SNIPPETS.....

US: The American Institute of Architects (AIA) has called for 'a minimum reduction of 50% of the current consumption level of fossil fuels used to construct and operate buildings by the year 2010...'

[http://www.aia.org/release\\_121905\\_fossilfuel](http://www.aia.org/release_121905_fossilfuel)

'We are in a race against time...'

[http://www.architectureweek.com/2006/0104/environment\\_1-1.html](http://www.architectureweek.com/2006/0104/environment_1-1.html)

CHICAGO: An 'unapologetically boxy' 40-storey tower designed by architects Richard Keating and James DeStefano impresses. But now the practice has split...

[http://www.chicagotribune.com/features/arts/chi-0601070283jan08.1.956431\\_story](http://www.chicagotribune.com/features/arts/chi-0601070283jan08.1.956431_story)

MINNEAPOLIS: The city has the most extensive network of enclosed skyways in the US: seven miles in 78 bridges connecting more than 70 blocks. 'Minneapolis has effectively created a city above the city, a collective realm for play and connectivity...'

[http://www.americacity.org/article.php?id\\_article=144](http://www.americacity.org/article.php?id_article=144)

Image: <http://www.phototour.minneapolis.mn.us/1839>

UK: The Skyscrapernews team come up with their favourite designs that were released in 2005. These three, one tall, one not so tall, and one not tall at all, are the three favourite ones.....

<http://www.skyscrapernews.com/news.php?ref=517>

MANCHESTER, UK: The centre-piece of a new development in Manchester, 3 Piccadilly Place, the largest single speculatively built office building in decades is now well under construction. We spoke to Clive Panter of the architect firm, Austin Smith Lord, the firm who designed both this building and the overall masterplan for the area to get a better handle on the work put into the scheme and what's coming next.

<http://www.skyscrapernews.com/news.php?ref=507>

Meanwhile, After a slow start that involved some rather hilarious tries to build into a neighbouring canal the latest tall residential building to start in Manchester, the Sarah Tower, has finally had construction ratcheted up with credible building work having finally begun after amusing initial attempts at sheet piling. Sarah Tower is being built by developer BSC who are owned by Bashar Issa and named after his wife Sarah, a uniquely romantic gesture in the world of modern development.

<http://www.skyscrapernews.com/news.php?ref=510>

BRISTOL, UK: Plans are afoot to add a spectacular new tower to the campus of Bristol University. The institution already has a Gothic Revival tower dating from the Victorian era, the Wills Memorial Tower but this new project is a major step away from the image of traditional learning that the university has been projecting on the skyline.....

<http://www.skyscrapernews.com/news.php?ref=516>

LEICESTER, UK: Leicester looks like finally being pulled into the 21st century with proposals that could completely regenerate its skyline and give major makeovers to some of the tallest buildings in the city. At the head of this charge is the ambitious plans to rebuild the second tallest building in the East Midlands, the 82 metre tall St Georges Tower that has been bought for £22 million by Magnet Property Investments who have recently obtained planning consent for their designs.

<http://www.skyscrapernews.com/news.php?ref=512>

BARCELONA: Images of Jean Nouvel's Torre Agbar which, he says, isn't a tower. 'It is a fluid mass that has perforated the ground - a geyser under a permanent calculated pressure...'  
<http://www.arcspace.com/architects/nouvel/agbar/agbar.html>

DUBAI: Countdown to a start on site for the 800-m Burj Dubai tower. It will be the world's tallest when completed in 2008...  
<http://www.newscientist.com/article.ns?id=dn6781>  
...but for how long? A 1 kilometre tower in Kuwait is being designed by Eric Kuhne and Associates...  
<http://www.newscientist.com/article.ns?id=dn8445>

ABU DHABI: Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates' corporate hq. 'With this project, we thought of a space that would be like a courtyard, in the tradition of Islamic architecture...'  
<http://tinyurl.com/bte4p>

ISLAMABAD: Concept proposals for a mixed use development designed by Atkins, with Pakistan's tallest building as a centrepiece...  
<http://tinyurl.com/e3cbb>

JAPAN: The scandal of under-spec earthquake resistance in new building continues. 'Pillars supporting a condominium in Fujisawa...contained less than half the steel reinforcing bars required...'  
<http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/national/20060105TDY01005.htm>  
Great images of Kisho Kurokawa's (doomed?) Nakagin Capsule Tower. Originally designed as a hotel, the 140 capsules are attached to the concrete core with just four high-tension bolts. Its current residents want it demolished. 'Kurokawa's design theory was to replace the capsules when needed, but the building has not been maintained in 33 years...'  
<http://www.arcspace.com/architects/kurokawa/nakagin/nakagin.html>

BEIJING: A model projection showing 6 hectares of the city in 2020. 'An extreme architecture of networks, bridges, escalators, highways and towers...'  
<http://www.we-make-money-not-art.com/archives/007577.php>  
Scroll down for great images:  
[http://www.dynamiccity.org/news.php?news\\_id=22](http://www.dynamiccity.org/news.php?news_id=22)

AND FINALLY..... ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW OF 2005  
A serious look at architectural trends in 2005: 'This was the year that the world's developers went mad about skyscrapers, unleashing a wave of plans to build 1,000ft-plus towers...'  
<http://observer.guardian.co.uk/review/story/0,6903,1669785,00.html>

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