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NEW BUILDER TAKES OVER AT CHICAGO SKYSCRAPER

An Irish developer has acquired the lakefront site of the proposed twisting tower, to be designed by the Spanish architect Santiago Calatrava, that would be the tallest building in North America. The builder, Garrett Kelleher, executive chairman of Shelbourne Development, bought the site, on the north bank of the Chicago River near Lake Shore Drive, for about \$64 million last Wednesday from LR Development of Chicago. The luxury hotel and condominium skyscraper to be built at the site was proposed a year ago by the Chicago developer Christopher Carley, drawing on the work of Calatrava, who is known for bold designs that resemble sculptures. But Carley struggled to finance the project and missed a deadline of this Monday to buy the land.....

<http://www.architectmag.com/Articles/detail2.asp?articleID=100923>

WORLD TRADE CENTRE LATEST.....

As a graphic and moving symbol of regeneration after conflict, these images show the very first structural elements being produced in Luxembourg for shipment to the World Trade Centre site in New York City. Governor George E. Pataki said, "As we approach the fifth anniversary of the September 11th attacks, Lower Manhattan's resurgence is being forged in concrete and steel. The production of over 800 tons of steel for the first columns is yet another milestone in the construction of the 1,776 foot tall Freedom Tower which will be a beacon of hope and a symbol of our unconquerable spirit".

http://www.worldarchitecturenews.com/index.php?fuseaction=wanappln.projectview&upload_id=448

SOM's 'final drawings and maquettes' of the redesigned Freedom Tower stress 'three significant design refinements'. The World Trade Center's endlessly delayed landmark will now have antennae constructed as a closed form, rather than as open latticework. It will feature 'a lozenge shape that tapers to a point, and the web-like frame is slightly visible underneath it...' In addition, spandrels have now been eliminated from glazing on the building's 69 office floors. This will offer 'a unique character of monumentality'. Safety requirements have forced the design team to wrap the base of the tower in a three foot thick layer of concrete. Anxious for the design not to look 'like a barracks', architects have now specified 2,000 sheets of prismatic, laminated safety glass which will 'animate the skin with a variety of shadows and colours that move according to weather conditions'.

<http://archrecord.construction.com/news/wtc/archives/060629childs.asp>

'While Mr. Libeskind's model was irregularly faceted and somewhat asymmetrical, in keeping with the Deconstructivist style with which he is often associated, this latest version emphatically reasserts its fealty to the conceptual grid...'

<http://www.nysun.com/article/35244>

Meanwhile, Engineers Seek What's Left Of WTC Façade. For months, it was as a resilient symbol of what the terrorists could not bring down: nine stories of the World Trade Center's north tower facade stood in the rubble while workers recovered bodies and cleared the site of the towers' ruins. When workers brought the latticework facade down in December 2001, officials said some of it would be saved. Relatives of the victims say they want to one day return the steel columns to ground zero to become part of a memorial. But officials now say they aren't sure how much of that 100-foot-tall, 80-foot-wide facade they have and what can be put back together.

http://cbs2chicago.com/topstories/topstories_story_201110407.html

BRIGHTON GOES TALL

Plans for Brighton Marina have been approved by Brighton & Hove City Council, UK. The new scheme replaced an earlier application November 2005 and includes a slightly curved 40 storey tower with public viewing gallery and a swing bridge, 853 apartments, 28,000 square feet of commercial space, extensive leisure facilities and sustainable transport initiatives. Wilkinson Eyre Architects adopted renewable energy harnessed from solar, wind, wave and combined heat and power, and green technologies to reach a 25% reduction in domestic water use and a 40% reduction in CO2 emissions. It will be one of the most sustainable developments in the county, achieving 100% EcoHomes 'Excellent' rating, which is only achieved by two percent of residential developments

http://www.worldarchitecturenews.com/index.php?fuseaction=wanappln.projectview&upload_id=412

URBAN GROWTH IN THE 21ST CENTURY

The typical growth rate of the population within a megacity has slowed from more than 8% in the 1980s to less than half that over the last five years, and their number is expected to stagnate in the next quarter century. 'Instead, the coming years will belong to a smaller, far humbler relation - the Second City...'

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/13528594/site/newsweek/>

Whatever 'celebrated starchitects' say, it's all going to happen at the edges...'Europeans who come here are delighted...it is a universal aspiration to own your own home...70 to 80% of Americans prefer a single-family home and only 15% an apartment in a dense urban area. In Europe, Canada, Japan and Australia, growth is spilling out of urban centres...In London, the centre has been losing population since at least the 1960s...'

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/13529578/site/newsweek/>

10 Cities To Watch...Las Vegas (high tech industries attracted by casino-speed broadband)...Fukuoka, Japan: 'the closest city to Asia'... Munich: 0.5% growth but in Germany that's a boom...Stratford (170 acres of levelled mud in an abandoned rail yard, at the moment)... Toulouse's Republic of Airbus...Nanchang (city expands fast, growth devours electricity, sale of air conditioners banned)...Moscow's 'booming like that of no other city in the developed world, in large part because Russia is still a fringe member of that club...' And more...

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/13528949/site/newsweek/>

Nations don't spur growth, dynamic regions do...

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/13528839/site/newsweek/>

INTERNATIONAL SNIPPETS.....

NEW YORK: Will Alsop has a foothold in the USA with a major commission from the REMI Corporation to design a residential and museum development overlooking the Hudson River in Yonkers.....

http://www.worldarchitecturenews.com/index.php?fuseaction=wanappln.projectview&upload_id=416

US GULF COAST: This year's hurricane season is underway, with much of the region still in ruins. Politicians may be floundering - 'I am reminded in some ways of...9/11. A clear imperative to do something quickly, but no clear framework or set of decision makers...' But architects are busy. There's now a 'mobile lab' housed in three trailers in a Wal-Mart parking lot, maintaining an archive of 2,000 New Orleans building projects. 'One of the trailers is a design studio with free access to donated computers, software, Internet service, and plotters...'

http://www.architectureweek.com/2006/0628/news_1-1.html

CHILE: The 'Siamese Towers' of architect Alejandro Aravena's digital research centre are actually one building. 'The outer skin is made of uniformly clear glass, but one side uses a plain aluminium frame and the other side black aluminium so that the glass takes on different hues...'

<http://www.icon-magazine.co.uk/issues/037/siamese.htm>

LONDON: The city seems to be reversing its traditional aversion to high-rises. 'Many architects and developers think the changes have started a domino effect destined to alter the capital's skyline drastically over the next decade...'

<http://www.iht.com/articles/2006/07/13/news/re Canary.php>

Meanwhile, commentary on some of London's post-war high-rise architecture: Smithsons' seminal 'Street-in-the-Air' scheme of 1952 'can be seen as both a highpoint and repudiation of British Modernism. While it innovates furiously, and participates in debates begun by Le Corbusier's streets in his Unite d'Habitation, it is fundamentally an attack on the purism and anti-urbanism of their predecessors.

http://archinect.com/features/article.php?id=40475_0_23_0_C

LIVERPOOL, UK: International design practice Woods Bagot will transform the derelict land adjacent to Liverpool's Central Station into the "go-to" destination for the North West consisting of a £160m shopping, residential and leisure development. The mixed use project is one of the biggest regeneration schemes ever planned for the North West of England at 600,000 sq ft. Work is scheduled to commence in January 2007.

http://www.worldarchitecturenews.com/index.php?fuseaction=wanappln.projectview&upload_id=435

DUBAI: The Trump International Hotel & Tower, by Atkins Middle East. 'Two asymmetric halves with stainless steel glass and stone facades which climb to a height in excess of 250 metres...'

<http://tinyurl.com/p8qnn>

KAZAKHSTAN: where skyscrapers rise in the obligatory wind-blasted steppes:

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/13531832/site/newsweek/>

AUSTRALIA: New project for Urban Design Architects at 501 Swanston Street; comprising two residential towers; Verve 501 - 46 storeys and Milano - 36 storeys.

http://www.worldarchitecturenews.com/index.php?fuseaction=wanappln.projectview&upload_id=427

CHINA: SOM's tall buildings in China, 'which has become a laboratory of sorts for the firm's experimental skyscraper design work...'

<http://archrecord.construction.com/news/daily/archives/060615som.asp>

Meanwhile: 'A strip of industrial sprawl and barren semi-wasteland that stretches for 150km (90 miles) along the northern coast is being turned into a development zone far bigger than either Shanghai's or Shenzhen's...'

http://www.economist.com/world/asia/displaystory.cfm?story_id=7088663

The BBC spotlights a rural village as an example of what's happening throughout the country. 'Can Beijing take an ancient brooding hinterland of subsistence farmers and drag it into the narrative of rising 21st Century superpower?' Within three years a motorway will run here from Chongqing. 'A new high rise county capital will be built, and White Horse Village marks the spot...'

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/newsnight/5103100.stm>

'In general', China's transition to a market economy 'appears to be both more advanced and somewhat less damaging than we thought...'

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/13528595/site/newsweek/>

VIETNAM: Proposals for a 54-storey tower divide opinion in Ho Chi Minh City...
<http://vietnamnews.vnagency.com.vn/showarticle.php?num=06SOC300606>

CAD: This BBC piece illustrates the narrowing gap between adults' and children's features on 3-D modelling. 'Fifty years ago only a third of us lived in urban areas. Now half of us, that is three billion people, are born and brought up, live and die, amid the concrete and glass. Cities look after our every need: we live, work and holiday in them. They have truly become machines for living in...Now planners can turn to technology, which enables them to test drive an entire city...'
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/click_online/5130712.stm

AGING LAS VEGAS

Nevada has the fastest-growing elderly population of any state. The number of Americans over 65 rose by 16.8% between 1990 and 2004. In Nevada it rose by 100.5%. And in Clark County, which includes Las Vegas, it rose by 122%. The attractions include sunny weather and no state income tax. Tourists' losses at blackjack help Nevada fill the 'doughnut hole in the Medicare prescription-drug plan', and cover some of the costs of residential care.
http://www.economist.com/world/na/displaystory.cfm?story_id=7194595

COST OF LIVING Moscow and Seoul have 'earned the dubious honour of bumping Tokyo out of first place...'
<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/13529487/site/newsweek/>

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