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FAZLUR KAHN / HANCOCK CENTRE ON TV (USA)

For those residing in the US, the History Channel will be showing a program about the John Hancock Center tomorrow, Wednesday, June 8, at 9pm. The program is part of the Modern Marvels series:

A steel giant standing 1,107 feet high on broad shoulders, this vertical city houses 1,200 people. Join us as we explore how a young architectural team from Skidmore, Owings & Merrill conceived of an innovative 100-story, multi-use tower. A construction crisis halted the project for six months, but once it resumed, it took just four years and 50 million man-hours to complete the John Hancock Center. In the heart of Chicago, the John Hancock Center rises 100 stories above the luxury shops and restaurants that line the famous Magnificent Mile. It opened on May 5, 1970 with 237,657 square feet of retailing, 812,160 square feet of offices, 703 rental apartments (converted to condominiums in 1974), 507-car parking garage, and an ice skating rink! There are 1,250 miles of wiring and 11,459 panes of glass. Nicknamed "Big John", it cost \$100-million and took 46,000 tons of steel to build.

Check out the Fazlur Kahn web-site, created by his daughter, Yasmin Kahn: www.fazlurrkhan.com

TRUMP LAMBASTS GROUND ZERO

Donald Trump has called for the redesigned Freedom Tower to be scrapped and replaced with rebuilt, slightly taller, Twin Towers. Trump's plan emerges at a time of uncertainty for the official WTC project which, says this opinion piece, is developing into 'the mother of all turf wars'.

<http://tinyurl.com/7enry>

His 'replacement' design restores Minoru Yamasaki's original Twin Towers, modified and heightened. At 1,858 feet, the North Tower would qualify as the World'sTallest Building. 'They would be a tube-within-a-tube design...resultingin a much stronger design...The core would feature the same columns as the exterior skin, and its walls would be of reinforced concrete...'. Trump has been an outspoken critic of the WTC rebuilding process in general, and Daniel Libeskind's design for the Freedom Tower in particular. He called it a 'monstrous skeleton...if it's built, the terrorists win...it is the worst pile of crap architecture I've ever seen in my life, and I don't think we have to live with it...'

<http://www.triroc.com/wtc/>

Meanwhile, Governor George Pataki said 'the construction of the Freedom Tower will proceed undeterred and that all other key elements of the rebuilding will continue on schedule...'

<http://www.renewnyc.com/>

The restoration scheme, designed by Kenneth Gardner and Herbert Belton, is a boost to the 'rebuild' lobby. Media archive here:

<http://216.71.115.221/wtc/media/index.htm>

.....but with a useful reminder that 'The Donald' is being sued by an architect claiming breach of copyright...

<http://tinyurl.com/a25bs>

Meanwhile, Trump's International Hotel & Tower will soar above the skyline, but right now there is only an open space by the Chicago River, a home to construction equipment and a matter of fascination to neighbours. Unlike Chicago's other three giants--the Sears Tower, the Aon Center and the Hancock building--the Trump tower will be supported not by a framework of steel but by a spine and outriggers of concrete.

http://www.chicagotribune.com/features/chi-0503270258mar27,1,7290281_story?coll=chi-nonmmxent-utl&ctrack=1&cset=true (registration required)

Images - <http://www.emporis.com/en/wm/bu/?id=102119>

However, Jeffrey McCarthy of SOM believes the era of the record breaking American skyscraper is over and the race to build tall has moved eastwards.

<http://www.cnn.com/2005/BUSINESS/05/04/architecture.skyscrapers/>

UNESCO HITS OUT AT TALL BUILDINGS

UNESCO aims to oppose tall buildings near heritage sites in the capital...

<http://www6.lexisnexis.com/publisher/EndUser?Action=UserDisplayFullDocument&orgId=2305&topicId=100007151&docId=:282526434&start=2>

Liverpool's aspirations for a 'mini-Manhattan' is threatened by this proposal

<http://tinyurl.com/cgoum>

'UN arming itself for a confrontation with modern architecture...' <http://tinyurl.com/ay9f5> (Registration required)

RUPERT MURDOCH BUILDS TALL IN EAST LONDON

The News International Headquarters in Wapping are two Nicholas Grimshaw designed towers, 122m and 56m in height. Additionally, Convoy's Wharf in Deptford in Lewisham contains proposals for three Richard Rogers designed residential towers, the tallest of which is to be 148m. These are particularly significant in being the first buildings outside of the City itself on the eastern fringe of such a height, something that should be an increasing trend as developers look to outside the boundaries of the City of London to the relatively cheaper land there to take office overspill.

<http://www.skyscrapernews.com/news.php?ref=320>

Meanwhile the emerging residential cluster to the east of Canary Wharf around Blackwall has taken another step closer to reality with the approval of Barratt Homes three planned towers on Aspen Way by Tower Hamlets planning committee.

<http://www.skyscrapernews.com/news.php?ref=314>

Designs for a new 'cluster' of tall buildings in Croydon include the 180m tall Suffolk House Office Building, the 26 storey 'Altitude 25' residential tower and another 20 storey concave residential tower...

<http://www.skyscrapernews.com/news.php?ref=240>

Investment in tall buildings in Croydon could be £2billion over 10 years...

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2-1550818,00.html>

RAIA PRESIDENT PRAISES MELBOURNE'S 'CREATIVE EDGE'

He rejects the notion of Australia as 'the most urban country in the world. In Australia, it's the suburban sprawl, and I think it's this fixation with the single lot that has led to many problems of infrastructure, transportation and social problems. It's not inclusive and it's separatist..'

<http://tinyurl.com/8emo4> (Registration required).

Nation is best known for projects such as Sydney's tallest residential building, the 85-storey World Tower, the Asia Centre at Melbourne University, and the new city of Muang Thong Thani in Thailand, which involved the largest construction contract in the Southern Hemisphere...

http://www.geocities.com/topsyturvy_6051/mtc.html

STAIRCASES AT FAULT IN WTC

A federal safety report has identified the number, location and weak walls around the staircases in the twin towers as being critical factors in the deaths of many of those who died on September 11th.

http://www.skyscrapersafety.org/html/article_20050406_nyt.html

IN A GALAXY FAR, FAR AWAY.....

Now everyone in the world has expressed an opinion about the new Star Wars movie - what's the architecture like? Commentator Jack Skelley says George Lucas 'as mythmaker' deploys recognisable archetypes. 'The more diabolical cityscapes, for example, refer to deeply symbolic images in visionary poetry: William Blake's dark Satanic mills, or the layered self-tortures of Dante's Inferno...'

Coruscant is a planet of 'multiple Manhattans, Vancouvers and Hong Kongs, layered over thousands of years, and stretching 360 degrees.

It's real high-density planning...'

<http://www.planetizen.com/oped/item.php?id=149>

'Architecture on planet earth may seem alien at times, but in the far away worlds of Star Wars, skylines are hauntingly familiar... <http://architecture.about.com/library/weekly/aa050399.htm>

INTERNATIONAL SNIPPETS.....

LONDON: The Vauxhall Bondway Tower is due to be submitted for planning soon...

<http://www.skyscrapernews.com/news.php?ref=305>

And a new proposal emerges for the tallest tower in Europe to be built at 22-24 Bishopsgate and Crosby Court in the City...

<http://business.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,9064-1610140,00.html>

While Murphy Jan may pull out of a proposed skyscraper also on Bishopsgate...

<http://skyscrapernews.com/news.php?ref=277>

BRIGHTON, England: Frank Gehry has finally revealed the revised plans for two towers in Brighton...

<http://www.skyscrapernews.com/news.php?ref=313>

Images - http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/in_depth/photo_gallery/3030547.stm

MANCHESTER, England: Ian Simpson's 131m tall 'Crown Building' looks likely to get the go ahead...

<http://www.skyscrapernews.com/news.php?ref=301>

The city's CIS tower is currently being re-clad in solar panels, making it the tallest solar tower in Europe...

http://www.edie.net/news/news_story.asp?id=9906&channel=6

With the help of the world's tallest mobile crane...

<http://www.skyscrapernews.com/news.php?ref=299>

BIRMINGHAM: New 'gateway' tower proposed...

<http://www.skyscrapernews.com/news.php?ref=297>

Another possible Birmingham tower...

<http://www.skyscrapernews.com/news.php?ref=317>

LIVERPOOL: Plans for a 32 storey tower in Liverpool including a 'New York style' rooftop viewing platform...

http://icliverpool.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/0100regionalnews/tm_objectid=15587323%26method=full%26siteid=50061_name_page.html

EDINBURGH: Council hires architects to look at whether skyline could incorporate new tall buildings...

<http://news.scotsman.com/edinburgh.cfm?id=547922005>

LOS ANGELES: New downtown to include 5 new skyscrapers...

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-grandave24may24.0.4302416.story>

NEW YORK: Basketball player to buy tallest tower in Manhattan...

<http://money.cnn.com/2005/05/18/news/newsmakers/magicjohnson/>

While the Chrysler Building celebrates its 75th birthday...

<http://news.bostonherald.com/national/view.bg?articleid=86846>

SACRAMENTO: A developer proposes a 29-storey tower with a scale replica of the Parthenon on top. Architect Edwin M. Kado dismissed criticism, saying he weathered similar opposition when he designed a terraced pyramid next to the Sacramento River.

<http://tinyurl.com/7bsec> (Registration required)

MILAN: Foster to design 600 apartments as Liebeskind and Hadid plan 3 towers in the city...

<http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=topNews&storyID=8607252>

More on the 3 towers...

<http://www.floornature.com/worldaround/articolo.php/art441/3/en/arch>

SOUTH KOREA: As construction of the Kohn Pedersen Fox-designed, fast-track New Songdo City gets underway, an essay-length pause for thought. 'The designers are particularly proud of its Venetian-style canals...but will New Songdo have room for the unexpected?'

http://www.americacity.org/article.php?id_article=116

Developer's website:

<http://www.thegalecompany.com/main.aspx?Content=WebProjectsSongdo>

A recap on the 'Instant City':

<http://www.metropolismag.com/cda/story.php?artid=1192>

BUILDINGS WITH HATS: Article on the top of skyscrapers...

<http://www.chron.com/cs/CDA/ssistory.mpl/headline/features/3212356>

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

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