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ORGANIC HIGH RISE IN DENMARK

On the edge of Copenhagen, 'organic shaped apartment towers' by architects 3XN: "Nordhaven, situated on the edge of Copenhagen is close to the city centre and faces the harbour, factors which are fuelling its development as a 'hip' quarter. and increasingly a playground for creative designs and buildings. 3XN's 22,000 m2 design includes 4 organic shaped apartment towers which are situated in a free, playful and humanistic urban landscape. The towers consist of elliptical floor plans creating elliptical balconies which shift position moving upwards. The balcony extension to the rational building core is relatively simple and economical affordable, but has high impact on the design. The roundly shaped towers give way for a better view from each apartment, and reduce wind turbulence. Energy consumption is also minimized through the balance between internal area and perimeter. The shifting of the balconies ensures a more direct experience of the sky above....."

<http://tinyurl.com/pglxo>

SINGAPORE'S HIGH RISE GARDEN

Sporting a rooftop garden stretched across three high-rise hotels, the government of Singapore plans to attract tourism with a \$3.6-billion integrated resort. Moshe Safdie and Associates, Somerville, Mass., was selected to design the Marina Bay Sands, along with Aedas Architects and Arup Consulting Engineers. The six-million-sq-ft resort, to be built by Las Vegas Sands Corp., is to include a 200,000-sq-ft casino, two 2,000-seat theaters and a 250,000-sq-ft Art and Science museum. A 4,000 car garage will service three 50-story hotel towers with 1,000 rooms each, to be capped by a two-acre sky garden. "It became a driving force behind the design," says Trevor Thimm, an architect at Safdie. Design and engineering of the rooftop gardens is "being studied," he says. The Marina Bay Sands is scheduled to be completed by 2009.

<http://tinyurl.com/mbdtm>

MANHATTAN HOTEL OPENS IN JAKARTA

The Manhattan Hotel, a new five star hotel located in central Jakarta designed by architects Denton Corker Marshall, has opened for business. With a gross floor area of 20,000sqm, there are 240 rooms at the hotel including a presidential suite, two deluxe suites, 102 junior suites and 134 superior rooms. Facilities comprise five restaurants, a spa and fitness club, swimming pool, ballroom and car park. Deep horizontal cuts are carved out of the dark metallic shaft to provide horizontal sun-shading and fully glazed Cubical spaces (at its base) are partially carved out to form a series of interesting interlocking transparent boxes (at the top), The Manhattan is the latest Denton Corker Marshall contribution to the architectural landscape of modern Indonesia and is the 16th hotel project the practice has designed in Asia.

http://www.worldarchitecturenews.com/index.php?fuseaction=wanappln.projectview&upload_id=377

FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT TURNS 50

Frank Lloyd Wright's skyscraper, the Price Tower, turns 50 this year. Now host to an exhibition of FLW schemes, including drawings from 1940: "Frank Lloyd Wright came tantalizingly close to redefining the Washington skyline. The master architect was commissioned to design a \$15 million complex at the corner of Florida and Connecticut avenues. Two drawings from 1940 -- which appear in an exhibition at the National Building Museum -- show how the neighborhood above Dupont Circle could have become a stunning landmark equal to New York's Rockefeller Center. Wright called the project Crystal Heights. He envisioned 24 distinctive apartment towers and a 1,000-room skyscraper hotel topped by peaked wings of concrete. The buildings were to rise more than 200 feet from a base of expansive terraces and roof gardens. And shops and a theater were included in the plan, making Wright a pioneer of today's popular mixed-use development....."

<http://tinyurl.com/rdejo>

THE FUTURE OF THE CITY?

Commentary on the 21st Century's coming urban explosion. 'A grim human world largely cut off from the subsistence solidarities of the countryside as well as disconnected from the cultural and political life of the traditional city...'

http://www.atimes.com/atimes/Front_Page/HE20Aa01.html

Meanwhile, a different view: The issue that has dominated urban debate so far this century is the future of the world's megacities. As received wisdom continues to see-saw (density is good, density is bad; planning's essential, planning's stifling) might a simpler route to humane environments be to plant fruit and vegetables? A surge of interest in 'eco-cities' has been prompted by steepening concern about the world's per capita 'sustainable ecological footprint'. An equal share-out between the world's population would give 1.8 hectares per person. 'Today, the average in rural China is 1.6, in Shanghai it is already 7, and the eco-footprint of a typical American is 9.7...'. And while the focus remains on conventional urban centres, a new model is emerging in studies of shanty towns - 'high-density but low-rise; their lanes and alleys are largely pedestrianised; and many of their inhabitants recycle waste materials from the wider city...'. Unable or unwilling to rely on

distant sources for food, many cities are substantially feeding themselves in a way never dreamed of by planners. Around 15% of the world's food is now grown in urban areas. 'Almost a billion city-dwellers around the world, a third of the total, spend some time each week tending plants to help feed their family or to sell in local markets...In Kolkata, 20,000 people farm the richly composted old waste dumps and raise carp in tanks filled with the city's sewage effluent. In Lima, Peru, they raise guinea-pig meat in squatter settlements, while in Nairobi, Kenya, chickens fatten in coops bolted to apartment walls. In Haiti people grow vegetables in old truck tyres...'

http://archinect.com/news/article.php?id=40512_0_24_0_M

BBC 'urban future' features:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/in_depth/world/2006/urbanisation/default.stm

INTERNATIONAL SNIPPETS.....

NEW YORK: The regeneration of Ground Zero has created a 'residential goldmine...before the attacks, there were about 15,000 to 20,000 residents in the Downtown and Lower Manhattan area; now, there are more than 30,000...'

<http://tinyurl.com/rb358>

Meanwhile, El-Ad Properties and Tishman Construction Corporation celebrate topping out of a new condo tower...

http://www.worldarchitecturenews.com/index.php?fuseaction=wanappln.projectview&upload_id=384

KENTUCKY: New architectural firm REX - established this month by Joshua Prince-Ramus, formerly of OMA - is designing a 57-storey cultural centre in Louisville. A massive box called the 'Island' is poised above the ground and has 'three towers, and four supporting legs...'

<http://tinyurl.com/pdgu2>

LONDON: Legal & General have submitted plans for a striking new office and retail development, to be known as 'Walbrook Square' in the heart of London. Designed by Atelier Foster Nouvel, The project incorporates approximately 1 million sq ft net floorspace on the 3.7 acre site, with 95,000 sq ft of retail and restaurant floorspace and 875,000 sq ft of office space

http://www.worldarchitecturenews.com/index.php?fuseaction=wanappln.projectview&upload_id=375

Meanwhile, Berthold Lubetkin's Grade 1 listed penthouse at Highpoint 2 in north London, up for sale at £1.8m. 'After 70 years the Penthouse is still the highest residence in London with uninterrupted views of the five surrounding counties...'

<http://tinyurl.com/gmcdn>

MANCHESTER, UK: How the devastation of an IRA bomb 10 years ago paved the way for Manchester's urban renaissance.

<http://society.guardian.co.uk/communities/story/0,,1791390,00.html>

ROTTERDAM: Pritzker Prize winning Dutch architect, Rem Koolhaas looks like finally crowning his home city of Rotterdam with a new landmark tower after the project has spent years on hold. Designed by Koolhaas and his practise, the Office for Metropolitan Architecture the tower will be called the De Rotterdam. The enormous building will contain 140,000 square metres of space over its 37 floors. Rising to 139 metres, making it the third tallest building in Rotterdam and only 15 metres taller than its neighbour, the World Port Centre.

<http://www.skyscrapernews.com/news.php?ref=635>

BARCELONA: This year's International High-Rise Prize goes to the 142-metre Torre Agbar by Jean Nouvel. 'The innovative façade of the 35-story tower sports aluminum panels in 25 different colours mounted to the concrete skin. Depending on the time of day, the tower's skin changes from dramatic red to blue hues, topped by a white dome of glass and steel...'

<http://www.archnewsnow.com/features/Feature193.htm>

ISTANBUL: Llewelyn Davies Yeang's competition win - a masterplan a major transportation route linking the waterfronts of Istanbul to the Asian side of Turkey, including a '2 kilometre continuous ecological corridor...'

<http://tinyurl.com/m6ofj>

DUBAI: Built on a landmark area in Jumeirah with clear sightlines to the exclusive hotel and resort area nearby, this 45-storey tower located in Dubai's Technology, E-Commerce and Media-Free Zone (TECOM) provides over 863,000 square feet of office space and approximately 80,000 square feet of commercial space

http://www.worldarchitecturenews.com/index.php?fuseaction=wanappln.projectview&upload_id=369

BAHRAIN: Bahrain is set to get a world's first, an attempt to show the environmental credentials of the oil-rich island state, in the form of wind turbines erected between two towers at the World Trade Centre in the Bahraini capital of Manama

<http://www.skyscrapernews.com/news.php?ref=636>

HONG KONG: Built in 1967, Wah Fu is one of Hong Kong's oldest and largest housing estates. 'By the early 1980s it approached the size of a small town, housing 54,000 people...'

<http://tinyurl.com/fbk6d>

CHINA: In a bid to rein in galloping house prices, China's tax regulator has ordered local governments to impose a 20% capital gains tax on sales of secondhand homes..... The new measures seek to control supply and to encourage more public housing for average-income families. While prices have steeped, so too has the amount of unsold housing space. 'In Beijing, the total area of unsold housing floor space rose 22.3% year on year by the end of April to reach 4.43 million square meters...' The total area of unoccupied housing across the country has reached 123 million square meters, a vacancy rate of 26%. 'What does a 26% vacancy rate mean to property developers? Normally, they will start checking themselves into the hospital once the rate goes higher than 10-12%, and start writing their wills when it exceeds 15%. So we are in very dangerous territory here...'

http://www.atimes.com/atimes/China_Business/HE19Cb05.html

ERRATUM ON TALL BUILDING NEWSLETTER 11, MAY 2006

It was pointed out by a couple of CTBUH members that the article on Ian Simpson's Beetham Tower Manchester contained in last month's email was not correct: "The new Beetham Tower (171m) in Manchester might be the tallest residential building in the UK but not in Europe. This is currently the HSB Turning Torso in Malmö at 190m. This spectacular building was designed by Santiago Calatrava and completed Nov 2005. Several still taller residential buildings are in the pipeline in Russia and elsewhere". Apologies, and thanks.....

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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