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WORLD'S TALLEST BUILDING IN NEW DELHI?

The Indian contender, 'said to have been designed to resemble the peaks of the Himalayas' will contain a 50-floor five-star hotel, a 40-storey glass atrium and 370,000 sq metres (4m sq ft) of shopping centres. 'The architect says his new structure will exceed the tallest planned building, the Burj tower in Dubai, although latest reports are that the Middle Eastern state will simply continue adding floors to ensure its supremacy...'

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/international/story/0,,1447712.00.html>

Architect Hafeez Contractor may have won approval for his record-breaking skyscraper in New Delhi - but will it be the kiss of death for the Indian economy? At 2,329 ft (710 m) the building would reach higher than Taiwan's Taipei 101. Part of the brief, says Contractor, is to 'show the world what India can do'. Yet for a century almost all attempts to build the world's tallest have come just before an economic downturn. The 1930-31 race between the Chrysler Building and the Empire State coincided with the Great Depression. In the early 1970s, 'as the World Trade Center emerged on the southern tip of Manhattan and the Sears Tower rose in Chicago' the oil crisis struck. More recently, the Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur peaked at about the same time as the regional economy plummeted.

<http://www.iht.com/articles/2005/04/14/opinion/edtripathi.php>

Meanwhile, the arrival in Gujarat of Karl Fender, architect of Melbourne's 88-storey Eureka tower - tallest residential building in the world - fuels speculation that the region might also be looking for a big statement...

<http://cities.expressindia.com/fullstory.php?newsid=125621>

ANOTHER GROWTH SPURT FOR DUBAI

The construction frenzy in Dubai is about to intensify. As a new wave of luxury tourist development gets underway, the government has announced it wants to double hotel capacity to 75,000 rooms in just five years. Major projects coming up include 'the world's first underwater luxury hotel. Built 5km offshore, guests will be taken to the complex by train through a Plexiglass tunnel...' An archipelago shaped like a date palm, others fashioned into the countries of the world...the world's biggest indoor ski resort, covering 1.4 million square metres...The Crystal Dome with its 'diagonal spiral elevators', the Burj Dubai...

<http://observer.guardian.co.uk/travel/story/0,6903,1436232,00.html>

Foundation work has been completed for Burj Dubai - pencilled in for World's Tallest Tower on completion in 2008. The 102 piles for the SOM-designed building have been constructed to depths of more than 50 metres and are bound together by a 3.7 metre thick concrete raft across 8,000 square metres.

<http://www.ameinfo.com/news/Detailed/56660.html>

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

NEW DOUBTS AND DELAYS AT GROUND ZERO

The rebuilding of the World Trade Center has become further mired in delay and controversy. Officials confirmed that the flagship Freedom Tower - conceived by Daniel Libeskind, then taken over by David Childs - now faces a further redesign and possible relocation on the site amid security concerns: <http://tinyurl.com/bs87q> (Registration required)

Three and a half years after the WTC was destroyed, 'a big chunk of the \$4.6 billion in insurance money has been spent...' <http://tinyurl.com/9323v> (Registration required)

While reasonable safety concerns may require changes in the building, 'the "beacon" promised by Libeskind cannot under any circumstances be replaced with a dreary, fear-inspired fortress...'

<http://www.iht.com/articles/2005/04/25/opinion/edzero.php>

Ground Zero images, archives, slideshows, cams... <http://www.nynewsday.com/news/local/manhattan/wtc/>

....and Daniel Libeskind's new tower in California looks strikingly similar... <http://tinyurl.com/byrpg> (Registration required)

But the great redevelopment opportunity - the World Trade Center site - has been squandered, and its original ambitions betrayed, says Ada Louise Huxtable. <http://www.opinionjournal.com/la/?id=110006581>

JURY TO DECIDE 'TWIN TOWER' CLAIM

The biggest architectural copyright dispute in history could hinge on the design judgement 'of an ordinary observer rather than an architecture expert'. Massachusetts architect Thomas Shine has filed a lawsuit claiming that the Freedom Tower designed by David Childs for the World Trade Center site was copied from a Yale student project that the SOM architect saw at a crit in 1999. Legal experts say the jury will have to decide whether there is a 'substantial similarity' between the two designs. Most architectural copyright cases involve single homes; the lawsuit is the first to claim design credit for a skyscraper. <http://www.yaledailynews.com/article.asp?AID=28897>

Shine's project, 'Olympic Tower, is a twisting tower with a symmetrical diagonal column grid, expressed on the exterior of the building, following the twisting surface created by the floor plates' geometry. Shine copyrighted the idea last spring...'
Images: <http://archrecord.construction.com/news/wtc/archives/041111freedom.asp>

EMPORIS RANK'S WORLD'S SKYLINES

Hong Kong has been ranked first in the world for the 'visual impact' of its skyline. But the calculation is not an aesthetic one. It's based on the amount of floorspace in tall buildings. New York's second, Seoul's third...

<http://www.emporis.com/en/bu/sk/st/sr/>

....and Chicago's fourth. One Chicagoan protests. 'Is there any skyline more beautiful in the world?'

<http://tinyurl.com/3hte0>

BANGLADESH COLLAPSE HIGHLIGHTS BUILDING RISK

A suspected boiler explosion has been blamed for April's collapse of the 9-storey garment factory in Bangladesh - at Savar, 18 miles from Dhaka. It was originally constructed as a four-storey building on drained marshland and according to housing authorities had been extended without permission.

http://nation.ittefaq.com/artman/publish/article_17635.shtml

A survey by the Dhaka City Corporation has identified about 900 buildings at risk, including some in areas of the old city 'where hundreds of families reside endangering their lives...' Government approval for demolition is still in the pipeline - both red tape and lobbying by building owners are blamed.

http://nation.ittefaq.com/artman/publish/article_17668.shtml

INLAND STEEL BUILDING

Frank Gehry joins a consortium to bid for Chicago's Inland Steel tower. 'I love the building... <http://tinyurl.com/dw9dd>
Designed by SOM, 1957:

http://www.bc.edu/bc_org/avp/cas/fnart/fa267/SOM/inland1.jpg

INTERNATIONAL SNIPPETS.....

LAS VEGAS: Cesar Pelli is to design a 'themeless casino' featuring two 60-storey glass towers. 'When you don't have a theme, the attraction of the building has to rest in the beauty of the architecture..'

<http://tinyurl.com/4p3o7> (Registration required)

HONG KONG: Around 12,000 columbaria - niches containing ashes of the deceased - are needed every year. Now the local authority is considering high-rise vaults as space runs out.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/4419993.stm>

BARCELONA: Jean Nouvel's Torre Agbar nears completion. 'British visitors will surely think that Norman Foster's media stealing Swiss Re tower has been miraculously uprooted and replanted beside the Mediterranean...'

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/arts/features/story/0,,1446813,00.html>

Images: http://www.layetana.com/torreagbar/eng_agbar.htm#

In-construction shot: <http://tinyurl.com/4m3yp>

KUALA LUMPUR: A 41-storey 'butterfly-shaped' condominium development planned for downtown.

<http://tinyurl.com/6e0et>

LONDON: The developer of Renzo Piano's 'Shard' tower signs a deal with hotel operator Shangri-La.

<http://www.etravelblackboard.com/index.asp?id=36154&nav=1>

NEW YORK: Enrique Norten's design for a glass-towered residential conversion has provoked local hostility.
http://www.downtownexpress.com/de_102/glasstoweraddition.html

QATAR: Munich-based architects and engineers SIAT will design a 200m high office tower, nicknamed 'The Tornado'.
<http://www.ameinfo.com/58198.html>

OHIO: Daniel Libeskind's Ascent, 'a sleek, \$40m, 21-storey condominium tower' seems to have won public approval.
<http://news.enquirer.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050419/LIFE/504190324>

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