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TALLEST RESIDENTIAL TOWER IN EUROPE

The Ian Simpson-designed Beetham Tower, now dominating Manchester's skyline, was topped out this month. Claimed to be Europe's tallest residential building at 171 metres, it stands 47 storeys above the city centre. A Hilton hotel will occupy the first 23 floors and apartments fill the upper 24. Simpson will live in the penthouse, which will give him 'the furthest views of any resident in the UK'. He said Beetham was 'a marker for regeneration and change in the city...Living in your own building is something very special and the views are spectacular as well. But if I make any mistakes, I'll have to live with them, that's the problem...'

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/manchester/4944590.stm>

Simpson's penthouse will have its own sky-high garden with 30ft tall olive trees, a pool and a separate apartment within the penthouse for staff or guests. Above his flat is a 16 metre-high ornamental glass blade. Photo gallery here of the topping out firework display...

<http://tinyurl.com/zoyv8>

More than a million hours of labour have gone into building the tower. 'We wanted to create proportion and elegance, something slim. I don't know that we need a sense of community. It's about sanctuary from the city and from life going on below. You've got fantastic views and you feel safe. If I wanted community, I'd live in a village. But there is opportunity for communal interaction in Beetham Tower - in the lift and in the foyer...'

<http://arts.guardian.co.uk/features/story/0,,1761943,00.html>

PIANO OFF THE GROUND IN NEW YORK

The new headquarters building for the US news icon, the New York Times is underway on Eighth Avenue in New York, near Times Square. This 52-storey slender building was designed by Italy's Renzo Piano aiming for the simplicity, efficiency and transparency to fit into the rigid Manhattan grid. It is clad with clear glass and ceramic cylinders and contains two gardens of opposite characteristics. One is a large open garden in the lobby on the ground floor which is designed to be visible and accessible to everyone outside in order to participate in the street's everyday life. The other is a roof garden for silence and contemplation on the top level, where people can enjoy a great panorama. This tower reaches 1,140 feet high including a mast on the roof will form a new skyline in New York City

http://www.worldarchitecturenews.com/index.php?fuseaction=wanappln.projectview&upload_id=341

NEW WORLD TRADE CENTRE 7 OPENS

The first building to rise from the ashes of Ground Zero - SOM's 7 World Trade Center - proves that 'architectural magic is more likely to emerge from necessity - terrorism proofing, green strategies - addressed with technological sophistication and a modicum of imagination...'

<http://www.metropolismag.com/cda/story.php?artid=1894>

With a concert and a shiny new sculpture, but just a handful of tenants, the first World Trade Center tower to be rebuilt opened this week across the street from Ground Zero. "This is just the beginning," developer Larry Silverstein (SIL'-vur-steen) said as he introduced Seven World Trade Center. The original Seven World Trade burned all day on Nine-Eleven, collapsing late in the afternoon. Silverstein says the new one is the most environmentally sensitive and safest tall building in the city. Despite a paucity of tenants, Silverstein predicted the building would be fully occupied in a year. He says he's in talks with potential tenants he calls "recognized names, quality people."

http://www.wavy.com/Global/story.asp?S=4938075&nav=menu45_2

RAFAEL VINOLY'S 'WALKIE TALKIE'?

Land Securities are set to build their flagship development in the City of London at 20 Fenchurch Street speculatively if the scheme gets the go-ahead from the planners. Nicknamed "the walkie talkie" thanks to its similarity in appearance to an 80s mobile phone the project will contain 78,932 square metres of office space plus 1,114 sq m of retail. One of the standout points of the development is a four floor tall skyroom on the 40th floor designed to hold public events containing an enormous 3,943 sq m of function space with access to an outside roof terrace, the tallest external one in London if built. The tower has however proven to be a divisive proposal unlike other recent tall projects that were widely welcomed. At the heart of this is a love-it-hate-it situation. The feeling of some is that leaning towers generally don't work in clusters belonging on their own and it is simply too inelegant to suit the City. There's also the fear that the hotchpotch of styles ranging from gherkins to helter skelters will end up with the City having an incoherent mess. Others however see the project simply as too radical to be appreciated by everyone. It remains to be seen whether the planners will agree with this or send the design back for further refinement.

<http://www.skyscrapernews.com/news.php?ref=599>

TOWERING TO INFINITY?

Infinity Tower, designed by Skidmore Owings and Merrill (SOM), will stand 80 stories high at 330 meters and will be the world's tallest tower to feature a 90 degree twist. Infinity Tower will house luxury residential apartments, pools, a state of the art gymnasium, a nursery, conference room facilities, tennis courts and a luxury spa. The innovative design affords apartments on all sides staggering views. Open-space design has been implemented to ensure a minimum of pillars and Floor to ceiling windows providing a true sense of space and light. A reinforced concrete column will rotate with the twisting shape to create a helix. In addition each floor will accommodate a 1.2 degree twist to achieve the full unique 90 degree spiral.

http://www.worldarchitecturenews.com/index.php?fuseaction=wanappln.projectview&upload_id=293

IS RUSSIA THE NEW CHINA?

As property developers and international architects converge on the Russian capital to develop an array of ambitious developments yet another major project is unveiled. UK architects RMJM have revealed their design for the 46 storey City Palace Tower, part of the new Moscow-City, a major initiative by the Russian capital to create a central business district on a former industrial zone. Other projects include: Moscow City Tower, Federation Tower, New Holland etc

<http://www.worldarchitecturenews.com/index.php?fuseaction=newsletter.shownewsletterpreview&preview=62>

INTERNATIONAL SNIPPETS.....

CHICAGO: Perkins & Will's Contemporaine is a 28-unit condominium, 96,000 square feet building located in Chicago, consisting of an eleven-story residential tower and four-story retail and parking base. The mass of the tower is broken down by a series of slots scored down the façade with small cantilevered balconies.....

http://www.worldarchitecturenews.com/index.php?fuseaction=wanappln.projectview&upload_id=346

LOS ANGELES: The design of two residential towers in Los Angeles have been unveiled by the architect Frank O Gehry. The L-shaped towers with glass panels have 47 and 24 stories, housing condominiums, affordable housing units, and several commercial facilities.

http://www.worldarchitecturenews.com/index.php?fuseaction=wanappln.projectview&upload_id=325

UK: Lewis & Hickey Architect's vision for a £100 million GBP mixed-use redevelopment of the British south coast town of Bognor Regis has been revealed this week. The project includes a new theatre, cinemas, shops, 20 & 12 storey residential 'gateway' towers, affordable housing

http://www.worldarchitecturenews.com/index.php?fuseaction=wanappln.projectview&upload_id=339

LONDON: In two or three years' time, when members of parliament assemble on the riverside terrace of the Palace of Westminster in the summer, they are probably going to be surprised to see Europe's tallest residential tower, the Vauxhall Tower, looming over the Thames. Designed by architects Broadway Malyan Ltd., the tower will be nearly 600 feet (180 meters) high. It is a circular glass building of no great distinction. It was much fought by local amenity groups and refused planning permission -- until Prescott decided that towers gratified his edifice complex. Now it is being built

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=10000088&sid=anP0Em4oQwEE&refer=culture>

LIVERPOOL: LIVERPOOL City Council has scrapped its controversial tall buildings policy. The decision to do away with the policy will be welcome news to the city's major property developers who have been highly critical of the way it has been implemented.

http://liverpool.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/0100regionalnews/tm_objectid=17046261&method=full&siteid=50061&headline=tall-building-ban-policy-scrapped-name_page.html

COPENHAGEN: 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.

http://www.worldarchitecturenews.com/index.php?fuseaction=wanappln.projectview&upload_id=340

WARSAW: Having gone through the destruction by the Nazis and oppression under the Soviets, Libeskind's building represents a new direction for Poland, east and west.

<http://www.worldarchitecturenews.com/index.php?fuseaction=newsletter.shownewsletterpreview&preview=60>

CHINA: MulvannyG2 Architecture's luxury condominium complex in Suzhou, China contains 380 1, 2, 3, and 4-bedroom units, with the 4-bedroom units being penthouse suites. Each unit contains a den that could serve as an extra bedroom.

http://www.worldarchitecturenews.com/index.php?fuseaction=wanappln.projectview&upload_id=327

Meanwhile, Mulvanny G2 score similar success in Seattle. The 30-story, 425-room Seattle Grand Hyatt Seattle, which opened in the summer of 2001, is one of only 18 Grand Hyatts worldwide. Occupying an entire city block in downtown Seattle, the Seattle Grand Hyatt includes the signature 727 Pine Restaurant, 27,000 SF of retail space at street level on three sides, and a concealed five-level.....

http://www.worldarchitecturenews.com/index.php?fuseaction=wanappln.projectview&upload_id=328

CHINA: Beijing residents protest at the compulsory purchase of properties close to the under-construction CCTV building designed by Rem Koolhaas...

<http://news.imagethief.com/blogs/china/archive/2006/04/16/6431.aspx>

24 hours in Chongqing, in 9 minutes: (note: slow loading)

<http://image.guardian.co.uk/sys-video/Guardian/video/2006/04/06/ChongQuing.mp4>

BANGKOK: The Met, a 66-storey condominium tower is the city's tallest residential building, designed by WoHa. 'Sky gardens flow out from living spaces and bridge across breezeways...'

<http://tinyurl.com/zzxbd>

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