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Editor's Note: Apologies for the lack of a dedicated October newsletter – things were a little hectic with the CTBUH 2006 Chicago Conference.....

FOSTER MAKES FURTHER HIGH-RISE INROADS IN NEW YORK

In shades of the recently-completed Hearst Tower, designs for a new Foster residential tower atop an existing podium at 980 Madison Avenue in New York have been unveiled. Foster + Partners proposes to create two fused elliptical residential towers. Designed in 1947 by Walker and Poor, two floors of the original building would accommodate a public art installation, and the roof garden would be reinstated as a publicly accessible sculpture court. Formerly functioning as art galleries and an auction house for Sotheby's, the original building's simple detailing would be respected and restored. The green public sculpture court would delicately separate the old and the new. In keeping with the dynamic mix of building heights and styles from different periods that characterise the Upper East Side, the design for 980 Madison creates a new landmark to join the numerous other distinctive buildings in the district. Sympathetic in height to the neighbouring Carlyle building, 980 Madison offers an opportunity to create a 21st Century, sustainable counterpart. Harnessing natural solar resources, the towers are clad in delicately fluted thermal panels to provide a comfortable internal environment while assuming an elegant urban presence.....

http://www.worldarchitecturenews.com/index.php?fuseaction=wanappln.projectview&upload_id=590

NASHVILLE TENNESSEE TO JOIN SUPER TALL CLUB

The American city of Nashville, famed for its Country and Western music industry could be about to join the thousand footer club if a new scheme called the Signature Tower goes ahead. Developed by Tony Giarratana, the tower will have 70 floors with the top penthouse suite being built at a height of 252 metre / 829 feet. It however continues well above this level topping out in a 322 metre / 1057 foot tall spire that will make it the tallest building in the United States outside New York and Chicago. The bottom floors will be occupied by the anchor tenant, Kimpton Hotel and Restaurant Group, their first project in Nashville. At the heart of the design by architects Smallwood, Reynolds, Stewart Associates is the idea that "they don't make them like this any more". The building will have a strong art deco look right down to the distinctive patterning and motifs over the entrances at ground level

<http://www.skyscrapernews.com/news.php?ref=774>

LIBESKIND IN WARSAW

Daniel Libeskind's planned residential skyscraper in Warsaw, called Zlota44 after the number of floors it has within and designed for the Orco Property Group, will contain 251 new apartments right in the heart of Warsaw. As well as the high level residential accommodation there will be facilities contained within for residents including an impressive 25 metre long pool, sauna, spa, and even a private party area. The building is inspired by the sun shaped in an arc giving it the curving form that is has that flows into the sharp pinnacle. This arc has a recessed block behind it that takes the main rectangular bulk of the building in it offering efficient floorplates to the developer. With appearance, the idea is that the highly reflective glass cladding will turn the tower blue on a sunny day whilst at night become a transparent beacon lighting up the skyline thanks to the lighting within. Inside the building facilities management will be automated complete with computer controlled lights, heating and cooling and a sophisticated house control system that every resident will be able to access via remote control that even includes operable facade panels. Every apartment will have almost complete glass curtain walling and floor to ceiling heights of 2.95 metres. Once built the building will be 192 metres tall, making it the third tallest building in Warsaw. Construction start is scheduled for the first quarter of 2007 and completion is estimated in 2009

<http://www.skyscrapernews.com/news.php?ref=783>

OMA's FIRST HIGH RISE IN LONDON

Rem Koolhaas and Ellen van Loon from OMA are to design the headquarters for Rothschild bank that will redefine the look of luxury in London's Square Mile. The redevelopment of New Court will enable the Bank to house its entire London staff in a single, modern, efficient building. New Court will be made up of a central core of ten efficient and flexible office floors linked to three annexes, with meeting rooms, an auditorium, vertical circulation and reception areas. A Sky Pavilion sits on top of the central cube, housing client meeting rooms and a multifunctional panorama room with views across the City, including St Paul's Cathedral. Visitors and staff will be able to appreciate the Church of St Stephen Walbrook from the roof garden at level eleven. New Court will be OMA's first building in the City of London

http://www.worldarchitecturenews.com/index.php?fuseaction=wanappln.projectview&upload_id=582

KUROKAWA IN ZHENGZHOU

One of the many Chinese cities that is riding this zeitgeist of tall building growth is Zhengzhou with its Zhengdong Newtown master-plan. Designed by architect Kisho Kurokawa, the masterplan aims to create a city of 1.5 million people orientated around a massive loop that will host the central CDB. Looking like a science fiction version of Atlantis, this utopian vision will be ringed with dozens of skyscrapers occupying the middle area of the 5,040 hectare scheme with the centrepiece being a massive new television tower set in parkland that has growing in it some 200 different varieties of plants, all found locally. The TV Tower comes in at a whopping 388 metres in height. It has a central blue glass core rising out of a decorative circular podium with vine-like crossbracing wrapped around it that tapers in to the head. The crown of the tower will have public viewing platforms in it plus technical levels for the television mast that towers above it.....

<http://www.skyscrapernews.com/news.php?ref=773>

INTERNATIONAL SNIPPETS.....

LOS ANGELES: LA's famous Capitol Records Tower has been sold by owner EMI Group to New York developer Argent Ventures. The sale of the iconic stack of records has less to do with the death of vinyl so much as the renaissance of the Hollywood area, which is suddenly hip again after a decade of decline.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-fi-capitol29sep29.0.5886755.story?coll=la-home-headlines>

BOSTON: Steve Belkin's proposed tower, in conjunction with Renzo Piano, would top the city's current tallest building by more than 200 feet and 15 stories, reflecting a resurgence in the downtown commercial real estate market, observers say.....

<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0.2933.230685.00.html>

CALGARY: The EnCana Corporation, Canada's No 1 Energy Producer, has unveiled designs for its new Calgary-based headquarters. Designed by Foster and Partners, the 59-storey crescent-shaped glass and steel tower, which has been dubbed "The Bow" after its shape and the river that runs near it, will be Canada's tallest building west of Toronto and Foster and Partner's largest project in North America.....

http://www.worldarchitecturenews.com/index.php?fuseaction=wanappln.projectview&upload_id=575

LONDON: Minerva has scrapped its plans for its one million sq ft tower near Aldgate, in favour of a project half the size, to be called St Botolph's House. Although planning permission had been granted for the Grimshaw design, concern has been growing over the plentitude of new office space under construction in the Square Mile. Property market observers had long been sceptical about the viability of the "Minerva Building".

http://www.worldarchitecturenews.com/index.php?fuseaction=wanappln.projectview&upload_id=534

MANCHESTER: Developer Time and Tide have unveiled their new planned tower to stand on Store Street in Manchester. The development has been named Gravity and has been designed by architect firm, Austin Smith Lord. The tower sits on a site bounded by Store Street and Great Ancoats Street occupying a prominent corner position which dictates its curving shape around the site.

<http://www.skyscrapernews.com/news.php?ref=779>

LIVERPOOL: UK Government minister Ruth Kelly has decided to reject Maro Developments plans for a skyscraper at Brunswick Quay in Liverpool. The ministers controversial decision comes despite the advice from the planners who carried out the public inquiry and wrote the final report recommending that it be approved.

<http://www.skyscrapernews.com/news.php?ref=781>

BRIGHTON, UK: Brighton & Hove Council's Policy and Resources Committee have supported the proposals for the redevelopment of the King Alfred site. Their backing to Gehry's plans for the £300m project will deliver a much needed enlarged £48m privately funded sports centre and a residential scheme of 751 homes, including the 276 affordable homes at a subsidy of £32m.....

http://www.worldarchitecturenews.com/index.php?fuseaction=wanappln.projectview&upload_id=556

Meanwhile, another funky-form tower proposal for Brighton.....

<http://www.skyscrapernews.com/news.php?ref=750>

AUSTRIA: Skidmore, Owings & Merrill has been commissioned by Roadpark Verwaltungs GmbH to design a 137 metre tower at the heart of the Tyrol valley in Wörgl, Austria. The structure will match the height of the Stephansdom in Vienna, acting as a landmark for the Tyrol Region and a symbol for modern Austria. The 40,000 square metre site lies adjacent to the A12 autobahn, which forms a key route between southern Germany and northern Italy.

http://www.worldarchitecturenews.com/index.php?fuseaction=wanappln.projectview&upload_id=620

COPENHAGEN: Shaped as five "dancing T's" rotated and placed in a green folded landscape, Stephen Holl's T-Husene contains commercial and residential space. The T's with coloured and reflective undersides carve the sky.

http://www.worldarchitecturenews.com/index.php?fuseaction=wanappln.projectview&upload_id=614

RUSSIA: Tall Building Design Competition for Gazprom Tower.....

<http://www.skyscrapernews.com/news.php?ref=770>

ISRAEL: After an seven year wait the final Azrieli tower is underway. The Azrieli Towers are the largest and most expensive private project ever built in Israel.....

http://www.worldarchitecturenews.com/index.php?fuseaction=wanappln.projectview&upload_id=621

DUBAI: New York based RUR Architects has unveiled their design for this 22-storey tall commercial tower in Dubai. Perched on a two-storey podium the 0-14 tower is to break ground the first week of December 2006 in the heart of Business Bay in Dubai.

http://www.worldarchitecturenews.com/index.php?fuseaction=wanappln.projectview&upload_id=580

Meanwhile, work has started on site for the new Atkins-designed residential 'Pier 8' development which, when complete, will form a prominent landmark at the Dubai Marina, the city's major new cosmopolitan waterfront development....

http://www.worldarchitecturenews.com/index.php?fuseaction=wanappln.projectview&upload_id=566

Work has also recently commenced on the construction of Atkins' Iris Bay, a 170m high, 32- storey commercial tower situated on the Sheikh Zayed Road at the south west corner of Dubai's prestigious Business Bay

http://www.worldarchitecturenews.com/index.php?fuseaction=wanappln.projectview&upload_id=553

An update on SOM's Burj Dubai.....

http://www.worldarchitecturenews.com/index.php?fuseaction=wanappln.projectview&upload_id=606

CHINA: SOM unveil their design for the AVIC plaza, which stretches along a major artery of Shenzhen, bridging the old downtown and modern city center.....

http://www.worldarchitecturenews.com/index.php?fuseaction=wanappln.projectview&upload_id=592

SHANGHAI: Delayed for years and partially redesigned, a Shanghai skyscraper that will be one of the world's tallest buildings has hit another snag, this time over its name. Shanghai media reported Wednesday that the city has yet to approve the renaming of the 101-story Shanghai World Financial Center to "Shanghai Hills." The new moniker was announced Monday by the builder, the Mori Building Co. of Tokyo

http://www.ihf.com/articles/ap/2006/11/22/asia/AS_GEN_China_Skyscrapers_Name.php

NANJING: The Jinling Fuguang, or "Hand of Peace" project will have 108 floors above ground and be 518 metres tall. Accommodating a mixture of hotel, office and residential, it has been designed by architect Yu Zhu Zongshi

<http://www.skyscrapernews.com/news.php?ref=742>

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