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NEW TOWERS UNVEILED AT GROUND ZERO

Just three days before the US remembered the 9/11 tragedy on the fifth anniversary of the attacks, New Yorkers finally got to see the three towers that will stand alongside the Freedom Tower. Architects Norman Foster, Richard Rogers and Fumihiko Maki were all on hand to present their designs, which have been co-ordinated to spiral downwards – but not too much, these remain very tall structures – toward the Ground Zero memorial plaza. Foster's 78-storey crystalline-topped tower offers the most direct references to the memorial below. Based on a cruciform core, the tower rises as four distinct volumes to present four interlocking diamond-shaped caps. Foster said that the form was generated by the events at the World Trade Centre, but optimistically to present a new iconic roofline to the city that will be illuminated at night. Rogers has opted for a slender, cross-braced glass box, which he said was designed to be as slim as possible in the sky-pricking tradition of the record-chasing New York towers of a century ago. Maki's stepped, minimalist tower next door provides a counterpoint by being all about surface qualities; his glass cladding is lined with perforated metal to create a luminosity that will change with the light of day. However, so closely does Rogers's 71-storey tower sit next to Maki's on Daniel Libeskind's masterplan that it is would be difficult to slide a credit card between them.....

<http://archrecord.construction.com/news/wtc/archives/060908wtc.asp>

Designers learn the lessons of 9/11: Improved safety guidelines for tall buildings have been revealed on the fifth anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York

<http://www.building.co.uk/story.asp?sectioncode=29&storycode=3073666&c=0>

Five years ago, people who lived in the nation's tallest buildings were re-assessing whether they wanted to live up in the sky. Maybe they would be targets of terrorism -- and maybe the insurance for living in skyscrapers would make it too expensive a venture. Not only has skyscraper construction not slowed down -- it has surged nationwide. Later this month, the International Code Council will hold a hearing about the ways in which tall buildings can be made more terrorist-resistant.....

<http://www.poynter.org/column.asp?id=2&aid=110204>

BRITISH SCIENTISTS TEST OUT "HIJACK-PROOF" AIRLINER

Scientists from BAE Systems and Airbus are testing out the first hijack-proof airliner, that is said to be able to steer itself away from tall buildings and even land by remote control if terrorists take control of the plane or kill the pilot. The Sunday Times said the tests were being conducted in Bristol in England, and Hamburg in Germany using actors in planes on the ground. Reportedly, the technology will be available to airlines by mid-2008 with the full system to be installed a few years later. The system was developed to avoid the September 11, 2001 attacks where al-Qaeda members hijacked four airliners and crashed into several targets. BAE and Airbus said the new system goes beyond the reinforced cockpit doors and sky marshals used as the immediate deterrent to terror attacks. They said it is designed as a last line of defense if the strict airport security and passenger surveillance measures fail to prevent a hijack. Part of the system will employ biometric technology that will be used in order to gain access to cockpit doors. Irises and fingerprints will be scanned so that only authorized crew can enter the cockpit

<http://www.upi.com/NewsTrack/view.php?StoryID=20060910-020532-2289r>

TWISTING WITH HERZOG & DE MEURON

Basel-based Herzog & de Meuron have given a new twist to the current fashion for twisting high-rise towers, several twists in fact – their new tower just unveiled for Swiss pharmaceutical giant Roche resembles nothing so much as the sharp end of a corkscrew. Roche, also based in Basel, unveiled the new tower as part of plans to further rationalise and develop its headquarters complex on the banks of the Rhine. While the tower is clearly the attention-grabbing centrepiece, Herzog & de Meuron also secured the commission for a new research and development facility that will replace an older laboratory building. The two projects will cost a total of 800 million Swiss francs. The architects worked closely with city planners to create a design that integrates the tower with the surrounding, distinctly reticent-looking urban landscape, says Roche. However the visuals suggest that 21st century corporate statement-making has just tunnelled its way dramatically from underground.

http://www.roche.com/home/media/med_events/med_events_mb140906.htm

CHICAGO CELEBRATES SULLIVAN LEGACY

History has not been as kind to Louis Sullivan of late as to his protégé Frank Lloyd Wright, with two buildings lost just this year: his Pilgrim Baptist Church on Chicago's South Side, destroyed by fire, and his vacation home in Mississippi, wrecked by Hurricane Katrina. Then earlier this summer, Carson Pirie Scott announced that it is to finally vacate his landmark State Street building, his last great commission, which has been operating as a department store for 100 years. However Chicago, his adopted home for most of his working life, is doing its best to make amends with a celebration of the 150th anniversary of his birth that will last no less than six weeks. Sullivan's collaboration with Dankmar Adler produced around 180 buildings, many of which are still celebrated as some of Chicago's best-loved architectural landmarks, including the

Chicago Stock Exchange and the Auditorium Building. 'Chicago kicks off 6-week celebration for architect Louis Sullivan's 150th birthday' in the Indiana Daily Student at:
<http://www.idsnews.com/news/story.php?id=37155&adid=arts>

ROUND AND ROUND IN THE UAE

They have tried many adventurous things in the Gulf States, but not yet a city where every building rotates. Developer Faisal Ali Moosa, owner of High Rise Real Estates, is hoping to put this right with a concept that he is taking round the emirates and, he says, attracting great interest. Sceptics are pointing out that unless apartment buildings only have one flat per floor, neighbours will never be able to agree on who gets the best view. But there are precedents: the Rotating Towers development in Dubai's Jumeirah Village South was an instant hit with investors, with the rotating parts selling first. And the developer has visited buildings in Brazil as high as 25 storeys, where every floor rotates independently. Canadian-based rotating buildings specialist Hamilton Project Management Group has been brought in to keep things turning over.
<http://www.itp.net/business/news/details.php?category=construction&id=21538>

INTERNATIONAL SNIPPETS.....

PITTSBURGH: Urban landscaping has triumphed over iconic architecture in the design competition for a \$460m makeover of Pittsburgh's downtown Allegheny waterfront
<http://archrecord.construction.com/news/daily/archives/060824pittsburgh.asp>

RUSSIA: Experts slam giant Gazprom tower plan:
http://www.sptimes.ru/index.php?action_id=2&story_id=18301

JAPAN: The Japanese architect at the centre of a scandal over buildings wrongly certified as earthquake-resistant has admitted falsifying data on almost 100 apartment blocks and hotels. Hidetsugu Aneha told the Tokyo District Court that the data was fabricated to cut contractors costs out of fear that he would otherwise lose their business. Many of the hotels have been forced to close as a result, while local authorities have ordered residents of affected apartment blocks to evacuate. Some apartment buildings have already been pulled down. Aneha, 49, has been stripped of his architect's licence.
http://today.reuters.com/news/articlenews.aspx?type=worldNews&storyID=2006-09-06T083508Z_01_T227585_RTRUKOC_0_US-JAPAN-QUAKE-SCANDAL.xml&archived=False

DUBAI: No-one could accuse Atkins of architectural cloning for its latest signature building in Dubai. The Trump International Hotel & Tower, The Palm Jumeirah is a concept design for property developer Nakheel's man-made island. There are definite echoes of the practice's Burj Al Arab hotel, already Dubai's best-known landmark, but twinned with itself to straddle the development's central canal and monorail.
http://www.worldarchitecturenews.com/index.php?fuseaction=wanappln.projectview&upload_id=403

Wonders of The World	http://images.businessweek.com/ss/06/08/wow_top10/index_01.htm
Ten Wonders of The New China	http://images.businessweek.com/ss/05/12/china_wonders/index_01.htm
Retail Wonders of The World	http://images.businessweek.com/ss/06/06/wonders_retail/index_01.htm
Green Wonders of The World	http://images.businessweek.com/ss/06/07/wow_green/index_01.htm
Breathtaking Bridges	http://images.businessweek.com/ss/06/08/wow_bridges/index_01.htm

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