

**** The Editor wishes recipients all the best for the Christmas festive period. We will be back with the next instalment of Tall Building News in the New Year****

Contents:

- EARTHQUAKES TRIGGERED BY THE WORLD TALLEST?
- FAKED BUILDING REPORT STIRS SAFETY FEARS IN JAPAN
- HIGH ANXIETY IN CHICAGO
- FRANCE'S HIGH-RISE PROJECTS ARE NOW HOME TO MISERY
- CUT DOWN TO SIZE: THE REFURBISHMENT OF OLD TOWER BLOCKS
- INTERNATIONAL SNIPPETS.....

EARTHQUAKES TRIGGERED BY THE WORLD TALLEST?

has Taipei 101, the world's tallest building, reopened a geological fault and triggered two recent earthquakes? Taipei 101 is a building with a lot to boast about. Standing 508 metres (1,667ft) high, it is the world's tallest. And at 700,000 tonnes, it is among the heaviest. But the sheer size of the Taiwan skyscraper has raised unexpected concerns that may have far-reaching implications for the construction of other buildings and man-made megastructures. Taipei 101 is thought to have triggered two recent earthquakes because of the stress that it exerts on the ground beneath it. According to the geologist Cheng Horng Lin, from the National Taiwan Normal University, the stress from the skyscraper may have reopened an ancient earthquake fault. If he is right, then it raises concerns about proposals such as Sky City 1000 in Japan, the vertical city that has been proposed to solve Tokyo's housing problems. And it is not just skyscrapers that are a problem. Dams and underground waste deposits may also cause rumblings if they become too large

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/science/story/0,3605,1655977,00.html>

FAKED BUILDING REPORT STIRS SAFETY FEARS IN JAPAN

Investigations were set to widen this week in Tokyo, following the revelation that newly-built apartments and a hotel could collapse in an earthquake because the architect falsified structural reports. Officials at the Construction Ministry said 12 buildings, whose specifications were submitted by architect Hidetsugu Aneha, were vulnerable. 'Aneha told reporters he was pressured to produce the reports by clients who wanted quick, cheap construction plans and that the scandal was not entirely his fault...' The reports were initially approved by a Tokyo building inspection company. Officials at six architectural design firms have also been questioned in connection with the incident.

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/T226494.htm>

Aneha 'not only set unusually low estimates for earthquake stress but also used different figures for parts of the structure covered earlier in the report. 'The report says there are 16 columns, each with a diameter of about 25 mm, used for the first floor of the building. However, an architect who reviewed the report said a building of that size would need at least 20 columns on the first floor, each with a diameter of between 29 and 32 mm...'

<http://www.asahi.com/english/Herald-asahi/TKY200511230108.html>

'The Japanese government has warned thousands of people that they have two weeks to get out...'

<http://www.cbc.ca/story/world/national/2005/11/30/japan-construction-051130.html>

Suspected suicide of the president of a company linked to disgraced architect Hidetsugu Aneha...

<http://www.asahi.com/english/Herald-asahi/TKY200511280098.html>

Denial of a cover-up by building inspectors...

<http://tinyurl.com/bwj6h>

HIGH ANXIETY IN CHICAGO

Tall and thin may be the future, but the city's mission must be to see the light -- and patches of blue -- as its new, dazzling towers reach for the sky. By Blair Kamin, Tribune architecture critic. Chicago has long been a city of cloud busting skyscrapers, but its latest push toward the sky is enough to make jaws drop, eyes pop and start alarm bells ringing. Every week, it seems, a rendering of a new tower is splashed across the front page or the business page in the hopes of generating positive "buzz" and attracting potential buyers and investors. Some of this may be pure hucksterism. Nothing like a sexy architect's rendering to drum up a prospective tenant or two. Still, every proposal bears watching. It's the ugly one we ignore that -- surprise! -- will get built.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/chi-0511130191nov13,1,6115277.story?coll=chi-news-hed&ctrack=1&cset=true> (Registration Required).

FRANCE'S HIGH-RISE PROJECTS ARE NOW HOME TO MISERY

As last month's fierce rioting subsided in France's blighted suburbs, arguments were re-ignited about the architecture, planning and management of their urban environment. 'The dreary housing projects at the heart of rioting across France are rotting, the walls smeared with graffiti, weeds sprouting through cracks, windows protected by rusty metal bars... Today, the row upon row of towering concrete blocks have a dreary regularity: most are exactly 17 stories high with six apartments to each floor...'

<http://tinyurl.com/924ag>

Meanwhile, in a northern suburb of Paris, the huge housing project at La Caravelle is being transformed. Built in 1968, it was until recently another of the cloned mass housing schemes that formed the backdrop to last month's riots. Now 'crime has plummeted and social and racial integration is slowly improving, according to Roland Castro, the renovation's

architect...to visit La Caravelle now is to walk along well-lit paths, among trees, grass, basketball courts and playgrounds and below buildings that have been literally sliced into separate units with larger windows and renovated interiors...'

<http://tinyurl.com/d9opz>

Renzo Piano has said the recent riots in suburban Paris will be repeated for a generation unless planners and politicians 'turn peripheries into cities'. Technological advances have not been matched by progressive municipal ethics, he says. 'What is happening today in Paris is happening everywhere. Politicians...create ghettos. In Paris it is particularly bad. Now people are starting to understand that the real challenge of the next 30 years is to turn peripheries into cities...The city is a place of tolerance, by definition, where difference must merge. Architecture in some way has the duty to suggest behaviour. In some way. Places are the portrait of communities, and if the place is impossible, the community becomes impossible...'

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/arts/features/story/0,11710,1647127,00.html>

CUT DOWN TO SIZE: THE REFURBISHMENT OF OLD TOWER BLOCKS

Meanwhile, in Germany, architects are converting the municipal Stalinism of grim tower blocks into desirable contemporary homes. Architect Hervé Biele's first project, a 'light, spacious two-storey villa with a cool, geometric simplicity' just outside Berlin, is a model of recycling. Assembled from an unwanted East German block of slab houses ('plattenbauen') it took just seven days to construct and cost its owners about 30% less than a conventional home.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/arts/features/story/0,11710,1642120,00.html>

<http://service.spiegel.de/cache/international/0,1518,367335,00.html>

INTERNATIONAL SNIPPETS.....

US CONVERSION: The accelerating US trend for turning historic office buildings into condominiums, 'the result of a strong residential market and a soft office market...'

<http://www.archnewsnow.com/features/Feature183.htm>

NEW YORK: One of the best views in New York City - at the top of the Rockefeller Center in Manhattan - reopened to the public last month after almost 20 years.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/mihir/sets/1280391/>

CHICAGO: SOM's Adrian Smith, who's designing Chicago's Trump Tower - and Burj Dubai...

<http://www.suntimes.com/output/nance/sho-sunday-towers27.html>

BRAZIL: Urban planners are concerned about 'a centrifugal population trend' driving city dwellers to the suburbs. 'Rio is a threatened metropolis...to save itself, it has to recover its quality of life...'

<http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=31080>

Meanwhile, 97 year-old architect Oscar Niemeyer is at the centre of a row over the architectural destiny of the Modernist capital. His new museum has been criticised for its scale and 'nostalgia'. But 'I'm not interested in what people say...I won't talk to people who know nothing about architecture...'

<http://tinyurl.com/bw7e5>

LONDON: Mayor Ken Livingstone defends plans for the City's tallest tower, designed by KPF, 'amid fears that English Heritage, the conservation watchdog, will attempt to block the development...'

<http://news.ft.com/cms/s/4b015482-607d-11da-a3a6-0000779e2340.html>

Will Civil Aviation Guidelines reduce its height?

<http://www.skyscrapernews.com/news.php?ref=493>

AMSTERDAM: Hofman Dujardin Architecten's design for a 'window frame which offers apartments dwellers in dense urban areas the pleasure of having a balcony...'

<http://www.we-make-money-not-art.com/archives/007497.php>

MELBOURNE: Popular opposition is growing to the city council's 2030 Development Plan, and its proposals for urban densification.

<http://tinyurl.com/88lq6>

Australian Paul Crake beat 75 others by running up the stairs of the world's tallest building, Taipei 101, in 10 minutes, 29 seconds...

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/4453860.stm>

SHANGHAI: The record has just been broken - and nearly doubled - for the city's most expensive apartments...

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/business/4443404.stm>

DUBAI: Startling 'before and after' shots of Sheikh Zayed Road, either side of the current building explosion.

<http://bldgblog.blogspot.com/2005/11/dubai-before-and-after.html>

Also: 'There are no hills and it never snows but Dubai wasn't going to let details like that stand in the way...' A preview of Ski Dubai, the third largest indoor slope in the world.

<http://observer.guardian.co.uk/travel/story/0,6903,1646542,00.html>

IRAN: Nationist feelings run high about the cultural provenance of 'Yazd windcatchers'. Is the shape - appropriated for tall buildings in Dubai and elsewhere - Arabic or Persian?
<http://tinyurl.com/dnr3>

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

Please note: The CTBUH does not in any way endorse the views or contents of the web pages. It is also not responsible for the content of external sites.

This email is intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom it is addressed. If you have received this email in error please notify the sender.