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WTC REDESIGN - TOO MUCH FORTRESS, NOT ENOUGH BEAUTY

Tribune architecture critic Blair Kamin says the latest proposal for the WTC site has dignity but fails to synthesize armor and aesthetics. Great skyscrapers, especially in this city of party-hat towers, meet the sky and the ground with unforgettable aesthetic flourish. But the redesigned Freedom Tower at ground zero, which likely will be the nation's tallest skyscraper and surely will be its most heavily fortified, falls short of the towering standard set by the exuberant Chrysler Building and its more dignified skyline partner, the Empire State Building.

[http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/chi-0506300270jun30.1.6705321\\_story?coll=chi-newsnationworld-hed&ctrack=1&cset=true](http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/chi-0506300270jun30.1.6705321_story?coll=chi-newsnationworld-hed&ctrack=1&cset=true)

But others disagree. Governor George Pataki: 'This new design reflects a soaring tribute to freedom and a bedrock commitment to safety and security...'

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/4634221.stm>

'The tower's footprint is now the same size as the footprints of the original Twin Towers. As the tower itself rises from its cubic base, its square edges are chamfered back, transforming the square into eight tall isosceles triangles in elevation...'

[http://www.globest.com/news/316\\_316/newyork/135747-1.html](http://www.globest.com/news/316_316/newyork/135747-1.html)

Meanwhile, reconstruction of 7 World Trade Center - the last tower to fall on 9/11 - could be 'a shimmering, sharp-edged parallelogram sheathed in glass is being married to the brutalist 78 ft-tall substation with what looks like a sculptural installation: a kinetic, interactive stainless-steel wall...'

<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/06/27/nyregion/27trade.html?pagewanted=all> (Registration Required)

Recent images: <http://www.wirednewyork.com/wtc/7wtc/default.htm>

WTC 3-YEAR NIST INVESTIGATION – FINAL REPORT

After a three-year study of the collapse of the World Trade Center, the National Institute of Standards and Technology has released their recommendations for major changes in the planning, construction and operation of skyscrapers.

<http://wtc.nist.gov/>

Industry groups are joining forces to review recommendations for changes to structural and life-safety systems for tall buildings proposed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology as part of its \$16-million World Trade Center Investigation. The recommendations, released June 23 for public comment, will form the basis of a debate on how future tall buildings will be designed and constructed and how building codes may evolve.

<http://www.europaconcorsi.com/db/rec/inbox.php?id=6560>

NEW TALLEST TOWER IN CITY OF LONDON ?

A planning application is in for KPF's Bishopsgate Tower. The City of London's ever-changing skyline is set to be transformed again. Plans for the tallest building yet have been submitted to the Corporation of London for approval. At 1,008ft, the Bishopsgate Tower would dwarf the former NatWest skyscraper, the 600ft Tower 42 - currently the City's tallest - and would be only eight feet smaller than the London Bridge Tower, or "Shard of Glass", which has received planning permission from Southwark council. The skyscraper would rise above the neighbouring Leadenhall Building, a 737ft, wedged-shaped structure designed by international architect Richard Rogers, which has also been approved.

<http://tinyurl.com/9w92w>

The 63 storey tower, nicknamed the 'spiral' by those working on it, was designed after previous architects Murphy Jahn left following criticism of their work.

<http://www.skyscrapernews.com/news.php?ref=325>

INCREASING URBANISATION IN CHINA

China's architectural landscape has the potential to change more over the next two decades than it did during two millennia of imperial rule, says urban research body the Dynamic City Foundation. Around 38% of the country's 1.3 billion population now live in cities, but this number is likely to at least double, or triple, by 2020. China has to build 'an entirely new country in terms of urban living space' according to one architectural observer, while leading Chinese designers lament the current trend for facadism. 'For the overwhelming majority of Chinese architects, form is only a facade to be pasted onto a building that functions - and as quickly as possible...'

Rem Koolhaas predicts southern cities will form a megalopolis over the next 15 years, created by 'Chinese architects who design the largest volume in the shortest time for the lowest fee - an efficiency 2,500 times that of an American architect...' The building boom has produced architects 'who use laptops to quickly cut and paste buildings into existence - some in only two days...'

[http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/english/doc/2005-06/29/content\\_455604.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/english/doc/2005-06/29/content_455604.htm)

#### SKYSCRAPER FARMS ?

The World generally is becoming increasingly urbanised. By 2050, nearly 80% of the earth's population will live in cities. Yet if farming practice remains unchanged, the world will need an agricultural land area bigger than Brazil to feed itself. One solution could be urban 'skyscraper farms'. Architects are now proposing concept schemes to 'green up' city centres, create more carbon dioxide conversion in polluted areas and 'repair ecosystems that have been sacrificed by decades of industrial horizontal farming...'

[http://www.inhabitat.com/entry\\_176.php](http://www.inhabitat.com/entry_176.php)

<http://www.verticalfarm.com/essay.htm>

'The Living Tower':

<http://www.verticalfarm.com/designs.htm#livingtower>

#### 9/11 – DEBUNKING THE MYTHS

From the moment the first airplane crashed into the World Trade Center on the morning of September 11, 2001, the world has asked one simple and compelling question: How could it happen?

Three and a half years later, not everyone is convinced we know the truth. Go to Google.com, type in the search phrase "World Trade Center conspiracy" and you'll get links to an estimated 628,000 Web sites. More than 3000 books on 9/11 have been published; many of them reject the official consensus that hijackers associated with Osama bin Laden and Al Qaeda flew passenger planes into U.S. landmarks

<http://www.popularmechanics.com/science/defense/1227842.html>

#### INTERNATIONAL SNIPPETS.....

NEW YORK: Frank Gehry's visions for a mini-metropolis in Brooklyn to be shaped by curvy walls and leaning towers.

<http://www.nydailynews.com/news/local/story/325544p-278261c.html>

CHICAGO: Plans to build a 50 storey office building partially inside the 1894 La Salle Building.

<http://www.suntimes.com/output/business/cst-fin-build20.html>

SAN FRANCISCO: London Mayor Ken Livingstone wows them in San Francisco. 'Planning boards feel emasculated if they don't change a design or make a building shorter. My question to a developer is, have you brought me a world-class building or have you not?'

<http://tinyurl.com/7onkq>

VANCOUVER: A skyscraper, redesigned by Arthur Erickson after the client's original was turned down, awaits approval...

<http://www.canadianarchitect.com/article.asp?id=44260&issue=06132005>

LONDON: Work has started on re-cladding the former London stock exchange tower in 'shiny blue glass' .

<http://www.skyscrapernews.com/news.php?ref=329>

And IKEA proposes a 15 storey residential tower above its future store in Hillingdon, after planners reject designs for a typical warehouse Development.

<http://www.skyscrapernews.com/news.php?ref=326>

SHEFFIELD, UK: Terence Conran's high-rise proposal at Arundel Gate is set to become Sheffield's tallest having been increased in height from 22 to 31 storeys.

<http://www.skyscrapernews.com/news.php?ref=332>

BIRMINGHAM, UK: M3 Architects show off 3 proposed towers situated next to the city's telecom tower.

<http://www.skyscrapernews.com/news.php?ref=330>

DUBLIN: Heuston Gate, the 32 storey residential development by Paul Keogh Architects, looks set to become the city's first 100m+ building.

<http://www.skyscrapernews.com/news.php?ref=323>

CARDIFF: Work starts on Cardiff's tallest building dubbed 'the glass needle'.

<http://www.skyscrapernews.com/news.php?ref=322>

VIENNA: Jean Nouvel's design for a city centre corporate HQ.

<http://anarchitecture.blogspot.com/2005/06/jean-nouvel-in-center-of-vienna.html>

DUBAI: The city now has hundreds of architects' offices, 'employing thousands of architects and designers. We are bringing them from all over the world, and yet it's not enough for the work available...'  
<http://tinyurl.com/df4d7>

KEN YEANG / LLEWELLYN DAVIES MERGER  
Sustainable High Rise Architect, Ken Yeang, has joined forces with commercial practice, Llewellyn Davies, to form Llewellyn Davies Yeang.  
<http://www.davislangdon.com/pdf/EME/Publications/News/data24WL.pdf>

BANGLADESH: New skyscrapers in the capital Dhaka are so high that they pose a 'serious threat' to passenger and freight aircraft, says the civil aviation minister.  
[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south\\_asia/4090830.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south_asia/4090830.stm)

HONG KONG: 'French Spiderman' climbs 62-story Cheung Kong Center in Hong Kong using only his bare hands.  
[http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/english/doc/2005-06/11/content\\_450610.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/english/doc/2005-06/11/content_450610.htm)

\*\*\*\*\* PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE WILL BE NO NEWSLETTER DURING AUGUST. THE AUTHOR IS TEACHING AT THE ASIA DESIGN FORUM INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SESSION 2005, Malaysia. See <http://www.aep.com.my/> THE NEWSLETTER WILL RETURN IN SEPTEMBER \*\*\*\*\*

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