

LA Speech

May 8, 06

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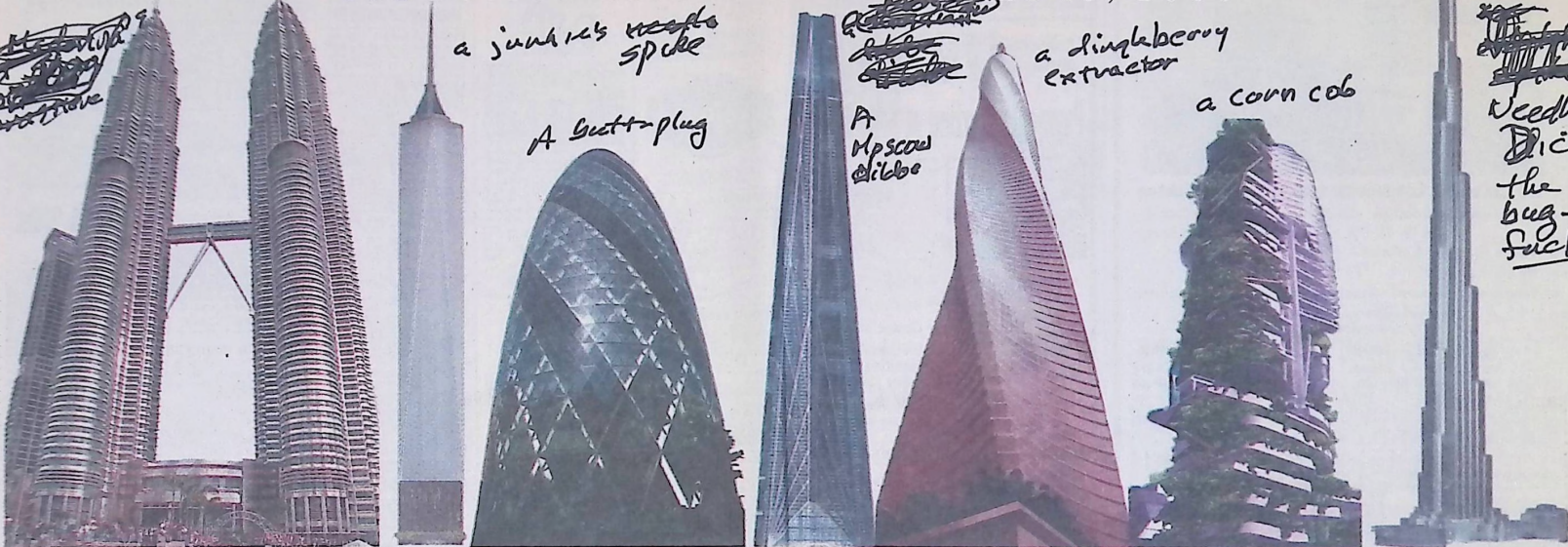
Architecture

Once avoided as eyesores and dumping grounds, urban rivers are now being counted on to anchor residential and business development.

*Madonna's
and short-hair
brassiere*

Real Estate *(SAVE)*

THE BOSTON GLOBE SATURDAY MAY 13, 2006



FROM LEFT: ASSOCIATED PRESS; ARCHITECT: SKIDMORE, OWINGS & MERRILL/PHOTO JOCK POTTLE/ESTO; ELEANOR BENTALL/BLOOMBERG NEWS; ARCHITECT: SANITAGO CALATRAVA; ARCHITECT: T.R. HAMZAH & YEANG; ARCHITECT: SKIDMORE, OWINGS & MERRILL/PHOTO: STEINKAMP BALLOGG PHOTOGRAPHY

Among the world's notable structures (built or planned) are (from left) the Petronas Towers of Kuala Lumpur, the Freedom Tower proposed for the former World Trade Center site in New York, the 'Gherkin' of London, the Moscow City Tower in Russia, the Fordham Spire in Chicago, the environmentally sensitive Editt Tower in Singapore, and the Burj Dubai in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Mayor aspires to a spire on the cutting edge

By Monica Collins
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Mayor Thomas M. Menino wants to fill a hole in the Boston skyline with a modern skyscraper. Will the new building resemble a glass pickle, a desert flower, or Buddhist temple?

Those are the playful descriptions for some of the world's more recent tall buildings, 30 St. Mary Axe in London, the Burj Dubai proposed for the Persian Gulf city, and the Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur.

Whether some of those bold — or outrageous — designs would fit and be welcome in Boston is another matter. Despite some notable buildings such as the Hancock Tower and the Federal Reserve building, Boston's architecture has a conservative streak.

"The joke is that a lot of Boston office buildings look like the boxes

the buildings would come in rather than the buildings themselves," said David Hacin, commissioner of urban design for the Boston Society of Architects.

But Menino's call for a 1,000-foot tower downtown in Winthrop Square, on the site of a city-owned parking structure, has Hacin and other architects and urban planners abuzz about the possibilities. Indeed, City Hall has loudly signaled to the development community it would like the new skyscraper — Boston's tallest when completed — to be cutting edge.

While a slim, almost needlelike profile is popular today, the Freedom Tower being built on the site of the World Trade Center buildings in Manhattan is a sturdy yet elegant spire-topped work that is supposed to echo other New York behemoths such as the Empire State and Chrysler buildings.

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DAVID HACIN
Boston Society of Architects

But at 1,776 feet, the Freedom Tower won't seem so statuesque compared with the giants growing out of the desert sands of Dubai. When the Al Burj, or Tower, is finished in 2010, it will give Dubai the two tallest buildings in the world. The buildings are intended to raise the city's profile — literally

— as part of an ambitious economic campaign. The other is the Burj Dubai, a tapered, needlelike design that its architects, Skidmore Owings & Merrill, said is derived from a desert flower. It is under construction and scheduled to be finished in 2008. Both are projected to go up 2,300-2,400 feet.

Dubai won't happen here. "Dubai's like the wild west," Hacin said. "It's like Houston where anything goes and you get some really good stuff and some really bad stuff. Boston's not 'anything goes.' That's not our mantra here."

Meanwhile the Petronas Towers, the second-tallest buildings in the world, win praise from BSA president Jane Weinzapfel for their distinct Asian influences. She described the buildings' decoration and design as reflective of the Oriental temple form.

In London, 30 St. Mary Axe be-

came both an instant classic and the butt of jokes as it grew on the London skyline. Now, the structure is known as "The Gherkin." Weinzapfel describes it as "a series of interlocking ovals that are of different dimensions and overlap each other. The building makes this shape that tapers toward the top like a pickle."

Designed by Sir Norman Foster, a skyscraper master, the Gherkin won a British architecture prize soon after it opened in 2004. But Hacin, for one, is not a fan. "It's a green building and very innovative. But if you've ever seen it live, the building lands in a very uncomfortable position in the London historic fabric. It makes a statement in the skyline, but I'm not a fan of how it plays on the ground."

Many architects, however, said whatever is built in Boston must

go beyond being tall and stylish and emulate the Gherkin's environmental attentiveness.

"To paraphrase Martin Luther King, we must judge a building by its character and not by the color of its skin," said Cambridge architect Hubert Murray. "Architects are just waking up to environmental peril and any major building that goes up in Boston must address these issues."

Murray pointed to the Editt Tower, under construction in Singapore, as an example of a "living" high-rise. It is designed by Malaysian architectural firm, T.R. Hamzah & Yeang, which describes itself as an "ecologically responsive" company, and deploys what it calls "vertical landscaping." Gardens and greenery burst from floor openings as the 26-story building, which is sheathed partly in glass, climbs to the sky.

*Needle
Dick
the
bug-
sucker*

Tomorrow:

Once avoided as eyesores and dumping grounds, urban rivers are now being counted on to anchor residential and business development.

Real Estate

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ent: wednesday, May 17, 2006 9:40 AM
Subject: Top Architectural Universities For NM

Dwayne (please tell me I spelled your name right),

Can you pass this on to Norman if he wants to look at it today? I'm going to try and get the fax set up in our apartment, Mattie permitting, but I don't want to make a promise I can't keep.
Muchas gracias, señor.

Norman:

Your list, Sir. Read below the chart if you want *details*.

Harvard University	Alan Altshuler Dean, Graduate School of Design Harvard University Gund 301 Cambridge, MA 02138
University of Cincinnati	Judith Smith Koroscik Dean, College of DAAP University of Cincinnati 5470 Aronoff PO Box 210016 Cincinnati, OH 45221-0016
University of Virginia	Karen Van Lengen Dean, School of Architecture University of Virginia Campbell Hall PO Box 400122 Charlottesville, VA 22904-4122
Columbia University (tied w/U of Penn)	Mark Wigley Dean, School of GSAPP Columbia University 1172 Amsterdam Avenue NY, NY 10027
University of Pennsylvania	Gary Hack Dean, PennDesign University of Pennsylvania 102 Meyerson Hall 210 S. 34 th Street Philadelphia, PA 19104-6311
University of Texas at Austin	Fritz Steiner

5/17/2006

	Dean, School of Architecture University of Texas at Austin 1 University Station B7500 Austin, TX 78712-0222
Rice University	Lars Lerup Dean, Rice School of Architecture Rice University MS-50 PO Box 1892 Houston, TX 77251-1892
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Adele Naude Santos Dean, MIT School of Architecture & Planning Massachusetts Institute of Technology 77 Massachusetts Avenue, Room 7-231 Cambridge, MA 02139
Yale University	
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (tied w/Wash U)	
Washington University in St. Louis	
Syracuse	
Clemson University (tied w/U of CA, Berkeley)	
University of California, Berkeley	
Princeton (tied w/Texas A&M)	
Texas A&M	

Some of the most innovative architecture programs, not listed above, are also in a top fifteen, although more specific:

Cornell University	
Southern California Institute of Architecture	
Kansas State University	
Rhode Island School of Design	

I looked at a few lists and decided to go with the one provided by Design Futures Council – they produce monthly newsletters as well as annual almanacs called *DesignIntelligence* full of timely articles, original research, and industry news. I browsed through a few press releases and found that many schools in the top ten-to-fifteen are proud to be on their list. Also, *DesignIntelligence* is a viable source for many media outlets.

Below is the list of best graduate architectural programs; I included a few schools that were in the top ten innovative, just in case you're curious.

The column below containing information on Deans may be wrong for some of the schools listed; there are sometimes more than three, not specific to the architectural or design programs. I'm not sure you wanted me to go that far...so I only completed nine.