



Plans have been unveiled for a development which is set to become the new face of St Petersburg, HENN has won a competition to design a 199-metre tower in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen and Dutch company Orange Architects is behind a new residential building in Beirut.

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01 AARHUS NEW COMPLEX

C.F. Møller Architects has designed a new office complex for 800 employees of world-wide fashion group Bestseller which resembles a flotilla of buildings connected by a series of atria, courtyards, terraces and roof gardens. The buildings range from one to 12 storeys, with the complex accommodating office space, showrooms, photo and film studios, an auditorium and a canteen-restaurant area, plus a three-storey car park with space for 450 cars, 400 bicycle racks and goods reception zone below street level. Sea-water cooling technology and solar energy will be utilised to ensure that power consumption will be 50 per cent lower than stated minimum requirements.



02 BEIRUT ROOMS WITH VIEWS

Dutch company Orange Architects designed The Cube, a new residential building in the eastern district of Sin el Fil which maximises views of the Lebanese capital and the Mediterranean. It features 14 stacked and rotated floor plans that have generated 19 apartments ranging in size from 117 to 234 square metres, with fluid spaces, large balconies and wall-to-wall window frames. Lifts and staircases are set in the fixed core of the building. A recessed space on the ground floor for the lobby is covered by a cantilevering volume, while residents have access to a three-storey underground parking garage partially set into an adjacent hill.

03 GANGNEUNG, SOUTH KOREA OLYMPIC PREPARATION

Richard Meier's first project in Korea is the Seamarq Hotel, which combines a stepped four-storey podium with a trapezoidal 11-floor tower. The project, part of the region's preparations for the 2018 Winter Olympics in PyeongChang, also includes a gatehouse, banquet hall, beach house and amphitheatre. The boutique hotel features 149 guestrooms, many of which boast views of the ocean and the morning sunrise, while others overlook the nearby Gyeongpo Lake. There is also a grand two-storey lobby lounge and a wraparound outdoor deck, along with a restaurant and a spa, while a presidential suite accommodates a generous terrace and courtyard garden.



04 LIVERPOOL FIRST CLASS PLAN

Plans have been submitted to refurbish a former Royal Mail Centre into a new flagship building for Liverpool John Moores University. The five-storey structure will be expanded to include two mezzanine floors, with the roof being utilised for sports and recreation. It will house

the university's library, restaurants and retail space, and student zones will be created around the building to accommodate different working methods, including quiet spaces and areas for creative and collaborative working. A flexible central teaching unit will include a variety of lecture theatres, as well as general teaching spaces, seminar rooms and IT suites.



05 SZCZECIN, POLAND SETTING THE STAGE

Flanagan Lawrence has won an international competition to design a Summer Theatre in the port city of Szczecin. The brief called for design proposals to maximise the flexibility of the 1976-designed theatre for a variety of performances on the stage, and to add a new roof to enclose both the stage and the audience. The underside of the roof will enhance and project the natural acoustic for orchestral events. Flanagan Lawrence's proposal will also upgrade the 2500 seat structure with additional facilities including a box office, bathrooms, a café and a refurbished backstage area. Construction work is due to be completed in 2018.



06 SHENZHEN COMPETITION WINNER

HENN has won an invited international competition to design a 199-metre tower for software company Kingdee in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen. The multi-faceted geometric form of the 44-floor structure enables it to smoothly integrate with adjacent nine-storey blocks. The tower's column grid and reinforced concrete core, which aligns with the pentagonal layout in plan, ensure an effective load-bearing structure, while the façade design strikes an optimum balance between outward visibility and solar shading. The tower features a three-storey fully glazed atrium with an open entrance, while the shell of the building is due to be completed in 2017.

07 ST PETERSBURG NEW FACE

KCAP Architects&Planners and ORANGE Architects teamed up to win a competition based around the development of land on the most western tip of Vasilievsky Island. The 15-hectare site is set to become the new face of St Petersburg and will also act as a striking marine entrance through the provision of a park, as well as a diversity of enclosed urban courtyards and towers complete with gold-coloured spires. The design concept maximises panoramic views of the sea and the city centre, and also focuses on creating an attractive and high-quality environment for living, working and recreation.



08 TORONTO CENTRE OF ATTENTION

The new Bergeron Centre for Engineering Excellence is the first building to be completed at York University's new engineering campus. Designed by locally-based ZAS Architects, the five-storey structure will provide a platform to educate a new generation of 'renaissance engineers' who are creative problem-solvers and entrepreneurial leaders with a social conscience. Rows of desks and lecture halls have been replaced with active learning classrooms, and a multi-storey material testing lab provides an innovative hands-on approach to learning and teaching. The centre is partially clad by an undulating screen featuring around 9000 triangular panels that are positioned according to a complex algorithm.