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PLASTIC PLEDGE

Premium car maker Volvo has announced its ambition for at least 25% of the plastics used in every newly launched Volvo car from 2025 to be made from recycled material.

The company unveiled a specially built version of its XC60 T8 plug-in hybrid SUV that looks identical to the existing model but has had several of its plastic components replaced with equivalents containing recycled materials.

Its tunnel console, for example, is made from renewable fibres and plastics from discarded fishing nets and maritime ropes.

On the floor, the carpet contains fibres made from old PET plastic bottles and a recycled cotton mix from clothing manufacturers' offcuts. And car

seats from old Volvo cars were used to create the sound-absorbing material under the car bonnet.

Håkan Samuelsson, President and CEO of Volvo Cars, said: "Environmental care is one of Volvo's core values and we will continue to find new ways to bring this into our business. This car and our recycled plastics ambition are further examples of that commitment."

The recycled-plastics XC60 was revealed at the Ocean Summit during the Gothenburg Volvo Ocean Race stopover. The race's emphasis on sustainability centres on a partnership with the United Nations Environment Clean Seas campaign, focusing on the 'Turn the Tide on Plastic' call to action.



WOODEN SKYSCRAPER FOR LAGOS

Concept plans have been revealed for the first wooden skyscraper in Africa.

Cameroon-based Hermann Kamte & Associates has taken the wraps off its design for an 87-metre tower in Lagos which would be constructed on top of an existing concrete structure.

The new tower features three distinctive six-level blocks which are separated by open floors featuring gathering spaces and recreational facilities for residents.

These mixed residential spaces will accommodate one-, two-, three- and four-bed apartments that are shaded by a stylised wooden envelope, complete with symbols reflecting Nigerian Yoruba heritage.



PHOTO: HKA | HERMANN KAMTE & ASSOCIATES



PYJAMA SCHEME

British food retailer Waitrose has linked up with designer Emma Bridgewater and Jutexpo, a manufacturer of reusable bags, in an effort to reduce plastic waste.

Each bag will be created from seven plastic bottles thanks to a process which converts the plastic into a durable and practical material known as rPET fabric, short for recycled polyethylene terephthalate.

It is hoped that half a million plastic bags will be recycled under the initiative, which will also raise money for The Prince of Wales's Countryside Fund.

The design features Bridgewater's iconic polka dots and comes in two summery colours: a bright and bold purple and a classic cream & lilac. Also forming part of the range are four new fold-away pouch bags, also made from recycled plastic bottles, featuring classic Emma Bridgewater designs.

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04 AARHUS SCULPTURAL LANDMARK

Details of a “bright sculptural landmark” for this Danish port city have been unveiled by C.F. Møller Architects. The proposed 144-metre office building features a layered façade designed to ensure optimum daylight conditions and a healthy indoor climate. The 38-storey structure will be integrated with an existing 5600-square metre industrial complex on the site, which is to be retained but reinterpreted to create an improved connection between indoor and outdoor spaces. There are also plans for a restaurant on the top floor of the new tower while the existing structure will feature an orangery and roof terrace on its third floor.



05 HARLEM CENTRE OF ATTENTION

Work will shortly begin on The Studio Museum, a centre for contemporary artists of African descent. The new building, designed by David Adjaye, will be constructed on the institution's current site, replacing a century-old commercial structure that was adapted in 1982 for the museum's use.

Space for exhibitions and the signature Artist-in-Residence programme will more than double, while indoor and outdoor public areas will increase by almost 70 per cent. The design envisions a dynamic, sculptural façade that contrasts strongly with the surrounding commercial buildings while being transparent and porous at street level.



08 MONTREAL ON THE RIGHT TRACK


Lemay, Perkins+Will and Bisson Fortin are teaming up to design an integrated, sustainable system of light-rail train stations for a 67-kilometre network being planned for the Greater Montreal area. Each station will share modular pre-fabricated components to ensure efficient and environmentally sustainable construction, with designs incorporating ample glazing to maximise daylight, enhance security and facilitate way-finding. The historic importance of Quebec's timber industry will be celebrated with the use of wood in every station's ceiling, and each local area will become home to sustainable, biodiverse ecosystems, connecting a green urban continuum. 



PHOTO: JOHN PORTMAN & ASSOCIATES

06 SHENZHEN MIXED-USE PROJECT

The Prince Bay area of Shenzhen is to become home to a mixed-use project designed by John Portman & Associates. The complex will feature a five-star, 350-room hotel encompassing a total area of 40,000 square metres, while around 10,000 square metres of retail will be organised around an atrium and connected via tunnels, bridges and grade-level pedestrian circulation. The site is adjacent to a planned subway station that connects to an underground transportation system linking with the cruise ship terminal and the lots to the north, creating an efficient network.



07 NOVOROSIYK WINNING ENTRY

Zaha Hadid Architects has won a competition to masterplan the regeneration of a disused waterfront site in Russia's largest shipping port. Construction work on a phased development of nine principal buildings is due to begin in the second half of next year. The first phase will include facilities for civic, cultural and corporate events, as well as around 1150 hotel rooms in the hope of creating a new tourism hub in this Black Sea city that has the ambition of attracting international conferences, trade fairs and business congresses. Public plazas, gardens and parks also feature in the masterplan.



PHOTO: VECON