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That's entertainment: today's smart media rooms
Marco's mark: in pursuit of design excellence
Summer vibes: the mesmerising power of blue

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A new cultural and performing arts hub is due to be completed at the University of Tasmania in 2018, plans are revealed to transform a brownfield site in Prague, and Schmidt Hammer Lassen Architects has won an international competition to design a student centre and library in Wenzhou.

TEXT: STEVE HILL



01 AMSTERDAM
MY GENERATION

Amsterdam is the tenth location for the hostel-hotel Generator brand, aimed at low-budget travellers. Toronto-based DesignAgency, the global design partner of Generator, has revitalised a former university building and zoological museum by turning it into a 168-room property, preserving original architectural details of the 100-year-old brick structure while lining the halls with contemporary art.

The design mixes the history and charm of the building with Dutch references from folk culture and iconic design, as well as custom contemporary art and the playful lighting that is synonymous with the Generator brand. Partnerships with local businesses such as coffee vendor Stooker Roasting Company and VanMoof bicycles have helped integrate the project into its surroundings.



02 COPENHAGEN
ON TO A WINNER

The World Architecture News Education Award for 2016 has been won by South Harbour School, which was designed by JJW Architects, one of Denmark's largest architectural firms. Each floor plan is different and the heights of rooms vary throughout, with surprises and new experiences central to the imaginative approach of the school, which also features a variety of horizontal and vertical connections and spaces. Jury members praised the "really rigorous and intelligent plan that is not in any way wilful", as well as for making use of every single space of the 9500-square metre scheme.

03 WENZHOU
CENTRE OF ATTENTION

Schmidt Hammer Lassen Architects has won an international competition to design the 25,000-square metre Student Centre & Library for the Wenzhou-Kean University in Wenzhou. The student activity centre will be accessible from all sides and provide spaces for a cafe, theatre, dance and music studios, exhibition space, sports and games, plus areas for informal meetings and gatherings. The library will house 30,000 books and a 300-seat lecture hall, with reading areas organised around the central book stack. The university is set on a 202-hectare site in a mountainous region and provides learning and living spaces for 8500 students.



04 LUBBOCK, TEXAS
RIGHT NOTE

The birthplace of Buddy Holly is to become home to a Dhs536 million arts complex dedicated to the legendary 1950s pop star. Due to open in 2019, The Buddy Holly Hall of Performing Arts and Sciences has been designed by Diamond Schmitt Architects and will feature

a 2200-seat main theatre, an additional 400-seat theatre, a 464-square metre multi-purpose room and a 2050-square metre Dance Centre. The venue will be able to accommodate events from opera, Broadway shows and symphonic music to rock concerts and conferences, and it will also house Ballet Lubbock with its own rehearsal and performance space.



05 MANCHESTER
BLAZING A TRAIL

Dutch architectural practice Mecanoo is to design a Dhs1.6 billion engineering campus at the University of Manchester. It will be one of the largest single construction projects ever undertaken by a higher education institution in the UK. Once complete, the project will become home to the university's four engineering schools, and two research institutes from the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences. It will include 70,590 square metres of modern teaching spaces and facilities that reflect the changing demands of students and staff for mobile and flexible working. Demolition on the site is already underway.



06 HOBART
CULTURAL HUB

Due to be completed in 2018 is the University of Tasmania's new cultural and performing arts hub, designed by local firm Liminal Architecture in partnership with Singaporean architects WOHA and Arup Acoustics and Theatre. Once complete, the Dhs243 million Creative Industries and Performing Arts Development will incorporate the existing Theatre Royal, the University Conservatorium of Music and the Creative Exchange Institute and a new research institute with a focus on performance, design and creativity – as well as flexible and high-tech laboratory spaces to support visual and performing arts, classical and contemporary music, film, architecture and hybrid design practices.

07 VANCOUVER
TOWERING AMBITION

Kengo Kuma has unveiled plans for Alberni by Kuma, his first North American, large-scale residential tower. The 43-storey structure will be located near the entrance to Vancouver's famed Stanley Park. Kuma described the scoops out of the building volume as "deductions", which also create a connection to the ground and a Japanese moss garden. The tower will be home to 181 residential units with patio spaces and will be clad in anodised aluminium and glass, enabling it to reflect the sky and neighbouring buildings. The mixed-use development also includes a retail space and restaurant, along with six levels of underground parking.



08 PRAGUE
ON TRACK

A 22,000-square metre brownfield site adjacent to Prague's Masaryk Railway Station is to be regenerated into a new central business district thanks to plans developed by Zaha Hadid Architects with local Czech partners. The project, around one kilometre from the city's central square, integrates suburban and domestic rail services with a coach and bus terminus, and creates a sequence of buildings offering some 90,000 square metres of mixed-use offices, retail facilities and public spaces. The first phase of construction work is due to be completed in 2020, with the entire project scheduled for sign-off in 2022.

