

## 1 DESIGNS OF THE YEAR

Zaha Hadid's Galaxy Soho complex in Beijing (pictured) and Heatherwick Studio's Olympic cauldron are among the 90 nominees for this year's Designs of the Year prize. Other notable nominations include The Shard by Renzo Piano, Pete Lomas's Raspberry Pi computer, and Studio Swine and Kieren Jones's Sea Chair, made entirely from plastic recovered from the ocean. All the designs will be exhibited at the Design Museum from 20 March-7 July, with seven category winners and one overall winner announced in April.

## 2 FARRELL'S DRAGON TOWER

The 188m-tall Vattanac Capital Tower in Phnom Penh by Farrells architects will be the tallest building in Cambodia when completed. It is currently under construction and expected to finish late 2013, but has already won the Best Commercial Development prize at the South East Asia Property Awards. The design is inspired by the shape of a dragon's back, and comprises one six-storey floating office tower and one 39-storey podium jutting from its side.

## 3 POWER OF 3

A Versailles office has become the world's first triple-rated building, achieving BREEAM Outstanding, LEED Platinum and Passeport HQE Exceptional accreditation. SRA Architectes is renovating the 68,000sq m Bouygues Construction headquarters, originally designed by Kevin Roche in 1988, installing more than 21,500sq m of photovoltaic panels and 24,000sq m of ventilated facades, plus technology to source geothermal energy. The final phase of the €150m project will be completed in late 2014.

## 4 SUSTAINABLE WITH A BULLITT

The Bullitt Center in Seattle is aiming to become the world's greenest commercial building, with credentials including net zero energy and water usage, 100% on-site renewable energy production (largely achieved by an extended photovoltaic panel roof), onsite sewage treatment and the exclusion of many common Red List materials. The six-storey building will mainly house office space; its ground floor will be occupied by the Center for Energy & Urban Ecology, housing a library, classrooms, exhibition space and a research laboratory.

## 5 HALF PRICE

Developer Sir Stuart Lipton and former Stanhope technical director Peter Rogers are joining forces on a new venture, named Lipton Rogers, focused on cutting the costs of developing major office buildings in London. It will aim to implement research commissioned by Lipton in 2011, which claimed that costs can be cut by 50% using pared-down designs, regular shapes and standardised components, among other factors. The pair worked together previously, most notably on the Broadgate complex in the 1980s.

## 6 KOOLHAAS FOR BIENNALE

Rem Koolhaas has been confirmed as director of 2014's Venice Architecture Biennale. Revealing the title of the event, Fundamentals, Koolhaas said in a statement that the 2014 festival would be taking a more retrospective approach, charting the gradual globalisation of national architecture over the last 100 years and aiming to "generate a fresh understanding of the richness of architecture's fundamental repertoire".

## 7 DROP IN TO WATER SHOW

Hector Serrano has curated the Water for Thought exhibition at Roca London Gallery, which aims to raise awareness of global water problems through a show of design, technology and video. Innovations for accessing, transporting or purifying water in developing countries are exhibited, including a Dyson award-winning water filtration tarpaulin and the Solarball (pictured), a solar still that can make up to three litres of potable water a day. The show is on until 23 March.

## 8 STACKABLE SHADES

Croatian design studio Grupa has launched a modular customisable pendant light collection named Ili-Ili, meaning either/or. Any number or combination of the six different conical elements can be stacked together to create a range of designs. The modules are made from powder-coated aluminium and available in three shades of each colour – blue, green, yellow and grey – which can also be mixed and matched.

## 9 NEW QVC HQ

Shopping channel QVC has a new £23m office, media and commerce centre in Chiswick Park, Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners' west London complex. GMW Architects was drafted in to adapt the 13,000sq m building to fit the channel's specific needs; the space features four double-height TV studios, guest and presenter accommodation and photographic studios. There are also rooms for training, presentations, show control and studio support, plus regular office space with meeting and breakout areas. QVC's 500-strong workforce will use the building up to 24 hours a day.

## 10 BAMBOO TWO

Jennifer Newman Studio has launched the M-Bamboo table, its first product using bamboo surfaces. Supported by a bright, powder-coated aluminium frame, the bamboo top is available in a caramel-coloured finish for indoors or in a darker colour for outside use. It was launched together with the M-Bench, which mirrors the table's trapezoid shape. Bamboo is fast growing and replenishable, making it a highly sustainable material.



## 11 MIES AWARD SHORTLIST

The shortlist for this year's Mies van der Rohe Award, the European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture, has been announced. Selected from 335 nominations, the finalists are the Harpa Concert and Conference Centre in Reykjavik, by Henning Larsen Architects and Studio Olafur Eliasson (pictured), Ghent Market Hall, a home for the elderly in Alcácer do Sal, Portugal, the Metropol Parasol in Seville, and Superkilen, a public park in Copenhagen. The winner of the €60,000 prize will be announced in May.

## 12 NEW TAKE ON KOREAN DESIGN

Seoul-based design studio Din & Dip has reinterpreted traditional Korean furniture in contemporary materials for its new collection of desks and seating. The designs are characterised by clean lines and slender, lightweight forms made in powder-coated steel, available in black and primary colours. The Seo desk (pictured) is an adaptation of a conventional workstation, known as a 'seo-an', featuring a slot for wires and a storage compartment.

## 13 CARMELITE COMMENCES

Fletcher Priest Architects' Carmelite Riverside office redevelopment on Victoria Embankment has broken ground, with Morgan Sindal tasked with its construction. The 1890s building lies within the Whitefriars Conservation Area, so will maintain its Grade II-listed rear facades, but it will undergo extensive work to attain its BREEAM Excellent target. New sustainable features will include a green roof, low-energy lighting and improved natural light, and a heat recovery system.

## 14 ECOBUILD DEBATES OFFICE LIFE

The Office of the Future will be debated at this month's Ecobuild show at a panel discussion between leading industry names such as Kevin Chapman, UK head of offices for Lend Lease, and Co-operative Group director David Pringle. The speakers will explore the future flexibility and sustainability of today's new offices in view of the huge changes in design requirements in recent years. Elsewhere, as part of new feature the Future Materials Gallery, there will be an exclusive presentation of graphene, the super-thin flexible metal 200

times the strength of steel. Other innovations – including translucent concrete and self-coloured solar panels – will also be exhibited, contributed by the world's foremost academic institutions and research companies. Another debate worth noting is Sustainable Design Should be Irresistible Design, a panel session hosted by RIBA president Angela Brady between architects Eric Parry, Louis Becker from Henning Larsen Architects and Annie Chu from Chu + Gooding Architects. The show takes place from 5-7 March at ExCeL London.

