

Plans for a world-class symphonic concert hall in the Danish city of Aalborg and a National Music Centre in western Canada as well as Rem Koolhaas' design for a cancer support centre in Glasgow capture the imagination. TEXT: STEVE HILL



1. AALBORG

HIGH NOTES

The House of Music in this northern Danish city will have at its core a world-class 1,300-seat symphonic concert hall. Designed by COOP HIMMELB(L)AU, the impressive new cultural and educational facility will also feature a 300-seat Intimate Hall, intended as a principal practice room for Aalborg's Symphony Orchestra, and Classical and Rhythmic Halls, which will act mainly as educational performing spaces. A south-facing façade will consist of an inner conventional insulated glass curtain wall with operable panels and an outer layer of trapezoidal-shaped perforated metal shading panels further covered with a photovoltaic thin-film that will optimise solar shading and



2. CALGARY

TUNE UP

The Cantos Music Foundation has unveiled the winning design for a Dhs262 million National Music Centre. Oregon-based Allied Works Architecture, working with local architects BKDI, envisages a five-storey facility that will house Cantos' large collection of instruments, recording studios, a museum and office space. The centre will also connect with the King Edward Hotel, a former blues bar and heritage building that has been closed since 2004 but which officials hope will be redeveloped into a live music venue. It is envisaged that the "King Eddy" will be complete in 2012, to coincide with the 100th anniversary



3. GLASGOW

CENTRE OF ATTENTION

Building work is due to begin this month on Pritzker Prize-winner Rem Koolhaas' design for a second Maggie's Centre in Glasgow. The centres provide emotional and practical support to people dealing with cancer, as well as their friends and families, and some of the world's most pre-eminent architects have been persuaded to provide designs for a unique series of buildings that all have a holistic, intimate and comforting feel. The garden at the new centre will be designed by Lily Jencks, daughter of the founders of Maggie's – Maggie Keswick Jencks and architect Charles Jencks. It is due to open



4. BRISBANE

GETTING CONNECTED

Cox Rayner and Arup recently completed the Kurilpa Bridge, which utilises architect Richard Buckminster Fuller's principle of tensegrity producing a synergy between balanced tension and compression components to create a light structure that is extremely strong. The Dhs218 million pedestrian and cycle bridge connects Brisbane's Central Business District with the city's South Bank and is 470 metres long and 6.5 metres wide. At night, the bridge is lit with a sophisticated LED scheme which can be programmed to produce different effects. In most configurations, 100 per cent of the power will be provided by solar energy, with any surplus returned to the main grid.



5. MUMBAI

GOING GREEN

Due to be completed in 2012 is the 100,000-square-metre corporate headquarters for Patel Engineering. Designed by Singapore-based Andy Fisher, it will feature Mumbai's first naturally ventilated basement car park thanks to its integration with the ground floor and use of light shafts and openings for cross-ventilation. High level link gardens, incorporating green walls, planted terraces and a rooftop nursery will connect the horizontal towers and strengthen a bid to gain LEED Gold rating. Storm water run-off will be filtered and stored for re-use on adjacent landscapes, while rubble and steel extracted from the demolition of existing buildings will be recycled.



6. SHENZHEN

BIG PLANS

The new headquarters for the Shenzhen Energy Company will be a 96,000-square-metre project that can withstand the local tropical climate. The winning proposal by Bjarke Ingels Group (BIG) combines a practical and efficient floor plan with a sustainable façade that passively and actively reduces the energy consumption of the building. The façade is conceived as a folded skin that shades the office complex from direct sunlight and integrates solar thermal panels. This combination of minimal passive solar heating and active solar panels will reduce energy consumption by more than 60 per cent.



7. SOCHI

GAME ON

Global design practice Populous has been selected to design the 40,000-seat main stadium for the 2014 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games in this Russian city. The facility will be used to stage the opening and closing ceremonies for the event as well as medal ceremonies, while post-Games it will become a football stadium for the Russian national and local teams. The sweeping form of the stadium responds to the city's coastal location and mountainous backdrop, and its crystalline skin engages with its surroundings by day and provides an iconic representation of the colour and spectacle of the Games when illuminated at night.



8. SINGAPORE

INVESTIGATING QUINCY

Local firm Ong & Ong is responsible for every design aspect of Quincy, Singapore's latest boutique hotel, from the building's architecture and interiors to its landscape and even the choice of napkins and tea sets. Located on the popular Orchard Road, it features a total of 108 rooms aimed at business and leisure travellers. Dark grey metal cladding and a bold colour palette help create a strong first impression while windows have been custom-designed with modular shapes that vary from room to room. A glass swimming pool on the 12th floor is illuminated and glows brightly at night.