

CYBERTECTURE – Ar.JAMES LAW

James Law is Chief Cybertect and Chairman of James Law Cybertecture International, a global consultancy specializing in the design and strategy formation of Cybertecture Projects.

These include Futuristic Architecture, Infrastructure and City Planning, Strategic Planning of new Business and Communication Models, Advance Research and Production of custom software applications that power Cybertecture projects.

In the merging of these services and projects, James Law Cybertecture International develops the core Cybertecture vision of the world, in which the now and future world is designed and created inspired in a symbiotic balance between space and technology. James Law has designed some of the most innovative Cybertecture projects in the world, including

the world's first artificial intelligence media laboratory for the Hong Kong Government; the world's first Bricks & Clicks shopping mall - Dickson Cyber Express; and the world's first "morphable" house in partnership with IBM in Denmark.

In Asia, James Law Cybertecture International is currently designing projects in China and Hong Kong including projects for China's largest interactive Cybertecture center for China Telecom and the world first peoples automated 1500 seat cinema complex for Hong Kong Cyberport as well as a new chain of automated cyber post offices for the Hong Kong Post Office.

James Law Cybertecture International also provides venture capital for the incubation of synergistic projects and businesses related to Cybertecture.

James Law has lectured in UK, Hong Kong, Japan and China on the topic of Cybertecture, and has been guest lecturer at universities throughout the region. As an architect, James Law won the prestigious Royal Institute of Architect Award for Design in an International Competition and has subsequently become a member of the Royal Institute of British Architects. James Law is also a member of several think tanks broadly encompassing the issues of future technology, design and Cybertecture.

Recently, James Law Cybertecture International was involved in the conceptual design of a Cybertecture Memorial Plaza at the site of the fallen World Trade Center Towers in United States.

James Law Cybertecture is also consulting for the United Nations for the design of a virtual world archive designed to preserve World Heritage Sites.

James Law Cybertecture International is currently working with unspecified partners on a worldwide memory communication project code name OHM that revolutionizes the function of communication between the entire population on earth based on memory fragments.

Cybertecture' design offers provocative intelligence systems in India with the Cybertecture Egg office

“In the 21st Century, buildings will be different from 20th Century”, say James Law Cybertecture International, “They are no longer about concrete, steel and glass, but also the new intangible materials of technology, multimedia, intelligence and interactivity. Only recognizing this will bring a new form of architecture to light, namely a Cybertecture.” James Law have been commissioned by Vijay Associate (Wadhwa Developers) to create an office unlike any other in Mumbai, India. The 32,000 sq m egg-shaped build will accommodate 13 floors of offices bringing together iconic architecture, environmental design, intelligent systems, and new engineering to create an awe-inspiring landmark in the city.

The concept was inspired, according to the designers, by considering the world as an ecosystem allowing life to evolve. Elements of the design and intelligence systems will work together to give the building's inhabitants the 'best space to work in'. And this includes monitoring their health. Within the building, there will be a series of innovative systems such as 'cybertecture health' in the washroom which is designed to keep track of the inhabitant's health including blood pressure and weight. The data collected may be retrieved and sent to a doctor if deemed necessary.

Technology and the working environment are united in the use of 'cybertecture reality' which allows you to customize your favorite view and have real time scenery all around the world instead of the view the user currently has.

The egg itself is orientated and skewed at an angle to create both a strong visual language and to alleviate the solar gain of the building, also there is a sky garden on the top of building which performs thermolysis (the dissipation of heat from the surface). PV panels will be installed on top of the building and a wind turbine on the sky gardens will generate electricity. A water filtration system will also be incorporated into the building to recycle grey water for flushing and irrigation purpose. By using this “Egg” shape, compared to a conventional building, the structure has approximately 10-20% less surface area. Within the building, an innovative structure derived from the skin of the egg creates up to 30m spans of columnless floors. The architecture is sleek and computer designed, with engineering that creates a building of high quality and geometric sophistication. It is hoped this building will act like a “jewel” for the new Central Business District of Mumbai, and will be a worthy neighbour to other esteemed buildings in the district. The building is due for completion by the end of 2010.



There was a time when even the wackiest — and of course, untested — designs would have a Dubai-based developer opening his chequebook to sign up the architects. It reached a point where one design that was floated around had the real estate perched atop a cloud (literally). Now, with local developers eschewing anything that is remotely fanciful, where does this leave architects who offer something more than the tried and tested?

“The recession has created an opportunity to make buildings more sustainable,” says an emphatic James Law, the prime mover of the ‘cybertecture’ school of design. As the term does suggest, the concept combines advances in technology with those in architectural designs, a field that is rarely static.

“We now use less materials for cybertecture designs, and provide new technologies inside buildings that keep people healthier and safer,” Law adds.

High-definition cameras deployed in different locations will help stream live images to a cybertecture home.

“Traditionally, 20th century buildings have been just stable pieces of concrete, glass and steel. We propose to break those barriers and let the buildings take you beyond that, to connect you to the world, both physically and in the virtual realm,” the ‘cybertect’ says.

“This will be a revolution in the post-internet age. It will go beyond the mere decoration of living space.”

The future of architecture as laid down by Law has its takers in the local marketplace. At the Technosphere building in Dubai’s Technopark cluster, Law is deploying the concept of ‘planetary cybertecture’.

Here, the property is treated as an eco-system, replete with internal rivers and sky gardens that supplement the occupants’ energy needs.

“We try to use innovative technologies to help you manage the building, like how a planet can self-sustain in terms of maintenance, resources and security,” Law says.

And he has the tangible proof to back up the claims. His company, James Law Cybertecture International, has come out with what is said to be the world's first 'intelligent' mirror. Costing less than \$1,000, the mirror monitors people's health and generates health awareness. "In the future, when more buildings are at a cybertecture level, residents can communicate with each other beyond the usual telephone, e-mails and video conferencing," mentions Law, alluding to how walls in such a home could change colour when the resident receives an e-mail, SMS or voicemail. Talk about an instant alert!

That is not to say the present as far as a cybertecture home is concerned is any less exciting. Such homes can already offer live video feeds of up to 110 real-time locations in the world.

Similar concepts will also be a feature at the Du Cube project in Abu Dhabi and with Omniyat Properties' The Pad tower in Business Bay. Going beyond the immediate geography, Law's stamp will also be apparent on the Cybertecture Egg development in Mumbai.

Despite waning interest in architectural forms that cost a lot, Law's contention is that cybertecture designs will still find takers because developers use it as the much-needed USP to promote projects. "In the future cybertecture will be a preferred product as tech-savvy children will have grown into mature buyers who expect innovation in buildings," says an expectant Law. "This trend will mature into a mass market.

"A fast-growing society is demanding new levels of services and infrastructure. They are trying to get ahead of the game and the rest of the world."

Cybertecture-like creations can be put to a network of uses, and are not necessarily confined to

What is the progress on your projects in India?

In India, especially in Mumbai, projects, are being accelerated. There has been a massive revival in the real estate market in India. We have a one million square foot building (The Capital in the Bandra-Kurla complex) that will be completed in the next 12 months. We have two luxury high-rises that will also open in the next 12 months. Our projects in Abu Dhabi have seen on-going progress.. The Du Cube was a competition-winning entry for the du headquarters in Abu Dhabi.