

# THE ARCHITECTS NEWSPAPER

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FIRST FACILITY IN BLOOMBERG'S WASTE MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE INCORPORATES GREEN DESIGN

## RECYCLING RETURNS TO THE CITY

When Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg released his Solid Waste Management Plan—a \$500 million proposal to overhaul the management of the city's recycling and garbage programs—in October 2004, the Department of Sanitation (DOS) issued a request for proposals for private firms to process the city's recyclables over the next 20 years. Hugo Neu Corporation, a scrap metal recycling company, won the RFP and is expected to finalize a 20-year contract with the DOS in late March.

The centerpiece of Hugo Neu's bid, a \$25 million recycling plant on Pier 30 in the

Sunset Park neighborhood of Brooklyn, was designed by New York-based architecture firm Weisz + Yoes Studio with RRT Design & Construction and Hugo Neu's in-house team. The design aptly features a number of environmentally friendly elements, such as the use of recycled materials wherever possible. "We're aiming for 60 percent of all construction materials to have recycled content," said Mark Yoes, principal of Weisz + Yoes Studio. Three sorting areas, devoted to metal, glass, and plastics, are covered with vaulted metal sheds that are **continued on page 7**

COURTESY WEISZ + YOES STUDIO

### PRATT ARCHITECTURE PROFESSOR ESTABLISHES LIGHT RESEARCH CENTER

## New Local Light Lab

Brent Porter, a longtime professor of architecture at the Pratt Institute, is establishing a lighting laboratory in memory of his daughter Christina, who died last month following a skiing accident. Light, which is a part of remembrance rituals

the world over, has been the focus of Porter's research for over 20 years. In particular, he has been studying the solar-oriented design of Machu Picchu. The lab will occupy 1,500 square feet in Pratt's new Steven Holl-designed addition in

Brooklyn, which will be completed in September.

The Christina Porter Lighting Laboratory has already received support from Prudential Insurance Company, which donated the three fiberoptic machines used in Philip Johnson's Times Square Development model; film location lighting services company Peter Yolles Productions, which contributed a floodlight for use in **continued on page 2**



THE ARCHITECTS NEWSPAPER

GWATHMEY SIEGEL-DESIGNED HIGHRISE WOULD BE TALLEST IN THE VILLAGE

## West Side High

In late February, the Related Companies filed plans with the Department of Buildings to replace the Superior Ink Company building at the corner of Bethune and West streets with a 104-unit, 225-foot-tall residential tower. Because the new building would require either a zoning change or variance, the project is sure to face opposition from community groups like the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation (GVSHIP).

The Hudson River-facing block in question is currently zoned as MI-5 for light manufacturing, and has a maximum permitted Floor Area Ratio (FAR) of 1.0. The proposed tower **continued on page 8**

### CRADLE TO CRADLE COMPETITION WINNERS PREPARE TO BUILD

## COMPETITIVE EDGE



COURTESY MATTHEW COATES, TIM MELDRUM

Winning design by Matthew Coates and Tim Meldrum

Architecture competitions are infamous for promising more than they deliver, often leaving behind glossy catalogues instead of buildings. Architects Gregg Lewis and Jennifer Smith hope to change that equation with Cradle to Cradle Home (C2C-Home), a sustainable housing competition for Roanoke, Virginia, that the pair have spent the last two years organizing. In mid-January, their efforts **continued on page 6**



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## LIGHTING THE WAY

NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN ARCHITECTURAL LIGHTING

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### WIGLEY, KOOLHAAS, AND BOUMAN LAUNCH BIMONTHLY

## CRANK UP THE VOLUME

On February 28, dean of Columbia University GSAPP Mark Wigley, architect Rem Koolhaas, and editor-in-chief of Dutch magazine *Archis* Ole Bouman announced the release of a new bimonthly publication, *Volume*, scheduled to debut in March. "It's a launch. It's a countdown to a launch. It's a launch of what? We're not entirely sure," Wigley confessed to a capacity crowd of mostly Columbia students and faculty at Avery Hall's Wood auditorium. "It is an endeavor that defines itself by a single mantra—that architecture must go beyond itself."

Equal parts press conference and subscription drive, the event lasted nearly two hours, with each founder taking turns to critique the current state of architectural education (Wigley), practice (Koolhaas), and publishing **continued on page 2**

From left: Michael Rock, Mark Wigley, Ole Bouman, Jeffrey Inaba, Rem Koolhaas



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**RECYCLING RETURNS TO THE CITY**

continued from front page layered with photovoltaic panels. The design also includes an intricate wetland reintroduction scheme to filter the facility's run-off and gray water. Said Yoes, "We wanted the design to reflect the open cycle of recycling and highlight a new connection to the unused waterfront." To heighten nighttime visual appeal, Weisz + Yoes hopes to commission lighting artist Leni Schwendinger for an installation at the plant. The plant will begin construction this summer and is slated for completion in early 2007.

The Hugo Neu plant promises to bring further amenities to the Sunset Park community. The company plans to hire 100 employees locally as well as attract local manufacturers to process the plant's recycled commodities into saleable products. A visitor's center will provide tours of the plant, as well as education programs in waste stream management in an effort to discourage waste and promote recycling throughout the city.

The city now pays Hugo Neu, which was under a five-year contract, about \$51 per ton to unload recyclables, but their new 20-year agreement sets a ceiling price of \$48 per ton. The price would be tied to the commodities market, allowing even lower fees for the city when the demand for recyclables slows down. Robert Lange, director of the Bureau of Waste Prevention, Reuse, and Recycling at DOS, said, "A long-term recycling contract will enable private interests to build the needed infrastructure for recycling to continue in New York City."

The construction of the recycling plant has added environmental benefits for the city. Hugo Neu consultant Tom Outerbridge estimates that the Sunset Park plant will reduce the number of miles traveled by collection vehicles in the city by 60,000 per year. Hugo Neu plans to deliver recyclables by barge from retrofitted scrap metal plants in the Bronx and Long Island City to Sunset Park for processing. From there, processed recyclables would be shipped to a shipping distribution center in Claremont, New Jersey, for export to international markets.

DOS is also currently seeking state and federal approval for a marine recycling transfer station on Pier 52, next to the Meatpacking District. The Environmental Defense Fund encouraged environmental artist Michael Singer to develop a generic model for such a facility, which has been presented to the DOS. The design is easily adaptable to different sites and includes solar panels, water recycling, and a recycling education center.

The DOS hopes to build the Meatpacking District facility by 2010, but its approval is complicated by its location in Riverbank State Park, EIS processes, and opposition from local residents. If and when the marine transfer station opens, Hugo Neu will then be able to barge recyclables from Manhattan to Sunset Park for processing.

**GUNNAR HAND**

**Michael Singer's design for a generic DOS recycling transfer station**

