



February 11, 2007

***The Calgary Chamber of Commerce and the University of Calgary Present the Sustainable Environmental Design Keynote Series — Alejandro Zaera-Polo : "High Rise Buildings"***

**Calgary, AB** – The extraordinary increase of high-rise construction is putting unprecedented pressure on urban cores to accommodate new skyscrapers, often forcing city leaders to rethink their planning policies.

Many policies are already under development in different cities. The relationship between high-rise buildings and cities is a complex one, and is strongly tinged with local flavour.

In the U.S., the downtown has been traditionally linked to high-density and high-rise buildings primarily dedicated to workspace. In Europe, where the closest precedents of skyscrapers are church towers and other representations of power, high-rises have been generally perceived as anti-urban and exiled to special precincts away from the center. Asian cities have located their high-rises less idiosyncratically, as punctual intensifications of the fabric. High-rises have become a more continuous distribution, usually related to transport infrastructure capacity and location.

**About the Speaker:**

Alejandro Zaera-Polo studied at the E.T.S. of Architecture in Madrid and received a master (MARCHII) degree from Harvard Graduate School of Design in 1991. Together with Farshid Moussavi he founded in London Foreign Office Architects in 1995. FOA is an international practice of architecture and urban design, dedicated to the exploration of contemporary urban conditions, lifestyles and construction technologies. The office is engaged in a wide variety of projects, ranging from small scale housing developments to department stores, office complexes and urban parks & auditoriums. Projects realised are among others the Yokohama International Port Terminal in Japan, and the Barcelona Forum Park in Spain. Besides his architectural work Zaera-Polo is currently the Dean of Berlage Institute and lectures at architectural schools around the world.

**WHERE:      The Metropolitan Centre, 333 4th Ave S.W.**

**WHEN:      February 12, 2007, 11:30 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.**  
12:00 p.m.      Luncheon Presentation  
1:15 p.m.      Media Interview Opportunity

**About The Chamber:**

The Calgary Chamber of Commerce is a volunteer driven, not-for-profit, and non-partisan advocacy group whose mission is to lead and serve the Calgary business community, valuing its diversity.

On critical and emerging issues in public policy, the Chamber acts as the leading forum for debate, and advocates public policy solutions that improve the business climate on behalf of our members.

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*For more information, please contact:*  
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