Today's News - July 30, 2003

2008 Olympics: first the "bird's nest" stadium, now a "Watercube" swim center (worth a trip to www.ptw.com.au to see renderings). – An African-American cultural center in Pittsburgh designed by an African-American (and female) architect (a ground-breaking event before the groundbreaking). – Japan takes solar power seriously. – In India, it's build-build-build, with not much attention to (or budgets for) preservation or cutting-edge architectural software (a touch of irony?). – The state of architecture in Chicago, and the city's power-mover mayor. – Columbia University expanding its real estate horizons. – Lessons to be learned: "if planners can't even recognise a patently vile shopping centre when they see one, how can they possibly assess the merits and demerits of school design?" – Thames Gateway, "mini-Canary Wharfs" or "new housing gulags...isolated, boring, and a nesting ground for future disaffected teenagers." – The Bilbao effect works for Bard opera set - but "the building that houses it is more interesting than what's on stage." – Faux-Frey and faux-Deco replace the real things in California and Delaware. - Two iconoclasts make their marks.

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