

Today's News - August 5, 2004

China takes a long, cold look at another "white elephant project" (Herzog + de Meuron join the stellar bad-news ranks of Koolhaas and Andreu). – A Dallas brownfield turns gold. – Milan approves starchitect skyscraper projects (with grumbles from local talent). – A renovated shrine in Jerusalem is a cross between "Disneyland kitsch and an avant-garde creation." – The best of Seattle's urban turf. – To save or not to save: Deco campus buildings and a glorious Harlem church. – Not all give thumbs-up to Gehry winery. – A festival of contemporary design in L.A. – U.K. news: architects may think they've won with Gummer's Law - but there's lots of teeth-gnashing going on: classic mansions vs. McMansions vs. "Neo-Geo and Joke Oak homes" vs. "champagne architects" vs. everything else...lots of opinions...you to decide.

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[China suspends work on Olympics 'bird nest': Fancy stadium to be redesigned to lower costs as part of central government's drive to curb 'white elephant' projects - Herzog & de Meuron](#)- The Straights Times (Singapore)

[Sow's Ear, Big Purse, Silk City: A blighted area of downtown Dallas is being transformed - inch by dogged inch - into an upscale urban neighborhood - Kohn Pedersen Fox; HKS; Morrison Seifert Murphy \[images\]](#)- The Slatin Report

[Milan plans skyscraper development: A team of star architects...has won the rights to build three skyscrapers...Other...projects which have been approved include a long-delayed "fashion city"... Daniel Libeskind; Zaha Hadid; Cesar Pelli; Norman Foster](#)- Reuters

[Between Disneyland kitsch and an avant-garde creation: The renovated Shrine of the Book, which houses the Dead Sea Scrolls at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem, reopened this week... By Esther Zandberg - Frederick Kiesler/Armand Bartos \(1950s\); Nahum Meltzer/Rachel Lev- Ha`aretz \(Israel\)](#)

[Best of Seattle - Urban Turf: Best Museum Makeover \(Henry Art Gallery\), Best Municipal Makeover \(City Hall\) - Donnally Architects/James Turrell; Bohlin Cywinski Jackson/Bassetti Architects/Kathryn Gustafson \[images\]](#)- Seattle Weekly

[Which buildings should we keep and which should we knock down? And are we getting it right?](#)- Richmond Times-Dispatch

[Underused Harlem Church, Elegant and Endangered: ...it may astonish New Yorkers to think that a building as exquisite and ornate as St. Thomas is to be leveled: that such a fantastic Gothic grace note, interwoven in neighborhood history, should be lost. By David W. Dunlap - Thomas H. Poole \(1907\) \[images\]](#)- New York Times

[Opposition mounts to Hall's winery plans: Outlook includes 50-foot-tall Frank Gehry-designed building](#)- St. Helena Star (California)

[Boom heard 'round L.A.: At last, a show for the pros and public, with independent thinkers in interiors, architecture and landscaping: "CA Boom: A Festival of Contemporary Design"](#)- Los Angeles Times

[Touch of fantasy: the right style of modern mansion: Neo-classical country houses targeted as ministers tighten planning law in favour of more radical designs](#)- Guardian (UK)

[Changing the British landscape will need skill, judgment and subtlety: Commendably, what the government is keen to avoid is another of those waves of pastiche Neo-Geo and Joke Oak homes... By Jonathan Glancey](#)- Guardian (UK)

[Architects win argument over Gummer's Law: the architectural establishment, including Lord Foster, fought back. Arguing that new one-off houses have been a traditional testing ground for young architects and innovative design... By Giles Worsley](#)- Telegraph (UK)

[End of the classical mansions? New planning rules will favour cutting-edge country houses: "...a pompous exception to planning rules for a few rich people. It is an employment charter for a group of champagne architects."](#)- Independent (UK)

[Prescott's plan for not so stately homes: Traditionalists attack 'Stalinist' decree that insists cutting-edge modernism should be the favoured style for new country houses.](#)- Telegraph (UK)

[A Flexible Future: UCSF Genentech Hall: Flexible laboratories, informal gathering spaces, and a soaring atrium emphasize collaboration among researchers. - SmithGroup \[images\]](#)- ArchNewsNow

[Healing Gardens: Samaritan Health Services: A master planning approach to landscape design serves up a system of healthful opportunities. - Macdonald Environmental Planning \[images\]](#)- ArchNewsNow

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