

## Today's News - August 31, 2006

EDITORS NOTE: Now that summer is almost over, we're taking a short summer break...see you in September (the 5th, to be exact)....Has Katrina made Americans greener? -- National Trust issues report on status of Gulf Coast's historic assets. -- The Venice Biennale (finally) goes for urbanism instead of starchitecture. -- Boddy critiques Vancouver's last 20 years of growth: "Vancouverism has nothing to do with New Urbanism." -- A new tower represents "Vancouver's current architectural ethos." -- Hope is high that major civic building will make Austin's historic downtown park a real people place. -- The new HQ for ECB throws traditional caution to the wind opting for "architectural flair." -- Smart, shape-shifting buildings in our future. -- A once forlorn and forgotten Thai palace is being given back its soul. -- A road trip in search of a \$100/s.f. dream house. -- An exhibit in Austria offers pro's and con's of letting computers auto-design urban or suburban environments. -- We ran the story about Utzon's opera house model, but this one has beautiful pix.

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[A Greener US One Year After Katrina: Hurricane, which destroyed New Orleans and killed hundreds of people, has made US citizens far more aware of the environment.](#) - Der Spiegel (Germany)

[National Trust Issues Report on New Orleans' Recovery So Far: A year after Hurricane Katrina... \[link to full report\]](#) - National Trust for Historic Preservation

[Living for the modern city: The Architecture Biennale...is usually focused on the promotion of "starchitecture"...exhibition organisers can be fearful of urbanism, and it rarely features on the glamour lists. So why did they go for it this year? By Edwin Heathcote -- Ricky Burdett](#) - Financial Times (UK)

[Downtown's Last Resort: A Critique of the Last 20 Years of Vancouver's Approach to Downtown Living Asks Some Difficult Questions About Where the Future Lies for Canada's Ocean Playground.](#) By Trevor Boddy - Canadian Architect

[A Full Deck: In a City Where Developers Pursue the 21st-Century Frontier Mentality, a New Mixed-Use Tower Responds to Geographic, Economic and Cultural Conditions...Shaw Tower...represents one aspect of Vancouver's current architectural ethos. -- James KM Cheng Architects \[images\]](#) - Canadian Architect

[All 'Round Republic Square: A new context of major civic buildings may yet make a people place of our historic downtown park -- Mack Scogin Merrill Elam; Page Southerland Page; Hargreaves Associates; Project for Public Spaces; Pelli Clarke Pelli \[images\]](#) - Austin Chronicle

[A flamboyant home for cautious souls: Traditionally, central banks have opted for caution over architectural flair...it is clear that, when it comes to architecture at least, the ECB \[European Central Bank\] likes to make a break with the past. -- Coop Himmelb\(l\)au](#) - Financial Times (UK)

[Smart Buildings Make Smooth Moves: Architects are developing shape-shifting buildings that function like living systems, altering their shape in response to changing weather conditions or to the way people use them..."Responsive structures" -- John Folan; Tristan d'Estree Sterk; Robert Skelton; Anders Nereim; Gian Carlo Magnoli \[slide show, links\]](#) - Wired

[A royal restoration: Life is returning to Rama VI's 'Palace of Hope and Love' near Hua Hin - but much remains to be done...once forlorn and forgotten, is now being given back its soul. -- Ercole Manfredi \(1924\); ML Poomchai Chumbala \[images\]](#) - Bangkok Post

[The Cheap Fix: "The Perfect \\$100,000 House" chronicles Karrie Jacobs 14,000-mile road trip...in search of an architect who could deliver the stylish, custom-made house of her dreams for what she considered a reasonable price: \\$100 a square foot. \[slide show\]](#) - New York Times

[The Scalable City: an interactive multimedia demonstration of how computers can auto-design aesthetically compelling layouts for new urban or suburban environments, but highlighting serious limitations as well; Ars Electronica Festival in Linz, Austria](#) - Newswise

[Long-Lost Model of Sydney Opera House Found and Rebuilt -- Jørn Utzon; Bill Lambert \[images\]](#) - Playbill

[INSIGHT: Iconicity: Finding Your Voice in a Changing World. By Kenneth Nisch/JGA](#) - ArchNewsNow

[-- Masterplan: Daniel Libeskind: Ørestaden, Copenhagen](#)

[-- PLOT: JDS + BIG: VM Houses, Ørestaden, Copenhagen](#)

[-- Lundgaard & Tranberg: The Wedge, Copenhagen Business School, Copenhagen](#)

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