

## Today's News - January 3, 2007

Looking to the future, planning remains Ireland's "Achilles heel." – The Design Commission for Wales has had a rough three years (but it's trying to do better). – Hawthorne finds "L.A.'s public spaces are a product of their communities, not a planner's desk." – Paris struggles to keep Champs Elysées "as French and chic as possible." – A green report card for Chicago (not at all shabby). – Farrelly finds architects' social conscience deserving of applause, but does it change anything? – Young Israeli and Palestinian architects work together to design housing to live together ("Maybe some day, not in our lifetime"). – Denver firms finding big business in developing countries "flush with cash" and "not afraid to spend it on American expertise." – A Scottish icon by Hadid in the making. – Denver's Civic Center park plans: "organizers unprepared for the huge outcry" over Libeskind plan; what should happen next? – Fraser takes another step toward starchitect-dom. – In Sydney, a posthumous Seidler disappoints, while two Foster towers are "fine, confident buildings." – Denver's Justice Center is all about concrete (hopefully, only for the time being). – Viñoly's Bronx Hall of Justice is "Architecture with a capital 'A.'" – Piano/FXFW's New York Times HQ an "almost exhibitionistic high-mindedness" (with some "wonkish" green architecture to boot). – New Boston hotel is "solid, thoughtful urban design" (too bad it's "forgettable architecture"). – Q&A with GSA's new chief architect, who promises to "include a full spectrum of designers, both Modernists and traditionalists." – Valerio is Kamin's pick for 2006 Chicagoan of the Year. – Japanese architect gets five years, but there are still "fundamental flaws in the building industry." – Editor's note: ArcSpace will return on a regular basis on January 8.

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[Apocalypse now, if we are not careful: A year of significant achievements could be overshadowed by a hardening of Ireland's arteries...Architecture has never been so appreciated in Ireland, but planning remains our Achilles heel.](#) By Shane O'Toole- The Times (UK)

[Design body aims to build on work: Wales' towns and cities are changing. Agencies say finding an architect is difficult - they're too busy building....Design Commission for Wales...just published a review into its first three years of operation and it shows what a tough job it's had.](#)- BBC News

[The city rediscovers the street: No official place to rally? No problem. The protests for immigrant rights showed how L.A.'s public spaces are a product of their communities, not a planner's desk.](#) By Christopher Hawthorne- Los Angeles Times

[The Banalization of Paris' Grand Boulevard: Champs Elysées Risks Losing its Soul: City Hall is fighting the invasion of foreign high street retailers and struggling to keep the Champs Elysées as French and chic as possible.](#)- Der Spiegel (Germany)

[The Chicago Green Report Card 2007: Overall Grade: B...Extra Points: Marketing, Awareness, and Credibility: A+](#)- Conscious Choice Chicago

[Blame a Christian hangover when design prophets have nothing to say: ...a form of recurrent social conscience wherein architects show a sudden obsession with system-built housing...It's architecture's way of caring and for this alone it deserves applause. But does it change anything?](#) By Elizabeth Farrelly – SYSTMArchitects/kosovoKIT; Sean Godsell/Future Shack; Studio Internationale/Platform 1234; Gabriel Poole/Takeaway; Greg Lynn/Embryologic- Sydney Morning Herald

[Non-cooperative housing: ...The workshop illustrated the problematic nature of apolitical peace projects. The atmosphere at the Bezalel meeting was certainly positive: Israelis and Palestinians huddled over sketch pads...with no divisions based on religion or nationality. But at the end of the day...](#) By Esther Zandberg- Ha`aretz (Israel)

[RNL Design takes its talents to Dubai: ...has found that developing nations are flush with cash and they aren't afraid to spend it on American expertise...RNL, Design Workshop, Fentress Bradburn, Ohlson Lavoie Collaborative and Sink Combs Dethlefs are happy to oblige them.](#)- Denver Post

[Scottish icon in the making as images of new museum are released: £60 million Riverside Museum on the banks of the Clyde will be the new home of Glasgow's Museum of Transport... – Zaha Hadid \[image\]](#)- The Scotsman (UK)

[A new Civic Center: Plans to rejuvenate the beloved park have sparked an emotional debate...Fueling the controversy has been the...unveiling of a conceptual design for the park's overhaul by Daniel Libeskind...left organizers unprepared for the huge outcry...What should happen next?](#) By Kyle MacMillan- Denver Post

[A dance to the music of light: With his new Scottish Ballet building, Malcolm Fraser has emerged as a major architect. He talks to Dominic Bradbury \[image\]](#)- Telegraph (UK)

[Disappointment the result when Harry met Harry: Harry Seidler left us two posthumous works...Meriton Tower...is up and running. Next door...is Fraser Suites...Norman Foster's second Sydney commission...buildings could hardly be more different...you can't help wondering whether a tantrum or two might have helped.](#) By Elizabeth Farrelly- Sydney Morning Herald

[Signature-building hopes lie in courthouse: A year after architects were selected for the Denver Justice Center project, only one thing is actually concrete: the growing skeleton of a new post office and parking garage...And concrete is the operative word here... By Mary Voelz Chandler – klipp; AR7 HooverDesmondArchitects \[image\]](#)- Rocky Mountain News (Denver)

[A New Architecture of Justice Rises in the Bronx: ...the new Bronx Hall of Justice...as a whole is indeed Architecture with a capital "A," and that fact in itself represents considerable progress over comparable projects in New York only a generation ago.](#) By James Gardner – Raphael Viñoly; César Pelli; DattnerArchitects; Arquitectonica- New York Sun

[Gray Lady Rising: Now all but completed, Renzo Piano's New York Times headquarters is intended to stand as an architectural projection of the institution it will soon house...Here, as in the very pages of the Times, one senses an almost exhibitionistic high-](#)

[mindedness... By James Gardner -- FXFowle Architects- New York Sun](#)

[Too many designers dilute InterContinental's impact: New hotel linking channel and Greenway...The good news is that the \[hotel\] is solid, thoughtful urban design. The bad news is that it's forgettable architecture. By Robert Campbell -- Elkus Manfredi; Brennan Beer Gorman Monk \(BBGM\); Cambridge Seven; Sasaki- Boston Globe](#)

[Q&A with Leslie Shepherd, AIA: GSA's New Chief Architect Vows to Improve Workplace Environments, Embrace Multiple Design Vocabularies- Architectural Record](#)

[2006 Chicagoans of the Year: Architecture: Joe Valerio: Design provides cultural commentary. Unites serenity and sensuousness. By Blair Kamin -- Valerio Dewalt Train- Chicago Tribune](#)

[Aneha seen as just part of problem: Flaws in building designs, inspection system slip though cracks...Hidetsugu Aneha,...was sentenced to five years in prison...experts say the legal changes alone will not be enough due to fundamental flaws in the building industry.- Japan Times](#)

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