

## Today's News - January 4, 2007

AIA/COTE's Top Ten Green Projects program is a portrait of evolution in the field (and the deadline for '07 submissions is extended). – The U.K. follows U.S. in call to make new buildings more fitness-friendly (and make us all "eco-slobs"). – Year-end reviews: Campbell's Top 10 list for 2006. – Preservation's woes and wonders. – Tall is in vogue (and not just in San Francisco). – Some thumbs-up, some thumbs-down for Beijing's CCTV tower. – San Francisco's Octavia Boulevard merits APA's "achievement award for hard-won victories." – Not all are enthralled with Edinburgh's new city hall. – A look at "the biggest, best, and most impressive places to bask in books." – Downsizing the super-sized: "the big house will go when exasperation trumps ego." – California leading the way in solar power (even owners of super-sized houses are saving big bucks). – Bummed out in Miami Beach: quirky lifeguard stands replaced by bureaucrat-built structures are "an architectural and artistic embarrassment" (even though great designs were in the drawer - slide show says it all). – Chicagoans envision the city of the future. – Ill-informed writers put a bad spin on modern design. – RIBA's new president has a social agenda (he doesn't mean parties). – So does UCLA's new dean of architecture. – An Indian architect who turns junk into high design. – Droog show will vigorously shake concepts of contemporary design. – A book looks at Times Square: "the 'terrible' gift of 'too much'." – One we couldn't resist: an elevator to the underworld in the Swiss Alps. – One we missed: in November, Oscar Niemeyer married his secretary - a month before his 99th birthday (way to go, Oscar!).

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[Celebrating Green: The decade-long history of the AIA/COTE's Top Ten Green Projects program is a portrait of evolution in the field.](#) By Kira Gould [images]- ArchNewsNow

[Can architecture make you fat? Experts are starting to think so - and they're urging architects and town planners to tackle the obesity epidemic by making new buildings more fitness-friendly.](#) By Paul Arendt -- CAFE; Will Alsop; Tim Townshend- Guardian (UK)

[Towers were the height of fashion: The year was marked by a mania for very tall buildings, several designed to be the tallest in the world.](#) By Robert Campbell -- Skidmore, Owings & Merrill; Pei Partnership; Calatrava; Renzo Piano; Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Machado and Silvetti; Leers Weinzapfel; Maya Lin; Studio Luz; Single Speed Design; Libeskind- Boston Globe

[Best & Worst of 2006: Our Year-End List of Preservation Woes and Wonders. --](#) Saarinen; Paul Williams; Latrobe; Louis Kahn; Louis Sullivan; Paul Rudolph- National Trust for Historic Preservation

[High times for San Fran skyline: ...a growing number of city officials and planners believe the skyline's form...needs a shot of adrenaline...Tall seems to be in vogue as cities try to make bold architectural statements and create density in tight spaces. --](#) Renzo Piano; Santiago Calatrava- USA Today

[Beijing's extraordinary CCTV headquarters: ...tower could not be built in the West at this point in time...criticism of the cost...More serious criticism is aimed at the social and environmental context of the project. --](#) Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA); Rem Koolhaas; Ole Scheeren [images]- Radio Netherlands

[An urban success story: Octavia Boulevard an asset to post-Central Freeway area...the real measure of success: The thoroughfare that replaced the elevated Central Freeway feels like it belongs...the problems are a result of popularity...The larger picture is this: Things work.](#) By John King -- Allan Jacobs; Elizabeth Macdonald- San Francisco Chronicle

[Heritage chiefs take dim view of city HQ: Classic views in the heart of the Capital have been ruined by the new \[Waverley Court\], according to critics of the £80 million building...Cockburn Association and the Edinburgh Old Town Association say the local authority should never have been able to effectively grant itself planning permission... --](#) Building Design Partnership- The Scotsman (UK)

[Libraries for the Internet Age: These centers of wisdom are not just about books anymore. They're diversifying — and designers are focusing on their social role. --](#) Norman Foster; OMA; Joshua Prince-Ramus/REX; Centerbrook; Louis I. Kahn; Snohetta/Hamza Consortium; Voelker/Winn Architects; James Weiner & Fields Devereaux; Toyo Ito; Renzo Piano; MHTN Architects/Pfeiffer Partners; Gottfried Böhm [+ slide show essay]- BusinessWeek

[What was supersized may one day be downsized: ...moral arguments won't dissuade people from buying big houses...the big house will go when exasperation trumps ego.](#) By Arrol Gellner- Los Angeles Times

[Plugging Into the Sun: Spurred by recent legislation that provides financial incentives, California homeowners have come to see solar power as a way to conserve money as well as natural resources.-](#) New York Times

[Beach bummers: Miami Beach's new, boxy lifeguard stands detract from the wonder at the water's edge...all the opportunity to design well was right at hand...there's little reason to hurriedly erect bureaucrat-built structures that are at best, an architectural and artistic embarrassment.](#) By Beth Dunlop -- William Lane; Jeremy Calleros-Gauger [slide show]- Miami Herald

[Building the future: Chicago architects envision what the city will look like 100 years from now..."The City of the Future" competition... By Kevin Nance -- Brininstool + Lynch; Dirk Denison Architects; Garofalo Architects; Strawn,Sierralta; UrbanLab; CUADc + Friends; Protostudio; Valerio Dewalt Train- Chicago Sun-Times](#)

[Op-Ed: Writers ill-informed about architecture: ...Some articles refer to preserving the past by salvaging old buildings...avoid discussing what might be accomplished with fresh, exciting designs, and derisive remarks are thrown in about glass and steel.](#) By Ian Innes- Saskatoon Star-Phoenix (Canada)

[Striving constructor: With strong roots in building community projects, the incoming president of the Royal Institute of British Architects \[RIBA\] tells Peter Hetherington that the](#)

[social dimension of his profession must be retained -- Sunand Prasad/Penoyre and Prasad- Guardian \(UK\)](#)

[It's all part of life: Hitoshi Abe, who will head UCLA's architecture department, believes in bringing people together — in buildings, in activities, in pretty much every way.- Los Angeles Times](#)

[Turning junk into designer concepts: From the creaky doors of a Delhi-based theatre to a moth-eaten tree trunk, architect Ajay Batra believes in reusing materials in his scheme of design. -- To Design- Rediff India](#)

[Is It Design? Art? Or Just a Dutch Joke? If you want your view of contemporary design vigorously shaken, take in "Simply Droog" at the Museum of Arts & Design. \[images\]- New York Times](#)

[Book review: "On the Town" by Marshall Berman: Times Square: the 'terrible' gift of 'too much'...the ultimate space of democracy and freedom... works because of a balance of chaos and control... By Alan G. Brake- Courier-Journal \(Louisville, KY\)](#)

[Elevator to the Underworld: The world's longest railway tunnel, currently being built through the Swiss Alps, is impressive enough in its own right. But the construction project's most spectacular feature will be a train station in the heart of the mountain, from where tourists will shoot up 800 meters \(2,625 feet\) to the surface in a high-speed elevator. \[images\]- Der Spiegel \(Germany\)](#)

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