

Today's News - Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Dubai's construction spree: "Some of these buildings are going to the absurd," says Eugene Kohn. – Heathcote observes that artists - not architects - do a better job of connecting the public to architecture and urbanism. – A sad take on our inability to produce worthy memorials. – Holl's Bloch Building is "what architecture is supposed to be about." – Two thumbs-up in the U.K.: Royal Observatory's new planetarium may have aliens saying, "Here's a planet you could do business with." – Royal Festival Hall gets a "thrilling yet subtle makeover." – If we took a Slow Food approach, there'd be less bickering between slow growth and smart growth factions - and a new buzzword: "humane density." – Ray Anderson is a man on a mission to save the planet (and doing a good job of it, too). – A "venture into the eccentric mind" of Philippe Starck. – Kamin applauds preservationists' "new weapons in the urban design wars," but warns "with a house-size grain of salt." – Call for entries: Columbus (Ohio) Re-Wired urban design ideas competition. – 2007 Scottish Design Awards winners announced. – Two eloquent tributes to Sandy Wilson. – On view: in Halifax, 75 years of architecture in Nova Scotia. – Vinoly's Cleveland museum expansion gets a show of its own. – RISD's graduate thesis show is "a giant version of Where's Waldo." – A new book captures a "swanky-Modern" architect's career.

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[Dubai puts a new spin on skyscrapers: Planned 68-story rotating tower part of massive construction spree. By Alex Frangos/Wall Street Journal – David Fisher; Kohn Pedersen Fox; James Abbott/P&T Group; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill; Leslie Robertson- Moneyweb](#)

[A crisis of confidence plagues public art: Modern architecture and urbanism is connecting with the public more...As architecture struggles with the territory between the self-conscious icon and global homogenisation, art can provide the key to unlock personal connections and to create living space... By Edwin Heathcote- Financial Times \(UK\)](#)

[The Memorials We Deserve: Flight 93 reminded us that America still produces heroes. Too bad we don't also produce worthy monuments for them. -- Paul Murdoch Architects; Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects- Weekly Standard](#)

[A New Identity: Steven Holl's Bloch Building ushers the Nelson-Atkins into an asymmetrical new world...museum expansion...far more subtle and even subversive...what great architecture is supposed to be about: Making us feel energized, engaged, awake. And that's what the new Nelson has achieved. By Steve Paul \[images\]- Kansas City Star](#)

[Keep watching the skies: Greenwich's claim to be the centre of the world may be arbitrary. But, says Steve Rose, the Royal Observatory's new planetarium has made it worthy of an alien invasion -- Allies and Morrison; youmeheshe \[image\]- Guardian \(UK\)](#)

[Now the South Bank's fit for a festival again: The Royal Festival Hall, reopening next month after a thrilling yet subtle makeover, is a precious remnant of the festival that put pride back into postwar Britain and gave creative rein to a new band of architects and designers. By Stephen Bayley -- Hugh Casson \(1951\); Allies and Morrison; Conran and Partners; Kierkegaard and Associates \[slide show\]- Guardian \(UK\)](#)

[Bay Area design could use a taste of Slow Food's philosophy: ...it is time to move beyond...dogmatic bickering -- where an anti-growth faction "clings without reflection to what exists" while proponents of so-called "smart growth" show "a willingness to accept bad design as long as it hits the density target." By John King -- Richard Bender/John Parman; Peter Walker/PWP Landscape Architecture- San Francisco Chronicle](#)

[Executive on a Mission: Saving the Planet: Ray Anderson wants his carpet tile company \[Interface\] to become a sustainable operation that does no harm to the biosphere by 2020...An evangelist for earth-friendly business finds demand for his sermons.- New York Times](#)

[Is Philippe Starck a raving ...genius? After lemon squeezers comes the final frontier. In a rare interview, we venture into the eccentric mind... \[slide show\]- The Times \(UK\)](#)

[Preservation activists discover a home on YouTube: More perspectives are definitely better than less, which is why this democratization of architectural debate is good. Still...take these new weapons in the urban design wars with a house-size grain of salt. By Blair Kamin- Chicago Tribune](#)

[Call for entries: Columbus Re-Wired urban design ideas competition for visions for intersections of community and transportation, sponsored by AIA Columbus \(Ohio\) and AIA150; registration deadline: August 17- Columbus RetroMetro](#)

[Scottish Design Awards 2007 winners announced -- Gareth Hoskins Architects; NORD; Reiach and Hall Architects; Stephen Bell Architects; Elder & Cannon Architects; Zaha Hadid; Building Design Partnership; Cadell Wiszniewski Thomson Architects; City Design Co-operative; GM+AD; Graven Images; Malcolm Fraser Architects; Page/Park Architects \[links to images\]- Architecture Scotland](#)

[Tribute: Addicted to ideas: Sandy Wilson was a great modern architect, a fine intellectual and a delightful man ...liked to tell you he was born in the year that Modernism came of age... Fiona MacCarthy -- Sir Colin St John Wilson- Observer \(UK\)](#)

[Tribute: Architect of so much more than the British Library: Sir Colin St John \(Sandy\)](#)

[Wilson's death leaves British architecture immensely poorer...He was the last major survivor from the optimistic days of post-war modernism...We are lucky that his buildings have survived him. By Edwin Heathcote](#)- Financial Times (UK)

[Architecture the art of the everyday: Exhibition helps us see what we often don't notice...celebrating 75 years of architecture in Nova Scotia](#).- The Daily News (Halifax)

[Cleveland Museum of Art is star of its own exhibit: Big scale model, photos, help show how facility will look in 2011 after expansion -- Rafael Vinoly](#)- Akron Beacon Journal (Ohio)

[RISD students rising: Rhode Island School of Design's "Annual Graduate Thesis Exhibition" ...a number of works stand out for their ability to \(a\) shock, \(b\) puzzle or \(c\) gross out viewers](#).- Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

[Book review: "The Leisure Architecture of Wayne McAllister," by Chris Nichols, recaptures swanky-Modern architect's career...signature touches — neon, steel, flamboyance and openness...](#)- Los Angeles Times



[Steven Holl Architects: Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, Missouri](#)

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