

Today's News - Wednesday, May 30, 2007

Pearman and Glancey are practically giddy over Royal Festival Hall revamp. – Hume fumes over Toronto waterfront project (though he does like the design). – King calls a new transit village "an architectural purgatory and a cautionary tale." – In Los Angeles, an architect finds new housing developments now depend on parking. – Architects haven't given up the battle to save Cleveland's Breuer tower. – Rethinking building height limits. – Charles Dickens and Billy Graham get Disney-fied (Victorian squalor and singing cow included). – Hope on the horizon for playgrounds where kids will want to play. – Pearman revisits the London Eye: the "process of making it was every bit as compelling as the ride on the finished product." – An in-depth look at the 5 proposals for Governors Island (exhibit opens tomorrow at NYC's Center for Architecture). – Austalians and an American on shortlist for new tourist spot in Fiji. – Plans to establish a "creative school" and Arab Association of Designers in Dubai. – Gehry talks IAC in NYC next Monday. – Film review: "Radiant City" is "an acerbic position paper on the cultural damage done by postwar architectural fads." – Bauhaus Dessau takes a bow. – Boddy is bubbly about new book on West Coast architecture. – One we couldn't resist: Glancey and other experts offer tips on how to build really cool paper airplanes.

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[Gloriously, madly English: Festival Hall has had a £111m revamp – but can you spot the difference? ...the character of the gracious, determinedly noniconic RFH has been improved no end. By Hugh Pearman -- Robert Matthew/Leslie Martin/Peter Moro \(1951\); Allies and Morrison- The Times \(UK\)](#)

[Pomp and circumstance: After two years and £111m, the Royal Festival Hall has been radically yet subtly restored to the sleek, light-filled building it was always meant to be. By Jonathan Glancey -- Leslie Martin/Peter Moro \(1951\); Allies and Morrison \[slide show\]- Guardian \(UK\)](#)

[What's wrong with this picture? Everything about Pier 27 is great, except for one thing...The trouble is that it will occupy land that should be dedicated to a public purpose... By Christopher Hume -- Peter Clewes/architectsAlliance \[image\]- Toronto Star](#)

[Dull, dull, dull, dull: South San Francisco's new Solaire transit village is a nothing in several shades of beige...an architectural purgatory and a cautionary tale...this showcase of so-called smart growth comes packaged in the most generic structures imaginable... By John King -- Van Meter Williams Pollack; Kwan Henmi \[images\]- San Francisco Chronicle](#)

[Adaptive Reuse Revisited: For Wade Killefer, Who Designed Numerous Downtown Housing Projects, Development Now Depends on Parking -- Killefer Flammanq Architects- LA Downtown News](#)

[New York architects take case for saving Breuer tower to Cleveland planners: "We feel duty-bound by conscience to share what we know" By Seven Litt -- Robert P. Madison International/Kohn Pedersen Fox; Davis Brody Bond/Weber Murphy Fox- Cleveland Plain Dealer](#)

[There's Nothing Sacred About the Building Height Limit: With rigorous analysis and fine-grain, targeted planning, not broad-brush rezoning, the city could identify sites well suited for more intense use, increased density and higher structures. By Roger K. Lewis- Washington Post](#)

[Dumbing down Dickens, Disney-style: London's literary classes say humbug over park that repackages author's bleak Victorian era...Dickens World, a \\$133 million controversial new fantasy destination in Chatham, England...- Toronto Star](#)

[Billy Graham, tourist attraction: The evangelist's life is honored in a hometown museum. But the \\$27-million museum also boasts a splash of Disney, and that's troubled some of Graham's admirers. -- ITEC Entertainment Co.- Los Angeles Times](#)

[Op-Ed: Danger: Playground Ahead: Hope may be on the horizon. We seem to be witnessing, if not a tipping point, then a seesaw tilt in playground design. By Allison Arieff -- Rockwell Group; C. Th. Sorensen; Jennifer Siegal/Office of Mobile Design; Daniel Kerber/Alexa Kreissl; Carsten Höller \[slide show\]- New York Times](#)

[Reinventing the Wheel: The London Eye is an engineering marvel with tourist appeal...The process of making it was every bit as compelling as the ride on the finished product. By Hugh Pearman -- Marks Barfield- Wall Street Journal](#)

[Fantasy Island: Five teams compete to make Governors Island an urban paradise. Only one will survive. -- Field Operations/WilkinsonEyre Architects; Hargreaves Associates/Michael Maltzan Architecture; Ramus Ella Architects \(REX\)/Michel Desvigne Paysagistes \(MDP\); West 8/Rogers Marvel Architects/Diller Scofidio + Renfro; WRT LLC/Weiss/Manfredi/Urban Strategies \[images\]- New York Magazine](#)

[Three firms compete to design tourism project: ...a multi million dollar "mixed use" tourism property development in Nausori outside Suva...The Haven -- Hames Sharley/Yellow; Studio Pali Fekete architects \(SPF:a\); Lab Architecture Studio \(LAB\)- FijiLive](#)

[International Design Forum \(IDF\) Design Labs proposes Creative School and Arab Association of Designers \(AAD\)- Gowealthv.com \(Dubai\)](#)

[June 4: Symposium at and about the InterActiveCorp headquarters \(IAC\), New York City, with Frank Gehry, Paul Goldberger, Mack Scogin](#)- Harvard Design Magazine

[Life in the Sprawling Suburbs, if You Can Really Call It Living: Blending documentary elements and some dramatic material, "Radiant City" is an acerbic position paper on the cultural damage done by postwar architectural fads.](#) -- James Howard Kunstler- New York Times

[Lessons in Clean Living: The first permanent museum dedicated to the Bauhaus movement opens on the site in Germany where it was born..."Bauhaus Dessau: Workshop of Modernism"...](#) - Newsweek

[Book Review: New reflections on West Coast architecture: An art historian's dream and a tribute to the craft of art books..."West Coast Residential: The Modern and the Contemporary"....provides welcome perspectives on how we live and build. By Trevor Boddy -- William Wurster; Stanley Saitowitz; B.C. Binning; Battersby and Howat \[images\]](#)- Globe and Mail (Canada)

[The world's best paper planes: Slip the surly bonds of earth with a folded sheet of A4. Jonathan Glancey, who spent his childhood manufacturing squadrons of paper aviation, offers some tips.; and Top tips from the experts \[images\]](#)- Guardian (UK)

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