

Today's News - Wednesday, August 8, 2007

EDITORS NOTE: Early morning travel means we won't be posting newsletter tomorrow, but we'll be back Friday, August 10. — Heathcote on high-rises: "Spires, slabs and spikes are the new centrepieces for cities...Our future is firmly amongst the clouds." — As L.A. buys into NY-style density, some worry about affordable housing, traffic, and losing the city's "low-rise, suburban quality." — Is Russia's building boom creating the "newest ancient heritage in the world"? — For King, San Francisco is an adventurous city that calls for adventurous architecture rather than "slavish imitation and skin-deep pastiche." — Combining investment and philanthropy, a Danish developer is creating architectural landmarks (though not all are impressed). — It's official (or will be later today): a green Cloud by Alsop coming to Toronto: "My new building will be a jolly sister to the OCAD building." — San Francisco's next new museum (hopefully). — Rybczynski on the prefab fad: it's "more about industrial chic than affordability." — Baltimore to decide if theater is a prize example of modernist architecture or a "poached egg on toast." — Britain's first truly Jewish synagogue gets Grade-1 listing. — An Xbox 360 for every architect: game engines as the newest tool (if they can get over the word "game").

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[Touch the sky: High-rise housing...is a form that fascinates and seduces planners, developers, designers and homebuyers. And this has never been more true than today. By Edwin Heathcote -- Le Corbusier; Mies van der Rohe; Emery Roth; Richard Meier; Frank Gehry; Christian de Portzamparc; Enrique Norton; Santiago Calatrava; Zaha Hadid; SOM; Renzo Piano](#)- Financial Times (UK)

[L.A. moves toward more N.Y.-style downtown: New ordinance will allow denser, larger residential buildings. Some worry that affordable-housing incentives won't work.](#)- Los Angeles Times

[A global property boom Russian style: In Russia's booming commercial property market, old meets new, as developers balance architectural style against the drive for profits. By Jay Merrick -- John McAslan; SAVE Europe's Heritage](#)- Independent (UK)

[Mere nostalgia, imitation won't keep the city vital: San Francisco's architecture isn't defined by specific heights, or a checklist of specific design elements...Fresh-looking changes...fit in better than slavish imitation and skin-deep pastiche. Culturally, this has always been an adventurous city. The architecture should be adventurous, too. By John King](#)- San Francisco Chronicle

[A Danish developer that lends a hand: By combining investment and philanthropy, Realdania has changed Denmark...stepping in where the public cannot...leaving its mark in a country with an ever-expanding roster of architectural landmarks. -- Koolhaas; Nouvel; Hadid; Danish Architecture Center](#)- International Herald Tribune

[Toronto mayor to unveil new Will Alsop building: ...the next phase in the development of North America's largest studio and media-facilities cluster outside Los Angeles...Filmport...highlight...will be the unveiling of a condo-hotel-office building...based in part on an ill-fated project known as the Cloud](#)- Globe and Mail (Canada)

[Founders of the Gap Now Plan a Museum: ...plans for a new museum devoted to their personal trove of Modern art....100,000-square-foot museum at the heart of the Presidio... -- Gluckman Mayner](#)- New York Times

[The Prefab Fad: Prefabrication is everywhere in American home-building. But that doesn't mean your next house is going to be a stylish, Modernist box...the current vogue for prefabs is more about industrial chic than affordability...a far cry from the vision of the early pioneers of industrialized housing... By Witold Rybczynski -- Gustave Eiffel; Oskar Leo Kaufmann Architects; Rocio Romero; Michael Graves \[slide show essay\]](#)- Slate

[The Brutal Truth: Letting The Public Have Its Say About The Morris A. Mechanic Theatre...Is it one of the country's prize examples of modernist architecture? Or is it...a "poached egg on toast"? -- John M. Johansen \(1967\)](#)- Baltimore City Paper

[Grade-1 listing for Britain's first truly Jewish synagogue: ...New West End Synagogue...officially joined the top three per cent of the country's historic buildings... -- George Audsley \(1879\)](#)- Independent (UK)

[London in Oblivion: Game engines for architects? Architecture for gamers? Why not? ...the rise of game engines as design tools..."Every architect's office should have an Xbox 360 or PS3, if only to remind them of the level of graphics they should be aiming for."](#)- The Escapist

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