

Today's News - Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Russia, "like Dubai, is becoming a place where architects can indulge their wildest fantasies." – BD's images prove it. – We couldn't resist Ian Martin's humorous take on "oligarchitecture" for oligarchs. – Dubai may grab the headlines, but Abu Dhabi's 2030 plan is worth more attention. – Last week, Bayley asked if Bath is Britain's most backward city; this week there are passionate responses on both sides of the debate. – "Heritage shmeritage": Hume fumes over Toronto's plan to replace historic building with 20 parking spots. – A new one to us: sustainable design is an oxymoron because it imposes restrictions on creativity that "will bankrupt design" (huh?). – A revival of traditional religious architecture in the U.S. (and an outcry against ugly churches). – Algeria to build the world's third-largest mosque (hotel and shopping center included!). – New museum of architecture is "a spectacular addition to Paris's museum landscape," though curatorial "aesthetic criteria" is a bit unclear. – Thom talks about everything. – France's only Aalto opens to the public today. – Delhi remembers Lutyens. – Toronto's Architecture Days in full swing. – A (mostly) thumbs-up for Glazer's "From a Cause to a Style." – Lots of calls for entries: History Channel launches 2nd City of the Future design competition (if anything like last year's, this should be fun!). – 2008 Metropolis Next Generation Design Competition: Water Preservation Challenges. – 53rd annual Record Houses. – 2008 ENYA Biennial International Ideas Competition: South Street Seaport: Re-envisioning the Urban Edge.

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[Making a land fit for oligarchs: When the Black Sea resort of Sochi won the right to host the 2014 Winter Olympics...a little sprucing up was in order...spending £3bn on "Federation Island" shaped like the Russian mainland...shows that Russia, like Dubai, is becoming a place where architects can indulge their wildest fantasies. -- Erick van Egeraat; Evgeny Asse; Foster + Partners; David Fisher- Independent \(UK\)](#)

[Erick van Egeraat designs artificial islands in the shape of Russia \[images\]- BD/Building Design \(UK\)](#)

[Getting the lowdown on oligarchitecture: Unpleasant clients are great – they pay handsomely and on time, enthuses Ian Martin- BD/Building Design \(UK\)](#)

[Brave New World: While Dubai continues to catch the headlines, it is worth more than pausing to appreciate Abu Dhabi's 2030 plan...interesting less for their housing and transportation projects - impressive though they may be - but more for the attention to its cultural and environmental goals.- ArabianBusiness.com](#)

[We've been scalded in Bath before: Last week Stephen Bayley accused the zealous guardians of Bath of turning the city into a museum. In reply, resident Geoffrey Wheatcroft insists the ancient spa town is right to be wary, while readers pour passion on both sides of the debate- Observer \(UK\)](#)

[43 years of history vs. 20 parking spots: ...we're only too happy to expropriate and knock down a historic building to oblige the needs of those who must drive, even if it's only 20 of them. Heritage shmeritage...So welcome to Toronto, a little behind the times, but a great place to park. By Christopher Hume- Toronto Star](#)

[Op-Ed: Don't curb design enthusiasm: The idea of sustainable design is an oxymoron. Design is about exploring limits, not about imposing them...Imposing intellectual restrictions on creativity will bankrupt design. By Martyn Perks/cScape- Guardian \(UK\)](#)

[A Return to Architectural Traditions: ...what some architects are calling a revival of traditional religious architecture in the United States, as congregations...have begun to yearn for a return to traditional appointments in their buildings... -- Jackson & Ryan; Moyra Doorly/Outcry Against Ugly Churches \(OUCH\); Dominy & Associates- New York Times](#)

[Algeria to build the world's third-largest mosque...to hold 120,000 faithful...will feature several cultural and religious structures...a 300-room hotel, a shopping centre, restaurants, green spaces and a recreational park...Architecture and engineering teams...are competing...The ministry will name five finalists in late October.- Alarab Online \(UK\)](#)

[Churches, Castles, Cages: Paris Has New Museum of Architecture: Cite de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine \(City of Architecture and Heritage\)...Many of the buildings the curators have chosen...are obvious candidates. The choice of others is harder to grasp. If you seek aesthetic criteria, you won't find any.- Bloomberg News](#)

[Thom Talks: On the Design Process...On Technology...On Beauty and the Nature of Architecture...On Social Consciousness... -- Mayne/Morphosis- ARCHI-TECH magazine](#)

[Alvar Aalto's Maison Louis Carré near Paris opens to public today: ...masterpiece of modern architecture is Aalto's only remaining building in France, and one of his most remarkable private villas. \[links\]- Helsingin Sanomat \(Finland\)](#)

[Lutyens' Delhi remembers Lutyens: "Rashtrapati Bhavan in Context: The Work of Sir Edwin Lutyens O.M" opens at the British Council here on October 6.- The Hindu \(India\)](#)

[Architecture Days provide insight into Toronto's evolving cityscape...through September 30 \[links\]- National Post \(Canada\)](#)

[Book review: Modernism In Fragments: Nathan Glazer's "From a Cause to a Style:](#)

["Modernism's Encounter with the American City" reveals how this influential social movement's good intentions shaped the look of the 20th century. By Josh Stephens-PLANetizen](#)

[Call for entries: The City of the Future: A Design Competition: Stage 1 deadline: November 9-](#) The History Channel

[Call for entries: 2008 Metropolis Next Generation® Design Competition: Water Preservation Challenges; 1st Prize: \\$10,000; deadline: January 4, 2008-](#) Metropolis Magazine

[Call for entries: Record Houses 2008: 53rd annual program celebrates the world's most architecturally significant and innovative home design; deadline: October 31 \[pdf\]-](#) Architectural Record

[Call for entries: 2008 ENYA Biennial International Ideas Competition: South Street Seaport: Re-envisioning the Urban Edge: ...open to all design students and young professionals; deadline: January 15, 2008-](#) Emerging New York Architects



[Miralles/Tagliabue EMBT: Diagonal Mar Park, Barcelona, Spain](#)

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