

Today's News - Monday, October 22, 2007

ArcSpace takes us to Grand Rapids' green GRAM, and takes a fun ride on the LA Metro. -- Campbell talks to Goldhagen about the nation's aging infrastructure, "where architecture and politics merge" (lamentably poorly for now). -- Gould laments missed opportunities in planning Pabst Farms development: "design work is largely in shades of bland"; and offers examples of dream subdivisions that have already have taken root. -- Russell revisits Bilbao to see if the "Bilbao Effect" is still in effect. -- Hawthorne visits LA Live's new theater and plaza and finds them two "very different animals": a bit of "canned event urbanism" and an "exotic plant brought from elsewhere and planted rather hopefully in our soil." -- Bayley is almost beside himself over Manchester's "delirious" new Civil Justice Centre, a "radical and exhilarating piece of work" (time to let the firm take on Stonehenge). -- Glancey on a roll re: BMW Welt: an "up-to-the-nanosecond baroque'n'roll temple of consumer desire" that can "transform the most hardened individualist into a lobotomized, BMW-loving lotus-eater." -- Robert Adam's classical take on Picadilly wins the game "having fun stretching the classical vocabulary." -- Anderton chats with Abe, shares musings with luminaries on Muschamp, and assesses two "green" showhouses. -- Architecture students use "brains over gadgets" in green affordable homes to prove "going green does not have to mean going broke." -- Solar Decathlon winners announced. -- Boddy on a new book about one of Vancouver's finest modern architects: "the wordiest volume ever produced on a Canadian architect" (but still worth a read). -- A new (and long over-due) architecture handbook for high schoolers. -- Call for EOLs for Bentley Community Library in Walsall, UK. -- Upcoming conference in Jamaica offers a global perspective on vulnerabilities and opportunities in large scale development projects. -- Basil Spence show is "fresh, accessible and so seductive." -- Julius Shulman spotlight x 2.

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[-- why Architecture: Grand Rapids Art Museum, Grand Rapids, Michigan](#)
[-- Riding the LA Metro -- Tanzmann Associates; Siegel Diamond Architecture; Dworsky Associates; Miralles Associates; Escudero-Fribourg Architects; Diedrich Architects; Ellerbe-Becket; Anil Verma Associates; Arquitectonica](#)

[Addressing a structural deficiency: An architectural historian has a plan to save nation's aging infrastructure: Sarah Goldhagen...laments what she calls "an utter breakdown in communication between architects, landscape architects, and planners on the one hand, and politicians on the other...Infrastructure...is where architecture and politics merge." By Robert Campbell-](#) Boston Globe

[Pabst Farms harvests dismay: Instead of being a model for walkable, affordable, environmentally friendly neighborhoods...right now looks to become a monument to uninspired design, timid planning and blinkered tax policy. Call it the Vale of Lost Opportunities....does make a little stab in the direction of New Urbanism. By Whitney Gould-](#) Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

[Dream subdivisions already are a reality: Assuming that Pabst Farms ought to have been developed at all, the best outcome would have been a subdivision showcasing cutting-edge, eco-friendly design and planning...Variations on my dream subdivision already have taken root. A few examples... By Whitney Gould-](#) Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

[Guggenheim Bilbao at 10 Still Thrills While New Projects Falter: Has the "Bilbao Effect" -- reviving a shabby Spanish steel town by putting it on the world's cultural map - - prospered as well? By James S. Russell -- Gehry; Calatrava; Foster & Partners \[slide show\]-](#) Bloomberg News

[Nokia Theatre and plaza send out mixed messages: L.A. Live's new theater is technically strong but hides behind its facade. The plaza has the potential to connect with its downtown neighborhood... very different animals... By Christopher Hawthorne -- ELS Architecture; Rios Clementi Hale Studios \[image\]-](#) Los Angeles Times

[What a perfect place to get divorced: Britain's first major court complex...is a radical and exhilarating piece of work...Manchester's delirious new Civil Justice Centre...if the practice can make divorce and probate sexy, just think what it could do with human sacrifice and Sun worship. By Stephen Bayley -- Denton Corker Marshall-](#) Observer (UK)

[Brave new welt: BMW's new cathedral-like building in Munich evokes perfect German families with toothpaste smiles singing company songs...this up-to-the-nanosecond baroque'n'roll temple of consumer desire...is nothing more, and nothing less, than an architectural branding iron. By Jonathan Glancey -- Coop Himmelb\(l\)au; Herman & Ott-](#) Guardian (UK)

[Robert Adam's classical take on Picadilly wins the game: ...detail may be on the chunky side but it works because it is done with exuberance. He is having fun stretching the classical vocabulary... By Marcus Binney-](#) The Times (UK)

[DnA with Frances Anderton: chat with Hitoshi Abe about Japanese influence on design, Frank Gehry, Paola Antonelli, Greg Lynn and others on Herbert Muschamp, plus an assessment of two "green" showhouses. -- Tom Schey/Kelly Meyer/project7ten; Melinda Gray/Gray Matter Architecture; Steve Glenn/LivingHomes; Sam Watters-](#) KCRW.org (Los Angeles)

[Energy-efficient homes to show anyone can go 'green': Two dozen student architects](#)

[are designing and building five energy-efficient homes in Tucson...project will "dismantle the myth that says these kinds of things are environmental chic for the rich."](#)- Arizona Republic

[Best Solar Homes: German Team Wins Solar Decathlon: Technische Universität Darmstadt won the Architecture, Lighting, and Engineering contests...University of Maryland...capped its "silver" honors in the U.S. Department of Energy competition by winning the BP Solar People's Choice Award... \[images, links\]](#)- ScienceDaily

[A commitment to first principles: A new book takes a retrospective look at one of Vancouver's finest modern architects: "Finding A Good Fit: The Life and Work of Architect Rand Iredale"... By Trevor Boddy -- Rhone and Iredale-](#) Globe and Mail (Canada)

[Team builds a better book: Experts, students, schools join up for architecture text: "The Architecture Handbook: A Student Guide to Understanding Buildings," developed by the Chicago Architecture Foundation and the Chicago Public Schools.-](#) Chicago Tribune

[Call for Expressions of Interest \(EOI\): Bentley Community Library, Walsall, UK; deadline: November 6-](#) Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA)

[Conference: Managing Risk, Maximizing Reward: Winning at High Stakes Development, Montego Bay, Jamaica, November 7 - 10 \[pdf\]](#)- RICS Americas (Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors)

[Architect of a brave new world: "Back to the Future | Sir Basil Spence 1907-1976"...gives such immediate access to an architect's creative thought...can't help thinking that if this show had happened 20 years earlier, Holyrood might now be a very different place.-](#) The Scotsman (UK)

[The Photographic Memory of Julius Shulman: The legendary image-maker talks about the Case Study Houses and the real roots of green design. -- Pierre Koenig; Richard Neutra; Rudolf Schindler; Raphael Soriano; Gregory Ain; Leo Marmol; Steve Ehrlich \[images\]](#)- Metropolis Magazine

[The Life and Pictures of Uncle Julius: Age Doesn't Diminish Los Angeles' Preeminent Architectural Photographer..."Julius Shulman's Los Angeles"...displays well his genius of composition and illumination in many rarely seen photographs...They are hypnotizing and timeless... By Sam Hall Kaplan-](#) LA Downtown News

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