

Today's News - Thursday, December 6, 2007

Hawthorne says L.A.'s transit authority is on the wrong track with plans to install turnstiles. – Dyson's engineering and design school plans in Bath get new supporters. – New Toronto tower design is "underwhelming" despite high-powered review panel. – An eyeful of proposals by six finalists in Birbeck Island competition. – Three Sisters scheme in Waterloo, London, leaves CABE "unconvinced." – Brake's take on New Museum: its "unexpected toughness is appropriate." – CNC fabrication builds bigger than ever. – St Pancras: nice station despite the hype. – Move over London Eye - Berlin's ferris wheel will be bigger (not all are pleased). – Call for entries: Beijing solar power plant tower. – Ai Weiwei weaving a gigantic spider web for Liverpool. – Winners all: 2007 Design Exchange Awards. – 'Tis the season: A serious review of gingerbread houses by Seattle architects. – How to build an eco-gingerbread house. – Polshek's Penny Lane for Common Cents.

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[MTA is on the wrong track: The agency's plan to install turnstiles at subway and light-rail stations is a betrayal of their design...should keep in mind that a turnstile is as much an architectural instrument as a fiscal one -- as much physical, visual and psychological barrier as money-saver. -- By Christopher Hawthorne](#)- Los Angeles Times

[School Heads Back Dyson: Headteachers across the Bath area have called for civic leaders to ensure that the city is the home of Sir James Dyson's £25 million engineering and design school.](#)- Bath Chronicle (UK)

[The 75-storey Aura condo tower is sleek, smooth and predictable: ...how did it happen that...tower design survived all this high-powered vetting and review as the underwhelming, ordinary thing it is? By John Bentley Mays -- Berardo E. Graziani \[image\]](#)- Globe and Mail (Canada)

[Six vie for Urban Splash Birbeck Pier: ...finalists in competition to develop Birbeck Island and Pier in Weston-super-Mare, Somerset -- Richards Partington; Pierre d'Avoine/White Young Green; FLACQ; AOC; Levitate; MOH Architects \[images\]](#)- The Architects' Journal (UK)

[CABE 'unconvinced' by Allies and Morrison's Three Sisters scheme in Waterloo, London: £1 billion project...criticised by the design watchdog, particularly over its scale and grouping. \[image\]](#)- The Architects' Journal (UK)

[A Rough Beauty: An irreverent client and the realities of building in New York taught Tokyo-based SANAA to get tough...has satisfied the contemporary lust for spectacle while creating a museum building that is all about the art. By Alan G. Brake](#)- The Architect's Newspaper (NYC)

[I, Robot: Advanced CNC \(computer numerically controlled\) fabrication allows builders to go bigger: ...the unfolding saga of François Roche and his competition-winning scheme for a museum of ice. -- R&Sie\(n\); Gramazio & Kohler; Bearth & Deplazes; Shigeru Ban/Jean de Gastines \[images\]](#)- The Architect's Newspaper (NYC)

[St Pancras: nice station despite the hype: Gus Alexander visits the station for the first time and pays tribute to its saviour...if it hadn't been for decades of tireless effort by one man, in the face of an increasingly phillistine transport authority, St Pancras would have been razed decades ago. That man was the poet laureate John Betjamen.](#)- Building (UK)

[Zoo-Eye View: Berlin to Build Europe's Highest Ferris Wheel: Construction has begun on the Great Berlin Wheel, a 185-meter structure that will loom over Berlin and top the London Eye as Europe's largest ferris wheel. -- Pott Architects \[image\]](#)- Der Spiegel (Germany)


[Call for entries: Beijing solicits designs for Asia's first solar power plant tower; deadline: January 15, 2008](#)- China.org

[Ai Weiwei's spider's web for Liverpool Biennial, opening next September: Web of Light promises to be the 'must-see' landmark public work for Capital of Culture. -- Arup \[image\]](#)- The Art Newspaper (UK)

[2007 Design Exchange Awards \(DXA\) announced -- Kohn Shnier; Diamond and Schmitt; MacLennan Jaunkains Miller; Studio Junction; Donald Chong; Cindy Rendely Architecture; Janet Rosenberg/Claude Cormier/Hariri Pontarini Architects; Moriyama + Teshima; figure3; etc.](#)- Canadian Architect

[Constructing Christmas: Local Architecture Firms Design Dynamic Gingerbread Structures for a Changing City...it seems clear that good gingerbread design exists in inverse proportion to good architectural design. If a firm excels at one, it fails at the other. City planners take note. -- Mulvanny G2 Architecture; KMD Architects; Callison Architecture; Mithun; DLR Group; NBBJ \[images\]](#)- The Stranger (Seattle)

[The Gingerbread Diaries: Building an eco-home from a favorite holiday sweet: ...like any construction project in the real, non-gingerbread world, no project ever really comes in on time and under budget, even when you act as your own general contractor. \[image\]](#)- Grist Magazine



[A Walkway Paved With Pennies, for the Sake of Charity: Teddy Gross and James S. Polshek have been building their own Penny Lane....Penny Harvest Field at Rockefeller Center...will be open every day...through Dec. 31. -- Common Cents- New York Times](#)

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