

Today's News - Tuesday, December 11, 2007

How could we resist: Al Gore's Nobel Peace Prize lecture. -- A survey of the 30 most walkable urban places in the U.S. -- Toronto waterfront project loses its "egg" - and support (for now). -- Flood defences in the U.K. to become artful assets to communities (let's hope the idea spreads!). -- Foster's new coastal city in Oman. -- An Arizona desert proving ground to become a testing ground for designing new communities. -- An old California company town gets a second chance. -- Orlando finally gets a gander at its new \$480 million arena. -- The biggest mall in Bulgaria gets a go-ahead. -- King offers a "cheat sheet" for what's new around San Francisco's Union Square (note for architects and developers: "engaging grace note beats glitz any day." -- Wigglesworth offers wise words for winning public buildings. -- Winnipeg architects dig their LEED green digs. -- The year in review (sure to be lots more): Davidson is (mostly) thumbs-up for new stuff NYC. -- Glancey not so upbeat re: Titan prison plans (scroll wayyyy down - Architecture is near the end - just above TV). -- Just what are these "Titan super-prisons" all about? -- Dyckhoff on Prouvé's legacy (he'd be "turning in his grave").

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[Al Gore's Nobel Peace Prize 2007 Lecture: "We have everything we need to get started, save perhaps political will, but political will is a renewable resource. So let us renew it..."](#)- The Nobel Foundation

[Footloose and Fancy Free: A Field Survey of Walkable Urban Places in the Top 30 U.S. Metropolitan Areas](#)- Brookings Institution

[Toronto waterfront plan faces fresh controversy: Design panel blasts latest plans for \[Corus Entertainment\] building at foot of Jarvis, which omit vaunted egg-shaped auditorium](#)- Globe and Mail (Canada)

[Art mixing with nature in the wild: Environment Agency...has been working in partnership with organisations such as the Arts Council England, North East, Kielder Partnership and local councils, to make flood defences assets to communities rather than just a means of protecting them.](#) -- Joe Hillier; [xsite architecture](#)- Evening Chronicle (UK)

[Foster designs new coastal city in Oman: Al Madina Al Zarqa, the Blue City, will be home to 200,000 people...](#) -- Foster + Partners [\[images\]](#)- BD/Building Design (UK)

[Plans in place for GM grounds: A 52-square-mile area area in East Mesa \[General Motors Desert Proving Ground\] once used to test new cars may soon become a testing ground for designing unique residential communities within a growing metropolis...](#) -- [Swaback Partners](#)- Independent Newspapers (Arizona)

[Sweet deal for town sugar built: Developer breathes new life into Monterey County's tiny Spreckels](#) -- William H. Weeks (1898); [Bessenian/Lagoni Architects \[images\]](#)- San Francisco Chronicle

[New \\$480 million arena drawings revealed, showing new home for Orlando Magic, Orlando Predators, concerts...layout bears little resemblance to the current arena...](#) -- [HOK Sport; C.T. Hsu & Associates; Baker Barrios Architects \[images, video\]](#)- Orlando Sentinel (Florida)

[Orchid Developments Granted Varna Mall Construction Permit: Grand Mall will be the biggest complex of a mixed type in Varna and one of the biggest in Bulgaria.](#) -- [Moore-Yasky-Sivan Architects; LAGIS Ltd. \[image\]](#)- Novinite (Sofia, Bulgaria)

[In and around Union Square, big changes abound: ...shifts are easy to miss, but...make each year's landscape unique...a cheat sheet of sorts...that clue you in to larger changes...An engaging grace note beats glitz any day.](#) By John King -- [Daniel Libeskind; CMG Landscape Architecture; Jeffrey Hutchison & Associates \[images\]](#)- San Francisco Chronicle

['Giving it a go is important -- something may come along': Sarah Wigglesworth advises Mitchell Taylor Workshop that the secret of winning public buildings is having the courage to bear its architectural soul...Inside track on public buildings \[images\]](#)- BD/Building Design (UK)

[Architects' plans get a green light: Environmental certification puts firm in leadership role...one of the first companies in the province to seek LEED certification for a portion of a building, rather than the whole thing.](#) -- [Friesen Tokar Architects](#)- Winnipeg Free Press (Canada)

[The Year in Architecture: Green roofs sprouted in the South Bronx...bus shelters got chic. Frank Gehry finally built something in New York, Robert Moses and Jane Jacobs kissed and made up...and a gauzy aluminum museum rose shimmering over the Bowery.](#) By Justin Davidson -- [Sanaa; Dattner Architects/Grimshaw; Jean Nouvel; Robert A.M. Stern; Philip Johnson; George Yabu; Herzog & de Meuron](#)- New York Magazine

[Architecture 2007: The architectural year ended full of cheer and bonhomie with the...ordering three super-sized jails...These punitive giants will doubtless become the default building style of 2008 and beyond, in bullying New Britain.](#) By Jonathan Glancey -- [Oscar Niemeyer; Allies and Morrison; Peter Zumthor](#)- Guardian (UK)

[What should prisons look like? The idea for massive Titan super-prisons to tackle the overcrowding crisis has already caused controversy. But is there any "right" way to design a prison? \[images\]- BBC News](#)

[Jean Prouvé: the people's Modernist: There was no nonsense about \[his\] vision of the modern world being forged in the early 20th century. The machine was a liberating force for the spreading of universal prosperity. By Tom Dyckhoff- The Times \(UK\)](#)

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