

Today's News - Monday, January 7, 2008

Boddy calls for an end to "architectural diets and building binges" and sacrifices to "our new gods of scope creep and value engineering." – Vietnam decides it's time to bring back chief architects to major cities' planning and architecture departments (what a concept!). – Q&A with CTBUH's director about sustainability, tall buildings, and Dubai. – Milan opts for congestion pricing. – Bayley thinks it's the "first excellent building since the 18th century," but is Prague ready for a green octopus? – London's new "big green teaching machine": is it the shape of schools to come? – Koolhaas is the next big name for next new Maggie's Centre. – Renewal of Terrorism Risk Insurance Act offers the building industry a "safety net for reconstruction and recovery." – Preservation up's and down's: Boddy broods over Vancouver's toothless preservation protections. – Why all the fuss over saving two historic buildings from being gobbled up by Philadelphia's convention center is so important. – Fear that Moynihan Station plans are losing their civic luster. – Is putting a roof over Erickson's Robson Square really a good idea? – On a brighter note: King coos over restored de Young building in San Francisco (just don't look up). – A new team raises new hope for Baltimore's Brutalist Mechanic Theatre. – An almost forgotten Stone raises a number of issues about preservation. – Video game software is the latest tool to wow the client. – Call for entries: new visions for strip malls; and short films for Pangea Day.

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[End architectural diets and building binges: I hope the weak architecture, bad urban design, and out-of-control costs of our trade and convention centre expansion serve some long term purpose...as examples of how common sense, well-designed buildings get sacrificed to our new gods of scope creep and value engineering. By Trevor Boddy -- LMN Architects; Musson Cattell Mackey- Globe and Mail \(Canada\)](#)

[Big cities need chief architect: Both Hanoi and HCM City had chief architects in the 1990s. Half a decade after canceling this system, the Construction Ministry now, again, wants head architects to guide the overall design of major hubs.- VietNamNet](#)

[A tale of tall cities: Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat \(CTBUH\) executive director Antony Wood talks...about sustainability in tall buildings and how Dubai could take the lead in sustainable urban design.- ArabianBusiness.com](#)

[Congestion fee leaves Milan in a jam: ...Ecopass...part of a wider project to reduce smog and increase the use of public transport.- The Times \(UK\)](#)

[It's big, it's bold - but are the citizens of the Czech capital ready for this? A London-based architect has won the contest to design a national library in his native Prague. But already opposition is brewing...how wonderfully exciting to see stuffy old Prague at last getting ready to see its first excellent building since the 18th century. By Stephen Bayley -- Jan Kaplicky/Future Systems- Guardian \(UK\)](#)

[Big green teaching machine: It has 'research studios', anti-bullying toilets, walls covered in slogans - and is tipped for a top architecture award. Is Westminster Academy the shape of schools to come? By Steve Rose -- Allford Hall Monaghan Morris; Foster + Partners; Wilkinson Eyre; Feilden Clegg Bradley- Guardian \(UK\)](#)

[Koolhaas to design latest Maggie's Centre...in Glasgow...- The Architects' Journal \(UK\)](#)

[The Terrorism Risk Insurance Act: A Federal Backstop of Prevention: The renewal of the Act will provide building owners and the buildings industry with a safety net for reconstruction and recovery after a terrorist attack. By Barbara A. Nadel, FAIA- Buildings.com](#)

[Vancouver's threatened legacy: Recently, some of the region's most historic buildings have fallen victim to the wrecker, smashing to dust an irreplaceable part of a city's soul. Is there any way to save the remaining architectural masterpieces? By Trevor Boddy -- Arthur Erickson; Barry Downs; B.C. Binning; Geoff Massey- Globe and Mail \(Canada\)](#)

[Op-Ed: Deal was broken, history defiled: What's all the fuss about two buildings? Plenty. Many people are wondering what the controversy is concerning the preservation of two buildings at the Convention Center site. Here it is in a nutshell. By Edwin Bronstein and George L. Claflin Jr.- Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

[Madison Square Station? Senator Moynihan's grand vision for a new rail hub may be losing its civic luster. By Karrie Jacobs -- Skidmore, Owings & Merrill \(SOM\); Brisbin Brook Beynon Architects; Foster + Partners- Metropolis Magazine](#)

[Umbrella to cover Robson Square: 'The Clam'...controversial addition to a city landmark...created by Arthur Erickson...a secret project, being fast-tracked by Premier Gordon Campbell himself. Only a select few have yet seen it.- Vancouver Sun](#)

[San Francisco's restored de Young building stunning at street level: As long as you don't look up, the restoration of...building is the architectural feel-good story of the year...addition is so uninspired it almost undoes the good work below. By John King -- Burnham and Root \(1890\); Charles Bloszies; Page & Turnbull \[image\]- San Francisco Chronicle](#)

[New group to revamp Mechanic Theatre: Shalom Baranes Associates...to take over design work on the theater...replaces J.T. Fishman and Associates... By Edward Gunts -- John M. Johansen \(1967\) \[image, links\]- Baltimore Sun](#)

[Unearthing Stone: A forgotten Edward Durrell Stone residence raises the question --](#)

[Is there a more active role to take for the sake of modern preservation? -- Julius Shulman; Edward D. Stone Jr./EDSA; Hicks Stone; Marmol Radziner and Associates \[images\]- Metropolis Magazine](#)

[Unreal Architecture: ...Dallas architecture firm HKS is licensing a popular video game engine to wow potential clients...signals a full-hearted embrace of the technology as a core creative tool for HKS, rather than simply a device for an occasional experiment. \[images, links\]- BusinessWeek](#)

[Call for entries: Flip a Strip Design Competition: new visions for the renovation of the small-scale strip shopping plazas in Scottsdale, Tempe, and Phoenix, Arizona; registration deadline: March 17- Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art \(SMoCA\)](#)

[Call for entries: short films for May 10 Pangea Day worldwide film festival; deadline: February 15- TED \(Technology, Entertainment and Design\)](#)

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