

Today's News - Thursday, January 31, 2008

Color today very green (with some sour grapes): Starting off with how "being any color but white can be a little lonely" and a call for more diversity in mainstream green groups. – Despite the hype, a new study shows businesses are making much of a green dent (though there is some progress). – Mexico City has great potential, but traffic gridlock and lack of plan for urban infrastructure are "blighting the dream." – Dutch architects show the world a floating future. – A big straw bale building in Bristol, while Ecobuild in London will show off strawbale advantages (is that one word or two?). – ASAP: modular prototype to save the planet. – While we're at it, the National Park Service is out to save dark skies for stargazers (and save energy, too). – An investigation begins into how effective the Bilbao Effect really is. – Rybczynski warns not to "count your titanium eggs before they've hatched." – Saffron on what is needed to a Bilbao moment for the Kimmel Center. – For Litt, big plans for a Cleveland hospital "strives for iconic," but doesn't "fire the imagination." – Slatin's (often amusing) take on Lower Manhattan's "energizer developer" and Stern no longer sitting on the sidelines at Ground Zero. – Sour grapes? A young architect vents over the too established "old boys club." – \$5.5 million can get your name on an architecture school - but expect some slings and arrows to head your way.

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[In Oregon and U.S., green groups are mostly white: In the mainstream green movement, being any color but white can be a little lonely...more than one-third of mainstream green groups and one-fifth of green government agencies in the United States don't have a single nonwhite person on their staff, according to a 2004-06 University of Michigan survey.](#)- The Oregonian

[How to diversify environmentalism? The movement's greatest challenge is its own lack of diversity.](#) By Marcelo Bonta/Center for Diversity and the Environment [links]- Grist Magazine

[It's really not that easy being green: Despite the increased hype about companies going green, American business isn't making much of a dent in major environmental problems, according to...GreenBiz.com's State of Green Business 2008 study...](#)- San Francisco Chronicle

[State of Green Business 2008: includes a set of 20 indicators of green business progress, 10 key green business trends of 2007, best books, websites, reports, business initiatives, and other resources of the past year.](#)- GreenBiz.com

[City of opportunity that's going nowhere: Global business is waking up to Mexico City's potential, but traffic gridlocks are blighting the dream...As the city has grown piecemeal...there has never been a co-ordinated plan for urban infrastructure.](#)- The Times (UK)

[Dutch Architects Plan for a Floating Future: ...showing the rest of the world a way of turning adversity into opportunity...and the Dutch government seems willing to try out the scheme.](#) -- Chris Zevenbergen/Dura Vermeer, Koen Olthuis/Waterstudio [images]- National Public Radio (NPR)

[Straw bale building takes shape: finishing touches are being applied to Archimedia, the 820m² Knowle West Media Centre in Bristol...thought to be the largest in Europe to be built using a load bearing straw bale cladding system.](#) -- White Design [images]- Building (UK)

[Strawbale demonstrations at Ecobuild in London, February 26-28: Strawbale constructors find that materials for a house built with straw bales cost about the same as for a conventional timber-frame house but significantly less than brick and block \[and\] are not a fire risk.](#) -- amazonails; Barbara Jones- Green Building Press (UK)

[Built for the Earth and the Pocketbook: A Manhattan architect...combining his modular aspirations with alternative energy technologies...About Saving a Planet, or ASAP...prototype will also serve as his family's new house.](#) -- Laszlo Kiss/Kiss & Zwigard Architects [image]- New York Times

[Lights out for stargazers: National Park scientist Chad Moore discusses NPS Night Sky Team program to preserve darkness: "By using dark sky-friendly lighting and proper illumination levels, you can really make a sizeable reduction in total US electrical use."](#) [links]- Plenty

[Culture and the city: ...a new series investigating the connections between 'culture and urban regeneration' and to pose the question can the arts improve social cohesion? ...a decade of economic growth, combined with investment and infrastructural improvement, has created a renewed sense of civic pride...but how important a role has 'culture' played in that change...?](#)- New Statesman (UK)

[Don't Count Your Titanium Eggs Before They've Hatched: Why architects can't predict the future ...the term architectural avant-garde is an oxymoron...The real question about new buildings should never be "Are they cutting edge?" but "Are they good?"](#) By Witold Rybczynski -- Hadid; Gehry; Nouvel; Herzog & de Meuron; Andreu; Koolhaas; Wright; Mies van der Rohe; Le Corbusier- Slate

[Turning the Kimmel into a pick-up spot? ...just can't seem to get people to visit its iconic home for anything other than scheduled performances...Penn Praxis to study the problems.](#) By Inga Saffron -- Rafael Viñoly Architects- Philadelphia Inquirer

[University Hospitals plans a banal looking cancer center: ...strives for iconic impact. But it isn't distinctive enough to fire the imagination...shows that health-care design in the United States... mastered the functional side of hospitals without providing true originality or a good sense of urban fit. By Steven Litt -- Cannon Design \[images\]- Cleveland Plain Dealer](#)

[The Four Seasons of Silverstein: The Energizer Developer plans an 80-story Four Seasons hotel and condo tower in Loewr Manhattan...The commission is a real prize for Stern, who notes that he has "sat on the sidelines throughout the entire World Trade Center process." -- Robert A.M. Stern Architects- The Slatin Report](#)

[Cleveland architect Kurt Weaver vents over 'the old guys' who dominate local practice: Architecture is known widely as a profession cruel to its young...I suspect many architects in their 30s and 40s... share Weaver's sentiments. But it's rare to hear anyone complain publicly. By Steven Litt- Cleveland Plain Dealer](#)

[Architect makes \\$5.5M donation: Real estate developer, architect and philanthropist David Azrieli has made a donation to the Carleton University school of architecture, which has been renamed the Azrieli School of Architecture.- Ottawa Citizen \(Canada\)](#)

[Critic pans architecture school renaming: Azrieli, who acknowledges previous bad press, called 'unworthy'- Ottawa Citizen \(Canada\)](#)

[High Times in LoDo: As it approaches its 150th anniversary, Denver has become a "Great City" with substantial new housing downtown -- 4240 Architecture; David Adjaye; HOK Sport; ArchiDenver; Arup \[images\]- ArchNewsNow](#)



[-- Asymptote Architecture: Penang Global City Center, Penang, Malaysia](#)
[-- Erick van Egeraat: A.A. Hijmans van den Bergh Medical Faculty, University of Utrecht, the Netherlands](#)

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