

## Today's News - Friday, April 4, 2008

Presidential candidates talk a good talk about playgrounds, but what about urban issues and our crumbling infrastructure, wonders Saffron. – Fears that proposed eco-towns could end up as "eco-slums." – Charges of foul play in scrapping a competition-winning design for Shenzhen sports center. – Hume on contentious plans for huge retail center in Toronto: "A mall by another other name would smell just as bad." – Boddy on the contrasts between Houston, with no city planners, and Vancouver, "home of superstar city planners." – Mexico City as a green pioneer. – A Fort Worth garage that will use "light and sound as architectural solutions to the eternal urban parking problem." – Hawthorne on a supermarket that's about as green as a hybrid SUV. – Nouvel's first forays into London. – Forget Moynihan move - Madison Square Garden makes its own plans (not all are pleased). – Innovative ways planners are harnessing the virtual world. – The "Millennial" generation and technology challenge campus design. – Mid-century modern enthusiasts are actually "castrating" the landscape (shaved palm trees?). – Maya Lin's final memorial will call attention to the environment. – Q&A with Antonelli re: "Design and the Elastic Mind," and her opinion on the state of design. – Rybczynski explores the architecture of Edward Hopper. – Weekend diversions: Heathcote on a "youthful, quirky, sharp show" about London's public spaces. – Adjaye show in Denver is an "immersion into thought and perception," says Chandler. – In Hiroshima, Daniell finds a bit of "uncomfortable irony" in a show about emergency housing. – We couldn't resist: British contractor bans wolf whistles on building sites.

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[Campaigns ignoring city issues: Candidates talk of playgrounds and bike trails. But what of the crumbling infrastructure? Time for a bold vision. By Inga Saffron-](#)  
Philadelphia Inquirer

[Warnings over eco-towns' proposed locations: Councils, town planners and environmental campaigners gave a cautious welcome to yesterday's announcement of 15 proposed eco-towns, warning that some could become "eco-slums" without proper transport and employment provision.-](#) New Civil Engineer (UK)

['Foul play' call over design bids: A decision by the local government here to drop the winning entry in a design contest for a multi-billion-yuan Shenzhen Bay Sports Center has triggered cries of foul play --](#) China Architecture Design & Research Group: AXS Satow [\[images\]](#)- China Daily

[Decision on Eastern Ave. mall will shape city: ...a proposal from SmartCentres to build a huge shopping mall...with parking for 1,900 cars has become so contentious...A mall by another other name would smell just as bad, and be just as inappropriate. By](#) Christopher Hume- Toronto Star

[Free of planners in the land of the free: Houston provides a useful contrast with Vancouver, home of superstar city planners...Houston has no city planners, at least not those all-powerful czars of condo-town we worship... By Trevor Boddy-](#) Globe and Mail (Canada)

[Reclaiming the streets: Joanna Moorhead is surprised to discover that polluted Mexico City has become a green pioneer...What is this, an ecowarrior's dream? ...maybe it's inevitable that the most ambitious initiatives will come from the world's most polluted places.-](#) New Statesman (UK)

[Garage Art: The Fort Worth Convention Center's new parking facility isn't groundbreaking but still great...will use light and sound as architectural solutions to the eternal urban parking problem. --](#) Christopher Janney [\[image\]](#)- Fort Worth Weekly

[The Green Giant Whole Foods' local flagship: the supermarket as hybrid SUV: Somewhere along the way, for both organic grocers and the corporate patrons of green architecture, the line between planet-saving and aggressive marketing became blurred. By](#) Christopher Hawthorne -- KTG Group- Los Angeles Times

[Pritzker prizewinner Nouvel is set in the City: ...first major project in the City of London...1 New Change retail and office development near St Paul's Cathedral...designed with Sidell Gibson Architects...also designing a City office scheme with Foster & Partners at Walbrook Square. \[\\[images\\]\]\(#\)-](#) BD/Building Design (UK)

[Garden Unfurls Its Plan for a Major Renovation: Madison Square Garden executives revealed plans for a \\$500 million, top-to-bottom renovation of the aging arena, including the creation of a sunlit entryway off Seventh Avenue. --](#) Brisbin Brook Beynon Architects [\[image\]](#)- New York Times

[Building Cities in the Virtual World: It's time for Web 2.0...although planning's ultimate goals will always reside in the real world, planners are harnessing this new virtual world in a variety of innovative ways. By](#) Chris Steins and Josh Stephens [\[links\]](#)- Planning Magazine

[Embracing the Millennials' Seamless Embrace of Technology: Campus architects and planners design buildings to stand the test of time...one of the biggest challenges...is continuously adapting to changing technologies, curricula, pedagogy, and enrollment...new ways of interacting in and using space, and is challenging decades-old planning standards. By](#) Mark McVay/SmithGroup- The Chronicle of Higher Education

[More stark than the desert around them: Many midcentury modern enthusiasts are extending the sparseness of home interiors into the garden, and wiping out natural habitat in the process..."This trend toward funky grasses and castrated landscaping is](#)

[a "Let's try to be even more modern!" thing" -- Albert Frey; Les Starks; William Krisel; E. Stewart Williams; John Ormsbee Simonds; Fran Adams; Richard Neutra \[slide show\]- Los Angeles Times](#)

[Maya Lin's earthly concerns: ...known for her memorials wants her final one to call attention to the environment...""What is Missing"...commissioned by the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco... \[slide show\]- Los Angeles Times](#)

[Design Communication for the 22nd Century: Q&A with Paola Antonelli, senior curator at the Museum of Modern Art's Department of Architecture and Design talks about her approach to putting together her latest show, "Design and the Elastic Mind" as well as her opinions on the state of design and its role as communication. \[images\]- Creativity Online](#)

[The Architecture of Edward Hopper: Exploring the painter's buildings, from his famous diner to his cottage on Cape Cod. By Witold Rybczynski \[slide-show essay\]- Slate](#)

[A city that works in spite of itself: "London: Open City" at Somerset House...London has the worst public space of any European city...a celebration...of the work of Design for London...responsible for...co-ordinating architecture and urbanism and ensuring some semblance of intelligence in a city scarred by years of rudderlessness...a youthful, quirky, sharp show. By Edwin Heathcote- Financial Times \(UK\)](#)

[Immersion into a vision: Adjaye's ideas in photos, models surrounded by museum he designed: "David Adjaye: Making Public Buildings"...you are surrounded by his first U.S. venture into public buildings even as you are studying others. It's an immersion into thought and perception. By Mary Voelz Chandler- Rocky Mountain News \(Denver\)](#)

["Shelter x Survival: Alternative Homes for Fantastic Lives" at the Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art...There is an uncomfortable irony in viewing ideas about emergency housing within an art museum...much of the work on display here may be rough, but nonetheless admits a degree of dignity and delight to life in otherwise unbearable circumstances. By Thomas Daniell -- Kyohei Sakaguchi; Shigeru Ban; Misako Ichimura/Tetsuo Ogawa; Tsuyoshi Ozawa; Tatsumi Masuoka, etc. \[images\]- Artscape \(Japan\)](#)

[George Wimpey bans the wolf whistle: Contractor fears outdated tradition puts off women visiting sites- Building \(UK\)](#)

[Notably Nouvel: 2008 Pritzker Architecture Prize Laureate: This year's recipient will be saying "merci" in Washington, DC. \[images\]- ArchNewsNow.com](#)



[Herzog & de Meuron: CaixaForum Madrid, Spain](#)

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