

Today's News - Thursday, May 22, 2008

- Architects and engineers in China condemn "tofu buildings."
- An in-depth look at how Haifa found itself in a "liquidation sale."
- Brussat says "thinking small might be more lucrative than thinking large" when planning for Providence's new Old Harbor District.
- He applauds three European mayors who have "taken brave stands against modern architecture."
- Russia bitten by museum bug, but perhaps not such a good thing.
- Rogers says U.K. eco-town plans are a big mistake.
- Public input sought for revamped LEED 2009.
- Providence's first Sustainable Housing Design competition includes an incentive system to encourage developers to use the designs.
- Szenasy on design competitions that reach for relevance.
- Fenway Park green renovation is battling a thousand.
- Wildlife groups trying to trump Trump's £1bn Scottish golf scheme.
- Saffron challenges Philly to save Boyd Theater.
- Hadid's "Lilium Tower" for Warsaw.
- An eyeful of Asymptote's tower in Abu Dhabi.
- Vinoly designs NYC's first green police station.
- Perkins+Will tapped for \$1 billion NYC police academy.
- Rybczynski waxes poetic about symmetry.
- Anderton talks to the pro's about how new technologies are changing our lives, and how designers can help.
- Q&A with OMA's de Graaf on the Delft University fire, his plans for the Commonwealth Institute and why Boris is good news for White City.
- Šrámková is the "first woman of Czech architecture."

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[Pressure grows in China for nationwide audit of major structures: The call follows widespread condemnation of the "tofu buildings" - that may look fine but are inside as soft as tofu - that buried thousands of people in Sichuan. -- Wu Hua/Dada Architecture and Design Company-](#) The Australian

[Bay watch: How did Israel's third-largest city find itself in a "liquidation sale" ...students who are studying architecture in Haifa today say that their dream is to design the restaurants of Tel Aviv tomorrow.](#) - Ha'aretz (Israel)

[New Old Harbor District: One important decision will be whether to divide the land into bigger or smaller parcels...Reducing the scale of development would open the district to a greater range of developers and a more interesting variety of uses...thinking small might be more lucrative than thinking large...](#) By David Brussat- Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

[Mayors shake modernists' cage: ...at least foreign ones...That's good news for how tomorrow's world might look. Maybe the future won't look like Blade Runner after all...In Rome, Prague and London, three European mayors have taken brave stands against modern architecture. By David Brussat -- Richard Meier, Kaplicky/Future Systems; Ernő Goldfinger-](#) Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

[The Pushkin Museum Plans: A Questionable Expansion: Russia has been bitten by the museum expansion bug....Foster's plan...calls for nothing less than the creation of a museum city, with the entire area turned into a pedestrian zone with gardens and tree-lined boulevards.](#) By Konstatin Akinsha- Wall Street Journal

[Rogers attacks eco-towns as a big mistake: ...comments reflect the extent that prime minister Gordon Brown -- who personally backs eco-towns - has departed from the principles espoused by Rogers' Urban Task Force...](#)- BD/Building Design (UK)

[USGBC Seeks Public Input on LEED 2009: U.S. Green Building Council is giving the public a look at the first fruits of its sweeping revision of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design \(LEED\) program...weigh in until June 22. \[link\]-](#) Architectural Record

[City promotes green design for housing: ...winners of Providence's first Sustainable Housing Design competition...An incentive system should encourage developers to use the designs. -- Christine West/Kite Architects; Robert Swinburne; Ron Henderson-](#) Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

[Invited to the Table: When design competitions reach for relevance, they can lead to discussions that move our thinking forward...I see them as harbingers of a time when designers take their places at the decision-making tables in corporate boardrooms or in government offices. By Susan S. Szenasy -- Portland's Integrating Habitats; EDRA/Places Awards; Next Generation prize-](#) Metropolis Magazine

[Monster of a project: Sox, architects save, add to beloved building: ...welcome to Fenway Park...renovation is still in play but it's in the eighth inning with a good lead. -- Janet Marie Smith; Dagostino, Izzo & Quirk \[images, links\]-](#) Boston Herald

[Wildlife groups trump £1bn Scottish golf scheme: Environmentalists propose alternative layout to protect sand dunes from Donald Trump's planned golf resort -- Mike Wood-](#) Building (UK)

[Boyd Theater's loss would be a new shame of the city: Philadelphia should be feeling](#)

[properly chagrined that it took the National Trust for Historic Preservation to point out that the endangered theater is an architectural gem worth hanging onto with all our municipal might.](#) By Inga Saffron- Philadelphia Inquirer

[Zaha Hadid unveils plan for Warsaw skyscraper: ...a 240-meter \(790-foot\) high residential "Lilium Tower" ...design based on a fleur de lys motif.](#) [image]- AFP

[Construction starts on Abu Dhabi's Strata Tower: ...160m residential tower will be the tallest building on Al Raha Beach development... -- Asymptote; Arup; Atelier Ten](#) [images]- Building (UK)

[Unveiled: The 121st Police Precinct Stationhouse: Rafael Vinoly Architects designs NYC's first green police station](#) [image]- The Architect's Newspaper (NYC)

[Architects Selected for New Police Academy: ...a high-tech 30-acre campus in College Point...could cost as much as \\$1 billion. -- Perkins+Will; Michael Fieldman Architect-](#) New York Times

[Mirror Images: Why is symmetry so satisfying? Du Sautoy's "Symmetry: A Journey Into the Patterns of Nature" ...a reminder that symmetry has always been an important part of architecture...Yet today's expressionist fashion demands architectural asymmetry at any cost. That's a shame...Without occasional symmetry, all those angles and squiggles start to look the same.](#) By Witold Rybczynski -- Gropius; Mies van der Rohe; Wright; Le Corbusier; Philip Johnson; McKim, Mead, and White; Saarinen; Foster; Piano; Libeskind; SANAA; Gehry- Slate

[DnA/Frances Anderton: Design and the Elastic Mind: New Uses for Old Materials: New technologies are changing our lives so fast it's dizzying. How can designers help? -- Paola Antonelli; Greg Lynn; etc.-](#) KCRW.org (Los Angeles)

[BD speaks to OMA partner Reinier de Graaf: ...on the Delft University fire, his plans for the Commonwealth Institute and why Boris is good news for White City-](#) BD/Building Design (UK)

[Diamond in the rough: Alena Šrámková is a driving force in Czech architecture...regarded as the country's "first woman of architecture."](#)- The Prague Post

[Break, Pivot, Fuse: Conundrums of Shifting Space: The Daly Street Lofts by Joseph Giovannini: Live/work lofts take on a new life - temporarily - as experimental exhibition spaces open to the public for the next two weekends.](#) [images]- ArchNewsNow



[-- Moshe Safdie and Associates: Marina Bay Sands, Singapore](#)
[-- Installation & Exhibition: James Turrell Skyscape, Pomona College, Claremont, California](#)
[-- Rafael Viñoly Architects: UCLA NanoSystems Institute \(CNSI\), Los Angeles](#)

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