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Architectural imperialism: Beijing's rapid modernisation presents a difficulty: should western-style development come at all costs or should progress be held back in the name of historic architecture? It worries me that many fast-developing cities across the world are being treated as mere architectural playgrounds of tomorrow for the leading lights of design. By Mark Hooper [links]- Guardian (UK)

Sea change: planning the Israel Navy's new port in Haifa's Bat Galim area... a polynomial...all the hopes of restoring to the city what the English took from it...the opening of the harbor and the creation of a sea front...are being dashed...What accounts for the fact that a project of this scale is proceeding so quietly in environmentally-conscious Haifa? -- Greenstein Har-Gil Landscape Architecture- Ha'aretz (Israel)

MI5 asks architects to keep plans secret:...by publishing detailed security measures in online planning applications, architects and planning authorities could be giving terrorists a 'head start.' The Architects' Journal (UK)

Celebrity architects build on name: Designers making a difference to T.O. skyline...if the goal is idiosyncratic architecture, couldn't developers hire local talent and encourage them to go crazy? -- Daniel Libeskind; Will Alsop; Robert A.M. Stern; Architects Alliance; Quadrangle; KPMB; Kohn Pedersen Fox (KPF); Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Yansong Ma- National Post (Canada)

An eye on the street: What's ailing our residential streets? Urban designer Benjamin Grant examines the building-street interface, and its impact on these essential public spaces...historic patterns of San Francisco's residential neighborhoods don't offer especially good models for livable streets. [images]

by Benjamin Grant- San Francisco Planning + Urban Research (SPUR)

Key London transport schemes go off the rails: Transport for London (TFL) has thrown the future of two of the capital's key design-led projects into doubt...John McAslan + Partners' Oxford Street tram proposals and the much-heralded bus shelter design competition...none of the nine shortlisted proposals...were good enough to be taken forward. -- Ian Ritchie; Conran & Partners; Lacock Gullam- The Architects' Journal (UK)

New bridge competition now... has erupted again this week after the Royal Institute of British Architects launched another design competition that excludes engineer-led teams. -- RIBA; Institution of Structural Engineers (ICE)- New Civil Engineer (UK)

Go-ahead for £250m bonanza of Liverpool city projects: St John's Centre can look forward to the £100m overhaul...A 400-room hotel complex...will be built metres away at Lime Street station. And one of the city's landmark Victorian dock systems was also granted permission for a huge renovation. -- Thinking Space- Liverpool Echo (UK)

Preservationists once bit, twice shy, over Boyd bill: The problem is that Philadelphia's historic preservation laws are famous for not protecting interiors...Having waited two decades for a law on historic interiors, Philadelphia can surely wait three more months to make sure it's done right. But not one minute more. By Inga Saffron- Philadelphia Inquirer

Green design for buildings to become mandatory: The Jakarta administration is...drastic green regulations for future and existing structures...Architect and urbanologist Ridwan Kamil said...energy-saving designs were urgent for the densely populated capital as it had little space for green areas.- The Jakarta Post
Op-Ed: Let's do more than scratch the surface on sustainability: Truly affordable houses are cheap to run, not just cheap to buy... the average New Zealand house is dear to run - and many being built today show no signs of improving on our dismal performance in this regard. By Nick Collins/Beacon Pathway- New Zealand Herald

eyear2100: ABC News is asking you to help answer perhaps the most important question of our time: What will our world be like over the next one hundred years if we don't act now to save our troubled planet? - year2100

Ahead of the herd: Norman Foster redesigns the elephant house at a Denmark zoo; The fact that Foster + Partners created this tough and strangely pre-eroded domain is a bolt from the blue... How refreshingly surreal, then, to juxtapose the practice's "brand" architecture with issues such as the drainage of copious amounts of pachydermic urine through sand... By Jay Merrick [images] - Independent (UK)

Architect chosen for College of Creative Arts Center: ...challenge is to design a space that is both iconic and captures the creativity of the arts. -- Michael Maltzan - San Francisco State University

Deadline reminder: World Architecture Festival Awards - June 20 - World Architecture Festival

Deadline reminder: Call for entries: Lifecycle Building Challenge 2: Ideas to improve materials reuse by examining opportunities throughout the entire lifecycle of a building from design to deconstruction or adaptation and component recovery; deadline: July 31 (U.S.) - Lifecycle Building Challenge

COTE: Call For Whitepapers...topics that relate to the COTE Measures of Sustainable Design; deadline: July 1st - AIA Committee on the Environment (COTE)


SEGD 2008 Design Awards -- Debra Nichols Design; Electroland; Gensler; Pentagram; Jiyeon Song; Studio/lab; Vanderbyl Design; emery studio; F!RSTdesign; etc. [links to images] - Society for Environmental Graphic Design (SEGD)

Winners in the Tenth Annual, 2008 International Berkeley Undergraduate Prize for Architectural Design Excellence Competition [links] - Berkeley Prize

Shigeru Ban Pavilion Could Fetch Upward of $1 Million at Auction: This Saturday, Sotheby’s will auction the 1,991-square-foot, portable Artek Pavilion... [images] - Architectural Record

Words That Build: Playing with the Flow of Communication - Tip #3: Use language that playfully enhances the flow of design intentions between you and your client. By Norman Weinstein - ArchNewsNow

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