

## Today's News - Monday, July 7, 2008

A rather contentious news day:

- A review of (mostly German) press coverage of the architecture and morality debate.
- Nadel examines the cost of terrorism at Ground Zero, how it got that way, and why the implications are "so critical to the safety and economy of thriving cities and nations."
- Loeffler looks at what U.S. embassy designs say about America.
- What the critics are getting wrong about the new U.S. embassy in Berlin.
- Berlusconi takes on Libeskind - and vice versa - in a war of words and innuendo (tsk tsk).
- Is modern architecture still all stumps and carbuncles? Scruton says yes; de Botton says no.
- Malaysia's architectural association strikes back at criticism.
- The critic stands by his words.
- Perhaps they should all head to Singapore this Wednesday for Principal Voices debate: Does good design mean design for good?
- Ai Weiwei thinks he's been misunderstood, and doesn't think architecture is such a big deal.
- U.K. delays eco-town design competition due to "mounting hostility" to proposed developments.
- Balmy/not-so-balmy days in the Caribbean: Branson plans world's most eco-friendly resort. -- Big architectural egos may be the least of the problems for another starchitect-studded project.
- Bernstein puts all the pieces together re: Trump's adventures in Scotland.
- UNESCO grants Dresden one year reprieve: will lose its World Heritage listing if it goes ahead with construction of Elbe River bridge.
- Some brighter notes: Saffron says Philadelphia is finally "getting over its resistance to trade among the trees" with "two gracious pavilions devoted to the gentle art of drinking coffee and wasting time."
- Perkins+Will acquires The Environments Group.
- The "wobble factor" that won the ultimate jelly architect accolade (see and bid on all for charity).

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[Blueprint for power: The German feuilletons spent the spring debating the relationship between architecture and morality. -- Herzog & de Meuron; Albert Speer, Jr.; Christoph Ingenhoven; Deyan Sudjic; Koolhaas; Wolf Prix/Coop Himmelb\(l\)au; Libeskind; PTW Architects; Meinhard von Gerkan/von Gerkan Marg/gmp; Ai Weiwei \[images, links\]](#)- Sign and Sight (Germany)

[The Capital Costs of Terrorism: Paying the Price for Public Redevelopment: The astronomical cost of rebuilding the World Trade Center site has left New Yorkers facing an \\$18 billion redevelopment project...how we got to this point and why the far-reaching impact of national and building security is so critical to the safety and economy of thriving cities and nations. By Barbara A. Nadel, FAIA](#)- Buildings.com

[The Rows On Embassy Rows: New U.S. Embassies from Berlin to Beijing stir controversy—but critics miss the point...What U.S. Embassy Designs Say About America. By Jane Loeffler -- Eero Saarinen; Edward Durell Stone; Josep Lluís Sert; Richard Neutra; Marcel Breuer; Moore Ruble Yudell; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill \(SOM\) \[slide show\]](#)- Newsweek

[The Embassy Germans Love to Hate: German critics are projecting their feelings about America onto what is actually a passable piece of architecture...there's no trace of a bunker feeling. -- Moore Ruble Yudell \[images, links\]](#)- Der Spiegel (Germany)

['Not manly enough': Berlusconi's verdict on Libeskind work: ...made an off-the-cuff remark about design for the tower, part of the Fiera Milano site...Some speculate that the Prime Minister might reconsider the planning permission. -- Hadid; Isozaki](#)- Independent (UK)

[Was Prince Charles right — is modern architecture still all stumps and carbuncles? Most buildings are the creation of talentless people just doing their jobs, says Roger Scruton; but Alain de Botton warns of succumbing to kitsch nostalgia](#)- BD/Building Design (UK)

[PAM doing a lot towards nation-building: We appreciate Prof Tajuddin's view on what true Malaysian architecture should be...we would appreciate if he could refrain from making unsubstantiated sweeping statements that are damaging to the profession...](#)- The Star (Malaysia)

[Organising seminars is not enough: I stand by my statements based on my 20 years of experience watching what PAM \(Pertubuhan Arkitek Malaysia\) did, or more importantly did not do but should have done. By Mohamad Tajuddin Mohamad Rasdi](#)- The Star (Malaysia)

[Does good design mean design for good? What plans and designs will come from the second Principal Voices debate in Singapore on July 9? -- Cameron Sinclair/Architecture for Humanity; Peter Head; Milton Tan/Design Singapore; Moses Wong/Temasek Design School; Aw Kah Peng/EDB Singapore; Sim Van der Ryn \[links\]](#)- CNN International

[Cultural revolutionary: Ai Weiwei's comments have, he thinks, been widely misunderstood. 'People say this guy who designed the stadium, now he hates it. But it's not true. The product we designed is a perfect one'...Ai doesn't think architecture is such a big deal. -- Herzog & de Meuron; Fake](#)- Guardian (UK)

[Government delays eco-town design competition...by at least a year amid mounting hostility to the 10 proposed developments.](#) - BD/Building Design (UK)

[Branson plans world's most eco-friendly resort: ...said his sun-soaked island properties in...the Caribbean - with its wealth of sun, wind and waves - can lead the globe in renewable alternatives to carbon fuels.](#) -- Ken Kao/Kao Design Group- Sydney Morning Herald

[Amid allegations of corruption...an eye-witness report from the Turks and Caicos Islands: James Pallister reports back from...key tourist development \[Dellis Cay\]...architectural all-stars will have to carry on with their project against a backdrop of allegations...Big egos may be the least of the project's PR problems.](#) -- Zaha Hadid; David Chipperfield; Chad Oppenheim; Kengo Kuma; Shigeru Ban; Carl Eitensperger; Piero Lissoni- The Architects' Journal (UK)

[Trump's Adventures in the Land of Golf: ...project for a golf resort on the northeast coast of Scotland, near Aberdeen, hangs in balance as environmentalists say the rugged coastline should be left undisturbed.](#) By Fred A. Bernstein- New York Times

[UNESCO Grants Dresden One Year Reprieve: ...has made it clear that Dresden will lose its World Heritage listing if it goes ahead with construction of a bridge over the Elbe River. \[slide show\]](#)- Der Spiegel (Germany)

[Adding coffee to the culture: ...development sagas of Benjamin Franklin Parkway and Independence Mall are awfully similar...the appearance this summer of two gracious pavilions devoted to the gentle art of drinking coffee and wasting time suggests that the city is getting over its resistance to trade among the trees.](#) By Inga Saffron -- Laurie C. Olin (1998); Erdy McHenry Architecture; Cope Linder Architects [images]- Philadelphia Inquirer

[The big get bigger: Perkins+Will swallows The Environments Group, an interiors firm.](#) By Blair Kamin- Chicago Tribune

[Anna Liu wobbles her way to jelly architecture win: Tonkin Liu founder has beaten Foster + Partners, Will Alsop and Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners to bag the prestigious ultimate jelly architect accolade...It cleared the field in the "wobble factor" category... \[link to images\]](#)- The Architects' Journal (UK)

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