

Today's News - Wednesday, July 30, 2008

- Yang minces no words about "China's Olympic syndrome" and how it uses architecture "to mask real urban problems."
- A lengthy Q&A with Herzog re: working in China (the Bird's Nest is "a type of Trojan horse"); HafenCity; and what H&deM will look like in 2030.
- Old Kabul rising like a phoenix from its own ashes.
- Plan Baton Rouge heads into phase 2, and the 8 "common values all successful downtowns embrace."
- Design for London to be absorbed into the London Development Agency to work on projects that will affect "real change" (it wasn't already?).
- Hume on Toronto's insistence to be a city of islands separated by urban highways.
- Omaha offers a streetscape handbook that could be a model for cities everywhere.
- Bell talks designing sustainable buildings.
- Take your pick of two takes on Gehry's troubled King Alfred project in Hove.
- A proposal to save 400 houses in east Manchester from complete demolition that would be "environmentally, socially, and economically wrong."
- What the next Koolhaas/Prada collaboration will look like.
- Design team picked for New Zealand's Otago Museum.
- Forbes names the world's most powerfully economic cities (some surprises).
- Restoring NYC's second-oldest building requires some real sleuthing.
- It's not too early to start gearing up for 2008 National Park(ing) Day.

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[China's Olympic Syndrome: Rampant paranoia threatens to make the 2008 games an act of damaging self-deception...Above all, what I blame most on the Olympics is how it implicates architecture in the fabrication of this whole spectacle, and even uses it to mask real urban problems confronting Beijing. By Andrew Yang -- Koolhaas/OMA; Herzog & de Meuron; PTW Architects-](#) The Architect's Newspaper

["Only an Idiot Would Have Said No": Jacques Herzog \[says\] his arena is a subversive place where people can meet in locations not easily monitored by officials. He also defends his decision to build for a regime criticized for human rights violations.- Der Spiegel \(Germany\)](#)

[Old Kabul is rising from its own ashes: Workers rebuild the crumbling walls of the Murad Khane district's historic buildings...rising like a phoenix from its own ashes. -- Turquoise Mountain Foundation; Sayed Majidi-](#) Victoria Times Colonist (Canada)

[Eight is enough: Plan Baton Rouge, the downtown master plan led by New Urbanist Andres Duany, turns 10 years old this year...Alex Krieger of Chan Krieger Sieniewicz will lead the second phase ...believes there are about eight common values all successful downtowns embrace.- BusinessReport.com \(Louisiana\)](#)

[Design for London to be absorbed into the London Development Agency \(LDA\): ...department will continue to be run by current director Peter Bishop...The change will mean that some of the smaller projects that DfL was working on will be wound up, with greater focus being placed on projects that will affect 'real change'.](#) The Architects' Journal (UK)

[Planners' credo: Four wheels good, two legs bad: Instead of rivers, we have roads...As a result, 21st century Toronto is being turned into a city of islands, a series of barely connected neighbourhoods separated by multi-lane urban highways...Should the waterfront be for cars or people? The answer may be obvious, but that won't make getting there any easier. By Christopher Hume-](#) Toronto Star

[Omaha Streetscapes Project Offers Civic Model: Wide-reaching collaboration produces definitive guide—and a City Council endorsement...handbook could jump-start similar efforts in other cities... \[link\]- LAND Online / American Society of Landscape Architects \(ASLA\)](#)

[Designing sustainable buildings: New York's Centre of Architecture/AlANY Director, Rick Bell talks about designing sustainable buildings. \[video\]- CNN](#)

[Developer claims Gehry could return to troubled King Alfred scheme in Hove: "I think Frank would appreciate having the chance to go back to the scheme and tweak it the way he would want it to be."](#)- The Architects' Journal (UK)

[The King is dead! Gehry backed out and now so has investor, ING – the King Alfred project is dead. ...also involves architects HOK sport and CZWG but even their involvement seems shaky...](#)- World Architecture News (UK)

[Save proposes alternative to Manchester homes demolition: Mark Hines Architects has teamed up with Save on a proposal aimed at stopping the demolition of 400 houses in east Manchester...and replaced with a scheme by PRP Architects...planned demolition was "environmentally, socially and economically wrong"...](#)  
[images]- BD/Building Design (UK)

[Prada's Plans: What does the next collaboration between Rem Koolhaas and Miuccia Prada look like? The world is about to find out. -- Office for Metropolitan Architecture \(OMA\) \[image\]-](#) Artinfo

[Dunedin firm McCoy & Wixon Architects wins design contract for Otago Museum: ...\\$24.6 million redevelopment of the Southland Museum and Art Gallery...McCulloch Architects...local liaison.](#)- The Southland Times (New Zealand)

[World's Most Economically Powerful Cities: If you picked New York or Tokyo, you'd be wrong...it's fast-growing London that tops our list... \[links\]-](#) Forbes

[Sagging Bowne House in Flushing, Queens Gets Rehap: Recalls Quaker Defiance in Dutch New York: ...New York's second-oldest building -- dating back to 1661...restorers will need to do some sleuthing... -- Jan Hird Pokorny Associates \[images\]-](#) Bloomberg News

[2008 National Park\(ing\) Day is Friday, September 19: an opportunity to celebrate parks in cities and promote the need for more parks by creating temporary public parks in public parking spaces.-](#)  
Trust for Public Land



[-- John McAslan + Partners: Stanislavsky Center, Stanislavsky Theater, Moscow, Russia](#)  
[-- Book: Writing and Seeing Architecture by Christian de Portzamparc & Philippe Sollers](#)

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