

Today's News - Monday, August 4, 2008

- Countdown to the Beijing Olympics: Hawthorne x 2: Western architects' "dramatic role as advertisements for the power and ubiquity of the state"; and the "quasi-Orwellian turn" of primary design credit being given to local firms.
- Heathcote sits down with H&deM: "Neither smiles much, although the humor is there in their architectural chutzpah."
- Kamin on Beijing's "wow-architecture" and why Chicago's 2016 Olympic bid will be different.
- Sizing up Shanghai: Kennicott finds "there's almost too much to take in."
- Qingyun Ma on Shanghai skyscrapers: "Most of them are so superbly ugly that they're exciting...If they're ugly, they'll be torn down sooner" (and "much of Western architectural education is wrong").
- East Darling Harbour's winning architects launch a stinging attack for government's "pandering to developers by 'bulking up and dumbing down' their plans."
- Dyckhoff on the latest grand design to inject new life into a British town - in primetime: "It's good for planning to be shown in all its gory detail."
- Hume on "cities of the future" and his hope that Toronto will have the time to catch up.
- Rural communities need long-term planning, too.
- An eyeful of Zaha's Singapore towers (might she be channeling Corbu?).
- Russell gives a (mostly) thumbs-up to new "fishnet tower" plans for NYC's South Street Seaport.
- Farrell bags first New Zealand job.
- Heathcote has high praise for London's 7/7 memorial design.
- Photiadis on the vision behind the New Acropolis Museum.
- An international shortlist of 30 for the BSI Swiss Architectural Award for under-50s.
- An eyeful of shortlisted designs for NYC's CityRack bicycle rack design competition.
- In protest at plans to mine a sacred mountain in India, an to demolish St Paul's.
- 2008 European Architecture Students Assembly set to convene.

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[Beijing's building boom, driven by the Olympics, mixes daring design with a totalitarian theme: Yet Western architects play a dramatic role...as advertisements for the power and ubiquity of the state.](#) By Christopher Hawthorne -- Koolhaas/Scheeren/Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA); Foster + Partners; Paul Andreu; Herzog & de Meuron; Albert Speer Jr.- Los Angeles Times

[Chinese architects the winners in Games: For the most part, Olympics planners opted for frugal, locally produced designs...sort of quasi-Orwellian turn...has begun to give primary design credit for the Bird's Nest to the local architects...In other cases, Western designers are keen to excise themselves.](#) By Christopher Hawthorne -- Beijing Architecture Research Institute; Herzog & De Meuron; PTW; Sasaki Associates- Los Angeles Times

[Men in the News: Jacques Herzog and Pierre de Meuron: Neither smiles much, although the humour is there in their architectural chutzpah...virtually unique in their architectural experimentation.](#) By Edwin Heathcote- Financial Times (UK)

[Behind Beijing's new icons: How what we see on TV will be different than what Chicago wants to build for the 2016 Olympics...Why build new icons that could become white elephants once the Games are done when your cityscape already is filled with top-drawer buildings?](#) By Blair Kamin -- Herzog & de Meuron; PTW; Adrian Smith; Ben Wood; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Jeanne Gang- Chicago Tribune

[Sizing Up a Mega-City: The Olympics Will Draw the World's Eyes to China. In Shanghai, There's Almost Too Much to Take In...a cynical despair begins to seep into rhetoric of Western urbanism, which simply can't compete with what is happening in China.](#) By Philip Kennicott -- Johannes Dell/AS&P architects; Ma Yansong; Zhang Lei [video link]- Washinton Post

[Shanghai: A city built on impermanence -- and that's OK: "Most of them are so superbly ugly that they're exciting." That's what Qingyun Ma \[said\] when I asked him what he thought of this city's remarkable explosion of skyscrapers..."If they're ugly, they'll be torn down sooner" -- MADA s.p.a.m.- Los Angeles Times](#)

[Hungrier Mile ruins prize site: In a stinging attack on the State Government, the architects who won a design competition for East Darling Harbour \[Barangaroo\] have accused it of pandering to developers by "bulking up and dumbing down" their](#)

[plans... -- Philip Thalís/Paul Berkemeier/Jane Irwin \[link to design team's protest\]- Sydney Morning Herald](#)

[Kevin McCloud's big town plan for Castleford: ...latest grand design is to inject new life into the town...It's good for planning to be shown in all its gory detail. Castleford reveals how darn hard it is to get anything done...Recent attempts...to reform it have focused on speeding up major infrastructure projects, rather than creating a planning culture... By Tom Dyckhoff- The Times \(UK\)](#)

[The future out of reach for city fearful of change: ...nothing has inspired more words than the advent of a number of "cities of the future." When the future does finally arrive in Toronto, we can only hope we'll have time to catch up. By Christopher Hume- Toronto Star](#)

[Rural communities need long-term planning says expert: Development is all around the Peace County, but one man warns development without a longterm plan can hurt...stressed the importance of building communities, not isolation. -- Avi Friedman- Peace Country Sun \(Canada\)](#)

[Zaha Hadid unveils seven Singapore towers: £1.1 billion project, called Farrer Road, is located on an 83,500m² site and includes seven 36-storey towers and 12 villas. \[images\]- The Architects' Journal \(UK\)](#)

[New Fishnet Tower Lures Life Into Frayed South Street Seaport: The pier and the historic district, no longer struggling in isolation, will energize each other. Review by James S. Russell -- SHoP: Field Operations \[image, links\]- Bloomberg News](#)

[Terry Farrell bags first New Zealand job: ...has seen off the likes of Frank Gehry, Foster + Partners, Gensler and SOM to land a major masterplanning project in Auckland- The Architects' Journal \(UK\)](#)

[A subtle, thoughtful and powerful response to bombings: ...a forest of stainless steel columns representing the 52 victims in a hauntingly abstract yet instantly legible manner. By Edwin Heathcote -- Carmody Groarke; Arup; Antony Gormley- Financial Times \(UK\)](#)

[Taking architecture to the next level: Architect Michael Photiadis talks about the vision behind the New Acropolis Museum's glass, marble and concrete -- Bernard Tschumi\]- Athens News \(Greece\)](#)

[Adjaye and Heatherwick are only UK names shortlisted \[among 30\] to win BSI Swiss Architectural Award for under-50s...whose schemes show environmental sensitivity. -- Richard Francis-Jones; Sean Godsell; Rick Joy; Mansilla & Tuñón; Francisco and Manuel Aires Mateus; Office dA; Wang Shu: etc.- Building \(UK\)](#)

[CityRack bicycle rack design competition finalists announced -- Andrew Lang/Harry Dobbs; BaroniValeriani architetti; beetlelab; COCOON; Francis Anthony Bitonti \(FADarch\); Ignacio Ciocchini; MillerRuggiero; Next Phase Studios; Tim Kirkby; Stephan Jaklitsch Architects \[images\]- Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum](#)

[Application to demolish St Paul's: ActionAid in protest at plans by a British firm to mine sacred Niyamgiri mountain in India. - BBC](#)

[EASA 2008: It's just a matter of days before the annual European Architecture Students Assembly convenes in Ireland August 9 - 11 \[links\]- Archiseek \(Ireland\)](#)

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