

Today's News - Tuesday, August 5, 2008

- Weinstein's Words That Build Tip #5 includes our favorite new word (that's really not new): "beautility."
- Hawthorne continues his series on China; this time he takes on ethics, moral, and environmental issues facing foreign architects.
- Ouroussoff on the Bird's Nest: a "vision of the stadium as a gigantic social organism, rather than as a machine for mass hypnosis" and the architects' plans for the building's future (shopping mall, anyone?).
- Can the Gulf really buy culture? - Dyckhoff takes on eco-town nay-sayers (they're not wrong about everything).
- The chief executive of U.K.'s National Housing Federation takes on Germaine Greer and those who think eco-houses are going to be ugly.
- Stahel offers a fresh look at the cradle-to-cradle approach to building sustainability.
- The Transition Movement offers a guide to create "transition towns" weaned off oil.
- Rawsthorn on Starck's goal to "introduce everybody to ecology," and his newest adventure: his Democratic Ecology products.
- Bernstein wonders if American's are really ready for green hotels.
- A Filipino scientist invents construction panel made from chicken feathers. - New affordable housing projects in Boston "defy the tacky stereotype of government-subsidized housing."
- The fate of Baltimore's Brutalist Mechanic Theatre is still up in the air: landmarking would add a layer of design review the owners don't want to go through. - Mecanoo wins big in Birmingham (a big surprise to many).
- An eyeful of Studio Pei-Zhu's design for a most unusual museum in China.
- A shortlist of four for \$1 billion Zorlu Center in Istanbul.
- Q&A with Enrique Norton re: his retrospective in Monterey, Mexico.
- Rockwell is working hard to make children's play really fun.
- Merrick on what you get when you cross Hadid with Lagerfeld: "A handbag-inspired portable pavilion, of course" (and perhaps a new portrait of the starchitect?).
- Kundig exposes materials to time, and uses time itself as a material.
- Shigeru Ban's hour-long Franzen Lecture.
- Bangalore architects transform a defunct jail into Freedom Park: no bushes trimmed to resemble elephants, but 6 acres for protestors and rallies.
- A traveling show of New Zealand architecture needs money to stay on the road.
- We couldn't resist: a Baywatch babe building a green hotel in Abu Dhabi (don't forget Pitt's doing the same in Dubai).

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[WORDS THAT BUILD: Respecting Key Words as Materials for Building Durable Structures: Tip #5: Recognize the key vocabulary shaping your professional practice and share those keywords with your clients. By Norman Weinstein- ArchNewsNow](#)

[Ethics' place in China's building boom: Opportunities abound for foreign architects, as well as moral and environmental issues. By Christopher Hawthorne -- Koolhaas/Scheeren/OMA; Herzog & de Meuron; Libeskind; Ai Weiwei; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill \(SOM\)- Los Angeles Times](#)

[An Olympic Stadium Worth Remembering: ...lives up to its aspiration as a global landmark...vision of the stadium as a gigantic social organism, rather than as a machine for mass hypnosis, is underscored by the architects' plans for the building's future. By Nicolai Ouroussoff -- Herzog & de Meuron \[slide show\]- New York Times](#)

[Testament to progress atrophies after Games: Athens Olympic venues suffer from lack of long-range planning. Chicago should take note...The lingering question, of course, is whether the impact of having the Games justified the enormous cost...- Chicago Tribune](#)

[Art and architecture in the Middle East: Oil-rich Gulf sheikhs hope to lure art-lovers with a host of glittering new museums - but can culture really be bought? The Museum of Islamic Art, in Doha...might just be the best new museum or gallery building anywhere. -- I.M. Pei; Nouvel; Hadid; Foster- The Times \(UK\)](#)

[Eco-towns: a design for life: They could be the answer to our housing and carbon-footprint problems, so why are people opposed to new towns? We need to improve existing cities and housing urgently and build eco-towns. By Tom Dyckhoff- The Times \(UK\)](#)

[Put away your prejudices - ecohomes are not ugly: These houses don't all look like space stations - they're as varied as the local areas they serve, says David Orr/National Housing Federation- Guardian \(UK\)](#)

[Cradle to Cradle: A Study in Durability and Adaptability: ...sustainability research expert Walter Stahel offers a fresh look at the cradle-to-cradle approach to building sustainability. -- William](#)

[McDonough: Michael Braungart- Green Building Insider](#)

[A Guide to Making the Transition Away From Oil: Through the Transition movement, Rob Hopkins has helped to set up dozens of "transition towns" in England, New Zealand, Australia...establishing resilience, or the ability of a place to endure and absorb shocks... \[video links\]- The Chronicle of Higher Education](#)

[Philippe Starck is tilting toward windmills: ...developing cheap, attractive, energy-saving products to "introduce everybody to ecology." The first of his Democratic Ecology products...a miniature roof-top windmill...there are sound reasons for taking his product seriously. By Alice Rawsthorn- International Herald Tribune](#)

[Will Americans Accept Greener Hotel Rooms? Compared to hotels abroad, the American hospitality industry does not yet have much of a culture of saving resources -- but some say changes are coming. By Fred A. Bernstein -- Raefer K. Wallis \[images\]- New York Times](#)

[Scientist invents construction panel made from chicken feathers: Hungry Filipino termites may have to look elsewhere if inventor finds partner to develop inedible composite panels -- Menandro Acda-BD/Building Design \(UK\)](#)

[Looking good: Developers add modern touches to affordable homes...defy the tacky stereotype of government-subsidized housing...meant not only to appeal to buyers, but neighbors wary of density and declining property values. -- Utile; The Narrow Gate \[slide show\]- Boston Globe](#)

[Plans for Mechanic Theatre wait in the wings: A resignation and disagreements among officials delays the next stage for the shuttered theater...owners say they oppose landmark designation because it would add a layer of design review they don't want to go through. By Edward Gunts -- John Johansen \(1967\); Shalom Baranes \[image\]- Baltimore Sun](#)

[Mecanoo scoops £193m Birmingham library: Dutch firm beats all-star line-up including Foster + Partners, OMA and Foreign Office Architects...new library has been highly controversial...there has been a campaign to save Birmingham's brutalist Central Library - designed by John Madin...in 1974.- Building \(UK\)](#)

[Art Museum of Yue Minjun: Studio Pei-Zhu Designs Museum for Iconic Chinese Artist...in Sichuan Province...will be one of 10 new museums on the same site... \[slide show\]- Architectural Record](#)

[The \\$1 billion race for Zorlu Center heats up in Istanbul...winner will be announced Aug. 20. -- ERA Architecture; Mimarlar Yapi Tasarim/ALUD; Cafer Bozkurt Architecture/Architekten Stuttgart; Tabanlıoğlu Architecture/Emre Arolat Architecture-Turkish Daily News](#)

[Q&A with Enrique Norton: ...his research-focused design process takes center stage in a mid-career retrospective of his work that recently opened at the Museo de Arte Contemporáneo in Monterrey, Mexico... "INTENTIONS"... -- TEN Arquitectos- Architectural Record](#)

[The Architect-Designer Focuses on Child's Play: David Rockwell...the designer of grown-up amusements is focusing on child's play and children's playgrounds. Next month, he and his firm will break ground on the Imagination Playground...there is strong interest from other cities... -- Rockwell Group; KaBOOM!- Wall Street](#)

Journal

[Fashion icon: What do you get if you combine the starchitect Zaha Hadid and Chanel's Karl Lagerfeld? A handbag-inspired portable pavilion, of course. By Jay Merrick- Independent \(UK\)](#)

[Building and Time: The Architecture of Tom Kundig: ...materials are not only exposed to time but time itself becomes a material. -- Olson Sundberg Kundig Allen Architects- The Stranger \(Seattle\)](#)

[Shigeru Ban's Franzen Lecture on Architecture and the Environment \[video\]- The Architectural League of New York](#)

[The Invisible Scaffolding: Nisha Mathew and Soumitro Ghosh are the new buzzwords in urban architecture: ...the focus at Freedom Park is not on lavish displays of flowers or bushes trimmed to resemble elephants...When it is finished, the former prison will be a green space unlike any other in Bangalore. -- Mathew and Ghosh Architects \[images\]- Tehelka Magazine \(India\)](#)

[Enjoy freedom at this park: Freedom Park has been categorized under six broad areas: general, museums and exhibitions, contemporary art, retail, performance spaces and water features...will also have six acres of land as a dedicated space to hold protests and rallies. -- Mathew and Ghosh Architects- Times of India](#)

[Exhibition attracts world interest, but no money: An international exhibition of New Zealand's architecture may have to return home early because it is running out of money, despite growing interest from major international cities. -- Tony Van Raat- New Zealand Herald](#)

[Baywatch beauty to build Abu Dhabi hotel: Pamela Anderson is set to become the latest Hollywood star to get involved in the UAE's hospitality sector...- ArabianBusiness.com](#)

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