

Today's News - Wednesday, August 6, 2008

- Hawthorne's next China installment: the rising tide of young talent.
- The new American Embassy in Beijing is ready for its close-up - even at 600,000 square feet, they're already planning an expansion.
- Ai Weiwei weighs in on Beijing's "pretend smile."
- Why Beijing's "architectural language of bombast and gigantism was almost inevitable."
- Farrelly bemoans the "beigeness" of architectural language.
- What makes Castleford's regeneration different from others (which is why it will probably work, too).
- Baltimore experiences a blast from the past: bulldozing a neighborhood to save it (there goes "The Wire" backdrop).
- An urban renewal project in Namibia is "a utopian vision of fusing living, working and recreational space."
- In-depth looks at the 2008 COTE Top 10 Green Projects.
- Hoping for second place, a young Canadian team wins big in sustainable housing design competition.
- Maharishi University in Iowa plans ultimate green building.
- Sokol offers an eyeful of Maastricht's "shocking interior experiences" (he means that in a good sense).
- Calatrava shows off his Jerusalem bridge.
- A new suitor and hopeful sign for Saarinen's Bell Labs?
- Heritage buildings in Vancouver's Chinatown gaining recognition as civic treasures.
- Might a Frank Lloyd Wright-designed-but-never-built church get built?
- A campaign to rebuild London's Euston arch.
- Obrist interviews the greats with Koolhaas as his "onscreen wingman."
- If oil sheiks were "after a chunk of New York's heart," they got it with the Chrysler Building.

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[Rising generation of Chinese architects thrives on innovation: Quality control is another matter, though...foreign architects are carpetbaggers...while the institutes are sclerotic bureaucracies...a third group of architects that may, in the end, have the definitive say about the shape of the new Chinese city.](#) By Christopher Hawthorne -- Xu Tiantian/DnA (Design and Architecture); Pei Zhu; Hui Wang/Yan Meng/Xiaodu Liu/Urbanus- Los Angeles Times

[New Embassy Is a Firm U.S. Flag in China: A huge new American Embassy complex...takes security requirements many architects might view as an albatross and deftly embraces them as part of a design strongly influenced by Chinese tradition.](#) -- Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM)- New York Sun

[New American Embassy Opens in Beijing -- Skidmore, Owings & Merrill \(SOM\) \[video\]- AP](#)

[Glass act tops US embassy design: ...the largest US embassy compound after the one in Baghdad...spread over 10 acres..."This will be a lot more fun than the opening of the embassy in Afghanistan"- China Daily](#)

[China's Olympic Crossroads: Bird's Nest Designer Ai Weiwei on Beijing's 'Pretend Smile' -- Herzog & de Meuron- New York Times](#)

[Op-Ed: China's triumph of the will: China's rulers see the Olympics as a stage for demonstrating to the world the exceptional vitality of the country...Given this imperative, an architectural language of bombast and gigantism was almost inevitable.](#) By Nina L. Khushcheva -- Albert Speer Jr.- Daily Times (Pakistan)

[Forget about flavour and paint the town beige: One of architecture's problems...is beigeness of language. Other professions are far more linguistically endowed...The "loca-tect"...should provide as strong a counterpoint to globalism...that's how you make a culture more than just anonymous global pap.](#) By Elizabeth Farrelly- Sydney Morning Herald

[The designer miners: Kevin McCloud's Yorkshire make-over: In 2001 a fancy architectural type with big ideas went north to a run-down pit town suspicious of 'regeneration'. Today, Kevin McCloud and the folk of Castleford know all about the pitfalls of 'urban design'...](#)- Independent (UK)

[Building a Technology Park in Baltimore by Rehabilitating a Neighborhood: The large-scale urban renewal project has called for the bulldozing](#)

[of entire blocks to redevelop an area centered around a new technology park...Johns Hopkins Hospital...now undergoing a \\$1.2 billion expansion, seemed perfectly positioned to inspire a renewal.](#) - New York Times

[The Village - Urban renewal in the heart of the city: The idyllic courtyards that enwreath the office and apartment units of The Village in Windhoek's central business district conjure up a feeling of laid-back romance...a utopian vision of fusing living, working and recreational space.](#) -- Leon Barnard Architects-Flamingo (Namibia)

[Case Studies: A look at the ten recipients of this year's COTE Awards -- Burt Hill/Office dA; KieranTimberlake; Miller Hull; Vincent James/Wayne Troyer; Leddy Maytum Stacy; Architerra; Kubala Washatko; Bohlin Cywinski Jackson; BKSJ; Line and Space/Richard + Bauer \[slide shows\]](#)- GreenSource Magazine

[Eyes on second-prize: A trio of architects who enter a sustainable housing competition not intending to win get a pleasant surprise...proved that their prototype was not just a showcase of green technologies and ideas. It also could be mass-produced... By Dave LeBlanc -- Terrell Wong/Anne Stevens/Clelia Lori/Building Blocks-](#) Globe and Mail (Canada)

[Maharishi University plans ultimate green building: The single-story building will be designed to be entirely off the grid, with its own electricity, heating, cooling, water and waste disposal. \(AP\) -- Mike Nicklas/Innovative Design-](#) Chicago Tribune

[Going Dutch: A Look at Maastricht: ...ying to take its place as the Netherlands' third city of design...seems almost nervous about its relationship to design...This is a place of shocking interior experiences. By David Sokol -- Vos Interiur; Merx + Girod; Joop van Lieshout; Herman Verkerk; Christoph Seyferth; Maurice Mentjens \[slide show\]](#)- Contract magazine

[Calatrava's Chords Bridge: ...explore the form of—and controversy surrounding—Santiago Calatrava's new bridge in Jerusalem...and listen to the architect discuss the bridge's achievements, defending it against critics... \[video\]](#)- Architectural Record

[Abandoned Bell Labs could make history again: ...a plan to demolish most of the mammoth structure...was introduced and soon abandoned under a wave of protest...has a new suitor...that wants to keep the architectural gem standing and convert it into its own self-contained village... -- Eero Saarinen-](#) The Star-Ledger (New Jersey)

[Benevolent design: Chinatown's heritage buildings are receiving new recognition as the city, developers and architects work to protect the value of these unique treasures...Trying to modernize culturally significant structures while maintaining their essence is no small chore. -- Joe Y. Wai Architect-](#) Vancouver Courier

[Can a design marvel at last be completed? It's inspiring to see new interest in finishing Redding's Frank Lloyd Wright church.](#)- Record Searchlight (Redding, CA)

['Romantic' attempt to save lost arch: Campaigners say that rebuilding a massive arch at Euston railway station could help right "a great wrong" -- Philip Hardwick \(1838\) \[images, links\]](#)- BBC

[The Van Alen Gets Formulaic: "Formulas for Now: Hans Ulrich Obrist's New York Interviews"...roughly 356 minutes of unedited videos...With Yoko Ono and Philip Johnson, Rem Koolhaas joins him as his](#)

[onscreen wingman. \[links\]](#)- Metropolis Magazine

[New York as Skyscraper: The city's spirit is captured by the Chrysler Building: Last month, Abu Dhabi's sovereign wealth fund forked over a reported \\$800 million for a 90% stake..if it was an architectural masterpiece -- or just a chunk of New York's heart -- that the oil sheiks were after, they got it. -- William Van Alen](#)- Wall Street Journal

[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

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