

Today's News - Tuesday, September 23, 2008

- A thoughtful renovation and expansion for the Currier Museum of Art in New Hampshire.
- Russell goes where swamp things slither in San Francisco and likes what he sees.
- U.K. launches drive to cut construction waste.
- Kaufmann issues white paper "Nutrition labels for the Home."
- Biomimicry Guild partners with HOK to find organic solutions to whole building construction and urban planning.
- British jailbirds are star conservationists.
- Stephens takes an in-depth look at the effect of the Hispanic community on the built environment, and its effect on them.
- Pedersen queries Campanella about "The Concrete Dragon," the ethical responsibility of Western architects, and the future of China's massive urban experiment.
- Gorlin on his most excellent (and amusing) adventures at MIPIM.
- Kamin finds Block 37's new building "underwhelming" - with a few "hopeful signs."
- Andrew Todd minces no words about what he thinks of starchitects and urban design.
- Two different views on how Santa Monica should combat traffic woes create a rift.
- NYC's new sculptural subway grates add aesthetics to flood protection.
- A Milwaukee gem is restored in a "daring intersection of contemporary and historic structures."
- Former NEA head Speck builds a house with all the right angles.
- Blum plumbs "Home Delivery": perhaps "prefab's time has finally come."
- In Chicago, Becker's "Boom Towns!" explores the architecture of explosive growth over the past 125 years.
- USGBC awards \$2 million in research grants.
- Call for entries: 2009 Next Generation Design Competition.
- Tooting our own horn (very proudly): 13 named Honorary ASLA members (yours truly included!).

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[A Treasure Reborn: The Currier Museum of Art: An important cultural resource reopens its doors after a thoughtful renovation and expansion.](#) -- Ann Beha Architects [\[images\]](#)- ArchNewsNow

[Swamp Things Slither in \\$488 Million California Science Museum: It's the most fun you could have while being hectored to save the planet....gorgeously packaged by Renzo Piano.](#) By James S. Russell -- Stantec Architecture; SWA Group; Arup- Bloomberg News

[Drive to halve construction waste: Firms throughout the supply chain are urged to commit to targets on reducing non-recycled waste...can "publicly commit" to halving the amount of rubbish sent to landfill by 2012 through government quango WRAP \(Waste & Resources Action Programme\).](#)- Building (UK)

[Green Prefab Architect Michelle Kaufmann Releases White Paper Calling for "Nutrition Labels" for Houses: ...universal labeling system would help grow the green building industry by making it easier for homebuyers to understand the environmental, health, and financial benefits of living in a green home.](#) [\[links\]](#)- PR Web

[HOK Partners with Biomimicry Guild to Advance Green Design: ...to impress biomimicry as an emerging and vital element of sustainable design...to enhance sustainable building practices and find organic solutions to whole building construction and broader urban planning.](#) - GreenSource Magazine

[Jailbirds creating eco-havens in prison: Inmates are becoming conservationists as they use their time behind bars to help protect vital natural habitats that are home to rare species](#) - Observer (UK)

[Out Of The Enclave: Latinos Adapt, And Adapt To, The American City: Latinos in the U.S. may be at the forefront of the movement towards urbanism, particularly in their use of public space. Josh Stephens talks to James Rojas and other planners and thinkers on the effect of the Hispanic community on the built environment, and its effect on them.](#) - PLANetizen

[The Chinese Century: Thomas J. Campanella's new book "The Concrete Dragon: China's Urban Revolution and What It Means for the World" explores the implications — and contradictions — of China's rapid urbanization...a Q&A about the book, the ethical responsibility of Western architects, and the future of this massive urban experiment.](#) By Martin C. Pedersen - Metropolis Magazine

[And the Band Played On: Forget the film festival — the gaudiest display of power and money in Cannes involves real estate...The Marché International des Professionnels de l'Immobilier \(MIPIM\)...a massive spectacle of power and decadence that dwarfs the AIA's National Convention and the Venice Biennale.](#) By Alexander Gorlin - Metropolis Magazine

[At Block 37: 22 West Washington doesn't reflect strong streetscape: ...the outcome is like one of those trick guns from which you're expecting a violent blast—and a cute little flag pops out instead. In other words, underwhelming...Still, there are pluses, as well as hopeful signs.](#) By Blair Kamin -- Ralph Johnson/Perkins+Will [\[image\]](#)- Chicago Tribune

[Andrew Todd: 'the Gehrys and the Libeskind don't add anything to a city': ...British-born architect, ranked one of the world's top forty, on working under Jean Nouvel, 'airport architects' and why European cities should ditch their showcase images.](#) [\[images\]](#)- CafeBabel.com (Paris)

[A RIFT In Santa Monica: Anti-development initiative divides the city: Residents Initiative to Fight Traffic...would cap commercial development at 75,000 square feet annually in an effort to curb traffic...An opposing group supports...the city general plan's Land Use and Circulation Element \(LUCE\) — which calls for smart growth over limited growth and more nuanced solutions for combatting the crippling traffic.](#) - The Architect's Newspaper

[New Subway Grates Add Aesthetics to Flood Protection: ...their almost sculpturally undulating form is a deliberate reference to the problem they are supposed to help solve.](#) -- Rogers Marvel Architects; di Domenico & Partners [\[image\]](#)- New York Times

[Goll House's only chance: ...has the potential to create an inventive partnership between design-minded development and historic preservation...daring intersection of contemporary and historic structures may be novel in Milwaukee, but it is nothing new.](#) By Mary Louise Schumacher -- Ferry and Clas (1898); Scott Kindness/Workshop Architects [\[image\]](#)- Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

[Finding the Right Angle: Urban planner Jeff Speck's design for his family's home elevates a forlorn slice of land..."The story of this house is breaking a whole lot of rules."](#) By Linda Hales [\[slide show\]](#)- Washington Post

Instant Suburb of Prefabs Hits New York: "Home Delivery"...looks as if a suburban cul-de-sac took a wrong turn at the Holland Tunnel...suggests that prefab's time has finally come. By Andrew Blum [links]- Wired magazine

"Boom Towns! Chicago Architects Design New Worlds" at the Chicago Architecture Foundation ...pairings of iconic works of architecture from late 19th-century Chicago with parallel works in today's China and the Middle East...curated by Lynn Becker,. September 23 - November 30- Art Daily

USGBC Awards \$2 Million in Research Grants: After identifying an alarming dearth of research in the field of sustainable design and construction... -- Center for Health Design; Public Architecture; BNIM Architects; etc. - Architectural Record

Call for entries: 2009 Next Generation Design Competition: Fix Our Energy Addiction...open to any designer or architect in practice for ten years or less, as well as design students; \$10,000 prize; deadline: January 30, 2009- Metropolis Magazine

Thirteen Named Honorary ASLA Members: Honorees Include Educators, Public Officials, and Environmental Activists [and yours truly] -- Adele Chatfield-Taylor/American Academy in Rome; Paul Farmer/American Planning Association (APA); William McDonough; Robert Redford; etc. - American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)



-- Renzo Piano Building Workshop: California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco  
-- Rafael Viñoly Architects: Brooklyn Children's Museum, Brooklyn, New York

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