

Today's News - Thursday, October 2, 2008

- Farrelly minces no words about climate catastrophe and financial fiasco - they "are symptoms of the same disease: greed," but she offers 3 factors "that could yet tip the net result in sustainability's favor."
- Glancey minces no words about CABE's "nosy-parker scrutiny" of eco towns as "patronizing" with "wonkish thinking and bullying edict."
- Lewis attends "Greening the World's Capital Cities" conference to learn about international cities who think in "bolder shades of green" than U.S. cities.
- U.K. surveys 18,000 public buildings to find the biggest CO2 offenders (including starchitect-designed ones with big green claims).
- Another British survey "reveals depth of architects' despair over UK housing policy."
- Gardner minces no words about what he thinks of the new MAD: "Its entrenched mediocrity represents so thorough a depletion of the imaginative faculty..." (read it now - NY Sun folded on Tuesday - no telling how long the website will remain).
- A Gehry to grace Paris's Bois de Boulogne.
- An eyeeful of H&deMs Paris pyramid (or is it a shark's fin?).
- A Predock building worth the wait in New Mexico: "as big, as timeless, and as self-assured as a geological feature."
- Adjaye takes to the books again - this time for two libraries in Washington, DC; Kennicott calls it "a remarkable debut" for a city "has had a hard time attracting designers of his caliber."
- Nadel says critics may lament security measures required in design, but they often do not understand the reality of terrorism designers and building owners face.
- Another demolition in a Chicago suburb known as "ground zero for 'teardowns.'"
- Archeworks' new leaders develop programs to advance their City of the Future scheme.
- It's a long shortlist in BD's 2008 Young Architect of the Year Award.
- Piano takes home Denmark's most prestigious cultural award.
- William Rawn is very glad that he finally did decide to follow his bliss.
- Heathcote finds a young architect "who gives old stories new ending."

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Tale of two crises born of one disease: greed...Climate catastrophe and financial fiasco...The nexus between the two crises is housing...neatly symbolises the tension between the self and the collective, the now and the later, the right thing and the easy thing...three factors that could yet tip the net result in sustainability's favour. By Elizabeth Farrelly - Sydney Morning Herald

Green and unpleasant: The ecotowns plan, with its proposed nosy-parker scrutiny of residents, is patronising and illiberal...Cabe insists that it's not trying to play a Big Brother role...but it comes across as a bully boy body...undermine existing settlements that...are far "greener"...than "blue sky" towns planned by wonkish thinking and bullying edict. By Jonathan Glancey - Guardian (UK)

Thinking of Bolder Shades of Green: "Greening the World's Capital Cities" conference...A primary lesson emerged: Sustainability has yet to become a public policy priority in the United States. By Roger K. Lewis - Washington Post

Halls of shame: biggest CO2 offenders unveiled: 18,000 public buildings in energy efficiency tests. Even new premises fare badly under emissions law...raising questions about the validity of sustainability claims made by architects and developers. By Robert Booth -- Foster, Libeskind; Rogers - Guardian (UK)

Government fails on pledge for good design: BD and British Council survey reveals depth of architects' despair over UK housing policy...75% of respondents claiming it shows no "genuine commitment" to raising design quality...survey was launched in response to...Ellis Woodman's provocative British pavilion at the Venice Biennale. - BD/Building Design (UK)

Bring Back the Venetian Lollipops: 2 Columbus Circle, formerly the Huntington Hartford Museum and now the Museum of Arts and Design [MAD], fully bears out the suspicions of its many detractors. The problem is not so much that the new design is bad, as that it is emphatically not good. By James Gardner -- Edward Durell Stone (1964); Cloepfil/Allied Works - New York Sun

LVMH Plans Museum as Companies Review Arts Spending: ...pressing ahead with plans for a 100 million-euro (\$140 million) art foundation...will be located inside the Jardin d'acclimatation, in Paris's Bois de Boulogne... -- Frank Gehry - Bloomberg News

New Paris Building Casts No Shadows, Generates Electricity: Le Project Triangle is one of those buildings that make us think that we may actually drive flying cars one day...While it looks like a massive pyramid from one side, the other side shows that it really is an ultra-thin triangle resembling a shark's fin. -- Herzog & de Meuron [images] - Gizmodo

At the University of New Mexico, a Predock Building Worth the Wait: It's as big, as timeless, and as self-assured as a geological feature...a kind of monument to openness. [images] - The Chronicle of Higher Education

An Architect For the Books: D.C. Public Libraries Hire London's David Adjaye to Design Two Branches...It is a remarkable debut for the architect in the nation's capital, which has had a hard time attracting designers of Adjaye's caliber. By Philip Kennicott -- Wienczek + Associates - Washington Post

Terrorist Assaults on Overseas Western Icons Yield Lessons for the Building Industry: Urban design and architectural critics often lament the effect of building setbacks on the vitality of street life...what many critics - especially those who are not practitioners - often do not understand is that building owners and their insurers, and design and legal teams, can no longer afford to ignore the reality of terrorism... By Barbara A. Nadel, FAIA - Buildings.com

Momentum Grows For Futuristic Scheme: In 2007...UrbanLab won The History Channel's City of the Future ideas competition with its entry, Growing Water...Felsen and Dunn took over as director and research director of Archeworks...started to develop ways the school and their firm could work together...four projects that will help advance the scheme. [images, links] - Architectural Record

Another Demolition in Kenilworth: The Chicago suburb known as ground zero for "teardowns" may lose its oldest house next year. -- Franklin Burnham; George Maher - Preservation magazine

Yaya longlist unveiled: There are 28 architects on the long list for BD's 2008 Young Architect of the Year Award. - BD/Building Design (UK)

Renzo Piano wins top Danish culture prize: the Sonningprisen 2008 -- Denmark's most prestigious cultural award...He will receive his 134,000-euro (193,000-dollar) prize at a reception Wednesday at the University of Copenhagen. - AFP

The Dream Life: The Architect: William Rawn's unusual childhood hobby--designing imaginary buildings and cities--was

something his father tolerated rather than encouraged...Rawn did it anyway...is very glad that he finally did decide to follow his bliss. - Forbes

An architect who gives old stories new endings: Most architects spend their youths yearning to escape the slog of domestic Victorian conversions and rear extensions. But Jonathan Tuckey, who does mostly that, is exactly where he wants to be. By Edwin Heathcote - Financial Times (UK)

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