
- ArcSpace brings us eyefuls of Stout's museum in Roanoke, and photographer Konchel's "architectonic: St. Louis."

- Ourousoff reviews '08: "It was fun til the money ran out" (and the end of "outsize architectural statements that serve the rich and self-absorbed").

- Hume calls out Toronto's AGO and Wychwood Art Barns as proof that this was the city's "year of the architectural turnaround."

- Rawsthorn sees '08 as the "year that substance and sustainability reigned" and "survivalism," not style, was the "cool design aesthetic."

- Baillieu looks at the new uncertainties facing the new year (it might even make the "government more responsive to its critics").

- A dramatic makeover of Mecca is not a "Dubai-fication," but "something Muslims should celebrate."

- Hawthorne calls for L.A.'s MOCA to face "some stubborn architectural challenges" before it finalizes any rescue plan.

- Farrelly rails at Sydney's Museum of Contemporary Art plans for concrete boxes that are "hollow shells for art": "dump the koala" and "do something wild" (like previous competition-winning designs, perhaps?).

- Regionalism taking root in green design: "The greenest brick is the one that's already in the wall."

- Campbell hopes for the best as the fate of Faneuil Hall and the Design Research store step into limbo.

- An Indonesian architect finds it ironic - and "a pity that architects and urban planners today are not always able to influence their clients. What is even worse is they don't seem to care about it."

- An architect who "has helped shepherd architecture into the age of globalization."

- London, Paris, and Moscow will all miss out on Hadid's Chanel pavilion as world tour is cancelled (easy as a handbag to mothball?).

- Foster + Partners shares 1st Prize in London's double-decker bus competition.

- Glancey's "Lost Buildings: Demolished, Destroyed, Imagined, Reborn" is an "enthralling book" with "stimulating opinions that merit serious consideration."

- An architect who "has helped shepherd architecture into the age of globalization."

- The Sydney home where Utzon celebrated winning the Opera House design competition is threatened with demolition.

- Risen reviews the "banner year for the architect in brown suede shoes" (a.k.a. Robert A.M. Stern).

- Paris is particularly peeved with Qatari plans to alter historic Hôtel Lambert with "the aesthetics of a James Bond villa."

- The Sydney home where Utzon celebrated winning the Opera House design competition is threatened with demolition.

- It Was Fun Till the Money Ran Out: ...this era will probably be remembered as much for its vulgarity as its ambition...the public’s tolerance for outsize architectural statements that serve the rich and self-absorbed has already been pretty much exhausted. This is not all new good. A lot of wonderful architecture is being thrown out with the bad. By Nicolai Ourousoff - New York Times

- 2008: The year of the architectural turnaround: The economy may have tanked, but building design flourished, with two projects standing out – no thanks to business or government...projects such as the Art Gallery of Ontario and the Wychwood Art Barns have become important exercises in community-building. By Christopher Hume -- Frank Gehry; Joe Lobkowicz; Toit Alto; Hilier - Toronto Star

- 2008: The year that substance and sustainability reigned: Disturbing shapes and dystopian subplots made survivalism the cool design aesthetic of 2008...not style. By Alice Rawsthorn -- New York Times

- Op-Ed: Skyscraping ambition for Mecca: The dramatic redevelopment of Islam's holiest city is something Muslims should celebrate. By Ali Eteraz -- Zaha Hadid; Norman Foster [links]; Guardian (UK)

- What MOCA needs is a reborn identity: The Museum of Contemporary Art's financial and management problems have become depressingly clear over the last several weeks...also faces some stubborn architectural challenges — ones that the museum and its potential saviors...would be smart to confront before they finalize any rescue plan. By Christopher Hawthorne -- LA Times

- Quayside concrete boxes are hollow shells for art: ...the all-wrap-no-pressie dropped by the Museum of Contemporary Art under our collective nose...would be smart to confront before they finalize any rescue plan. By Christopher Hawthorne -- Architecture Daily

- What's old is green: Reintroducing regionalism to green building: ...we've been under the impression that the greenest buildings are the newest buildings...Not necessarily..."The greenest brick is the one that's already in the wall." By Lisa Selin Davis -- Steve Mouzon; Grist Magazine

- Two urban drawing cards are now in Limbo: Challenges ahead for Faneuil Hall Marketplace and a glass icon in Cambridge...Is the festival marketplace concept now dead? Will a deus ex machina show up to properly inhabit the Design Research (DR) store? Let's hope for the best. These are two of the significant works of 20th-century Boston architecture. By Robert Campbell -- Boston Globe

- Paris outrage over Qatari royals' plans to alter landmark: Plans for refurbishment of venerable Hôtel Lambert spark row over £70m property's painted ceilings...will be a monstrosity with "the aesthetics of a James Bond villa" -- Louis Le Vau (1644); Jean-François Cabezon; Guardian (UK)

- Utzon's signature home threatened with demolition: ...Beaconsfield Parade house - where Utzon celebrated winning the Opera House design competition - is threatened with demolition to make way for a five-storey, 69-unit complex. -- Sydney Morning Herald
Stern Gets Scully Prize: A banner year for the architect in brown suede shoes. By Clay Risen-

M. Ridwan Kamil: Creativity at heart of success: “A good design is balanced with economic, social and ecological aspects. In Indonesia, these last two requirements are not always met, especially with public buildings...It's a pity that architects and urban planners today are not always able to influence their clients. What is even worse is they don't seem to care about it. It's ironic.” -- Urbane- The Jakarta Post

Francis Bulbulian: Mastermind of design wonders: His work shines in some of the world’s most exquisite buildings...has helped shepherd architecture into the age of globalization. -- Parker Durrant- Armenian Reporter

Chanel cancels Zaha Hadid’s London pavilion: ...blamed the 'current economic crisis' for the decision to end the exhibition circuit early, meaning London, Paris and Moscow will all miss out...- The Architects’ Journal (UK)

London Sees Red: Aston Martin and Foster + Partners raked in a not-much-needed $38,000 (£25,000) and a first-prize award along with Capoco Design for re-jiggering...double decker bus, the Routemaster. By Julie V. Iovine -- Héctor Serrano Studio/Miñarro García/Javier Esteban; Jamie Martin [images]- The Architect’s Newspaper

Book review: Sadly missed: Miranda Seymour is devastated by a catalogue of architectural vanishing: "Lost Buildings: Demolished, Destroyed, Imagined, Reborn" by Jonathan Glancey...enthralling book...stimulating opinions merit serious consideration. - Guardian (UK)

Interior Design Hall of Fame: The Fame Game: Inductees include: Gwynne Pugh, Lawrence Scarpa, Takashi Sugimoto, Steven Harris, Lucien Rees-Roberts, and Erwin Hauer. [images, links]- Interior Design magazine

Best Architecture Books of 2008: 10 tomes from the superior to the indispensable. By Norman Weinstein -- Felix Candela; Jerry Yudelson; Bauman Lyons; etc.- ArchNewsNow

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