

Today's News - Friday, January 16, 2009

- A reality check for architecture: Does the demise of overblown architecture spell an opportunity for sustainable building?
- Irish eyes are not smiling.
- A new day for public transit and TODs may be dawning.
- Icon vs. program: "It's far easier to serve up a predictable, personal signature design."
- Farrelly in search of a melody in architecture: "Where's the built boogie-woogie?"
- Mays cheers the "modestly modern gestures" of a low-rise project in Toronto for a neighborhood "that does not want or need flamboyant architectural avant-gardism."
- Merrick cheers Coventry's architectural revival.
- Backers battle to find the money to build Meyers' arts center in Orlando.
- Gardner bemoans the lack of boldness in new Balazs building in Manhattan (and we cheer Gardner's return!).
- Call for entries: "A New Infrastructure: Innovative Transit Solutions for Los Angeles" Open Ideas Competition.
- Weekend diversions: "Human/Nature" in San Diego hopes to help spread a message of environmental stewardship and conservation.
- In Prague, a spotlight on a Czech architectural studio is well worth a look.
- The Gateway Arch and Saarinen in the spotlight in St. Louis.
- "Texas Oil: Landscape of an Industry" is eye-opening in Houston.
- Dyckhoff on Palladio: "the most influential architect in history - but it's the British he has to thank."
- Page turners: Hume on a handbook for urban revolutionaries: "alternately clever, innovative, poignant, practical, idealistic and hilarious"; and a "small but enormously useful" tome that illustrates the relationship between housing and the urban fabric.
- Pearman on Jenkins' "excellent new tome on Welsh architecture: he's "as baffled by Welshness as anyone. But also enchanted."
- "American Earth": a "compelling narrative about our species: where we came from and what we can still be if our best instincts prevail."
- "The City's End" explores 200 years of NYC's fictional demise.
- Glancey waxes wistfully about design classics featured on new U.K. stamps.

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[Architecture's Reality Check: Global Downturn Dooms Prestige Construction Projects: The financial crisis has led to the cancellation of spectacular construction projects in...Dubai, Moscow and Abu Dhabi. Does the demise of overblown architecture spell an opportunity for sustainable building? \[slide show\]- Der Spiegel \(Germany\)](#)

[One-third of architects laid off in last year, survey finds: The number of architects out of work will rise as high as 41 per cent by the end of March, and the problems could get worse... -- Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland \(RIAI\); Paul Clerkin/Archiseek.com- Irish Times](#)

[Get on the bus: A new day for public transit may be dawning in the United States...doom and gloom in the economic news isn't the only reason interest in public transit is expected to continue to grow...New transit-oriented projects are paving the way for new business opportunities...- Sustainable Industries Journal](#)

[Edifices Complexes: Everything you need to know about hiring a Starchitect. ...attention-getting design lends itself to marketing, magazine articles, design competitions and all of the ways that make an architect into a starchitect. It's a lot harder to market what it's like to actually use a building...the "program." -- Mostafavi; Hadid; Foster; Libeskind; Gehry \[images\]- Power magazine \(Hong Kong\)](#)

[In search of a room to swing a cat, and a soul: ...if, as we're told, architecture is frozen music, where is Opus 111's architectural equivalent? Where's the built boogie-woogie? If architecture is any kind of music, even frozen, where's the beat? Is there even a pulse here? By Elizabeth Farrelly- Sydney Morning Herald](#)

[Simple designs to heal a city's wounded heart: Low-rise buildings proposed for downtown sites follow a modest recipe...modestly modern gestures destined for an area that does not want or need flamboyant architectural avant-gardism. By John Bentley Mays -- Sweeney Sterling Finlayson & Co. \[image\]- Globe and Mail \(Canada\)](#)

[Coventry's architectural revival: The cathedral's newest neighbour is a museum -- and it sets the spirits soaring...has added something humane and civil to yet another moment of urban and cultural resurrection... By Jay Merrick-- Basil Spence \(1956\); Pringle Richards Sharratt; Stanton Williams; Michael Aukett Architects; Arup; MacCormac Jamieson Prichard- Independent \(UK\)](#)

[Arts-center backers battle to find the cash:plans for the three-theater Dr. P. Phillips Orlando Performing Arts Center might be scaled back were met with dismay...Meanwhile, architectural and design work is continuing... -- Barton Meyers \[links\]- Orlando Sentinel \(Florida\)](#)

[William Beaver House lacks boldness: André Balazs building feels tame and polite, rather than daring. By James Gardner -- Tsao & McKown- The Real Deal \(NYC\)](#)

[Call for entries: A New Infrastructure: Innovative Transit Solutions for Los Angeles Open Ideas Competition; deadline: March 13- The Architect's Newspaper / SCI-Arc](#)

[Museums, artists, and conservationists collaborate on a groundbreaking show: "Human/Nature: Artists Respond to a Changing Planet" at the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego...to help spread a message of environmental stewardship and conservation. - Orion magazine](#)

[X and O mark the spot: The subject of the show at Jaroslav Frágner Gallery is the Czech architectural studio Projektil...is well worth a look...- Prague Daily Monitor](#)

["On the Riverfront: St. Louis and the Gateway Arch" on view Jan. 30 to March 9: Exhibition and symposium presented by Sam Fox School in conjunction with Eero Saarinen retrospective- Washington University in St. Louis](#)

[Texas Tea: "Texas Oil: Landscape of an Industry" at The Art Museum of the University of Houston...the oil industry a perfect subject for the Center for Land Use Interpretation \(CLU\)... \[images, links\]- The Architect's Newspaper](#)

[Andrea Palladio: the man who made ancient modern: ...the most influential architect in history - but it's the British he has to thank...Palladianism truly exploded when it became the architecture of Empire. By Tom Dyckhoff- The Times \(UK\)](#)

[Book review: "Actions: What You Can Do With The City"...a handbook for urban revolutionaries...a catalogue of techniques, events, ideas and strategies aimed at making cities more sustainable, humane, efficient, livable and, not least,](#)

fun...alternately clever, innovative, poignant, practical, idealistic and hilarious. By Christopher Hume -- Mirko Zardini/Canadian Centre for Architecture (CCA)- Toronto Star

Book review: How Welsh is Welsh architecture? And why aren't the English bothered? "Wales: churches, houses, castles" by Simon Jenkins...[he] is as baffled by Welshness as anyone. But also enchanted...Knowing it and loving it, he has produced an excellent book about it. By Hugh Pearman- HughPearman.com (UK)

Book review: Treating a city, new houses as twain that meet: ...a small but enormously useful volume titled "Some Ideas on Living in London and Tokyo"...Stephen Taylor is so relevant because of his deep understanding of the relationship between housing and the urban fabric...the two are inseparable. By Christopher Hume- Toronto Star

Book review: Move Over, Thoreau Rationalist environmentalism better prevail, and fast..."American Earth: Environmental Writing Since Thoreau" edited by Bill McKibben...locates its rock-solid facts in a compelling narrative about our species: where we came from and what we can still be if our best instincts prevail.- Slate

Book review: City under siege: "The City's End: Two Centuries of Fantasies, Fears, and Premonitions of New York's Destruction" by Max Page explores 200 years of NYC's fictional demise...Without getting bogged down in arcane, academic lingo...thoughtfully analyzes why the city's ruination has been such an enduringly popular theme. (AP)- Richmond Times-Dispatch (Virginia)

Designs that take some licking: The design classics featured on a new set of stamps celebrate a bygone age. Is there anything that can compare today? ...there is something both touching and sad in several of the images they portray. By Jonathan Glancey [image, slide show]- Guardian (UK)

Community Building: A new community center re-imagines public architecture and what civic buildings represent. -- George Ranalli, Architect [images]- ArchNewsNow



Morphosis: Hypo-Alpe-Adria Bank HQ, Udine, Italy

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