

## Today's News - Thursday, March 12, 2009

- A call for "localities to get their acts together and collaborate," and establishment of a "Metro Innovations Network tasked with assessing, diffusing, and promoting the best and most creative regional policy integration breakthroughs."
- An in-depth look at the difficulties of creating a building that is 100% carbon neutral.
- London mayor's Grand Spaces project a great idea; the problem: how much can really get done with pocket change (£200,000 spread over 33 boroughs).
- Hawthorne likes some of the refinements in design for park to link L.A.'s Music Center and City Hall, but "improvements haven't resolved the design's fundamental identity crisis."
- A few more details re: the grand Greater Paris project.
- Big, \$2 billion plans for Hollywood Park racetrack land (racetrack not included) faces many hurdles.
- A nay-sayer for £1 billion Coventry city center redevelopment plans.
- Hadid tapped for Elk Grove, CA, civic center - or not: a nay-sayer says Gehry would be better because he's a local (but would he "even want the gig"?).
- Jones muses on Jerwood Foundation plan to build gallery in Hastings, U.K., but locals not thrilled; perhaps relocating to a part of the seafront that's "a wasteland of stupid ideas and wasted space" would be a better idea.
- Kimmelman on the Neues Museum: "Berlin has one of the finest public buildings in Europe. Again" (great slide show, too).
- Shortlist for U.S. embassy in London whittled down from nine to four (3 Pritzker winners among them).
- Foster's Hermitage Plaza intended to 'gentrify' the area east of La Défense - Western Europe's tallest towers included.
- AMO/OMA's Prada Transformer, "the first shape-shifting building in the world," set to open in Seoul.
- Hawthorne ends his Frank-Gehry-turns-80-week with two discussions about the Talmud and the "emotional juice" of successful museum galleries.
- A Corbu-hater struggles to find the humanity in his work: she doesn't succeed.
- The Brooklyn side of the Manhattan Bridge to get a Tolle plaza.
- Rawsthorn on how TV in the 1950s and 1960s popularized Modernism in America.

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[Miracle Mets: Finally, the nation's interest in ensuring that its metros deliver on their boundless potential...requires a national push to encourage regional leaders to cooperate across city, suburb, and county lines to make the most of the prosperity driving assets they gather.](#) By Bruce Katz, Mark Muro and Jennifer Bradley- Democracy Journal

[Pursuing the elusive goal of a carbon-neutral building: Yale University's Kroon Hall is a state-of-the-art model of where the green building movement is headed. Yet even this showcase for renewable energy highlights the difficulties of creating a building that is 100% carbon neutral.](#) -- Hopkins Architects; atelier ten; Terrapin Bright Green- Yale Environment 360

[Boris bashed over 'pocket money' for Great Spaces: ...£200,000 in the first year to help with feasibility, design and promotion for existing schemes...Split between London's 33 boroughs, this would equate to just over £6,000 each..."Johnson should look across the water to what Mayor Bloomberg is doing."](#) -- Martha Schwartz; Jan Gehl; Peter Bishop- BD/Building Design (UK)

[Civic Park's design has an identity crisis: Mark Rios' plan to link the Music Center and City Hall with greenery is far-reaching yet un compelling...reaches too far, and eagerly takes on too much aesthetic responsibility...seems to foreclose the possibility of operating as a crisp, reserved foundation for other designers, artists and architects to build upon.](#) By Christopher Hawthorne -- Rios Clementi Hale Studios - Los Angeles Times

[After the Pompidou, can Rogers transform the secret, shabby, divided side of Paris? Ten of the world's most renowned architects present their strategies for a dramatic overhaul of the world's most visited city...Greater Paris project to reunite Paris's centre with its neglected outskirts is steeped in controversy...](#) -- Rogers Stirk Harbour; Jean Nouvel; Christian de Portzamparc; Roland Castro- Guardian (UK)

[Plans to replace Hollywood Park racetrack progress: Hollywood Park Tomorrow project would mark one of the region's largest redevelopment projects, covering 238 acres in Inglewood -- though it faces hurdles.](#) - Los Angeles Times

[£130m Belgrade Plaza scheme is "dossing place for students": The provocative remark by council opposition leader...came as councillors across the political divide broadly welcomed the £1 billion in Coventry city centre redevelopment...warned the plan for roof-top parks, a river walk and futuristic architecture alongside new homes and shops may never materialise in line with the architect-led dream.](#) -- Jerde Partnership- Coventry Telegraph (UK)

[Elk Grove City Council divided over contract for civic center architect: ...Gehry understands the California mindset because he's a California resident, and Hadid doesn't because she's a foreign architect.](#) - Elk Grove Citizen (California)

[Jerwood Foundation meets a sea of disapproval in Hastings: Plans to build a Jerwood art gallery in the town's distinctive fishermen's district have upset locals. Will regeneration endanger this lovely spot? The rest of the seafront is a wasteland of stupid ideas and wasted space...A location further along the seafront might save a disaster area.](#) By Jonathan Jones - Guardian (UK)

[For Berlin Museum, a Modern Makeover That Doesn't Deny the Wounds of War: Neues Museum...a modern building that inhabits the ghost of an old one...looks so beautiful and is so eloquent that it short-circuits doubt and criticism...Berlin has one of the finest public buildings in Europe. Again.](#) By Michael Kimmelman -- David Chipperfield [slide show]- New York Times

[US awards contracts for new embassies in the capitals of Serbia and Liberia. It also has selected four American architectural firms to compete to design a new embassy in London.](#) -- Thom Mayne/Morphosis; Richard Meier; Pei Cobb Freed; KieranTimberlake- Associated Press (AP)

[Foster unveils design for Western Europe's tallest towers: ...two 324-metre towers form part of a new mixed-use community development called Hermitage Plaza located in the heart of Paris...intended to 'gentrify' the area east of La Défense...](#) Foster + Partners; Atelier de Paysage Urbain [images]- The Architects' Journal (UK)

[Prada Transformer to Open April 25: ...a one-of-a-kind tetrahedron-shaped structure being constructed on the grounds of Gyeonghui Palace.....the first shape-shifting building in the world...an on-going project with AMO, the think tank of top architect Rem Koolhaas' Office for Metropolitan Architecture \(OMA\).](#) [images]- Korea Times

[Videos: Gehry on the Talmud and the 'emotional juice' of successful museum galleries: As our Frank-Gehry-turns-80-week draws to a close...we offer two final video clips from my conversation with the architect.](#) By Christopher Hawthorne - Los Angeles Times

[My miserable day as Le Corbusier: ...even after a day spent getting into character, 'Corb-hater' Lynsey Hanley is still](#)

struggling to find the humanity in [his] work...We're often tempted to blame Le Corbusier for everything that was wrong with modernism. The awful thing is, I think I still do.- Guardian (UK)

Art, People Triumph Over Traffic in \$23 Million Brooklyn Rehab: Robert Moses favored cars over people in the 1960s, when he tore down the art-filled plaza that greeted pedestrians approaching the Brooklyn entrance of the Manhattan Bridge...artist Brian Tolle is busy rectifying this unhappy situation...a work that should help reclaim the area for human beings. By Mike Di Paola -- EDAW [links]- Bloomberg News

TV and its role in popularizing modernism in America: The television networks in the 1950s and 1960s were influential in introducing Americans to what has been called "everyday modernism." By Alice Rawsthorn -- Eames; George Nelson; Eero Saarinen- International Herald Tribune



[GRAFT Architects: Dental Clinic KU64 and Kinderdentist, Berlin, Germany](#)

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