

Today's News - February 21, 2006

Architecture is the real test of a nation's creativity. – In New Orleans, an urban planner's historic opportunity and heart-wrenching task. – Withering weather developments (a.k.a. climate change) pose challenges to developers and preservationists. – Moscow mayor not waiting for weather - it's been a decade-long demolition derby (landmarks included) - and odds are against preservationists. – The unique challenges facing older, inner-ring "first suburbs." – Big plans for Asian Village Atlanta would combine culture and commerce (and koi?). – Harvard's pick for architect of new science complex is "slightly courageous" and "slightly controversial." – A new (and expensive) station for Birmingham, U.K. "looks like a glorified cinema." – LAPD HQ might turn out to be "the most conflicted landmarks in all of Los Angeles." – Getty Villa redesign proves "modernism can have texture, richness, sensuality, and scale." – MoMA's show of Spanish architecture puts American architectural progress to shame. – Paris starts a love affair with Los Angeles art and architecture. [Editor's note: For those who celebrated Presidents Day, click "Yesterday's News" to catch up.]

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[Innovation's real test: When a nation flounders in an architectural sense, it also flounders in every other aspect of creativity...By looking at the architectural design of a civilisation at a given time, one can immediately understand what was going on in the minds of people who lived in it.](#)- Business Standard (India)

[A planner's historic opportunity, impossible task: John Beckman...knew from 30 years as an urban planner that the audience wouldn't automatically embrace his ideas. But he never before had had to tell listeners that they might not be able to go home again.](#) By Inga Saffron -- WRT/Wallace Roberts & Todd- Philadelphia Inquirer

[Intensified Development Raises Catastrophic Flood Risk around U.S., Experts Say: ...as people snap up new homes even in areas recently deluged..."We are reinventing Katrina all over again"](#) (AP)- Environmental News Network

[Development May Spread Old Pesticides: ...findings mean communities may need to take additional precautions when the soil at former orchards and farms is disturbed...](#) (AP)- Environmental News Network

[Extreme weather 'blighting buildings and beauty spots': The National Trust is a "canary in the mine" whose experience offers a valuable indication of climate change trends...](#)- Guardian (UK)

[Moscow mayor purges historic architecture: In little more than a decade, demolition claims up to 400 landmarks, alarming preservationists who smell greed...a small but feisty preservationist community is trying to raise awareness of landmark buildings. The odds aren't in their favor.](#) -- Moisei Ginzburg (1930); Konstantin Melnikov (1929)- Chicago Tribune

[One-Fifth of the Nation: America's First Suburbs: Neither fully urban nor completely suburban, America's older, inner-ring, "first" suburbs have a unique set of challenges...very different from those of the center city and fast growing newer places.](#)- Brookings Institute

[Asian village could sprout in Gwinnett: ...turn 106 acres of land into Asian Village Atlanta...combine cultural fare...with retail stores, restaurants, a hotel, a sports complex, condos and office buildings...project could grow to be as large as \\$300 million.](#) -- Yong Pan- Atlanta Journal-Constitution

[Location, Architect Chosen for First Allston Building: ...500,000 square foot science complex will house the Harvard Stem Cell Institute...choice "slightly courageous" and "slightly controversial." -- Behnisch, Behnisch & Partner; Chan Krieger & Associates-](#) The Harvard Crimson

[It looks like a glorified cinema: Obviously they're an improvement - it would be remarkable to spend £500 million and fail to achieve that...how far architectural aspirations for \[New Street Station\] have fallen since leading architects John McAslan+Partners were first appointed to succeed Will Alsop...](#) [images]- icBirmingham (UK)

[LAPD misfire: New headquarters complex is torn in too many design directions...it seems guaranteed to rank as one of the most conflicted landmarks in all of Los Angeles.](#) By Christopher Hawthorne -- DMJM Design [images]- Los Angeles Times

[When in Rome: A striking redesign of the Getty's Malibu villa...modernism can have texture, richness, sensuality, and scale.](#) By Paul Goldberger -- Norman Neuerburg (1974); Machado and Silvetti- New Yorker

[Spain's modern breath: MoMA celebrates the country's renaissance of its buildings...While American authorities stall and fuss, or let developers churn out office boxes and carpet the deserts with Xeroxed homes, Spain is seeding its future with fresh landmarks.](#) By Justin Davidson -- Bailo/Rull; Jürgen Mayer H.; Nouvel; Arroyo; Herzog & de Meuron; Guallart; Gehry; Hadid; Mayne; Rogers- NY Newsday

[Downtown's French Connection: Paris Looks to Los Angeles for Art and Architecture: "Continuities of the Incomplete"...exhibit that highlights Mayne's gutsy attempts to merge art and technology will be displayed quite appropriately at the Centre Pompidou.](#) By Sam Hall Kaplan -- Morphosis- LA Downtown News

[Symbol and Celebration: Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture: Modern design, vibrant colors, and symbolic interior elements help create a new cultural destination in Baltimore's Inner Harbor and museum district.](#) -- The Freelon Group/RTKL [images]- ArchNewsNow

[Feb. '06 Build Business: The Other Side of the Table: An Inside View of the Selection Process.](#) By Stephanie Craft, CPSM

[-- Unveiling: Frank O. Gehry: Lou Ruvo Alzheimer's Institute, Las Vegas](#)
[-- Saucier + Perrotte: Menkès Shooner Dagenais, Faculty of Music, McGill University, Montreal](#)

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