

Today's News - July 31, 2006

Hume takes a thoughtful look at the phoenix-like ability of Beirut to emerge from the ashes (we hope it will again). – A Corbu church rises in Firminy, but is it really Corbu? – A rant about the trend of art museums designed by great architects being "so dramatic as to distract from the art" (and one in particular). – Sudjic's take on the Tate expansion, and claim that Spence was the greatest British architect "is as depressing as it is unlikely." – Moscow to get a touch of "Good Old England," though critics say though buildings will be "undoubtedly swish, are typically nouveau Russian. Grandiose, with just a hint of oppression..." (poor Pooh). – A town of 50,000 slated for Florida ranch. – Curving towers in Las Vegas will doubtless become icons, once they figure out how to build them. – King savors Chicago and its "architectural razzmatazz." – A visitors center in Windsor Park is something even Prince Charles and Krier could aspire to. – In Memphis, decayed public housing project headed toward the wrecking ball seen as good news by everyone but preservationists. – Skateboard parks are a new design niche. – Toronto's Kuwabara is cool. – The "elegant rationalism of Milwaukee's Shields makes him the city's "un-Calatrava" architect. – Cooper Union celebrates Hejduk. – Traveling exhibit of planned border stations shows "good fences can make good neighbors, especially when those fences have great-looking gates" (if they actually get built). – Utopia explored in "Ideal City - Invisible Cities" exhibition in Poland.

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[The rise and fall of Beirut: The latest bombing of Beirut comes at a time when the ancient city has finally emerged from the rubble of a 15-year civil war. The regeneration has been a stunning success, guided by a certainty, clarity and almost poetic sensibility..."the Paris of the Middle East"...will rise again; it is only a matter of time. By Christopher Hume -- Solidere; Tony Coombes; Fred Koetter](#)- Toronto Star

[A Church in France Is Almost a Triumph for Le Corbusier: Completed by...protégé, José Oubrierie, who has tinkered with many elements of the original sketches, the Church of St. Pierre has stirred debate...about the ethics of finishing a work left behind by a legendary architect. By Nicolai Ouroussoff \[slide show\]](#)- New York Times

[Too grand for their art: ...since 1978...art museum additions have tended to devote half or more of their new space...not to the art, but to the museum itself and to "fun" activities...Few renovations are quite as pompous in this regard as the recently opened - and much praised - reconstructed Morgan Library... By Fred Camper -- Renzo Piano; Pei; Wright; Kahn; Niemeyer](#)- NY Newsday

[Extension for the house that Jacques - and Pierre - built: Herzog & de Meuron's major expansion plan for the Tate...is a powerful, memorable project...: According to the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland, Sir Basil Spence was the most celebrated British architect of the 20th century...a claim that is as depressing as it is unlikely. By Deyan Sudjic](#)- Observer (UK)

[Moscow's rich get the chance of a house on Pooh corner: ...part of central Moscow is transformed into a little piece of England...Work has begun on the creation of \[The English Town\]...With a starting budget of £120 million, it will be the biggest residential development in Moscow since the fall of Communism. -- Mikhail Belov](#)- Telegraph (UK)

[Betting the Ranch in Southwest Florida: A group led by Syd Kitson, a former professional football player...plans to build 19,500 homes on a 91,000-acre Florida ranch. By Fred A. Bernstein](#)- New York Times

[Architects leaning toward Strip skies the sky in Las Vegas: ...CityCenter gateway...curving high-rise towers seem destined to emerge as an architectural icon in Las Vegas. All they've got to do now is build them - no slam-dunk because of their unique design -- Murphy/Jahn; Studio Libeskind; Rockwell Group](#)- Las Vegas Sun

[Chicago's architectural razzmatazz: New or old, skyscrapers reflect city's brash and playful character. By John King -- Gehry; Ralph Johnson/Perkins & Will; Skidmore Owings & Merrill; Wright; Burnham and Root; Mies van der Rohe; Bertram Goldberg; Cesar Pelli \[slide show\]](#)- San Francisco Chronicle

[The building that grew itself: Windsor Park's stunning new visitor centre could give royal architecture a good name...Savill Building...fuses modern forms with traditional craftsmanship...built on organic, sustainable principles...You could say it's everything Prince Charles aspires to be. By Steve Rose -- Glenn Howells Architects; Buro Happold \[image\]](#)- Guardian (UK)

['One of the best': Dixie Homes architect left his mark on homes not only for the poor, but for the rich and for those in between...destruction \[of public housing project\] is not welcome news, however, to supporters of architectural preservation and the history of modern architecture in Memphis. -- J. Frazer Smith \[images\]](#)- Commercial Appeal (Memphis)

[It's All in the Swoop: Skateboarding...has inspired a whole new design field. Here's how skate parks became fast, deep, curvaceous and breathtaking...the skate park has evolved into an entirely new subdepartment of landscape architecture. By Richard Lacayo -- SITE Design Group, Dreamland, Team Pain and Grindline; David Rockwell](#)- Time Magazine

[Rebirth of the cool: In middle age, Bruce Kuwabara is starting a new phase as a husband, a father and the leading Canadian architect of his generation -- Kuwabara Payne McKenna Blumberg \(KPMB\)](#)- Globe and Mail (Canada)

[The 'un-Calatrava' touch: City warms to architect Jim Shields' elegant rationalism. By Whitney Gould -- Hammel, Green & Abrahamson \(HGA\) \[images\]](#)- Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

[Cooper Union Dean Celebrated: Few individuals have birthday celebrations held in their honor years after they have passed away. But in the case of architect, professor, theorist, and poet John Hejduk...a celebration is more than merited.](#)- New York Sun

[At the Borders, Creative Crossings: ...a new breed of border station...designs convey a](#)

[sense that first impressions count...at least in the minds of those involved in the GSA's...Design Excellence Program. By Linda Hales -- Charles Rose; Lake/Flato; Dworsky Associates; Ed Feiner; Smith-Miller+Hawkinson \[image\]](#)- Washington Post

[Modern art in Utopia: Birgit Rieger reports from the "Ideal City - Invisible Cities" exhibition in the Polish town of Zamosc \[images\]](#)- Sign and Sight (Germany)



-- [Competition winner: LAB architecture studio, Newcastle Region Art Gallery, Newcastle, NSW Australia](#)

-- [Schwartz/Silver Architects: Shaw Center for the Arts, Baton Rouge, Louisiana](#)

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