

Today's News - December 8, 2006

AIA awards 2007 Gold Medal posthumously and Firm Award to a woman-owned firm. – Ouroussoff finds Boston's ICA "architecture of empathy" and "welcome therapy for a self-involved age." – A museum win for a young architect is a "jump start for Palestinian architecture." – Two takes on Calatrava's (now less) twisting tower. – Gazprom Tower "just another global corporate monolith - banal, dull and inappropriate." – Foster's Madison Avenue tower "atrocious or masterpiece?" – Boddy finds architectural sophistication bodes well for a troubled Vancouver neighborhood. – TOD's and TND's not really what they purport to be. – Some successes, some failures for U.S. cities pushing pedal power. – A new study looks at the bright side of potential congestion pricing in NYC. – Automated parking garages trying to catch on in the U.S. – A new director (finally) found for Storefront for Art and Architecture. – Weekend diversions: Kamin gives Wright play in Chicago a big thumbs-up. – An exhibition in San Jose offers an artistic exploration of urban sprawl. – A new Glenn Murcutt opus weighs in at 7 kg. (and only A\$1650).

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[Modernist Edward Larrabee Barnes posthumously wins Architects' 2007 Gold Medal.](#) By Ann Jarmusch- San Diego Union-Tribune

[Leers Weinzapfel Receives 2007 AIA Architecture Firm Award: Projects noted for commitment to ingenuity, resourcefulness, and design excellence..."The fact is that for a woman-owned firm to succeed as spectacularly as Leers Weinzapfel has required persistence, diligence, and inventiveness."](#)- American Institute of Architects (AIA)

[Expansive Vistas Both Inside and Out: With its ability to interweave art and civic life, the new Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston is the most important building to rise there in a generation...It is the architecture of empathy, welcome therapy for a self-involved age.](#) By Nicolai Ouroussoff -- Diller Scofidio & Renfro [images]- New York Times

[A jump start for Palestinian architecture: Senan Abdelqader is designing the Museum of Art in Umm al-Fahm....\[he\] has the aplomb to believe he was not chosen, after negotiations with Hadid failed, "by accident or default."](#) By Esther Zandberg- Ha'aretz (Israel)

[Calatrava's Latest Twist from Spire to Licorice Stick: Some big changes at...proposed 2,000-foot-high Chicago Spire raise the question of whether the city has enough mega-millionaires left to absorb its 1,300 residential units...Will the tower wind up becoming a "Spire Too Far"?](#) By Lynn Becker [images]- Repeat (Chicago)

[New Calatrava design for Chicago is "a bit" worse: The first version is sleek, euro-chic, and urbane....the svelte ultra-feminine tower has, shall we say, gained a few pounds.](#) By Edward Lifson- EdwardLifson.com

[Gazprom Tower Will Blight St. Petersburg Skyline: Gazprom and RMJM are showing nothing but contempt and misunderstanding for the architectural legacy of a world heritage city...just another global corporate monolith -- banal, dull and inappropriate.](#) By Colin Amery- Bloomberg News

[Atrocious or masterpiece? Foster's \[980 Madison Avenue\] tower ignites New York battle-](#) Guardian (UK)

[Down and in on the Eastside: Artist Stan Douglas's studios, designed by Robert Kleyn, bring an architectural sophistication, with a nod to 1970s conceptual art, to a very troubled neighbourhood.](#) By Trevor Boddy- Globe and Mail (Canada)

[Op-Ed: Pedestrians Lost In The New Suburbia: A resident of a touted New Urbanist development in San Diego, California, comments on its failure as a walkable community...I remain a staunch supporter of the New Urbanism movement. -- Traditional Neighborhood Development \(TND\); Transit Oriented Development \(TOD\)- PLANetizen](#)

[Pedal Pushers: Fair- and foul-weather cities alike are gearing up to make it safer and easier for commuters to bicycle to work....The biggest lesson...is that a successful bike-commuting policy is a combination of infrastructure, education and promotion.](#)- Governing

[Battling Traffic: What New Yorkers Think About Road Pricing: Traveling on New York City's streets and highways normally takes 50-75% longer at rush hour than under uncongested conditions. The value of time wasted from traffic congestion is about \\$8 billion annually.](#)- Manhattan Institute

[An Urban Parking Perk: The Automated Garage: The United States has been slow to come around to automated garages...largely because of fears that the technology is not reliable enough...many municipal codes do not allow automated parking...](#)- New York Times

[Storefront for Art and Architecture Hires Joseph Grima: Former editorial staffer of Domus lands long-vacant directorship-](#) The Architect's Newspaper (NYC)

[Art on the Fast Tract: "Suburban Escape: The Art of California Sprawl": Varied interpretations of suburban sprawl are explored in a new exhibit at the San Jose Museum of Art.](#)- Metropolis Magazine

[Deconstructing Wright: The architect: A man with skyscraper-size flaws..."Frank's Home," the new play at the Goodman Theatre...is fascinating because it makes two long-departed architectural giants of Chicago, Wright and Louis Sullivan, come vividly to life.](#) By Blair Kamin- Chicago Tribune

[Murcutt, the heavyweight: The work of Australia's most acclaimed architect is the subject of a lavish new book...by Kenneth Frampton.](#)- The Age (Australia)



[-- Competition winner: Morphosis: Phare Tower, La Défense, France](#)
[-- Book:s: Architecture Tours L.A, Guidebooks by Laura Massino](#)

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