

Today's News - December 21, 2006

A grassroots-developed car-free urban community a reality in Germany. – U.K.'s green belt could be "be full of supermarkets, "sustainable" villages, new runways, windfarms, golf courses and leisure parks" in 20 years or less. – Depending on which side of the urban development fence, it's either good news or bad news re: approval of Brooklyn's Atlantic Yards mega-project and casinos on Philadelphia's riverfront (Saffron doesn't mince words!). – The blue grass state sprouting green (though often foregoing LEED certification expense). – University of Calgary picks a very green master planner. – A "frenzy of cultural exchanging" between Miami's South Beach and Shanghai. – Toronto's best new buildings of 2006 (and some that disappoint). – Australian architects create a "prefab that is a critique of prefab." – An Oklahoma architect has deep roots. – An architect resurrects his Modernist masterpiece in New Orleans. – An architect pilots a new TV show to take the mystery out of architecture.

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[New German community models car-free living: ...environmentally friendly neighborhood and a successful experiment in green urban living. The Vauban development - 2,000 new homes on a former military base...has put into practice many ideas that were once dismissed as eco-fantasy but which are now moving to the center of public policy.](#)- Christian Science Monitor

[Now you see it ... Planning law relaxations and spats over EU rules don't bode well for Britain's landscape and wildlife - but it's not all bad news: ...2006 is likely to go down as the year when a Labour government justified ditching the best known - and, arguably, most successful - environmental protection legislation of the past 50 years.](#)- Guardian (UK)

[State Approves Major Complex for Brooklyn: The approval knocked down the last regulatory hurdle for one of the biggest real estate projects in the city's history...\\$4 billion Atlantic Yards...still faces two lawsuits, with more probably on the way...](#) -- Frank Gehry- New York Times

[Design? Couldn't be worse: The two selections are inconvenient, and damaging to rowhouse life: ...decision to anoint Foxwoods and SugarHouse heirs to Philadelphia's two gambling licenses is the worst-case scenario. The winners offered the fewest amenities, uninspired designs, and two of the most cramped and inconvenient sites. By Inga Saffron - Friedmutter Group; Cope Linder-](#) Philadelphia Inquirer

[Special Report: The Gaming Issue: links to Inga Saffron's reviews of all 5 Philadelphia casino proposals-](#) Philadelphia Inquirer

[2010 World Equestrian Games could spur Kentucky movement: ...an opportunity to encourage environmentally friendly new construction. -- Ross-Tarrant Architects; Rosa Pohl Architecture+Design-](#) Herald-Leader (Kentucky)

[University of Calgary hires master planner for West Campus: ...environmentally sustainable university community comprised of mixed uses, including residential, retail, and commercial space...meeting or exceeding...LEED... -- Sasaki Associates; Kasian Architecture-](#) Canadian Architect

[East Meets South Beach: ...stoking a vibrant relationship with...Shanghai -- a relationship based on a shared heritage in Art Deco design...South Florida's search for feng shue brought dedicated preservationists together with developers...for a frenzy of cultural exchanging... -- Xing Tong He; Shanghai Xian Dai Architecture Design Group; Bernard Fort-Brescia/Arquitectonica \[images\]-](#) The Slatin Report

[Best New Buildings Of 2006: ...this year proved good architecture in Toronto isn't limited to mega-projects or dependent on star architects from out-of-town. -- Diamond Schmitt; Kuwabara Payne McKenna Blumberg \(KPMB\); Foster and Partners; Architects Alliance/Behnisch, Behnisch and Partner; Baird Sampson Neuert; Moriama & Teshima; Zeidler Partnership; Hariri Pontarini/Robbie/ Young + Wright; etc. \[slide show\]-](#) National Post (Canada)

[Bursting Out: Using digital technology, architects Jeremy Edmiston and Douglas Gauthier break free from the conventional box that has long defined prefab houses...Burst *003 may be the start of a new architectural cult...a prefab that is a critique of prefab -- a design with legs. -- System Architects \[images\]-](#) Metropolis Magazine

[Native Son: Oklahoma City's Rand Elliott carves out an impressive body of work that's deeply rooted in place and local culture. -- Elliott + Associates \[images\]-](#) Metropolis Magazine

[A Modernist Beacon in the Post-Katrina Night: For an 82-year-old architect, the storm hit home. Now he's rebuilding his masterpiece. By Kerrie Jacobs -- Albert Ledner \[slide show\]-](#) New York Times

[Taking the mystery out of architecture: Why not create a show that decodes contemporary public-space architecture? The program would explain why structures were built in a particular way, point out what makes the design successful, and note details that the average viewer might miss. -- Stephen Chung-](#) Boston Globe

[Design Team Selected for Rutgers Grand Redesign Plans: Green spaces and connecting the campus to the river will create places as much for the community as the campus -- Enrique Norten/TEN Arquitectos; Wallace, Roberts & Todd Design \[images\]-](#) ArchNewsNow

[-- Exhibition: New York Times Building \(Renzo Piano Building Workshop/FXFowle Architects\), Center for Architecture, New York City](#)
[-- TEN Arquitectos: Taller de Enrique Norton Arquitectos: National School of Theater, Mexico City](#)

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