

Today's News - Friday, October 26, 2007

U.N. report: earth is reaching the point of no return (a bleak assessment, indeed). -- Ireland and a Montreal borough mayor hope to make a difference. -- Prague's National Library gets a team of experts to decide where to put "the blob." -- Kaplicky insists his "octopus" will be built. -- Hume fumes over new Toronto waterfront complex: it's "vast and obnoxious, misplaced and inappropriate." -- For new Minneapolis bridge, a ho-hum reaction: "underwhelming." -- No more billboards with Libeskind's "bemused face" in Sacramento. -- Saffron minces no words when it comes to Philadelphia's "ugliest new condo." -- As for the theater inside: "like discovering a fabulous chocolate truffle inside a stale pastry shell." -- It seems that if you have a Dutch firm on your team, you can win big in London. -- Williams and Tsien are the "hot new architects who design without ego." -- Chandler talks to Adjaye re: his Denver museum almost ready for its close-up: "Still, there are little moments we're trying to get right." -- Rodney Leon's African Burial Ground National Monument comes alive. -- Heritage Toronto Awards winners. -- Archeworks founders plan to pass the baton. -- A "compelling" new book address Cambodia's threatened modernist heritage. -- One we couldn't resist: What to Do When a Design Jury Attacks.



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[Earth is reaching the point of no return, says major UN environment report: The bleak assessment of the state of the environment globally was issued as an "urgent call for action" amid growing concerns of worldwide waste, neglect and governmental inertia.](#)- The Times (UK)

[Irish government announces new architecture policy...set to include a six-year action plan...will place more emphasis on sustainable development of the environment and on urban design. It will continue to encourage and support high quality modern architecture...](#)- Edie (Environmental Data Interactive Exchange)

[Labonté issues leadership challenge: Ville Marie Borough mayor aiming to show he can run a city better...will soon overhaul local urban planning regulations, shorten wait times for building permits...and set new heritage, design and sustainable development criteria to assess projects.](#)- Montreal Gazette

[Team of experts to decide on new National Library building: The ongoing controversy...has come to something of a head...Team National Library consisting of architects, preservationists and lawyers, is expected to come up with a final proposal for the location of 'the Blob' -- Jan Kaplicky/Future Systems-](#) Radio Prague

[Future Systems fight back in battle over Prague library: ...will be built unchanged, insists Kaplicky: Will Prague library become the next Cardiff Bay Opera House? \[images, links\]-](#) BD/Building Design (UK)

[New waterfront complex just plain ugly: The massive waterfront Portlands Energy Centre is incompatible with plans for a new community...it's a vast and obnoxious, misplaced and inappropriate project that will seriously damage plans for waterfront regeneration in Toronto. By Christopher Hume-](#) Toronto Star

[At design workshop for new Minneapolis bridge, a ho-hum reaction: The word "underwhelming" came up repeatedly... -- Figg Engineering Group \[image\]-](#) Minnesota Public Radio

[Condo project loses its star: Libeskind cuts ties to developer, citing nonpayment...letter asks that "all plans and renderings" for the Epic project be returned or destroyed...The scrapheap of high-rises planned for Sacramento before the real estate market collapsed is starting to pile up.](#)- Sacramento Bee (California)

[Nightmare on Broad Street: ...it won't come as news that Symphony House is the ugliest new condo building in Philadelphia...The city needs to build well, with taste, integrity, creativity, and, whenever possible, real aesthetic ambition. By Inga Saffron -- Bower Lewis Thrower Architects \(BLT\) \[images\]-](#) Philadelphia Inquirer

[Newest theater on Avenue of Arts is one to applaud: ...new Suzanne Roberts Theatre...feels so blissfully disconnected from the world is because it is buried deep within the Symphony House complex...like discovering a fabulous chocolate truffle inside a stale pastry shell. By Inga Saffron -- Bower Lewis Thrower Architects \(BLT\); KieranTimberlake-](#) Philadelphia Inquirer

[London's Dutch capitulation: Is the fashion for getting Dutch firms to work on Olympic and Gateway projects down to superior skills or is it just a political fad? -- Koolhaas/OMA; KCAP/Christiaanse/Gietema; West 8; Maxwan; S333; Maccreanor Lavington; Van Egeraat; BiQ-](#) BD/Building Design (UK)

[Hot New Architects Design Without Ego: After a decade of museum design...dominated by starchitects such as Frank Gehry, Daniel Libeskind, and Santiago Calatrava, two of the most sought-after architects at the moment, Tod Williams and Billie Tsien, project little in the way of ego, either in person or in their buildings.](#)- New York Sun

[Finishing touches for LoDo museum: The architect of the new Museum of Contemporary Art Denver walked through the building with a critical eye..."Still, there are little moments we're trying to get right." By Mary Voelz Chandler -- David Adjaye-](#) Rocky Mountain News (Denver)

[Architect's vision comes alive for African Burial Ground: Even having Rodney Leon explain how he chose the elements that together form the African Burial Ground National Monument didn't prepare me for the site's emotional power. -- Aarris Architects- NY Daily News](#)

[33rd Annual Heritage Toronto Awards: ...celebrate outstanding contributions...in promoting and conserving Toronto's history and heritage landmarks. -- Black and Moffat Architects; PDA Architects; E.R.A. Architects; Alan Seymour; Stanford Downey Architects; etc. \[images\]- Heritage Toronto](#)

[Archeworks creators plan to pass the baton: Thirteen years after launching an alternative Chicago design school with a social conscience, the school's founders...are ready to pass the baton to a new generation. They just aren't saying who will replace them -- at least not yet. By Blair Kamin -- Stanley Tigerman; Eva Maddox- Chicago Tribune](#)

[Book review: Deconstructing Cambodia's modernist heritage: ...peace-time rush towards modernity and cookie-cutter-shaped urban development...Phnom Penh finds itself at important architectural crossroads..."Building Cambodia: New Khmer Architecture: 1953-1970" by Helen Grant Ross and Darryl Leon Collins- Asia Times](#)

[Blowfish: What to Do When a Design Jury Attacks: a way of making fun of the pretensions and relieving the stresses students face when they present their architecture, landscape architecture, or urban design final work to a "jury" of five to ten prestigious professionals. By Ray Chung, Josh Comaroff, and the GSD Classes of 1999 and 2000- Harvard Design Magazine](#)

[Modern Focus on the Patient: Intermountain Medical Center in Murray, Utah, gives form to a parallel shift in medicine that emphasizes the art of healing rather than the mere administration of scientific procedures. -- Anshen+Allen \[images\]- ArchNewsNow](#)



[-- WHY Architecture: Grand Rapids Art Museum, Grand Rapids, Michigan](#)
[-- Riding the LA Metro -- Tanzmann Associates; Siegel Diamond Architecture; Dworsky Associates; Miralles Associates; Escudero-Fribourg Architects; Diedrich Architects; Ellerbe-Becket; Anil Verma Associates; Arquitectonica](#)

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