

Today's News - Tuesday, July 1, 2008

- Robin Hood Gardens deemed "not fit for purpose."
- Big plans for an eyesore in the heart of Istanbul hit huge bureaucratic hurdles.
- Should Boston's City Hall Plaza be saved? (turning it into a wind farm "couldn't make the place any worse")
- Friends of the Barnes put up a good fight, but the track has been cleared "for the most audacious art heist in American history"; now the spotlight will shift to the Barnes II "marquee building."
- An architectural treasure on Pennsylvania Ave. is saved but underused; the Old Post Office "just sucks cash from its landlord, the federal government."
- Not good news re: WTC rebuilding: "there will clearly be some triage" (a.k.a. value engineering?).
- Gough pleads for architects not to listen to special interest groups who want them to "carry their paranoia!"
- London 2012 falls short on sustainability.
- King takes on global warming and old Bay Area assumptions: "The questions are changing. And the stakes are high."
- Russell offers up two projects that "show how quickly the green revolution in building design is moving -- unleashing architectural inventiveness not seen in 100 years."
- Glancey visits Gehry to look into Britain's "scared of Frank syndrome."
- His stroll over Hadid's Zaragoza bridge is "a magnificent and truly ennobling way to cross a river on foot."
- Denverites listen in on architects' pitches to redesign Boettcher Concert Hall.
- Nashville's new convention center should satisfy those weary of the city's "bland, non-adventurous architecture."
- An in-depth profile of Boston's new city planner: "expect a virtual moratorium on historic 'reproductions:'"
- Kuma and Van Berkel take center stage at the PAM 2008 in Kuala Lumpur later this week.
- We couldn't resist: an eyeeful of NYC's other waterfalls ("given a certain latitude").

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[Robin Hood Gardens will not be listed: "Although I accept that it was designed by distinguished architects, I do not think that their reputation outweighs the evidence that Robin Hood Gardens was not innovative in terms of the 'streets-in-the-air' concept and it is not fit for purpose." -- Alison and Peter Smithson- BD/Building Design \(UK\)](#)

[An enduring tale of urban eyesore: ...in the heart of Istanbul...the Turkish Radio and Television Corporation \(TRT\) center...Efforts to replace it...are facing huge bureaucratic hurdles no one has been able to surmount for the past three years...The Suna Inan Kiraç Foundation wants to build a culture center at the spot...designed by Frank Gehry...- Turkish Daily News](#)

[Can Boston's City Hall Plaza Be Saved? More to the point, should it be? Project for Public Spaces \(PPS\) rated it the worst urban plaza anywhere...are historic preservationists good at choosing their battles—or do they really think that every historic landscape, anywhere, should be preserved? By Bill Thompson, FASLA -- Kallman, McKinnell and Knowles \(1968\)- LAND Online \(ASLA\)](#)

[Friends of the Barnes keep up the good fight: ...with the track cleared for the most audacious art heist in American history, the real prospect of a more commercial incarnation is finally upon us...The spotlight will shift...to the Barnes II architects, Tod Williams and Billie Tsien, and their marquee building...a unique bit of Americana will have become just another routine stop on the Gray Line tours.- Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

[Architectural treasure on Washington's Pennsylvania Ave. saved but underused: ...Old Post Office...is out of danger, but its existence hardly benefits an architectural treasure...just blocks from the White House...Mostly, the cavernous structure just sucks cash from its landlord, the federal government. \(AP\)- Yahoo News](#)

[Rebuilding at 9/11 Site Runs Late, Report Says: "The question surrounding the World Trade Center rebuilding is not if all of the projects will be built, rather when and for how much...there will clearly be some triage"...The PATH station designed by Santiago Calatrava will have to be revised...- New York Times](#)

[Debate rejects call for counter-terrorism design: "Every special interest group in the country wants architects on their side to carry their paranoia!" cried architect Piers Gough, speaking at an RIBA Building Futures debate on the culture of security-conscious design. "Don't listen to them!"- BD/Building Design \(UK\)](#)

[London 2012 falls short on sustainability. The Olympic Delivery Authority needs to go further to make the London 2012 Olympics more eco-friendly by setting more ambitious targets, says a new document from the London Assembly.- New Civil Engineer \(UK\)](#)

[How global warming challenges the old Bay Area assumptions: The easy reaction is to say that sprawl is bad, and that growth should be confined to new higher-density pockets within existing cities and suburbs. But that's hardly a cure-all...The questions are changing. And the stakes are high. By John King- San Francisco Chronicle](#)

[Harvard, Sidwell Embrace Green Design in Labs, Roof: ...both show how quickly the green revolution in building design is moving -- unleashing architectural inventiveness not seen in 100 years...With a little school and a](#)

[gigantic university pushing this trend, green building's massive potential may trickle down fast. By James S. Russell -- Behnisch Architekten; KieranTimberlake- Bloomberg News](#)

[Let's twist again: His billowing, writhing designs have made Frank Gehry one of the most celebrated architects in the world. So why is Britain so scared of him? He talks to Jonathan Glancey \[slide show\]- Guardian \(UK\)](#)

[Zaragoza Expo 2008: Hadid's bridge crosses new frontiers: ...pavilion showpiece offers a magnificent river traverse, as well as a walk into the future...a magnificent and truly ennobling way to cross a river on foot...If the twin-span exterior is spectacular, its interior is intriguing... By Jonathan Glancey \[video\]- Guardian \(UK\)](#)

[Architects make a pitch to redesign Boettcher Concert Hall -- Skidmore, Owings & Merrill \(SOM\)/Anderson Mason Dale; LMN Architects/David Tryba; Grimshaw; Diamond + Schmitt; David M. Schwarz; Zeidler Partnership- Rocky Mountain News \(Denver\)](#)

[Bland design not a worry for convention center \[Music City Center\]: For those Nashvillians weary of this city's bland, non-adventurous architecture...The city could truly use a statement structure, one that grabs national attention and conveys, "This is the 21st century Nashville." -- Thompson, Ventulett, Stainback & Associates \(TVS\); Moody-Nolan; Tuck-Hinton- Nashville City Paper](#)

[The Shaper of Things to Come: If you're wondering what Boston will look and feel like in 10 years - the shape of our skyline, the boldness of our buildings, the run of our streets - you need to know Kairos Shen...the director of planning for the Boston Redevelopment Authority who was recently tapped as the city's chief planner...- Boston Globe](#)

[Visionary designers: Kengo Kuma and Ben Van Berkel will offer a peek into futuristic designs at the PAM 2008 architectural convention in Kuala Lumpur from July 3-July 5. -- Malaysia Institute of Architects \(PAM\) \[links\]- The Star \(Malaysia\)](#)

[In New York, Waterfalls Are Nothing New: The \\$15.5 million "New York City Waterfalls" installation by Olafur Eliasson in New York Harbor has generated a lot of hoopla. But the city was already home to plenty of waterfalls -- if the term is given a certain latitude. \[slide show\]- New York Times](#)



[-- Under construction: Asymptote: Strata Tower, Abu Dhabi, UAE](#)
[-- JKMM Architects: Viikki Church, Helsinki, Finland](#)

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