

Today's News - Wednesday, July 9, 2008

A month away from the Beijing Olympics, and critics take on more than just buildings:

- Arch Record has a bundle on Beijing, where "architecture has become a spectator sport."
- Sudjic says it's "a shimmering surreal vision, two parts Las Vegas, two parts Dubai...context is not something Beijing has done well."
- Kennicott looks at both architectural innovation and the "vener of shabbiness on almost everything that isn't a government-backed super-project with a Western architect at the helm."
- ARO's Cassell and Yarinsky offer an outsiders critique of five Beijing buildings.
- Meyer's "The Last Days of Old Beijing" is a heart-felt testament to the Beijing that is being systematically eradicated.
- Rosenbaum on the "Abu NYU and dueling Arab MoMAs."
- How could we resist a Masdar City video fly-through.
- Lewis on workforce housing and a county dealing with realities: "affordability is not a challenge faced only by the poor." -
- Green lessons we can learn from our medieval ancestors.
- Hume has high praise for college plans on the shores of Lake Ontario.
- King looks at S.F. City College Chinatown plans: "First it was a 16-story green blob. Now it's a 14-story box in tailored blinds."
- Merrick makes merry with Gehry's Serpentine Pavilion: "why it's a builder's nightmare - and an architect's dream," and "essentially honest architecture."
- A conversation with McAslan: who are you?
- Colorado students' TrailerWrap shows us "sometimes the best way for architects to affect change is to become it."
- Glasgow seeks EOLs for 2014 Commonwealth Games athletes' village.
- Maas adds a "blue-sky" solution to the Rotterdam skyline.
- A Charlottesville home where the sun is the star.
- Gardner considers Palladio to be architecture's Virgil (and a "starchitect" of his time).
- Vote on proposed location of reborn Skylon (great pix!).
- An eyeful of U.K.'s Housing Design Awards (with some disappointments).

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[Beijing At Warp Speed: ...architecture has become a spectator sport. -- Foster + Partners; Office for Metropolitan Architecture/OMA; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill \(SOM\); Ma Yansong/Dang Qun; Steven Holl; Studio Pei-Zhu; LOT-EK; Kengo Kuma; Oval Partnership; SHoP; Beijing Matsubara Architect; Sako Architects; Jean-Michel Wilmotte; Andreu; Foster; Herzog & de Meuron; PTW; etc. \[slide shows\]](#)- Architectural Record

[The shape of things to come: ...there is a sense that building here is one of those rare chances architects get to make history, so how can they say no? ...Context is not something Beijing has done well... By Deyan Sudjic -- Denton Corker Marshall; Paul Andreu; Steve Holl; Herzog & de Meuron; PTW; Koolhaas/Metropolitan Architecture \(OMA\); Riken Yamamoto; Foster + Partners; etc.](#)- Observer (UK)

[Towering Ambition: New mega-projects have thrust the country into the forefront of architectural innovation, while cheap construction puts a veneer of shabbiness on almost everything that isn't a government-backed super-project with a Western architect at the helm. By Philip Kennicott -- Qingyun Ma; Herzog & de Meuron; Koolhaas/Scheeren/Office for Metropolitan Architecture \(OMA\); Foster + Partners; Paul Andreu; Chen Zhao; Steven Holl; Gensler; Yansong Ma/MAD \[video link\]](#)- Washington Post

[Beijing Architecture: Stephen Cassell and Adam Yarinsky of Architecture Research Office \(ARO\) offer an outsiders critique of five buildings -- Herzog & de Meuron; PTW; Paul Andreu; Rem Koolhaas/OMA; Foster + Partners \[video\]](#)- Associated Press (AP)

[Book review: An American in China: "The Last Days of Old Beijing: Life in the Vanishing Backstreets of a City Transformed" by Michael Meyer: ...records the demolition of the city's ancient neighborhoods...promises an insider's view, which is exactly the one you want on this rapidly metamorphosing city. And Meyer delivers...-](#) New York Times

[More on Abu NYU and Dueling Arab MoMAs Planned for Qatar, Dubai: ...strong objections that some have raised to the university's megabucks deal with the United Arab Emirates should resonate with museum staffers at the Guggenheim and the Louvre... By Lee Rosenbaum -- Rafael Viñoly; van Berkel/UN Studio-](#) ArtsJournal

[Masdar video fly-through: Experience the futuristic](#)

[Foster + Partners-designed zero carbon Masdar city planned for Abu Dhabi- Building \(UK\)](#)

[A Realization in Fairfax County About Traffic and Housing: ...the term "workforce housing" is not just a faddish vocabulary change. It expresses today's reality: Housing affordability is not a challenge faced only by the poor... By Roger K. Lewis- Washington Post](#)

[Middle Age lessons for the modern struggle against climate change: Skilful flood management and closer links with nature are among the green lessons Britain can learn from its medieval ancestors, academics say...the 14th International Medieval Congress...- Guardian \(UK\)](#)

[Full marks for adding college to lakeshore facelift: Word that George Brown College will open a campus on the shore of Lake Ontario just east of Jarvis St. is one of the best things to happen here in ages...Also good news is the choice of architect...This could be where the city joins the 21st century. By Christopher Hume -- Renée Daoust- Toronto Star](#)

[San Francisco City College Chinatown proposal: First it was a 16-story green blob. Now it's a 14-story box in tailored blinds. And the dispute over the design...is down to punched windows in the wall of an entirely different building + Housing Hero Awards + meet the architect of the proposed - and piping hot - Contemporary Art Museum of the Presidio... By John King -- EHDD; Barcelon + Jang; David Baker; Daniel Solomon; Richard Gluckman- San Francisco Chronicle](#)

[Angles from heaven: Frank Gehry takes on his dream project: The new Serpentine Pavilion...why it's a builder's nightmare -- and an architect's dream...not an exercise in irony; nor is it gormlessly "lively" ...It engages us humanely, and self-critically...essentially honest architecture. By Jay Merrick- Independent \(UK\)](#)

[The Scots super-architect with a Yankee vision: John McAslan's work owes a lot to time spent on the other side of the Atlantic...the question remains: who are you? ...has no time to be his own architect. Is he a nightmare to have as a client? -- RTKL; Cambridge Seven- The Scotsman \(UK\)](#)

[TrailerWrap: A Study in Creating the Habitable Mobile Home: ...an example-setting project, initiated by architects and future architects to show us that sometimes the best way for architects to affect change is to become it. By Alan Ford, AIA -- University of Colorado College of Architecture and Planning \[images, links\]- AIA Soloso](#)

[Proposals invited for 2014 athletes' village in Clyde Gateway: Expressions of interest sought for 38.5ha scheme to become 1,000-home community after Commonwealth Games...a flagship for the regeneration of Glasgow's East End... \[link\]- Building \(UK\)](#)

[Sky Lark: When a family in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, needed more space, there was nowhere to go but up...Didden Village, is literally a blue-sky solution... -- Winy Maas/MVRDV \[slide show\]- New York Times](#)

[Star turn: At the Timepiece House, the sun is the show: ...walls, stairwells and ceilings are exactly aligned with the various paths of the sun, so that the circular beam of light strikes specific points at important moments... -- Carrie Meinberg Burke AIA Architecture + Industrial Design; Kevin Burke/William McDonough + Partners \[images\]- C-Ville \(Charlottesville, VA\)](#)

[Palladio, Architecture's Virgil: ...of all the architects who lived before the 20th century, few were as influential...or came closer, in the arc of their reputation, to being what we would now call a "starchitect." ...like Wright, Le Corbusier, and Frank Gehry, created an entire style, an entire vocabulary of forms. By James Gardner -- Institute of Classical Architecture & Classical America- New York Sun](#)

[Public given chance to vote on proposed location of 'reborn' Skylon – a replica of the 1951 Festival of Britain icon...Rebuild the Skylon campaign website shows mock-ups of the 300ft structure in eleven potential locations around the country – and one overseas. \[images, link\]- The Architects' Journal \(UK\)](#)

[Housing Design Awards 2008: ...uncomfortable impression that budget earmarked for landscaping had been treated as though it were a contingency fund for the buildings. So one happy surprise...is a clutch of schemes where the public realm and communal areas were comprehensively specified and planted. -- Shed KM; Allford Hall Monaghan Morris \(AHMM\); Cartwright Pickard/B + C Architectes; TADW; Rogers Stirk Harbour \[images\]- Design for Homes](#)

[Words That Build Tip #4: Steering Your Client in the Appropriate Direction- ArchNewsNow](#)

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