

Today's News - Wednesday, July 23, 2008

- L.A. River regulations may affect waterway and riverfront developments everywhere.
- More on Kuwait's mega-Silk City (though money numbers are a bit confusing - £132 or \$132 billion).
- Ouroussoff offers a must-read look (one of the best we've seen) at what Beijing is losing in the midst of its building boom (it's not just the hutongs).
- Russell minces no words about why foreign investors love American landmark buildings (someone has to).
- Rybczynski is more than riled about Mayne's U.S. Federal Building in San Francisco: it's "about as interesting as walking beside a boarded-up store."
- Shigeru Ban wins his first U.S. museum - in Aspen.
- Ireland unveils its teams and plans for Venice Biennale.
- Macau Pavilion design picked for 2010 Shanghai Expo ("Lantern of the Little Bunny").
- Anderton talks Lautner and the aesthetics and politics of Beijing architecture with Hawthorne, Escher, et. al.
- A temporary reprieve for a Neutra in Orange County.
- A Modernist marvel in Edinburgh - it's for sale.
- Cramer is exasperated by the "hyperactive market" for modern design: "When architecture is sold as art, the profession runs the risk of losing its sense of responsibility to its clientele - that is, to humanity."
- In Australia, Queensland gets a Government Architect (it's a good thing, but similar posts needed elsewhere as well).
- In the Philippines, a law creates a "clear dividing line" between the functions of civil engineers and architects (the engineers aren't all that happy).
- Gehry's Serpentine is "the summer's most enjoyable architectural excursion" (before it goes back into the toy box).
- Saffron on Philly's new "light fantastic."
- An eyeful of Nakamura's "human bird nests" (a.k.a. apartments) in Tokyo.
- Call for entries: 56th Annual P/A Awards 2009.
- No details yet, but word has it that Herzog & de Meuron will be designing Verdi's "Attila" for the Metropolitan Opera in NYC in 2010.

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[The L.A. River, Navigability, and the Future of Watershed Development: ...the impact of recent court decisions on the Los Angeles River, and how it may affect development on the watersheds of rivers and waterways across the country.](#)- PLANetizen

[Kuwait plans new £132bn metropolis: ...the Madinat al-Hareer, or Silk City...a 1,001-metre skyscraper, wildlife reserves, and homes for 700,000 people...plan to also build an international rail network linking it to Damascus, Baghdad, Iran and China. - Eric R Kuhne & Associates \[image\]- Guardian \(UK\)](#)

[Lost in the New Beijing: The Old Neighborhood: A construction boom tied to the Olympics is threatening two types of housing in China's capital...Now, as they labor to protect what remains, Chinese preservationists are facing a new, equally insidious threat: gentrification. By Nicolai Ouroussoff \[slide show\]- New York Times](#)

[Why Foreign Investors Love Landmarks Like the Chrysler Building: American commercial architecture is now the most timid and innovation-averse in the developed world. That makes genuine trophy buildings more valuable. By James S. Russell -- Skidmore Owings & Merrill \(SOM\); Rem Koolhaas; Renzo Piano- Bloomberg News](#)

[Thom Mayne's U.S. Federal Building: Can the iconoclastic architect design a structure that's cheap, green, and secure? I'm beginning to think that \[he\] may not be the best architect for a public project. By Witold Rybczynski -- Morphosis \[slide show essay\]- Slate](#)

[Shigeru Ban to Design New Home for Aspen Art Museum: ...new 30,000-square-foot facility...his first museum design in the United States.- Artinfo](#)

["The Lives of Spaces" - Ireland's participation at the 11th International Architecture Exhibition \[Venice Biennale\] launched: ...pieces explore the central role of space in our society... -- Grainne Hassett; Gerry Cahill; O'Donnell + Tuomey; Patrick Lynch/Simon Walker; McCullough Mulvin; De Paor Architects; Cian Deegan/Alice Casey/TAKA; Grafton Architects \[links\]- Archiseek \(Ireland\)](#)

['Lantern do Coelho' voted best design concept for 2010 Shanghai Expo: ...meaning "Lantern of the Little Bunny"...voted as the best of the final three design concepts for the Macau Pavilion -- Carlos Marreiros Arquitectos- Macau Daily Times](#)

[DnA/Frances Anderton: Landmark Architecture of LA's Past and China's Present: "Between Earth and Heaven: The Architecture of John Lautner" and the aesthetics and politics of new buildings in Beijing.](#) -- Nicholas Olsberg; Annie Philbin/Hammer Museum; Frank Escher/Escher GuneWardena; Christopher Hawthorne- KCRW.org (Los Angeles)

[Fighting for Neutra in the O.C.: Temporary reprieve for Newport Beach Neutra...the Mariners Medical Arts Center...historical assessment, it turns out, had never been submitted...](#)- The Architect's Newspaper (Los Angeles)

[Modernist marvel: Robert Steedman's 1961 home \[in Edinburgh\] exemplified his principles. Half a century on, it is still a remarkable design for living \[images\]](#)- The Times (UK)

[Eine Kleine Schadenfreude: I'll admit to exhaustion, even exasperation, when it comes to the hyperactive market for contemporary and modern design...When architects think like artists, and when architecture is sold as art, the profession runs the risk of losing its sense of responsibility to its clientele—that is, to humanity.](#) By Ned Cramer- Architect Magazine

[Queensland Government Architect an essential move for the State: Australian Institute of Architects says: ...appointment of Philip Follent...with expanded roles and responsibilities...AIA is continuing to lobby for similar positions in those states currently without the benefit of similar expertise...](#)- Selector.com (Australia)

[Architects note violations of law defining profession's functions: ...Republic Act \(RA\) 9266 has created a "landmark change" by providing a "clear dividing line" between the functions of civil engineers and architects... -- United Architects of the Philippines \(UAP\)- SunStar \(Philippines\)](#)

[In the Park: Serpentine Pavilion...the reality is much more effective than the photographs of models suggest— large, active and unresolved...It seems proper that Gehry's pavilion will, later in the year, go back into the toy box. In the meantime, it is the summer's most enjoyable architectural excursion.](#)- London Review of Books

[Philly's light Fantastic: ...next time you find yourself walking up Third Street in Northern Liberties, be prepared to get drenched in a shower of reflected light...giant reflector is meant to help Philadelphians see their city, and its light, in a whole new way.](#) By Inga Saffron -- Ray King [images]- Philadelphia Inquirer

[Nesting in Tokyo: Woven into a rare stand of trees, Hiroshi Nakamura's apartment building offers business travelers a place to land...Dancing Trees, Singing Birds...9 "human bird nests" cantilever out from the south facade, jutting between trunks and branches.](#) -- Hiroshi Nakamura & NAP Architects [images]- Metropolis Magazine

[Call for entries: 56th Annual P/A Awards 2009 \(open to U.S., Canada, Mexico\): deadline: September 19-](#) Architect Magazine

[Classic Nuance: Simon Hall at Indiana University: A new research facility fits harmoniously with neighboring historic campus structures.](#) -- Flad Architects [images]- ArchNewsNow



-- Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects: Visitor

[Center at Lincoln Center, New York, NY](#)
[-- Santiago Calatrava: Light Rail Train Bridge, Jerusalem, Israel!](#)

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