

Today's News - Thursday, August 28, 2008

EDITOR'S NOTE: We're taking a break tomorrow and Monday (Labor Day)...see you again Tuesday, September 2.

- U.S. infrastructure is really behind the 8-ball: LePatner, Yaro, and McEntee take on what needs to be done.
- Grassroots efforts in the U.K. beginning to convince builders to recycle construction waste.
- Sacramento is a case study of a city moving from sprawl to smart growth - smartly.
- Massive re-zonings in NYC may lead to more housing, but what of the people who already live those neighborhoods?
- Calatrava's WTC transit hub to be value engineered - yet again?
- Ouroussoff and Russell give thumbs-up to Rudolph restoration at Yale (but both are not so kind to new addition).
- L.A.'s Mark Taper Forum ready for its close-up now that "headache-inducing quirks" have been worked out.
- Heathcote finds a new Danish museum "a rare and unexpected delight" and a "quiet revelation."
- Call for entries: International competition to design the House of Arts and Culture in Beirut.
- The Shimmer Wall of Raleigh, NC's new convention center creates quite a buzz (in a good way).
- New office for U.S. Fund for Unicef is tasteful, functional, and doesn't give the impression that it was built at the expense of the people it serves.
- Q&A with McCloud re: hosting the Stirling Prize and Castleford: "I'm only going to have to stand in front of 500 architects and say: 'Hello, I'm the guy who apparently doesn't pay architects!'"
- Next up on Principal Voices Design for Good: Libeskind, Head, and Sinclair.
- Rawsthorn on Newson designing the "mini-world" interior of the superjumbo A380.
- We couldn't resist: the 2008 America's Best Restroom award goes to Nashville hotel (some cool runners-up, too).

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**INSIGHT: Failing to Protect: Three Actions Our Leaders Must Take in Order to Save America's Crumbling Infrastructure.** By Barry B. LePatner - ArchNewsNow

**Op-Ed: New York Needs An Olympic-Sized Infrastructure Investment: China is aggressively expanding its urban infrastructure...officials in the U.S. and New York need to do the same.** By Bob Yaro, President, Regional Plan Association (RPA) - Center for an Urban Future

**Op-Ed: Bridging the Infrastructure Gap: Katrina ... the I-35W bridge collapse ... never again? Well, nationwide, little is being done to shore up the country's crumbling undergirdings...Why...isn't this issue given more prominence and attention in the presidential election?** By Christine McEntee, CEO American Institute of Architects (AIA) - Minneapolis Star Tribune

**Community project convincing builders to recycle waste: Construction waste makes up a much larger proportion of landfill than household rubbish. Is it time the drive to recycle shifted its focus? Grassroots projects...are playing an underrated but important role in diverting materials produced by construction from landfill.** - Guardian (UK)

**From Sprawl to Smart Growth: Sacramento as a Case Study: Q&A with Mike McKeever...about the challenges presented by changing a city's way of life, how builders and businesses are benefiting from the new plans, and if this kind of smart growth has got legs.** [podcast] - GreenBiz.com

**Reshaping the City: Who's Being Heard -- and Why? To meet the post-industrial age, the Bloomberg administration has rezoned one sixth of New York's land. The changes lead to more housing -- but do they ignore the people who already live here?** [links] - Gotham Gazette (NYC)

**Transit Hub Design May Be Simplified: As one architectural ambition after another was given up at ground zero...it seemed that Santiago Calatrava's vision of a luminous, cavernous World Trade Center Transportation Hub would be immune from major change. No more.** - New York Times

**Yale Revelation: Renewal for a Building and Its Original Designer: Now seen in its full glory...the once-maligned Yale School of Art and Architecture turns out to be a masterpiece of late Modernism...addition prevents this from being a total triumph.** By Nicolai Ouroussoff -- Paul Rudolph (1963); Gwathmey Siegel [images] - New York Times

**Yale Restores Architecture Building, Loved and Hated '60s Icon: ...once the tough kid on the block in New Haven...overhaul...opens up the space, returning gorgeous daylight to the dramatic multileveled interiors...two appendages. One, almost invisible at the rear...The other, a feeble streetside extension... By James S. Russell -- Paul Rudolph (1963); Gwathmey Siegel - Bloomberg News**

**A Los Angeles Theater Is Renovated, Relieving Headache-Inducing Quirks: On Saturday the Mark Taper Forum will reopen...a\$30 million renovation...will solve those lingering difficulties. -- Welton Becket (1967); Rios Clementi Hale Studios [images, slide show] - New York Times**

**Fuglsang Kunstmuseum, Denmark: ...a rare and unexpected delight...reinforces the profound sense of place...If the galleries are simple, unassuming and quiet...they belie a depth of detail and subtle interest that make a stroll through the gallery a quiet revelation. By Edwin Heathcote -- Tony Fretton [image, link] - Financial Times (UK)**

**Call for entries: House of Arts and Culture, Beirut, international architectural competition; registration deadline: September 29-** Lebanese Ministry of Culture / GAIA-Heritage

**All That Shimmers: Raleigh, N.C., has had a checkered history when it comes to public art...A redemptive moment is at hand, however, as the city prepares to open a \$221 million convention center...the Shimmer Wall already has created significant buzz in the area...a significant element in the city's evolving skyline. -- TVS & Associates; O'Brien/Atkins Associates; Clearscapes [images, video] - Metropolis Magazine**

**An Open-Door Policy as a Design Guide: The United States Fund for Unicef's new office space was designed to be functional and look tasteful but never give the impression that it was built at the expense of the people it serves. -- Switzer Group [images] - New York Times**

**Kevin McCloud interviewed: HAB, the Stirling Prize and Castleford: "I'm only going to have to stand in front of 500 architects and say: 'Hello, I'm the guy who apparently doesn't pay architects!'" -- Happiness Architecture Beauty; Wright & Wright; Glenn Howells Architects - The Architects' Journal (UK)**

**Next up on Principal Voices Design for Good: Daniel Libeskind, Peter Head/Arup, and Cameron Sinclair/Architecture for Humanity, airing August 30 and September 1 - CNN International**

[Marc Newson's challenge: Styling a superjumbo: After decades of conservatism in airline design, the A380 is an opportunity to do something different..."Designing an aircraft is like creating a mini-world" By Alice Rawsthorn \[slide show\]- International Herald Tribune](#)

[Hermitage Hotel in Nashville Named 2008 America's Best Restroom \[images\]- Cintas](#)

[Book Review: "NeoHooDoo: Art for a Forgotten Faith": Sharpen your pencils - and get ready to do a NeoHooDoo shimmy. This audacious book is a welcome reminder that no term in contemporary architectural design is as taboo as "vernacular spiritual." By Norman Weinstein- ArchNewsNow](#)

[Design by the Bushel: San Francisco design firms work fast to bring Slow Food Nation '08 to the city's front door, August 29 to September 1 \[images\]- ArchNewsNow](#)

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