

Today's News - Friday, May 25, 2007

EDITORS NOTE: Monday is Memorial Day holiday (U.S.) - we'll be back Tuesday, May 29. — A look at the Chinese government's "ambiguous relationship with ancient buildings." — A case of "architectural euthanasia" in Toronto is indicative of why the city can't achieve "the greatness it craves," says Hume. — Dusting off ROM's shelved high-rise plans "could be turned into Toronto's first important discussion of the role of tall residential buildings in the urban fabric." — Austin's natural history museum opts for parking over trees (with assurances that they'll be replanted). — Fearing that Olympic plans have been "dumbed down," FOA pulls out of master planning team. — What is effective urban planning? — Siting new Harrisburg courthouse: make it peripheral or downtown development catalyst? — An international team has big plans for harbor front in Aarhus, Denmark. — Shortlist for Austin Children's Museum named (and not a local among 'em). — Hadid's "wonder of Dubai" (this time with lotsa pix). — Rem vs. Norman in UAE: whose square came first? — Meanwhile, Spain adds a Foster to its "image-obsessed wine producing industry." — Superadobes may be answer for lunar colonies (no shortage of dirt). — Historic cemeteries digging up unusual ideas to pay for their upkeep. — Gulbenkian Prize: surprise victory for a small gallery. — Weekend diversions: Grand Central the perfect venue for "Celluloid Skyline: New York and the Movies." — Doors Open Toronto has a new green conscience. — If you missed it in Venice, "Singapore Built & Unbuilt" on view in Singapore. — Fujimori and his dandelions in Tokyo.

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[History reduced to rubble: Lindsey Hilsum charts the Chinese government's ambiguous relationship with ancient buildings: The scandal of Shanchang...instead of covering the site in high-rises, they're thinking of building a museum.](#) - New Statesman (UK)

[City losing its soul, brick by falling brick: This willingness to sacrifice the public realm, architecture and the built form of the city to the most crass economic considerations have kept Toronto from achieving the greatness it craves.](#) By Christopher Hume- Toronto Star

[Plans for a high-rise condo next to the Royal Ontario Museum \(ROM\) were shelved in 2005, but the idea isn't dead yet...if...taken seriously as an opportunity for public education, the inevitable uproar could be turned into Toronto's first important, ongoing discussion of the role of tall residential buildings in the urban fabric.](#) By John Bentley Mays- Globe and Mail (Canada)

[Witte Museum may uproot trees for more parking: ...raising eyebrows from those who say the natural history museum is plotting to destroy natural history.](#) - San Antonio Express-News

[Olympic masterplanner quits: Foreign Office Architects \(FOA\) leaves over fears that design of Olympic park has been dumbed down...still on the shortlist to design the Olympic velopark.](#) — EDAW; Buro Happold; Allies and Morrison; HOK Sport- Building (UK)

[What is Effective Urban Planning? ...the biggest chits in play are transportation and buildings.](#) — Tony Gale/Starbucks Corporate Architect; Dr. Joe Schwieterman/DePaul University Chaddick Institute [audio]- Smart City Radio

[Development anchor or urban showpiece? If you listen to GSA's project leads and designers, this new courthouse shouldn't be shunted aside in the city's periphery, but featured prominently as a city staple...](#) — Susan T. Rodriguez/Polshek Partnership- Patriot-News (Pennsylvania)

[Aarhus will have the best harbour front in Denmark: Openness, vividness and multiplicity characterise the winning proposal...](#) — 3XN; UNStudio; Gehl Architects [image, link to images]- Immo-news

[Architects narrowed down for Austin Children's Museum...none of which are in Austin.](#) — Duda Paine Architects; Griffin Enright Architects; Koning Eizenberg Architecture; Pugh + Scarpa Architecture; Rockwell Group; Roto Architects- Austin Business Journal (Texas)

[Zaha Hadid unveils wonder of Dubai: ...reveals another show stopping design which will sited next to the Burj Dubai \[images\]](#)- Building (UK)

[Koolhaas, Foster clash over 'similar' designs: No plagiarism but we were first, says Rem, as Foster's deny any real likeness between schemes \[images, links\]](#)- BD/Building Design (UK)

[Lord Foster's star descends on Spanish vineyard: ...the latest star architect to savour the fruits of Spain's image-obsessed wine producing industry...€25m \(£17m\) Bodegas Portia, shaped like a three-pointed star...descending like spaceships on Spain's rural grape-growing landscape.](#) — Gehry; Calatrava; Hadid [image]- Guardian (UK)

[Eco-homes offer hope of lunar future: ..."superadobe" designs have attracted the interest of NASA scientists studying the feasibility of building lunar colonies.](#) — Nader Khalili/California Institute of Earth Art and Architecture (CalEarth)- iAfrica.com

[Cemeteries Seek Breathing Clientele: Historic cemeteries, in need of money for restorations, are reaching out to the public in unusual ways...repositioning themselves for the afterlife: their own.](#) — Julia Morgan; Benjamin Henry Latrobe; Frank Lloyd Wright [slide show]- New York Times

[Pallant House wins museum of the year: £100,000 Gulbenkian Prize...a surprise victory for a comparatively small independent regional gallery... -- Colin St John Wilson-Guardian \(UK\)](#)

[Starring New York, City of Grit and Glamour: Grand Central Terminal's magical role on screen makes it the ideal location for "Celluloid Skyline: New York and the Movies," an exhibition of background paintings, film clips, production stills and archival photographs...on view through June 22. -- James Sanders \[images, video link\]- New York Times](#)

[Building a recognition of environmental costs: The annual Doors Open Toronto event this weekend will feature homes and condos with a new green consciousness. By Dave LeBlanc- Globe and Mail \(Canada\)](#)

[Singapore Built & Unbuilt: 32 winning works and finalist entries of recent competitions and projects: National Museum of Singapore through June 24 \[images\]- DesignSingapore](#)

[Two Tokyo exhibitions honor architect who sees dandelions in the sky -- Terunobu Fujimori- Asahi Shimbun \(Japan\)](#)



[Steven Holl Architects: Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, Missouri](#)

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