

Today's News - Monday, August 6, 2007

McGuigan on young independent Beijing architects "on the ramparts of the Chinese design revolution." – Is the "Olympic-driven metamorphosis" of Beijing a thing of beauty or does it smack of "totalitarian-power architecture"? – Russell isn't thrilled with Columbia University expansion plan. – Kamin finds Chicago's McCormick Place expansion a "city-sensitive, user-friendly...gentle giant, not a new monster of the Midway." – An "entertainment city" heading to the shores of Eliat: some Broadway here, some Disney there (don't forget the shopping and golf). – High praise for a "small tribe of architects" creating a "new language in mall design" in India. – Salt Lake City skyline has a lot to yawn about. – A call to bring beauty back to architecture: "What a concept. We now pause as many of the architects in the room run screaming for the exits." – A debate in the Philippines about who can use the title "architect" (watch out, those studying abroad). – Dunlop finds ArtsPark in Hollywood, FL, "a remarkable work of architecture, landscape and urbanism." – Housing slowdown perhaps not such a bad thing: "Downsizing should be the new upscaling." – Dream homes made of mud as cob building making a comeback. – Ouroussoff spends time with Siza: "his creative voice has never seemed more relevant than now." – Hadid: outspoken as ever. – Malaysian architect Lim on Corbu in India, humility, and the Asian obsession for Western architecture ("wholesale importation of ideas and icons from the West is too silly to be acceptable"). – In "Future Wood," Boddy finds young designers freed from the box. – Gould lauds the elegance and wit of Eschweiler on view in Milwaukee.

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[Draftsmen's Contract: On the ramparts of the Chinese design revolution...Infusing radical ideas with a Chinese sensibility is key for young independent Beijing architects...thinking not only about cutting-edge design but about sustainability, historic preservation and the future of the city. By Cathleen McGuigan – Koolhaas/Scheeren; Foster & Partners; Herzog & de Meuron; PTW; Zhu Pei; Ma Yansong/MAD; Yung Ho Chan- Newsweek International](#)

[Beijing Reborn: With the Olympics approaching, China is re-creating its once grim capital on an awesome scale...To some, the Olympic-driven metamorphosis evokes the remaking of Paris...For others, Beijing's radical rebuild smacks of totalitarian-power architecture... – Albert Speer Jr.; BAU; Woodhead; BAU \[images\]- Newsweek International](#)

[Columbia's \\$7 Billion Expansion Plan by Piano Fails to Thrill: ...looks more like a dumbed-down real estate deal than a vision for the future...Why would Columbia hire such a talented urbanist as Piano and then allow him to produce something so bland? By James S. Russell – Skidmore, Owings & Merrill \(SOM\)- Bloomberg News](#)

[Taming the beast of bigness: ...the real question about the \\$882 million \[McCormick Place\] West Building...is whether it matches quantity with quality. The answer is a qualified "yes"...city-sensitive, user-friendly design. It is a gentle giant, not a new monster of the Midway. By Blair Kamin – Thompson, Ventulett, Stainback & Associates \(TVS\); A. Epstein and Sons \[slide show\]- Chicago Tribune](#)

[Eilat's 'entertainment city' awaits final approval: ...65 attractions, including a 7,500 seat stadium that is going to be built on the water...built with much international flavor and influence. – Greg Damron Design \[image\]- Jerusalem Post](#)

[Mall Wonder: The shopping mall is everywhere — glassy, glitzy and brash...A small tribe of architects and developers is pushing for a new language in mall design — one that shuns the grandiose for the inclusive. – Design Plus; Morphogenesis Architecture Studio; Jaiswal and Associates; Charles Correa; Eskay Design; Hafeez Contractor- Indian Express](#)

[Architects say Salt Lake City skyline has a lot to yawn about: Bob Bliss...has been watching Utah buildings go up and down for 44 years...the 86-year-old retired professor has the freedom to say exactly what he thinks. And he does.- Salt Lake Tribune \(Utah\)](#)

[Op-Ed: Bring beauty, people back to architecture: What makes some public spaces lively and some devoid of life? Many architects have only minimal interest in such questions...Beauty in architecture? What a concept. We now pause as many of the architects in the room run screaming for the exits. By E. Thomas McClanahan- Kansas City Star](#)

[Architectonic debate: What's in a title? Who has the right to call himself an architect...According to the Professional Regulatory Board of Architecture \(PRBoA\), a person can only assume the title "architect"...if he or she has passed the state-sanctioned board exam for architects.- Philippine Daily Inquirer](#)

[ArtsPark tames Young Circle: ...a lyrical ode to the possibilities of the public landscape...a remarkable work of architecture, landscape and urbanism... By Beth Dunlop – Margi Nothard/Glavovic Studio; Scharf Architects \[images\]- Miami Herald](#)

[Slowdown Offers a Chance to Get Real About Home Sizes: Attitudes about homes need to shift away from quantity and toward quality. Downsizing should be the new upscaling. By Roger K. Lewis- Washington Post](#)

[A dream home made of mud: Cob building is as old as the hills. Now, fuelled by high lumber costs and enviro trends, it's on the comeback in the Pacific Northwest...O.U.R. Ecovillage - a 25-acre sustainable community on Vancouver Island - is the first site in Canada to obtain a permit to build a cluster of cob homes... \[images\]- Globe and Mail \(Canada\)](#)

[Modernist Master's Deceptively Simple World: Meet Álvaro Siza...his creative voice](#)

[has never seemed more relevant than now....reminds us that the threads binding a civilized society can be rewoven. And in an age that rarely bothers to distinguish shallow novelty from true moral engagement, that is an act of courage. By Nicolai Ouroussoff \[slide show\]- New York Times](#)

[Zaha Hadid Recalls Life in Baghdad, Revs Up for China, Russia: After years of being more feted abroad than in the U.K., her adopted country, Hadid is making her British breakthrough.- Bloomberg News](#)

[Built-in harmony: It's what the building does for its occupants, and not its looks alone, that matter to this noted Malaysian architect. 'Corbusier was in India at the right time and filled a vacuum, but the mindset lineage to Corbusier needs to be broken' -- Jimmy CS Lim/CSL Associates- The Hindu Business Line \(India\)](#)

[Freed from the box: Young designers bring digital finesse to the clunky world of hammers, nails and saws as they go organic and make houses easier to build at the same time. By Trevor Boddy -- Peter Busby; Philip Beesley; Omer Arbel; Douglas Cardinal; Douglas Gauthier/SYSTEMarchitects \[slide show\]- Globe and Mail \(Canada\)](#)

[Exhibit celebrates elegance, wit of Eschweiler: So powerful was his influence that even today, "living in an Eschweiler" is almost akin to owning a Rembrandt. By Whitney Gould- Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#)

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