

Today's News - Friday, September 7, 2007

British troops have exited Iraq, now UK firms move in to master plan Kirkuk. – Building super-tall in earthquake-prone San Francisco means entering unexplored territory. – How many of London's towering visions will become reality? – No major changes for WTC tower plans, but some street-level details revealed, and memorial museum "promises to be an energetic exercise in deconstructivism." – NYC's Chief Urban Designer muses on the meaning behind planNYC: "nothing short of a new compact with nature for the urban dweller." – RMJM has big plans for Edinburgh's Leith Docks revamp. – Big revamp plans for a children's hospital in Australia. – A new museum slated for historic Washington, DC, bank building. – Kamin on a Chicago-area "American Idol"-inspired contest for funds to rehab a favorite landmark (vote often!). – Treehouses rule in U.K. and New Zealand. – King finds architectural whimsy and inspiration (and plenty of junk) along an interstate. – Some Seattle firms make fun a serious business. – Dumpster diving pays off for Cornell architecture students. – Weekend diversions: Move over Legos - an architect dreams up an amazing desktop diversion. – "Strange Details" offers "focused, legible, and sympathetic readings" of four milestones of mid-century modernist architecture. – Eliasson brings his Icelandic visions to SFMoMA. – A film offers a curious look at Dakar architecture. – The artisans of Kyoto.

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[UK firms to masterplan war-torn Iraqi city: Pell Frischmann and Llewellyn Davies Yeang to work on redevelopment of Kirkuk](#)- Building (UK)

[Consider earthquake risks of Transbay designs: If the city chooses the maximum high-rise route, it will be venturing into unexplored territory. There has been no experience anywhere on Earth with hyper-high-rise buildings in earthquakes of the magnitude expected for San Francisco \(think 1906\). By Harold Gilliam](#)- San Francisco Chronicle

[London prompts towering visions - and a dose of reality: ...this ambition and the uncomfortable reality of London's history in building towers is making people question whether all five of the City buildings will be built. -- Richard Rogers; Kohn Pedersen Fox; Rafael Vinoly; Renzo Piano](#)- Sydney Morning Herald

[Slow Progress for Ground Zero: ...the final designs for World Trade Center Towers...changes that have been made...have less to do with design than with urbanistic concerns about the interaction of these skyscrapers with the WTC Memorial and with Church Street...given a more precise sense yesterday of the experiential aspects of the building's interiors. By James Gardner -- Libeskind; Childs/Skidmore, Owings & Merrill \(SOM\); Foster; Maki; Rogers; Snohetta](#)- New York Sun

[Civic Virtue By Design: The meaning behind Mayor Bloomberg's vision for New York City: We will need every ounce of creative strength to bring our city into a new balance with nature and in so doing, define a new civic measure for architecture. By Alexandros Washburn](#)- Metropolis Magazine

[Leith Docks revamp plans lodged: A huge regeneration of 144 hectare brownfield site featuring 16,000 new homes has been unveiled in the largest planning application in Edinburgh's history. -- RMJM \[images\]](#)- BBC News

[Royal Children's revamp: \\$850 million redevelopment of the Royal Children's Hospital... -- Billard Leece Partnership; Bates Smart](#)- The Age (Australia)

[National Bank of Washington building to host Armenian Genocide Museum and Memorial -- Gallagher & Associates; Martinez & Johnson Architecture](#)- PanARMENIAN.net

[Is saving the past sexy? Contest shows it might be...American Express...kicked off a Chicago-area "American Idol"-inspired contest, an online vote that will let people pick a favorite landmark from a list of contenders vying for \\$1 million in rehab funds... By Blair Kamin -- National Trust for Historic Preservation](#)- Chicago Tribune

[Get ready for Hampshire's most unusual classroom: £500,000 tree house study centre, to be built among the trees of the Beaulieu Estate...designed by architecture student Samantha Sherwood, will replace the dilapidated buildings...is at one with its surroundings and -- as well as illustrating green building practice...- This is Hampshire \(UK\)](#)

[Tree dimensional in New Zealand: In a prime bit of forest half an hour from Auckland, a newly qualified architect has built his dream house \u2013 a razor-sharp box floating between giant boughs. -- Chris Tate \[slide show\]](#)- Telegraph (UK)

[Architectural whimsy, inspiration along I-80: There's plenty of junk, but also a scattering of jewels that make everything else fade. By John King](#)- San Francisco Chronicle

[Having fun can be serious business for local AE firms: Competing to attract and retain workers leads to yodelling contests, skateboard luges in the lunchroom and paid foreign travel. -- Coughlin Porter Lundeen; Mithun; Weber + Thompson; Mahlum Architects; DLR Group](#)- Seattle Daily Journal of Commerce

[Cornell Architects Win National Chair Affair Design Competition: ...their favorite part of the competition was "dumpster diving for recycled cardboard at midnight." -- Nicholette Chan; Andrew Kim; Jean You; American Institute of Architecture Students \(AIAS\)](#)- Cornell Daily Sun

[Taking child's play to another level: Andrew Comfort took inspiration from a toy from his childhood, founding Q-BA-MAZE to build and market his new creation...appealing to grownups as a desktop diversion and to Lego-loving youngsters as an active construction toy.](#)- Minneapolis Star Tribune

[Book review: Filling in the Details: "Strange Details" by Michael Cadwell: ...provides admirably focused, legible, and sympathetic readings of the similar accomplishment of four very different structures, each in its way a milestone of mid-century modernist architecture. By James Gardner -- Richard Meier; Carlo Scarpa; Frank Lloyd Wright; Mies van der Rohe; Louis Kahn-](#) New York Sun

[Thinking Glacially, Acting Artfully: "Take Your Time: Olafur Eliasson" at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art...By recreating the sensory effects of Icelandic landscapes in artificial settings like museums, he has transmitted his own physical and emotional relationship with spectacular natural phenomena.](#)- New York Times

[Movie Review: Contrasts City \(City Of Contrasts\): Static buildings come alive in curious look at Dakar architecture-](#) Tonight (South Africa)

[Showcasing the Artisans of Kyoto: From 1994 to 2005, many of Kyoto's artisans were kept occupied by the construction of a major work of modernized sukiya-style architecture: the Kyoto State Guest House..."Shokunin Event Vol. 2" ... By Thomas Daniell -- Nikken Sekkei; Kiyokazu Arai; Esther Tsoi \[images\]-](#) Artscape (Japan)

[INSIGHT: The Cultural and Environmental Differences of Global Project Types: As the world's economy becomes more global, western developers, designers, and engineers must keep developing innovative ideas for efficiency improvement if they want to keep ahead. By Reg Monteyne, P.E., and Gary H. Pomerantz, P.E./Flack + Kurtz \[images\]-](#) ArchNewsNow

[-- kk Letter: Tokyo, Shibukawa, and Toga Village: A traditional ground breaking ceremony with Arata Isozaki...](#)

[-- Rojkind Arquitectos: Nestlé Chocolate Museum \(Phase 1\), Mexico City-](#) ArcSpace

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