

Today's News - Wednesday, December 5, 2007

U.N. Secretary-General offers optimistic words from climate change conference in Bali. -- Taking urban centers "from vacant to vibrant." -- Belfast turning its troubled to a Titanic future. -- A video of Dubai construction projects puts everything into (overwhelming) perspective. -- From NYC: Preservationists not at all pleased with Columbia University's expansion plans. -- Brooklyn arts district regains momentum. -- Gardner on NYC's civic center: "enhancements are unlikely to improve matters very much." -- Some say yay, some say nay to proposal for Contemporary Art Museum of the Presidio in San Francisco. -- Ditto re: plans for Scottsdale museum. -- Tate Modern expansion gets a hefty windfall. -- Yesterday brought news of China's new Chengdu City Museum; today there are images of the "jewel wrapped in gold." -- Minnesota developer's plans to bring starchitects to St. Paul "has modern-design experts in the Twin Cities salivating." -- McGill University Health Centre has big plans and lots of architects (minus Safdie and Perkins+Will - not a friendly split, apparently). On the home front: Boddy on Vancouver's coolest penthouse. -- A Napa Valley "art cave." -- A Toronto Deco mansion gets eco-makeover. -- Johannesburg's first earth house. -- Musings from the roof of a Gaudi masterpiece. -- Call for entries: Young Architects Forum 2008.

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[Op Ed: The Era of Green Economics Is Dawning: The world is already capable of making the spring to a new era of environmentally friendly business practices – and it could spur growth rather than hinder it...lost in the debate is the good news. We can do something about this... By Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General, United Nations](#)- Der Spiegel (Germany)

[Urban Revitalization: Creating a catalyst for downtown redevelopment: Sadly, many of America's urban areas have "died on the vine", and city and business leaders are now faced with...trying to figure out how they can take their urban centers from vacant to vibrant.](#)- Global Real Estate Monitor

[Belfast Swaps Troubled Past for Titanic Future: ...the city is looking to leave violence behind, and is hoping another part of its past, the Titanic, can help. -- Eric Kuhne and Associates/Civic Arts; Robinson McIlwaine, Todd Architects](#)- Der Spiegel (Germany)

[GCC Construction Boom: The construction boom in the Gulf region has reached a staggering new height, with Burj Dubai and other iconic buildings forming projects worth more than 2.4 trillion dollars \[video\]](#)- AME Info (United Arab Emirates)

[NYers defend West Harlem against Columbia University's planned expansion: Preservationists...say look closer and you'll see spectacular architecture that holds a living link to the city's past. -- Renzo Piano](#)- AM New York

[Stalled Brooklyn Arts District Regains Momentum: As exciting as this vision seemed to many residents of the rapidly gentrifying neighborhoods near BAM, it also stirred fears...of a Manhattan-oriented enclave...A recent decision by city officials may help to quiet some of those anxieties... -- Studio MDA/Behnisch Architects; Hugh Hardy/Frank Gehry \[image\]](#)- New York Times

[A Civic Center, Aging Gracelessly: Forty years after the fact, New York's...Javits Federal Building and the U.S. Court of International Trade are now undergoing extensive renovations...enhancements are unlikely to improve matters very much....If there were any doubts about the power of city planning to elevate or to abase the daily lives of our citizens, here is all the proof you need. By James Gardner -- Alfred Easton Poor; Kahn & Jacobs; Eggers & Higgins; Lehman/Smith + McLeish](#)- New York Sun

[Proposed Presidio museum would be modern addition to historic military site: Gap founder Donald Fisher has unveiled the design of...100,000-square-foot Contemporary Art Museum of the Presidio...The Presidio Historical Association proposes a 48,000-square-foot "History Center of the Golden Gate." By John King -- Gluckman Mayner Architects; Bogatay Architects \[images\]](#)- San Francisco Chronicle

[\\$50 million needed for Scottsdale museum: Museum of the West...a contemporary 48,000-square-foot, solar-powered museum...aimed at connecting the cultural threads of the old and new West...certain to go against the grain for some residents who have opposed contemporary architecture in Old Town Scottsdale. -- Jones Studio; BRC Imagination \[slide show\]](#)- Arizona Republic

[Tate Modern bags £50 million government windfall: ...has pledged to cough up almost a quarter of the cash needed to build Herzog & de Meuron's ambitious £215 million extension...It is hoped the cash injection will help the project to complete in 2012, to coincide with the opening of the London Olympic Games. \[images\]](#)- The Architects' Journal (UK)

[Sutherland Hussey wins Chinese Museum in international competition: Chengdu City Museum... "a jewel wrapped in gold" ... \[images\]](#)- BD/Building Design (UK)

[Mystery man developer sets sights on St. Paul: But city officials wary as he pitches ambitious skyscraper plans for downtown corner...has modern-design experts in the Twin Cities salivating. -- David Adjaye; Toshiko Mori](#)- Pioneer Press (Minnesota)

[McGill University Health Centre \(MUHC\) Redevelopment Project is Taking Shape: the Design Phase is Underway -- IBI Group/HDR Architecture Canada/NFO et associés architectes/Yelle Maille architectes associés; HKS/Groupe Arcop; Lemay et associés/Jodoin Lamarre Pratte/André Ibghy Architectes/Menkes Shooner Dagenais](#)

[Letourneau](#)- McGill University Health Centre (MUHC)

[Safdie pulls the plug on MUHC design: Blasts Quebec for 'cutting corners': Public-private deal is 'problematic'...resigned yesterday from designing the future McGill University Health Centre hospital- Montreal Gazette](#)

[The best form of marketing: Randy Bishop and Omer Arbel's \\$18-million condo is the model of major model suites...It is one of those "only in Vancouver" tales. By Trevor Boddy \[slide show\]- Globe and Mail \(Canada\)](#)

[Insider Art: The latest addition to a Napa Valley retreat, a cave designed for contemporary art, is the ultimate in inconspicuous consumption..."Art cave" ... By Pilar Viladas -- James Turrell; Jim Jennings; Tom Leader; Bade Stageberg Cox; Renfro Design Group \[slide show\]- New York Times Magazine](#)

[The making of an eco-deco mansion: Combining restoration, cutting-edge environmental technologies and an amazing collaboration between architect and client... – Mackenzie Waters \(1935\); Paul Dowsett/Scott Morris Architects; Ron Holbrook; Phillip Moody; Generation Solar \[slide show\]- Globe and Mail \(Canada\)](#)

[Building Joburg's first earth house: A straw bale house is being built in Hyde Park and there is a cob house in Muizenberg, in the Western Cape. – Florian Kroll/Open Synergy \[images, links\]- City of Johannesburg \(South Africa\)](#)

[A landscape all of its own: James Fenton on the roof of Gaudí's masterpiece, La Pedrera \(the quarry\)...a kind of vision, a complete invention.- Guardian \(UK\)](#)

[Call for entries: Young Architects Forum 2008: Resonance: What specific collaborative models, operational practices, production techniques, and design processes allow for architectural ideas to resonate?: deadline: February 11, 2008 \(U.S., Canada, and Mexico only\)- Architectural League of New York](#)

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