

Today's News - Friday, June 13, 2008

EDITORS NOTE: We're late posting (from Washington, DC) today, where a 4-hour blackout just ended (chalk it up to Friday the 13th?).

- Big plans for a Peace Park in a small corner of Israel.
- Hume likes what big balloons do for Toronto's Yonge-Dundas Square.
- He's less kind when it comes to the city's new street furniture.
- King doesn't mind design for new Presidio museum - it's just in the wrong place.
- An eyeful of the Prime Minister's Better Public Building Awards shortlist.
- After 60 years, a no-holds-barred critique of Kiwi design by one of Wales' greatest-ever architects.
- Weekend diversions: Rybczynski on rediscovering Saarinen.
- Bucky at the Whitney "re-raises the question of Fuller's relevance" + a fantastic slide show.
- Pearman's take on "Psycho Buildings" show. shows "why artists should plan our cities."
- "Sprawl" on view in NJ doesn't "set out to prove that parts of the New Jersey landscape are ugly. But it is hard to escape that conclusion."
- A reappraisal of Sir Basil Spence.
- "All Night House" built overnight in Berlin.
- Two takes on the Erector Set skyscraper at Rockefeller Center.
- On screen: "Crude Impact" is an absolute must-see (say we). - "Global Harbors" explores redevelopment of Baltimore's waterfront and how it became a model for clones.
- Book review: "Oscar Niemeyer: Curves of Irreverence" is a rich historical, cultural, and aesthetic assessments of his work.

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[Sharing a tiny peace of land: ...in one corner of Isreal, architects, environmental activists and community leaders are hoping to turn the clock back six decades. More precisely, to flood the land and return it to its previous ruler: Mother Nature...by expanding the cross-border zone into a full-fledged "Peace Park."](#)- Jerusalem Post

[Festival helps city square grow up: In honour of Luminato, the much-maligned Yonge-Dundas Square has also been temporarily remade...a "roof" made up of 250 large white balloons...help turn the square into an outdoor room... By Christopher Hume -- Kuwabara Payne McKenna Blumberg \(KPMB\) \[image\]](#)- Toronto Star

[Humanoids should love our new street furniture: It is cold, generic and meaningless. It could be anywhere. If it says anything about Toronto, it is that we have low standards and make poor choices. By Christopher Hume -- Kramer Associates](#)- Toronto Star

[Fisher's awkward location for Contemporary Art Museum at the Presidio \(CAMP\): ...critics are right about one thing: It's in the wrong location...Even the best part of the design is at odds with the setting. By John King -- Richard Gluckman/Gluckman Mayner: WRNS Studio \[images\]](#)- San Francisco Chronicle

[See the shortlist: A total of 21 schemes have been shortlisted for this year's Prime Minister's Better Public Building Award. -- Arup; Consarc Architects; McDowell+Benedetti; Sarah Wigglesworth; Atkins; Haworth Tompkins; Denton Corker Marshall; Building Design Partnership \(BDP\); Burrell Foley Fischer; Allies and Morrison; Allford Hall Monaghan Morris \(AHMM\); MUMA \(Mclnnes Usher McKnight Architects\); etc. \[images\]](#)- The Architects' Journal (UK)

[Sir Clough's strong views on Kiwi architecture to be heard at last: ...after 60 years of silence, the speeches -- a no-holds-barred critique of Kiwi design by one of Wales' greatest-ever architects -- can be heard for the first time..."A Planning Credo and Commentary"...a parting gift to the architects Sir Clough Williams-Ellis -- who built the built the Italianate village of Portmeirion...](#)- icWales

[Forgotten Eero: Rediscovering Saarinen, the man behind the Gateway Arch, Dulles, and some really comfy chairs...National Building Museum exhibition...attempts to make sense of this creative, complex, and frustratingly mercurial individual. By Witold Rybczynski \[slide show essay\]](#)- Slate

[Dymaxion Man: The visions of Buckminster Fuller: By staging the retrospective, the Whitney raises—or, really, one should say, re-raises—the question of Fuller's relevance. Was he an important cultural figure because he produced inventions of practical value or because he didn't?](#)- New Yorker

[Weird Science: "Buckminster Fuller: Starting with the Universe"...a portfolio of images from the magazine and the Whitney exhibition. \[slide show\]](#)- New Yorker

[Psycho Buildings: why artists should plan our cities: Artists being alchemists, they have turned the weird concrete monolith \[Hayward Gallery\] into a palace of intriguing follies...have responded with vigour, humour, ingenuity and something that looks a lot like love. By Hugh Pearman \[images\]](#)- HughPearman.com (UK)

[Seeking Truth, Not Always Beauty: "Sprawl" at the Jersey City Museum does not set out to prove that parts of the New Jersey landscape are ugly. But it is hard to escape that conclusion after seeing the show.](#)- New York Times

[New exhibition reappraises the career of architect Sir Basil Spence: The Gorbals needs ongoing rebuilding -- as does Spence's reputation...."Back to the Future: Sir Basil Spence \(1907-1976\)" opens at Coventry's Herbert art gallery on June 20-](#) Guardian (UK)

[See the house that was built overnight: No Fixed Abode and architects Amenity Space show the construction of their 'All Night House', as part of The Berlin Contemporary Art Festival. \[images\]](#)- The Architects' Journal (UK)

[Erector Set Skyscraper at Rockefeller Center Is Adult Fantasy: ...a sweet, old-fashioned tribute to boyhood optimism...Chris Burden's "What My Dad Gave Me"...](#) [images]- Bloomberg News

[An Artist's Vision: Building With Toys, but on a Grand Scale: "What My Dad Gave Me" — a 65-foot Erector Set skyscraper...by Chris Burden...as part of Rockefeller Center's program of monumental outdoor exhibitions... \[images\]](#)- New York Times

["Crude Impact": a provocative exploration of humanity's dependence on fossil fuels...to promote a positive change regarding energy consumption...looks at peak oil - the point when worldwide petroleum supplies begin a steady decline - and how energy consumption by industrial nations severely affects indigenous cultures, diverse species and the global climate. \[links\]](#)- Sundance Channel

[Documentary explores redevelopment of Baltimore's waterfront: "Global Harbors: A Waterfront Renaissance"....about Baltimore's revitalized waterfront and how it has become a model for ports around the world...there is a worrisome aspect to the cloning. When one city copies another too closely, it results in a homogenization of urban waterfronts that potentially weakens both. By Edward Gunts \[links\]](#)- Baltimore Sun

[Book review: A Vision in Concrete: Oscar Niemeyer's work continues to enchant and appall students of architecture and urban planning. "Oscar Niemeyer: Curves of Irreverence" by Styliane Philippou...one of the richest historical, cultural, and aesthetic assessments of an architect's work I've read. By Benjamin Schwarz \[images\]](#)- The Atlantic

[Words That Build: Playing with the Flow of Communication - Tip #3: Use language that playfully enhances the flow of design intentions between you and your client. By Norman Weinstein](#)- ArchNewsNow



[-- Tabanlıoğlu Architects: Dogan Medya Center, Ankara, Turkey](#)
[-- Installation: Greg Lynn/FORM: Blobwall Pavilion, SCI-Arc Gallery, Los Angeles](#)

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