

Today's News - Friday, June 27, 2008

- Western architects invade Russia (not enough local talent?).
- U.K.'s BRE under fire for focusing on "green gimmickry" rather than solid research.
- Saffron is pleased with Philadelphia mayor's endorsement of PennPraxis waterfront plan (and rethinking casino sitings).
- Q&A with Viñoly re: his Battersea plan: is he "a menace or a sustainable design hero?"
- Meanwhile, his "shimmery spaceship" is about to touch down at the Brooklyn Children's Museum.
- Calatrava's Jerusalem bridge: a "ship's sail, a crooked nail, or a giant headache"?
- Robin Hood Gardens design competition results are in! The most successful entries were not the most reverent.
- The most expensive house in the world: is it a bold statement or vulgar and inappropriate?
- Koshalek's contract won't be renewed, throwing some big plans into limbo.
- Perl's postcards from nowhere: museums that are "only brands designed to contain brands."
- Weekend diversions: Eliasson's NYC waterfalls are "actually relatively unobtrusive and brilliantly insidious" (with pix/video to prove it).
- Bucky at the Whitney "bears the stretch marks of its 1930s origins."
- London's Soane Museum is the perfect venue for Chipperfield Neues Museum show that is "really about the conservation dilemma."
- Murcutt in Tokyo wonders if he should have gone there 30 years ago.
- Norten's "inTENTions" in Monterey, Mexico.
- Louis Sullivan in Chicago.
- Page turners: Meier's American odyssey. - "Building New Brunswick" offers "much to admire and quite a bit to condemn." - The secrets of the Golden Gate in a "colorful, graphic-novel-style." - "Stonehenge" is a "fascinating and delightful book."

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[Russian Architects Face Western Competition: The ongoing construction boom in Russia has brought about a problem...this country does not have enough talented architects...vacuum is now gradually being filled by foreign architects and designers. -- Patrick Leibetseder/P. Habrik; James McAdam; Giovanni Bartoli; Altoon & Porter; Hadid; van Egeraat; Foster; Eller & Eller; Wilkinson Eyre; RMJM; Valode & Pistre; Behnisch, Behnisch & Partner; SWECO; Swanke Hayden Connell/SHCA; OMA; NBBJ-](#) Moscow News (Russia)

[Experts blast BRE's 'unproven gimmicks': Research and innovation dropped in favour commercial growth, say critics...has turned its back on evidence-based research...-](#) BD/Building Design (UK)

[Op-Ed: Where's the science bit? Since the BRE was privatised, serious research has been replaced by meaningless PR initiatives...In the absence of a credible research body, developers are encouraged to believe that green gimmickry is enough. By Amanda Baillieu-](#) BD/Building Design (UK)

[Mayor Nutter endorses PennPraxis waterfront plan: ...pledged to transform the moribund Penn's Landing Corp. into a more flexible agency \[Delaware Waterfront Corp.\] that would devote itself to bringing housing, parks and recreation trails to the entire length of Philadelphia's main river. By Inga Saffron-](#) Philadelphia Inquirer

[Battersea Power Plan -- is Rafael Viñoly a menace or a sustainable design hero? Q&A about his bold design, the 21st century mandate for sustainable architecture, the challenges of working with an architectural icon and much more. \[images\]-](#) BusinessWeek

[Adding Yellow and 'Green' to the Brooklyn Children's Museum: the Rafael Viñoly-designed addition...looks like a shimmery spaceship that has just touched down...will also be New York's first LEED-certified "green" museum... \[image\]-](#) New York Sun

[Old city's 'sail' bridge fails to nail it as icon, say locals: A ship's sail, a crooked nail, or a giant headache - Jerusalemites can't agree on how best to describe the newest landmark...Calatrava's light rail bridge is a flamboyant departure for the ancient city.-](#) New Zealand Herald

[Robin Hood Gardens design competition: The results: The top entries in BD/Architecture Foundation's ideas competition...show that inspired refurbishment of the estate can give it a new vibrancy while reaching the required density levels. -- Peter and Alison Smithson \(1972\); Zoran Radivojevic Cazenove; Bruce Newlands Kraft/Mike Hyatt Landscape Architects; Ben Addy Moxon; etc. \[images\]-](#) BD/Building Design (UK)

[Arrogance or elegance? The most expensive house in the world: Towering high above Mumbai and far from the teeming shanty towns, a billion-dollar home, an oasis of ultimate luxury, is being built for the world's fifth-richest man...For some, it is a bold statement...for others, it is vulgar and inappropriate in a city where more than six million people live in shanties...an "edifice to his ego" \[image\]-](#) Independent (UK)

[Art Center College of Design won't renew contract of president Richard Koshalek: Key elements of Koshalek's program have now been thrown into limbo, including a proposed \\$50-million, Frank Gehry-designed high-tech library and design studio.-](#) Los Angeles Times

[Postcards from Nowhere: Mostly what I can offer, after all this museumgoing and gallerygoing, is a series of postcards about nothing written from places that felt like nowhere...exhibition spaces...are bland, generic warehouse-style spaces--places to dump expensive stuff...If the designs of the New Museum...and the Broad](#)

[Contemporary Art Museum are any indication, the architects...are as fixated on logos as the artists...only brands designed to contain brands. By Jed Perl -- Sejima/Nishizawa/SANAA; Renzo Piano; Taniguchi-](#) The New Republic

[Cascades, Sing the City Energetic: New York City "Waterfalls" are the remnants of a primordial Eden, beautiful, uncanny signs of a natural nonurban past that the city never had...actually relatively unobtrusive and brilliantly insidious. -- Olafur Eliasson \[slide show, video\]-](#) New York Times

[Back to the Fuller future: Nothing is as old as yesterday's future, and the Whitney Museum's "retrospective" devoted to "Buckminster Fuller: Starting with the Universe"...definitely bears the stretch marks of its 1930s origins...It's really the optimism and energy and consarned pugnacious know-it-allness that Fuller embodied...that seems so obsolete...sometimes has the look and feel of an ironic installation, a send-up of Utopian fantasies-](#) The Star-Ledger (New Jersey)

[Chipperfield's Subtle Berlin Designs Charm in London Show: "The Neues Museum, Berlin: Restoration, Repair and Intervention"...Sir John would have approved...Soane Museum is the perfect venue for an exhibition that is really about the conservation dilemma. \[images\]-](#) Bloomberg News

[Relating to the landscape: "Glenn Murcutt: Thinking Drawing/Working Drawing" at Gallery Ma, Tokyo...I keep wondering, 'Should I have come here 30 years ago, or is it best that I've just come now?'"-](#) Daily Yomiuri (Japan)

[Enrique Norten exhibition "inTENTions" opens July 4 -- TEN Arquitectos \[images\]-](#) Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Monterrey (MARCO)

[Book and Exhibit by Jeffrey Plank Shed Light on Louis Sullivan and Architectural Photography: "Crombie Taylor, Aaron Siskind and the Adler and Sullivan Project" co-curated with John Vinci at Illinois Institute of Technology/IIT Crown Hall, Chicago-](#) University of Virginia

[Book review: Richard Meier's American odyssey: "Richard Meier & Partners, Complete works 1963-2008" edited by Philip Jodidio...despite having won every prize going, there is a curious silence among critics about the achievement of his work. This massive volume...is the answer to that silence. By Robert Maxwell-](#) BD/Building Design (UK)

[Book review: N.B. 'cradle of architecture' in Canada, says "Building New Brunswick: An Architectural History" by John Leroux...a survey of the province's building styles stretching from aboriginal birchbark techniques to modern steel-and-glass structures...finding much to admire and quite a bit to condemn.-](#) CBC (Canada)

[Architect's illustrated book reveals secrets of the Golden Gate: "Golden Gate Bridge: History and Design of an Icon," by Donald MacDonald...colorful, graphic-novel-style drawings illustrate the bridge's visible but little-known features... \[images\]-](#) Marin Independent Journal (California)

[Stonehenge comes full circle: Matthew Sturgis reviews "Stonehenge" by Rosemary Hill...fascinating and delightful book...-](#) Telegraph (UK)

[INSIGHT: Bowling Alone in Urbanistaville: Is living in suburbia the social antidote? By Richard Carson-](#) ArchNewsNow



[-- Foster + Partners: Elephant House, Copenhagen Zoo, Copenhagen, Denmark](#)
[-- Zaha Hadid Architects: Guggenheim Hermitage Museum, Vilnius, Lithuania](#)

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