

Today's News - Wednesday, August 20, 2008

- London's Architecture Foundation announces a new director.
- Five U.S. cities making headway out of urban doldrums despite dismal market.
- Dunlop disses plans for big-box store in Miami's new cultural district.
- A look at the "new wave or architectural thinkers" thinking differently about green buildings.
- Beijing's Water Cube as an example of how bubble wrap (a.k.a. ETFE) could how we build buildings in the future.
- NYC mayor wants to power up the city with wind and water turbines.
- A call for Canada to establish its own National Heritage Trust (there's more than just preservation in mind).
- Plans afoot to save and recycle a 1903 grain elevator in Montreal: museum, casino, or even a vertical farm.
- New life for old beer bottles: Bottlestop bus shelter.
- No images yet for Myers' Orlando arts center, but lots of speculation in his inspiration (he loves alligators).
- Voelz Chandler draws up a list of Denver's must-see sights (the good and bad) for visiting Democratic delegates (and everyone else).
- Kennicott's gives thumbs-up to MoMA's "Home Delivery": it raises the question: does prefab turn out to be just another designer accessory...supposedly a gift for the many, [but] really just a prize for the few?"
- Grima on why the Whitney's Bucky show is so timely.
- Sundance Channel pairs two "Iconoclasts" both named Cameron (as in Diaz and Sinclair).

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Sarah Ichioka becomes new Architecture Foundation director: London Festival of Architecture's deputy director...replaces Rowan Moore who resigned from the role in May after...controversial decision to scrap plans for a Zaha Hadid-designed headquarters. - BD/Building Design (UK)

Sign of the Times - Five cities bringing new life to abandoned sites: In today's dismal market, cities are struggling to bring new life to abandoned, often foreclosed, structures that have cast dark shadows on neighborhoods: Buffalo, NY; Carbondale, PA; Cleveland; Flagstaff, AZ; Los Angeles - Developer Magazine

Don't box us in: A Wal-Mart in the emerging cultural center would be a giant step backward for Miami...if the Arsht Center needs anything right away, it is context...The shops would be great. A traffic-generating big-box store in the heart of what should be the most pedestrian-oriented quarter of the city would not. By Beth Dunlop - Arquitectonica [image]- Miami Herald

Structures so green they give back to the environment: Forget simply cutting a building's footprint. A new wave or architectural thinkers wants to create buildings that help regenerate the planet like living organisms. By Lisa Selin Davis -- Edward Mazria/Architecture 2030; US Green Building Council (USGBC); Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI); Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Living Building Challenge (LBC); Norman Foster; William McDonough; Michael Reynolds- Plenty magazine

How Bubble Wrap Could Power the Future: National Aquatics Center, or "Water Cube," is surrounded by a light-weight polymer foil [ETFE] that significantly reduces the energy that goes into construction...estimates that the same building built with glass would have cost twice as much... [images]- LiveScience

Bloomberg Offers Windmill Power Plan: Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg is seeking to put wind turbines on New York City's bridges and skyscrapers and in its waters as part of a push to develop renewable energy. - New York Times

An ounce of preservation is worth a ton of history: With heritage sites across Canada increasingly at risk of being torn down, advocates call for a national trust of endangered buildings [slide show]- Globe and Mail (Canada)

Grain elevator rises above its looks: Landmarks in limbo: Silo No. 5: It may be big and ugly, but this protected site is probably here to stay. The question now is how best to make use of this hulking structure on the banks of the St. Lawrence -- John S. Metcalf (1903)- Montreal Gazette

Bus shelter to be built out of Ale 8 One bottles: "Bottlestop"...will spur others to "stretch" their minds and look at what they can do in their neighborhoods...will be environmentally friendly, not only because it will give new life to a lot of old bottles...At night, the shelter will be lit by solar-powered lights. -- McKay Snyder Architects-Lexington Herald-Leader (Kentucky)

New arts center likely to draw from inspirations in our midst: Barton Myers' design for Phillips Orlando Performing Arts Center, to be revealed to the public Friday, is a mystery. But clues can be had, both in the choices Myers has made elsewhere...and the cues he takes from the landscape..."I love alligators". Orlando Sentinel (Florida)

Denver architecture: 10 buildings worth the trip: Denver is awash with new buildings and public art...Still, quantity is not quality, so this isn't all sunshine. For every gem there's a dog: a building or piece of art suffering from a bad case of missed opportunity. By Mary Voelz Chandler -- Will Bruder; David Baker; Harry Teague; Alan Brown; I.M. Pei/Henry Cobb; Olson Sundberg; David Adjaye; 4240 Architecture; Preston Partnership; Gensler/Semple Brown; Buchanan Yonushewski; etc. [slide show]- Rocky Mountain News (Denver)

Walls That Talk, and Repeat Themselves: Prefabricated Housing Gets Prime Real Estate In Exhibit at MoMA: "Home Delivery" maps the breadth of prefab thinking...while openly acknowledging the limited success of so many well-intentioned but abortive efforts. By Philip Kennicott -- Gropius; Ionel Schein; Wes Jones; Buckminster Fuller; Le Corbusier; Safdie; Kurokawa; Richard Horden/Haack + Hoepfner; Teddy Cruz; Oskar Leo Kaufmann and Albert Ruef [slide show]- Washington Post

"Buckminster Fuller: Starting with the Universe" at the Whitney Museum...timely show serves as an opportunity for the design community to re-evaluate the work of a man consistently considered an outsider...Precepts that he

took for granted, such as the importance of humanitarian architecture and sustainable design, are only now understood. By Joseph Grima [images]- Icon (UK)

Grey Goose Entertainment and Sundance Channel Announce Talent Pairings for Fourth Season of 'Iconoclasts'
Premiering October 16: Fourth Season To Feature Cameron Diaz + Cameron Sinclair Nov. 20- Earthtimes.org



- 3XN: The Blue Planet Aquarium, Copenhagen, Denmark
- Massimiliano Fuksas Architetto: Zenith Music Hall, Strasburg, France
- Studio Nicoletti/Hijjas Kasturi Associates: Putrajaya Waterfront, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

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