

## Today's News - Wednesday, August 27, 2008

- Australian Institute of Architects issues its policy on urban design.
- U.S. cities might have found a way to fight urban blight brought on by home foreclosures.
- Another Modernist battle in New Orleans - this time it's school buildings (worth checking out the Flickr link - and the comments).
- Farrelly takes on Greer's "rambling and irrational" rant about ugly eco housing (see ANN July 28), but finds a few points that merit a look.
- An unknown Israeli ecologist wants to save the world from ecological disaster (if only someone would listen).
- Bayley on why bridge design has become "one of the coolest games in town" for architects and not just "geeky civil engineers."
- There will be no grand opening ceremonies for Calatrava's bridge over the Grand Canal.
- Enter Balmont, the "enginartist": he gets equal billing with Kapoor for Tees Valley giant (now the "odd couple must prove that they can carry through without coming to blows").
- Calys considers what could/should happen re: siting San Francisco's Contemporary Art Museum of the Presidio.
- Glancey positively glows over the Guardian's new HQ (a "ravishing" concert hall and bat-friendly roof included).
- Merrick marvels at the concert hall, the "star of this architectural show."
- RicciGreene focuses on prison design "that emphasize conferences over confrontations and rehabilitation over punishment."
- LACMA's Latin American collection is back, but "gets lost in the new nightclub-like décor" of "buzzy inventiveness."
- A shortlist of four for Waterloo Square concept design.
- Cheek pays tribute to Milton Stricker, who "never struggled to break out of the Wrightian orbit" (and Seattle is all the better for it).
- Call for entries: TEA-OFF! Tea Kettle Design Competition.
- We couldn't resist: Sean Connery ticks of Edinburgh brass for his take on the city's new architecture.

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Contain urban creep; focus on building efficiencies into cities: Increasing urban density and services to maximise efficiency and sustainability of infrastructure is the way forward for Australia's mature cities, says Australian Institute of Architects (AIA) in a newly released policy on urban design - Australian Institute of Architects (formerly RAIA)

Communities Become Home Buyers to Fight Decay: As a wave of home foreclosures courses through the United States, some of the nation's hardest hit cities think they have found a way to ease the blight left on their communities by the crisis. - New York Times

Another Modernist Battle in New Orleans: "...the School Facilities Master Plan for Orleans Parish calls for a large-scale rehabilitation of the city's educational infrastructure..." "Essentially all 30 schools built in the 1950s are slated for demolition," says Francine Stock... -- Charles R. Colbert; Curtis and Davis; Sol Rosenthal; Goldstein, Parham, Labouisse; Freret & Wolf; Curtis & Davis [images, links] - Metropolis Magazine

Home truths explain the monstrosities around us: Germaine Greer's piece was as rambling and irrational as the McSprawl it dissed...But individual points merit a look...if there was ever a moment for architects to offer up their succulent, mouthwatering imaginings of a creative and sustainable future...this is it. But do they? Not at all. By Elizabeth Farrelly - Sydney Morning Herald

Can an unknown Israeli ecologist save the world from ecological disaster? While it would be fair to assume that having such a solution was hardly a problem, for Max Nadel it is - because nobody is listening...his idea is called the TOTEM (total energy modulation) model... - Ha'aretz (Israel)

From land to water - how modern architects learnt to love the bridge: Once the preserve of geeky civil engineers, bridge design has recently become one of the coolest games in town. By Stephen Bayley -- Foster; Calatrava; Hadid; Niall McLaughlin; Wilkinson Eyre; McDowell+Benedetti; Marks Barfield; Pawson; Roebing - Guardian (UK)

Venice cancels opening ceremony for hated Santiago Calatrava bridge: "...city council said that the new bridge was "a monument to bad administration and a waste of Venice's money"...[will] be opened without fanfare "on or near the 18 September" - The Times (UK)

Welcome to the age of the 'enginartist': A stunning giant sculpture three times the size of 'The Angel of the North' will for the first time see an engineer given equal billing with an artist...Temenos and will be the first of five Tees Valley giants striding across the landscape... -- Cecil Balmont/Arup; Anish Kapoor [image] - Telegraph (UK)

You know it don't come easy: Nothing's easy in San Francisco and the proposed Contemporary Art Museum of the Presidio is no exception...the tricky diplomatic path of public consensus that Fisher and the Trust and Gluckman have to wend their way through...will determine whether future San Franciscans enjoy an art collection worthy of the gods. By George Calys -- Gluckman Mayner - San Francisco Examiner

Just nipping out for some Delius: It has two art galleries, a ravishing concert hall - and even a bat-friendly roof. It is also the Guardian's new home...a daring marriage of art and commerce. By Jonathan Glancey -- Dixon Jones [slide show] - Guardian (UK)

A wealth of sound: Kings Place Concert Hall: The first purpose-built concert hall in London for 26 years is £100m well spent. By Jay Merrick -- Dixon Jones - Independent (UK)

Architecture firm's designs underpin judicial reform: RicciGreene brings human approach to courthouses, jails...judicial buildings that emphasize conferences over confrontations and rehabilitation over punishment. - Crain's New York Business

Ancient Art, Served on a Present-Day Platter: The Los Angeles County Museum of Art's fine Latin American collection is back on view...but gets lost in the new nightclub-like décor...Jorge Pardo has outdone himself in buzzy inventiveness. He has also, to some degree, done in the art consigned to his visual care. By Holland Cotter [images] - New York Times

Four architects make Waterloo Square concept design shortlist: DSDHA, EDAW, LAB Architecture Studio and Lifschutz Davidson Sandilands will battle it out to land the commission to reshape the area outside the station... - The Architects' Journal (UK)

Seattle man followed his mentor with unswerving idealism: The June passing of one of those Wrightians calls for a closer and fairer look at his work. Milton Stricker...never struggled to break out of the Wrightian orbit...blends Wright's geometric drama and imaginative responses to site with a self-effacing serenity that frequently eluded his teacher. By Lawrence W. Cheek [images] - Seattle Post-Intelligencer

Call for entries: TEA-OFF! Tea Kettle Design Competition: create original kettle designs in metal, glass, or ceramic; no entry fee; cash prizes; deadline: January 6, 2009- World Kitchen

Sean Connery sends out mixed message on Edinburgh's architecture, claims ex-leader: ...praises the "imaginative" work of Edinburgh architects Allan Murray, Malcolm Fraser and Richard Murphy, but deplors the general standard of new buildings springing up across the city.- Edinburgh Evening News

Book Review: "NeoHooDoo: Art for a Forgotten Faith": Sharpen your pencils - and get ready to do a NeoHooDoo shimmy. This audacious book is a welcome reminder that no term in contemporary architectural design is as taboo as "vernacular spiritual." By Norman Weinstein- ArchNewsNow

Design by the Bushel: San Francisco design firms work fast to bring Slow Food Nation '08 to the city's front door, August 29 to September 1 [images]- ArchNewsNow

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