

## Today's News - Tuesday, February 24, 2009

- We lose a Norwegian master.
- A terrific, in-depth analysis of (supposedly) zero-emissions Masdar City: "In theory, it should all work" (or it could turn into "just a green playground for the rich, an environmental theme park").
- Oregon's green expertise is turning to gold in China, but how long the bloom will last?
- Jenkins takes on London's towers policy (a.k.a. "erectile disorder") that shows "no concern for the city's dignity or beauty."
- The mantra in Central Cape Town's regeneration: "Let's add more people" (there are skeptics).
- Vietnam debates what a model university city should be.
- An insightful historical look at why Australia has fallen under the spell of "climate control."
- Blum at the brink of the New New Deal finds a series of compelling photographs that illustrate "the divide between repair and renewal, despair, and hope."
- The stimulus package could be "an enormous opportunity to ramp up business" for those in the green building field.
- Yale's aspiring architects face a job shortage, explore options: "Professors are very realistic about what next year will bring for us, and it's not promising."
- MacMillan ponders who the winners will be when it comes to NEA's \$50 million stimulus funds: stiff criteria could limit the pool of applicants.
- Glancey and Moore on what SANAA's Serpentine might be like: "sculptural, peaceful and gently haunting."
- Seattle firm designs "deferential" architecture that doesn't "bellow for attention" - but getting it all the same (it's all about "attitude").
- Hawthorne's post-mortem of Rockwell's Oscar set: "some winning but also some jarring effects."
- NYC's "starchitect building bubble has burst" - but it's not the first time.
- We couldn't resist: a study that finds beauty affects men's and women's brains differently.

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[Obituary: Sverre Fehn, 84: One of Norway's best known architects...most recent work is the new Norwegian Museum of Architecture in Oslo.](#) - Norway Post

[A Zero-Emissions City in the Desert: Oil-rich Abu Dhabi is building a green metropolis. Should the rest of the world care? ...many experts are optimistic that Masdar City can become a test bed for new approaches to the engineering and architectural problems involved in creating environmentally sustainable cities. -- Foster + Partners images, videos\]](#)- MIT Technology Review

[Green expertise turns to gold: An Oregon cast shares the stage in China's sustainability movement, but the nation could steal the show with its vision of economic and environmental harmony...As a bad economy bulldozes growth, some wonder whether the environment will continue to be a priority. -- LRS Architects; Cogan Owens Cogan; ; Interface Engineering; HDR landscape architects; William McDonough](#) - The Oregonian

[Spare London's skyline yet another episode of these faulty towers: London towers policy is in chaos...Erectile disorder seems the occupational disease of London mayors...Even Moscow is more sensitive to its river front...It is a wretched chapter in London's history, with authority showing no concern for the city's dignity or beauty.](#) By Simon Jenkins - Evening Standard (UK)

[Central Cape Town regenerating: ...invested 10 years into a 30-year strategy with the long-term objective being to create an environment in which people can work and play..."Our mantra is: Let's add more people"...will introduce economies of scale and encourage people to walk rather than drive to work. -- Jacques Theron](#) - iAfrica.com

[Seeking suitable models for university cities: ...lingering questions: Will Vietnam's university cities have inhabitants? Who will manage the university cities' populations and how? -- Phuong Nam Architecture](#) - VietNamNet Bridge

[My country, my tyrant: Being a young nation shaped by the technological age, Australia has been quick to fall under the spell of "climate control"...our national mythology has swung between fear of our weather and a determination to domesticate it.](#) - Eastern Riverina Chronicle (Australia)

[Tracking The Future: On the eve of Barack Obama's New New Deal, a series of compelling photographs illustrates the divide between repair and renewal, despair, and hope...I'd prefer to leave the door open a crack for public aspiration—to see the darkest hour as coming right before the dawn.](#) By Andrew Blum -- Timo Stammberger; Kazys Varnelis [images]- Metropolis Magazine

[Obama's Green Building Stimulus: Synonymous with LEED: For green building educators and sustainability consultants, contractors and green building materials providers, the stimulus package represents an enormous opportunity to ramp up business.](#) - Green-Buildings.com

[Yale's aspiring architects face a job shortage: Accepting a temporary post in a different country or choosing a related profession may be the best options for recent graduates..."Professors are very realistic about what next year will bring for us, and it's not promising."](#) - Yale Daily News

[Millions for arts offset funding cuts elsewhere: ...it is impossible to predict how many groups...will apply for this funding until guidelines have been set....stiff criteria surrounding job creation and possible limits on the size of recipient organizations will limit the pool of applicants.](#) By Kyle MacMillan - Denver Post

[Serpentine turns to Japanese architects for 2009 pavilion: Quite what SANAA will do...remains to be seen, but if their best known building to date, The New Museum of Contemporary Art...is anything to go by, it will be sculptural, peaceful and gently haunting...not in the sense of disturbing... By Jonathan Glancey -- Sejima + Nishizawa](#) - Guardian (UK)

[Introducing the Serpentine's secret weapon: Experiencing SANAA's spaces at their best is like entering another world...Where most cool glass boxes are about making life seem more normal, SANAA's are about making it more strange.](#) By Rowan Moore -- Sejima + Nishizawa [images]- Evening Standard (UK)

[Top Seattle firm's designs don't intrude: "Deferential" architects, creators of forms that don't burst out of their sites and bellow for attention, also aren't usually showered with awards, but this 41-year-old Seattle firm is the exception...It all starts with the foundation, which is made of attitude.](#) By Lawrence W. Cheek -- Olson Sundberg Kundig Allen - Seattle Post-Intelligencer

[At the Oscars, David Rockwell's architecture of forced intimacy: ...produced some winning but also some jarring effects...a show that pursued indulgent glamour and then flogged itself for doing so.](#) By Christopher Hawthorne [images]- Los Angeles Times

Urban Un-Planning | Form Follows Finance: Across the city, the starchitect building bubble has burst overnight...the plinths of Norman Foster and Richard Rogers may be Manhattan's first low-rise monuments to recession...a look at the casualties and the wounded: New York's Machine Age monoliths literally cut short by the Great Depression. -- Joseph Urban; Cross & Cross; John A. and Edward L. Larkin [images, links]- New York Times

Beauty Affects Men's and Women's Brains Differently: The difference could be the result of evolutionary pressures on our hunter-gatherer ancestors. - Wired



UNStudio: MUMUTH Music Theatre, Graz, Austria

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