

## Today's News - Tuesday, May 5, 2009

- A call for a "design version of public health": in a bad economy, "there is more than enough important work for public-interest designers to do" (a new business model could even make it a new profession).
- Hatherley explains why the "regeneration" of Britain's largest example of Brutalist architecture by the heritage industry puts it "in danger of losing what makes it special."
- Melbourne lays claim to the world's first carbon neutral office development.
- The curtain is about to go up on the Great White Way's first green theater.
- Jenkins accesses London mayor's first year: he "has done much to surprise the skeptics" and shows a "sensitivity to the city's environment rare in a city politician" (many other don't agree).
- The mayor's next big vision revives '90s plan: a "living bridge" (think Ponte Vecchio) over the Thames (botanical garden included).
- Glancey begs to differ: "Inhabited bridges have proven to be tricky, tacky and downright annoying...why in Whittington's name do we need such a potty extra bridge at all."
- Q&A: Tschumi discusses his new Acropolis Museum, and the controversies and inconsistencies of a complexly layered site.
- Dream teams: a Milwaukee city planner/architecture school dean marshals talent from the architecture school and local firms to work on city projects.
- A San Francisco architect who finds himself suddenly blind sees a new niche for his talents.
- On Long Island, a preservation battle looms for the ghostly remains of Tesla's "biggest and most audacious project" (a Stanford White included).
- Hodges offers a bird's eye view of some of Detroit's most striking buildings (night lighting on some could use some improvement).
- ASLA 2009 Professional Award winners announced: some expected, some pleasant surprises (and lots of pix!).
- Call for entries: World Architecture Festival Awards.
- One we couldn't resist: an American Stonehenge in Georgia "may be the most enigmatic monument in the U.S." - ya gotta see it to believe it (and no one knows who designed or paid for it).

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**Needed: Design in the Public Interest:** The world desperately needs a design version of public health, and so do architectural schools and the profession itself...in the current economy, there is more than enough important work for public-interest designers to do. We need only to figure out how to do that work — how to prepare for it, practice it, and make a profession of it. By Thomas Fisher, Dean, College of Design at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities - [The Chronicle of Higher Education](#)

**Penthouse and pavement:** Britain's largest example of brutalist architecture is undergoing a multimillion-pound 'regeneration'...Park Hill flats in danger of losing what makes it special...When the heritage industry lays its hands on brutalism, it unsurprisingly gets its fingers burnt. By Owen Hatherley -- [English Heritage](#); Alison & Peter Smithson; Martin Pawley; Reyner Banham; Jack Lynn/Ivor Smith/Frederick Nicklin; Lewis Womersley - [Guardian \(UK\)](#)

**Pixel building aims to be world's first carbon neutral office development:** ...on a former brewery site in the city of Melbourne — and possibly the first of its kind in the world. -- [Studio 505 \[image\]](#) - [Gizmag \(Australia\)](#)

**White Way Gets a 'Green' Theater:** Henry Miller's Theater, the first newly built Broadway house in more than 20 years — and the first so-called green theater on the Great White Way — has completed major construction and is set to open in September...Bank of America rebuilt the theater alongside the bank's new 55-story tower at One Bryant Park. -- [Cook + Fox Architects \[slide show\]](#) - [New York Times](#)

**Boris Johnson: a new Dick Whittington:** In a year as the capital's mayor, he has honoured his pledges and transformed the style and language of politics...has done much to surprise the sceptics. His forthcoming conference on "a new London vernacular architecture" indicates sensitivity to the city's environment rare in a city politician. By Simon Jenkins - [Guardian \(UK\)](#)

**£80m "living bridge" over the Thames:** Plans for a new bridge across the Thames lined with shops and homes - similar to the Ponte Vecchio in Florence - are being drawn up by Boris Johnson. -- [Antoine Grumbach \[image\]](#) - [Evening Standard \(UK\)](#)

**Turn again, Boris - your bridge plan is all wrong:** Inhabited bridges...are alluring structures, yet they have proven to be tricky, tacky and downright annoying...think of beautiful, open bridges designed by the world's most inspired engineers if you must, or, rather...think why in Whittington's name we need such a potty extra bridge at all. By Jonathan Glancey - [Guardian \(UK\)](#)

**New Acropolis Museum:** Bernard Tschumi discusses his new home for the Acropolis antiquities, and the controversies and inconsistencies of a complexly layered site. By Julie V. lovine [\[images\]](#) - [The Architect's Newspaper](#)

**Gown to Town:** A dean at a Milwaukee school holds the keys to the city: Bob Greenstreet...the longest-serving dean of any architecture school in the country...and, since 2004, he has also been the leading planner for the city of Milwaukee...has played a key role in marshaling talent from the architecture school and local firms to work on city projects. By Scott Carlson - [Hammel, Green and Abrahamson \(HGA\)](#) - [The Chronicle of Higher Education](#)

**Sudden sight loss drives architect to aid blind:** ...dedicated to planning buildings for blind people, a niche brought about by his sudden loss of sight after surgery...has been working up floor plans in braille to submit to blind clients overseeing the design of a new blind rehab center at the Veterans Affairs center in Palo Alto. -- [Chris Downey](#); [SmithGroup](#); [Design Partnership](#) - [San Francisco Chronicle](#)

**A Battle to Preserve a Visionary's Bold Failure:** A fight is looming on Long Island over the ghostly remains of Nikola Tesla's biggest and most audacious project...Wardenclyffe -- [Stanford White \[images\]](#) - [New York Times](#)

**Atop the Guardian Building - 400 feet of ecstasy:** ...all Detroit lays itself out at your feet. By Michael Hodges -- [Wirt Rowland/Smith, Hinchman & Grylls \(SmithGroup\)](#); [Albert Kahn \[images\]](#) - [Detroit News](#)

**ASLA Announces 2009 Professional Awards** -- [SWA Group](#); [Mossop+Michaels](#); [Michael Van Valkenburgh](#); [Landworks Studio](#); [Tierra Design](#); [Ken Smith](#); [Mikyong Kim](#); [Designed Surfacedesign Inc.](#)+ [Harari arquitectos](#); [CMG Landscape Architecture](#); [Coen + Partners](#); [West 8 + DTAH](#); [Ten Eyck](#); [OLIN](#); [Janet Rosenberg/Claude Cormier/Hariri Pontarini](#); [Nelson Byrd Woltz](#) ; etc. [\[images, links\]](#) - [American Society of Landscape Architects \(ASLA\)](#)

**Call for entries: World Architecture Festival Awards;** deadline: June 26 - [World Architecture Festival](#)

**American Stonehenge: Monumental Instructions for the Post-Apocalypse:** The Georgia Guidestones may be the most enigmatic monument in the US: huge slabs of granite, inscribed with directions for rebuilding civilization after the apocalypse. Only one man knows who created them—and he's not talking. [\[images\]](#) - [Wired magazine](#)

**Stylish Stacking:** Shipping containers will jump off the rails to form an innovative multifamily apartment complex near a Salt Lake City commuter rail station. -- [Group 41 \[images\]](#) - [ArchNewsNow](#)

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  - Design Hotel: Augartenhotel, Graz, Austria

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