

LISTINGS

News Reports, Books and Conferences

Ayyub Malik



AROUND THE WORLD

AFGHANISTAN

KABUL: A 16th Century garden planted by the first Moghul emperor, devastated by a decade of shelling, is being reconstructed and replanted. (registration)

<http://tinyurl.com/waha>

AFRICA

AFRICA: One day last year ninety five photojournalists from twenty six countries throughout Africa took part in a 24-hour photo shoot... Great pictures.

Namibia: Namib Desert sand dunes

<http://allafrica.com/photoessay/adayinthelife/photo1.html>



AUSTRALIA

Year of the Built-Environment 2004

Australia has declared 2004 as the Year of the Built Environment - YBE 2004. It has five main themes relevant to towns and cities - Towards Sustainable Communities, Healthy Environments, Excellence in Building, Built Heritage and Imagining the Future - each will be the focus of discussion papers, talks and community meetings. The aim is to provide an opportunity for everyone to participate in the shaping of good quality, liveable and sustainable environments in their cities.

www.ybe2004.nsw.gov.au

MELBOURNE: The city has spent Au\$1bn rebuilding the city's cultural landmarks. Here's a guide. <http://www.theage.com.au/articles/2004/01/14/1073877895371.html>

BRITAIN

BRADFORD: A 'Coriander Street' complex of greenhouses, restaurants and shops in the centre of town will be 'devoted to smelling, seeing, feeling and eating the tastes of the East...'

http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,3604,1125939,00.html

BANGLADESH

DHAKA: An extensive history of local retail architecture, from the 13th Century onwards.
<http://www.thedailystar.net/2004/01/02/d40102190299.htm>

CHINA

BEIJING: A Jacques Herzog interview, as Herzog and de Meuron's Olympic stadium gets underway in the Chinese capital. 'We must find a way to do something forbidden. Without getting punished...'

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/arts/features/story/0,11710,1120797,00.html>

TOURISM: With over a billion people, the country will soon be a major source for tourism, as well as a destination. In 2001 over 12 million Chinese were taking holidays abroad. By 2020, it will be 100 million.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/3269937.stm>

GUANGZHOU: Zaha Hadid has won the competition for a 46,000 sqm opera house at Guangzhou. Nothing up yet on her website, but plenty else while we're waiting...

Zaha Hadid's website: <http://www.zaha-hadid.com/>

CAMBODIA

Phnom Penh-based architect Geoff Pyle is running architectural tours of 1950s and 60s buildings. Details and pictures at: <http://www.ka-tours.org/>

EGYPT

An excellent new website for Egyptian Art and Architecture:
<http://www.geocities.com/egyptarchitecture/home.htm>

ETHIOPIA

Axum Obelisk: A last-minute snag is preventing the return of a 1,700 year-old stone obelisk looted by Mussolini's troops. Having agreed to its return, Italian authorities say they can't find a plane capable of airlifting the heavy sections of the 160-ton Axum monument.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/3479821.stm>



HONG KONG

Sustainability: Hong Kong beats Toronto by a mile in this piece, which compares the two cities' housing density, public transport, skyscraper heights and levels of waste...
<http://tinyurl.com/yr471>

INDIA

RESISTING EARTHQUAKES THROUGH PREVENTIVE DESIGN

Innovative design and engineering is at the heart of an earthquake-resistant hospital opened last week in India.

The building, in Bhuj, uses 'base isolation technology' - with the weight resting on blocks of rubber with a core of lead. The technique, pioneered in New Zealand, slows movement during a quake and absorbs force.

Architect Uday Patnaik said 'While the building virtually floats on the fluid lead, the rubber provides the necessary friction to bring it back into the frame... the building sways about 35 cm in every direction and not a glass pane will fall even if an earthquake measures 8 on the Richter Scale.'

While 186 of the 282 columns of the hospital are supported on lead-embedded rubber bearings, the rest use another isolation technique, using Teflon sliders on plates of mirror-grade stainless steel.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/428412.cms>

NEW DELHI: The city's development authority will be seeking an architect to master plan the Commonwealth Games 2010.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/431048.cms>

RED FORT: A row over conservation standards at the 350 year-old Red Fort has divided heritage groups. Now a writ has been issued by an architect-led campaign group.
<http://tinyurl.com/x6nz>

Very good Images: http://acro.harvard.edu/GEI/india_architecture.html

HEALTHCARE: clinic developer Apollo plans franchises in Kuwait, Bangladesh, Ghana, Nigeria, Mauritius and Yemen and, 'upbeat about developing warmth in Indo-Pak relations', wants to expand into Pakistan.

<http://www.rediff.com/money/2004/jan/10guest1.htm>

CHANDIGARH: A biography of India's first prime minister after independence, Jawaharlal Nehru, sheds light on the commissioning of Le Corbusier's modernist city. Nehru had a 'lifelong tendency to affirm principles disconnected from practical consequences...'
Registration: <http://tinyurl.com/3ddjo>

IRAN – Bam earthquake

Perhaps not all that well known before the earthquake, Bam was one of the finest mud-built cities. Partly built over an archaeological mound, its history goes back to the founding of Zoroastrianism in Iran around 600 BC. Architecturally, it was a living repository of brick-building forms and techniques– domes,



vaults, arches, squinches (*maqurnas*), *iwans*, squares, courtyards as well as fortifications, all built in fascinatingly intricate brick work and decorations.

Architecture for Humanity's website is still appealing for help from architects, designers and engineers in securing transitional housing.

<http://www.architectureforhumanity.org/>

Iranian-born architect Nader Khalili says the fatally fragile city of mud bricks can be rebuilt - using mud and wire. The 'superadobe' building technique uses sandbags filled with a mud/cement mix. 'Give me 1,000 soldiers and 100 students of architecture and we will rebuild Bam...'

Khalili has developed his vaulted house prototype in California since the mid-1980's...a pattern of 3 offset vaults which allow a maximum view through the house's open plan area, and from the height of the vault. The 3-vault system can be combined with domes and apses, or repeated back to back to form a variety of aesthetic and efficiently planned house designs...

Cal-Earth web: <http://www.calearth.org> and <http://www.calearth.org/3vaults.htm>

For views of the citadel and Iranian art, architecture and landscape (scroll down)

<http://www.art-arena.com/land.htm>

Published just before the earthquake, an account of an MIT workshop held in Turkey after the 1999 earthquake which killed more than 25,000, explores various ways of developing robust vernacular building types.

<http://www.technologyreview.com/articles/beaumont1203.asp?p=0>

JAPAN

Paper architecture: Shigeru Ban's design for the new Centre Pompidou-Metz east of Paris is focusing world attention on an architect best known for using paper and cardboard as building materials.

'The sun streams through a huge hexagonal umbrella made of woven steel and wood draped over 100-meter rectangular tubes that cross each other...' Ban, part of the World Trade Centre

competition runner-up team, is currently working on projects in his native Japan, the US, Australia, South Korea and Germany.

His work has included paper shelters for African refugees and earthquake victims. Paper tubes supported his Japan Pavilion at the Hanover Expo in 2000. ‘What I detest the most is to imitate others or follow designs that are in fashion...’

<http://www.asahi.com/english/arts/TKY200402210164.html>

KENYA

Nairobi: Many of the residents of Africa's second largest slum, at Kibera in Nairobi, face homelessness this week when government bulldozers move in. Between 7500,000 and a million people are affected. Churches, mosques, schools and children's homes will also be pulled down. Humanitarian groups have condemned the action as a violation of international human rights law. Some of the land required for a bypass has already been cleared. ‘Tenants left their homes early in the morning for work only to come later and find them destroyed and property looted...’

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200402130688.html>

LEBANON

REDESIGNING THE PAST

Beirut: The frantic pace of reconstruction in Beirut has attracted some of the world's most glamorous architects. But opinion is divided on how far the city's historic character should be enhanced for investors and tourists.

Many old buildings in the city centre have been restored, amid a comprehensive urban remodelling project by the public-private partnership Solidere. Nicolai Oroussof of the LA Times complains that the new Beirut is ‘fundamentally about consumption. Its covered sidewalks are lined with homogenous, high-end boutiques...’

‘The sense of a sanitised past is also visible in subtle changes in the articulation of the architecture. Most of the restored buildings are made of a soft local limestone. Traditionally, such surfaces were covered in coloured plaster to protect the stone from wear. Here, the stone façades have been left bare. Their surfaces have a rough, chiselled quality. The idea is to create a feeling of authenticity more real than the real...’ Bernard Khoury, a Lebanese architect, says ‘it is about turning Beirut into a sort of postcard. What they want is something safe and romantic, like Switzerland in the Middle East...’

Pipeline schemes include Jean Nouvel’s slender 36-storey residential and hotel tower, ‘conceived’ as a solid concrete mass with a series of deep voids carved out of its surfaces...’ Rafael Moneo’s design for new city *souks* restores the street pattern established by Phoenician merchants. Steven Holl’s marina features ‘interlocking fingers’ of private and public space.

<http://tinyurl.com/2h69e> and http://www.dailystar.com.lb/business/12_01_04_d.asp

MALAYSIA

Urban heritage: A new government campaign - with tax breaks - to conserve historic buildings, some of which are used to harvest birds' nests... <http://tinyurl.com/332c8>

MOZAMBIQUE

Over a million children will be unable to attend primary school in 2004 for lack of space. The education system needs at least 10,000 more classrooms. And more teachers - the current teacher / pupil ratio in primary schools is one to 64.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200401080482.html>

NEWZEALAND

A State of Flax: A New Zealand design team is to test a new technique of flax-reinforced earth building as part of a plan to create a 'sustainable urban village.'

A pilot 36 sqm utility block, designed by architect Rau Hoskins, will use walls constructed from the material, while a second urban site will 'mainstream the idea of sustainable papakainga - communally owned housing on Maori land...' Some of the homes will have composting toilets and grey-water systems.

<http://tinyurl.com/38v2x>

NIGERIA

LAGOS: The state Commissioner for Housing has challenged architects to generate new ideas for affordable housing: 'instead of relying on imported methods, our architects should look inward for home grown solutions.'

<http://www.thisdayonline.com/news/20040117news08.html>

PAKISTAN

PAKISTAN: Huge infrastructure projects continue to displace the country's poorest residents, with more than 25,000 families under threat from an expressway. 'Squatter settlements now constitute about 50 per cent of the population...'

<http://www.oneworld.net/article/view/73488/1/>

PALESTINE

NABLUS: The UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has chronicled the recent destruction of buildings in the historic town of Nablus.

<http://www.reliefweb.int/hic-opt/>

The president of the World Archaeological Congress has condemned damage caused to world heritage sites in Bethlehem, Nablus and Hebron. Israel has admitted demolishing part of an ancient Byzantine monastery in Abu Dis.

<http://www.haaretzdaily.com/hasen/spages/381507.html>

RUSSIA

MOSCOW: The historical heart of the city is facing a ‘grim future... the city is losing more historical buildings than at any time since the 1930s, when Josef Stalin decided to tear down much of pre-Revolution Moscow...’

http://www.gateway2russia.com/st/art_191683.php

TAIWAN

TAIPEI: The world’s tallest building-in-waiting, Taipei 101, is being promoted as a symbol of national pride - and of structural defiance. ‘It should be able to stand for at least a couple of hours longer than the World Trade Center towers did and might not collapse at all under similar circumstances...’. For stability during typhoons the building has a 727-ton solid steel damper ball hanging from eight cables inside the 89th floor. The ball could swing back and forth up to 5 feet during a severe typhoon...’

<http://www.etaiwanews.com/Taiwan/2004/01/12/1073872922.htm>

Rundown railway warehouses across the island are being converted into spaces for art workshops and exhibition spaces.

<http://www.taipeitimes.com/News/taiwan/archives/2004/01/05/2003086425>

TANZANIA

Cities without slums

The government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the UN-HABITAT to launch the Cities without Slums initiative in Tanzania which aims to eliminate the problem of slums in the new millennium.

Tanzania has the fastest growing towns and cities in Africa. According to UN-HABITAT statistics, Tabora is the fastest growing town in the continent with an annual growth rate of 11 per cent, mainly attributed to mining activities in the area. Dar es Salaam itself is growing at about 4 per cent per annum doubling the city every 12 years. At present, sixty per cent of the solid waste in the city remains uncollected raising serious issues of waste management and sanitation to be dealt by the initiative. A pilot project under the Water for African Cities Programme, a community initiative at Makongo and Kwembe areas of Dar es Salaam was also launched to ensure the availability of safe water. Tanzania Housing Bank (THP) is to be revived to encourage the formation of housing co-operatives for mortgage and building finance so as to stem the spread of slums.

Cities Without Slums is an initiative to ensure that basic services like water, sanitation and health are provided in slums and unplanned areas of cities across the world. It also focuses on issues of appropriate governance structures that lead to sustainable cities.

TURKEY

VIRTUAL MUSEUM

The prospect of creating virtual clones of historic buildings too fragile for the real world of tourism has moved a step further.

A team at the University of Geneva has used 3D computer modelling to develop virtual reality models of two Turkish mosques dating from the Ottoman era of the 16th century 'which let you move around and explore the buildings in real time.' The researchers used architectural plans, together with high resolution photography and video to create the virtual models of the mosques.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/technology/3472589.stm>

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

After the Souk: A large scale model of an ancient souk of Ras Al Khamaih and surrounding houses has been constructed by a heritage enthusiast.

<http://www.gulf-news.com/Articles/news.asp?ArticleID=107064>

USA

LAS VEGAS: Houses for the Future - with kitchen and garage *Mahals*

Architects, builders and housing experts paraded a whole spectrum of ideas ranging from designing for different generations and cultures to new design trends around the country when they gathered recently in Las Vegas at National Association of Home Builders Convention.

One of these ideas is the 'dirty kitchen', according to Chicago architect Salvatore Balsamo. It's a way to separate the mess from the guests - much of the cooking takes place in the 'dirty kitchen' leaving the main kitchen as a showplace. (Interestingly, this has been the practice in house design for the middle classes in India and Pakistan for quite some time.)

"Today's 500-square-foot Garage *Mahal* can be fitted out with a bar, sink and music amplifier to create a space for entertaining," suggested Jillian Cooke from Atlanta. Many ideas were based on input from focus groups and revealed 'how families really want to live'.

Immigrants represent an increasing component of the housing market, and catering to them will become increasingly important. "At the Greenwood Meadows subdivision in New Jersey, we've had a 45 per cent increase in Asian and Indian buyers, a dramatic shift," said Lisa Macchi, a vice-president at Millennium Homes in Livingston, N.J. "Both groups want an eastern exposure. Asians won't buy a house with a front staircase in line with the front door. Indians want bathrooms far away from the kitchen, and they want a lower showerhead for foot washing. Indians also want an upstairs prayer room," she said. <http://tinyurl.com/286o4>

DESIGN FOR LIVING

More US clients are briefing for a dream home without a living room. A report from the National Association of Home Builders says new homeowner priorities are 'larger laundry rooms, exercise rooms, home offices and media centres, larger bathrooms, and oversize kitchens filled with high-end appliances, low-maintenance finishes, above-grade materials and spectacular lighting features.'

<http://tinyurl.com/yr9ro>

CONNECTICUT:

Black Boxes: Enigmas of Space and Race. A two-day symposium on race and its role in the built environment was held on Jan. 16 and 17 at the Yale School of Architecture in New Haven, Connecticut. Does 'African-American architecture' exist? What is it? For report by Jennifer Newson, a second-year graduate student at the School who organised the event, visit: <http://tinyurl.com/yw2f6>

CONFERENCES + WORKSHOPS

**Countering Urban Segregation: International working-conference on the reasons behind and struggles against current urban segregation
Amsterdam, 14th-15th October 2004**

Call for Papers: Urban segregation is far from a new phenomenon, but nowadays its manifestations seem to have taken on new traits. Fragmentation has appeared to deepen, the forced seclusion of the poor from specific neighborhoods has become fashionable, and old class-parameters have tended to merge with new in- and outsiders divisions. As a consequence, shared city-identities have become weaker. Moreover, insecurity and fear have now become prominent among many urban dwellers.

We are planning a 'working-conference' on the theme of current urban segregation, which will take place in October 2004. Our aim is to achieve a cross-continental discussion on this subject, in which particular attention will be paid to the efforts of those who have opposed this ('new') segregation. In this regard, attention will be specifically paid to the strategic shift in policy-design and implementation, in which pre-designed blueprint-like interventions are being supplanted by process approaches. The focus will be on Africa, Asia, Latin America, North America and Europe.

This two-day conference will be held in Amsterdam. We plan to organize both intensive and 'focused' debates, involving a group of approximately 30 participants, of whom 18 will present a paper. Each paper should address either the interpretative or the agency perspective:

- Ø The analysis of present day manifestations of urban segregation and the examination of its effects on and consequences for urban life and populations; or
- Ø The analysis of counter policies and the efforts to implement them, or the level of grassroots actions, alliances and partnerships.

Thematically, we would like the contributors to focus on one of the following themes:

a. *The tension between exclusionary economics and inclusionary politics:* Globalization often triggers an expansion of the gap between rich and poor, and leads to the exclusion of those who cannot profit from new economic 'opportunities'. At the same time, globalization also elicits a discourse in which decentralization, good governance, transparency, participation and equal rights are celebrated. How do these two processes clash and/or merge? How do they take shape in the local context?

b. *Globalization: homogeneous inputs and heterogeneous outcomes:*
 In many accounts, the importance of focusing upon local socio-cultural manifestations and modifications of globalization's 'input' is advocated. What shape do such local modifications and alterations take in the realm of urban segregation processes? Can they undo or subvert the negative impacts of globalization's impositions?

c. *Spatial segregation: searching for cohesion in a fragmenting setting:*
 Within cities, neighborhoods have not only become segregated along ethnic and income lines, but also within neighborhoods, at the street level or housing blocks. What does this mean for the interaction between the residents of such areas? What kind of interactions actually take place between these groups, and what impact do these interactions have on social cohesion and livability, the use of public space, and the reduction or deepening of group boundaries?

d. *Conquering citizenship in adverse conditions:*
 Many claim that the issues and struggles related to the themes addressed above, are 'compressed' into the concept of citizenship; citizenship forms the 'axis' of struggles around access, rights, inclusion and participation. How does the quest for citizenship relate to, and how does it attempt to counter, the question of urban segregation?

We call for abstracts dealing with one of the aforementioned subjects. On basis of these abstracts, a selection will be made. Ultimately 18 papers will be presented at the conference. We intend to produce a book on the basis of selected papers. For this reason, all papers should be original and have not been published previously.

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Organizers: Dr. Ton Salman and Dr. Peer Smets a.nieuwland@fsw.vu.nl

Contemporary Discourses in Architecture Beirut, Lebanon. 13-15 May 2004

Call for Papers: The Department of Architecture and Design at the Lebanese American University is organizing a symposium on Contemporary Discourses in Architecture to be held in May 2004 in Beirut, Lebanon.

Symposium Theme:

After the eventful decades of production of 'critical' discourses in architectural theory, new paradigms are emerging which are affecting the status of 'theory' inside the discourse of architecture as well as the practice of architecture as a discipline. In contrast to the debates of the 1970s and 80's, some would argue that we are moving

towards a 'post-critical' phase in architecture, where criticism is suspended in the face of major technical and economic challenges. This in turn is affecting and challenging the pedagogical mission of architecture as a discipline of intellectual inquiry that addresses concrete problems of life.

What should be the goals of theory and pedagogy, and the role of praxis under this new condition? How should we address the conditions imposed by reality within these various discourses? Are the traditional ideological and aesthetic critiques of the 'object' and the theoretical formulations of the 'City' still valid tools of analysis for this new condition? Finally how do we see some of these problems and issues dealt with in particular contexts?

This conference seeks to address these questions under the four main categories listed below, one of which will be specific to the context of the region in which this conference will be held. The last session is an open category for papers that may be of general interest to the debate.

- a. From discourse to reality: the interface between theory and practice
- b. Emerging paradigms in architecture
- c. The crisis of the architectural object and the city
- d. Architectural pedagogy and the problems of practice in the Arab World

Contact: ehaddad@lau.edu.lb

Architectural Theory Review Sydney, Australia

Call for Papers: Architectural Theory Review (est. 1996) is a refereed journal which provides a forum for the exchange of ideas and information on the theory of architecture. It invites for publication articles which relate architectural theory to main currents in contemporary thinking in all fields.

Papers are invited on the theme of architecture and architectural theory in the context of East and South East Asia for publication in 2004.

<http://www.arch.usyd.edu.au/nwfa/research/publications.html#1>

COMPETITIONS

ARCHITECTURAL PRESS / TEACHERS IN ARCHITECTURE 2004 DESIGN COMPETITION FOR AN ECOHOUSE

Architectural Press and Teachers in Architecture in conjunction with Circle 33 Housing Group are proud to present the 2004 Design Competition for an Ecohouse.

THE COMPETITION: The challenge is to design an Ecohouse for your own home town, wherever it is. The two key aims are to make it: **A.** Comfortable, with areas of real ‘thermal delight’, and **B.** A real 21st century building, safe from climate change, able to survive without relying on a great deal of fossil fuels.

DESIGN SPECIFICATION: You are to design an Ecohouse for a family of two adults and two children. The house should have three bedrooms. The site and location are of your choice but should be concisely described on your entry. The site should be in your own home area so you understand the climate and the local architecture instinctively. The house should be around 180 square meters in floor plan size for internal rooms and any height, form, materials and style you like can be used. The submission must explain the ‘Eco-design’ ideas on which the design of the house is based. The house should be demonstrably comfortable in summer and winter.

ELIGIBILITY: A student or group of students in a School of Architecture.

THE PRIZES: Donated by Circle 33 Housing Group - GB£500, £300, £200 and 10 prizes of ECOHOUSE 2 signed by the authors. Winning designs will be placed on www.architecturalpress.com

THE PROCESS OF ENTERING: The last date for the delivery in Oxford for the submission will be on the 31st August 2004. For examples of last years competition please visit www.architecturalpress.com and click competition link.

THE FORM OF THE ENTRY: The entry sheets should be no more than 2 x A1 sheets of paper and sent to:

Professor Susan Roaf, School of Architecture, Oxford Brookes University, Oxford OX3 OBP, UK Fax: ++44 1865 483298 Email: tia@brookes.ac.uk

World Habitat Awards 2004

These awards are made on an annual basis to housing projects which provide practical and innovative solutions to the needs and problems of people, both in industrialized countries and developing countries. These solutions must be able to be reproducible. The deadline for receipt and preliminary submissions is set for June 1, 2004.



Eligibility: individuals, organisations and governments with innovative and practical solutions to housing needs and problems from any country.

Construction without using timber in the Sahel, WHA winner 1998

www.bshf.org/wha/index.html or [Click here for more information](#)

MISCELLANEOUS

CITIES ON TOP

The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) survey has ranked Melbourne, Vancouver and Vienna as the best cities for expatriates to live in, with Perth coming fourth and Adelaide, Brisbane and Sydney at equal sixth.

The London-based EIU assessed the level of hardship for expatriates in the 130 cities, using 12 factors including city's infrastructure, access, housing, education, crime, focus on the environment, cultural events, its diversity and how connected it was with the rest of the world.

Geneva was ranked fifth, while Papua New Guinea's capital Port Moresby kept the title it took in the last survey in 2002 as the worst.

London was equal 45th, along with Los Angeles, Madrid and San Francisco.

The highest ranked US city was Honolulu in 19th on eight points, while New York was 51st with 16 and Washington was the lowest of 16 American cities in the survey at 57th, mainly due to a higher risk of terrorism.

- 1= Melbourne
- 1= Vancouver
- 1= Vienna
- 4 Perth
- 5 Geneva
- 6= Adelaide
- 6= Brisbane
- 6= Copenhagen
- 6= Montreal
- 6= Oslo
- 6= Sydney
- 6= Zurich
- 13= Helsinki
- 13= Stockholm
- 13= Toronto

Others:

- 19= Auckland
- 19= Honolulu
- 28= Paris
- 45= London
- 51= Dublin
- 51= New York
- 57= Washington
- 64= Athens
- 75= Beijing
- 130 Port Moresby

BUILDING DISASTERS

A spate of recent building collapses has raised concern about poor design and maintenance, construction corner-cutting and corruption.

Investigations into the roof collapse at a Moscow leisure complex are to focus on poor maintenance as well as structural and design faults. The water park opened just 18 months ago. Initial reports said extreme contrasts in temperature inside and outside the glass dome, caused by poor management of the complex's ventilation system, could have caused the collapse. 'Others pointed to Russia's widespread problem of corruption in securing building permits, unskilled labour used in construction and haste...' Architect Viktor Ovsyannikov: 'The quality of construction



work in the country is on a very low level. Now the main thing in Russia is to build quickly and sell. Whatever comes next is no one's concern...'

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L16622718.htm>

Images: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/3489755.stm>

In **TURKEY**, the collapse of an 11-storey Istanbul apartment block which claimed 92 lives has revived fears about notoriously low construction standards in a country frequently hit by earthquakes. Materials and workmanship have been criticised by investigators. There was also a series of mistakes in the way steel reinforcements were placed in the structural columns and beams.

A report by Turkey's National Statistics Institute says 75% of the country's 16 million buildings are in need of repair and '700,000 could collapse at any time...' In Istanbul, the local authority is taking unilateral action to demolish unsafe buildings. Architect Selcuk Erdogmus cites poor building control systems, 'compounded by rampant corruption among construction companies, who often disregard regulations...'

<http://tinyurl.com/22rve>

Negligence is also suspected in **CHINA**, which recently suffered two major fires. Some emergency exits in the five-storey Zhongbai Commercial Plaza in Jilin were locked and could have contributed to the 53 deaths, witnesses said. The fire apparently started in the building's boiler room before spreading throughout the building. In Zhejiang, 40 mostly elderly women died at a makeshift and 'illegal' temple largely made of straw and bamboo.

<http://iafrica.com/news/worldnews/302734.htm>

In **AZERBAIJAN**, there is growing concern about the safety of thousands of Soviet-era buildings.

http://www.iwpr.net/index.pl?archive/cau/cau_200402_218_3_eng.txt

AIR QUALITY

Sick Buildings: Recent reports indicate two forms of Sick Building Syndrome - one affecting the world's rich nations, the other the world's poor.

A study by the UK-based Intermediate Technology Development Group says smoke from indoor fires kills one person every 20 seconds in the developing world - more than malaria, and almost as many as unsafe water and sanitation.

Around 2.4 billion people burn biomass for cooking and heating. When coal is included, 3 billion people - half the world's population - rely on solid fuel. Nearly a million of the 1.6m people who die annually from smoke-related illness are children.

Properly designed chimney stoves or smoke hoods would reduce global indoor pollution by up to 80%. It would cost \$2.5bn annually over the next 12 years.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/3244214.stm>

Meanwhile, a research team from McGill University in Montreal claims that ultraviolet radiation can reduce Sick Building Syndrome. Symptoms such as a stuffy nose, itchy eyes and throat and respiratory problems such as asthma are 'common in people who work in air-conditioned offices, where heavy growth of bacteria and fungi is common within the ventilation systems'. By installing UV germicidal irradiation lamps in three office blocks researchers cut all such symptoms by 20%.

<http://www.newscientist.com/news/news.jsp?id=ns99994427>

HOUSE BRIEFING: Architect Dennis Wedlick's new book suggests every house part tells a story. Clients approach him with folders full of cuttings – 'They come to me with a forlorn look because they don't know how to put it all together', then he 'invites them to deconstruct their cache of dream photos...' Interesting read ...

http://www.freep.com/realestate/renews/parts16_20031116.htm

PHOTOGRAPHY: The built environment through a camera lens. Taking photographs of buildings – good starting tips ...

<http://photography.about.com/library/weekly/aa100603a.htm>

PROFILES

Louis Kahn: 'Before dying of a heart attack in a men's room at Manhattan's Penn Station, Louis Kahn produced just a handful of well-known buildings...' Now the long-trailed documentary by his son explores the life and work of an architect described as a 'mystic' by Frank Gehry. <http://slate.msn.com/id/2091250/>

Foreign Office Architects: Profile of Farshid Moussavi and Alejandro Zaera-Polo of Foreign Office Architects. 'We were always interested in the idea of foreignness as a condition that could be exploited in a creative way...'

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/arts/features/story/0,11710,1086625,00.html>

Pritzker Prize

Zaha Hadid wins Pritzker Prize

<http://www.pritzkerprize.com/2004/mediakit.htm#members>

Los Angeles – Zaha Hadid, the Iraqi-born architect based in London has become the first woman to win the Pritzker Architecture Prize since it was established 26 years ago. Former Pritzker winners include IM Pei, Jorn Utzon, Renzo Piano, Norman Foster, Frank Gehry and Rem Koolhaas who was awarded this year's RIBA Gold Medal and was her one time partner in the London's Office of Metropolitan Architecture.



In addition to the award, several high-profile international projects represent a career high in Hadid's 25 years in architecture designing buildings with sharp angular lines and interconnected geometric shapes. Her work ranges from the Vitra Fire Station in Weil

am Rhein, Germany – 1993, a train station and a ski jump in Innsbruck, Austria and the recently completed Richard and Lois Rosenthal Centre for Contemporary Art in Cincinnati, Ohio. Zaha's current work include the National Centre of Contemporary Arts in Rome, a train station in Naples, and the Guggenheim Museum for Taichung, Taiwan and projects in Bilbao, Beijing, Singapore the currently under construction Shaikh Zayed Bridge in Dubai.

"I was greatly influenced by early Russian abstract artists, mainly El Lissitzky and Malevich. I wanted to apply similar artistry to my architecture," she said during her recent talk at UCLA's architecture school. "In any profession it is more difficult to succeed as a woman," she said. "We have to work harder to prove ourselves - it makes us stronger because of the extra effort we make." Zaha studied and taught at the Architectural Association School of Architecture and has lived and worked in London where, except for a temporary pavilion for the Serpentine Gallery, she has yet to build a major project. She will be presented with the Pritzker medallion and the \$100,000 prize on May 31 in St Petersburg, Russia.



Rosenthal Centre for Contemporary Art in Cincinnati, Ohio

BOOKS

Bernard Rudofsky: A Humane Designer

By Andrea Bocco Guarneri. Springer-Verlag, 2003. 320pp £45

“I rejected the claims of false prophets as far back as my student days”, wrote Rudofsky, and called for a new way of life, based on living, eating and bathing in beautiful surroundings without many possessions. His message is even more relevant now in the present struggle between globalisation, cultural identity and sustainability.



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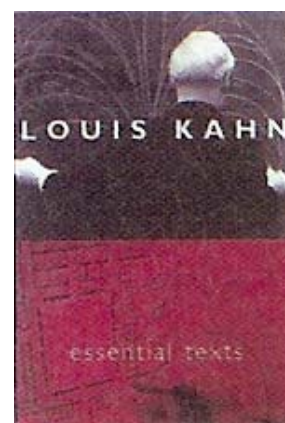
His book of the 1944 MoMA exhibition, *Architecture Without Architects*, and the *Prodigious Builders* published in 1977 conveyed his ideas about architecture. In between, *The Kimono Mind* (1965) was a study of Japanese culture and its lessons for the west, while *Street for People* (1969) was subtitled ‘A Primer for Americans’. His few buildings, mainly villas in Naples, Sao Paolo, Long Island, Michigan and in Andalusia are culturally rich while being simple in style and structure. His wide ranging interest spanned psychology, anthropology as well as clothes and shoes - he designed and successfully marketed ‘Bernardi’ sandals. A timely reminder of Rudofsky’s thinking, the work contains three essays, copious extracts from his writings as well as unpublished lectures.

Louis Kahn

Essential Texts, Robert Twombly Ed., WW Norton & Company. PB 288 pp. £19.95

An anthology of twenty writings elucidating Kahn’s thinking about architecture, education, silence and light

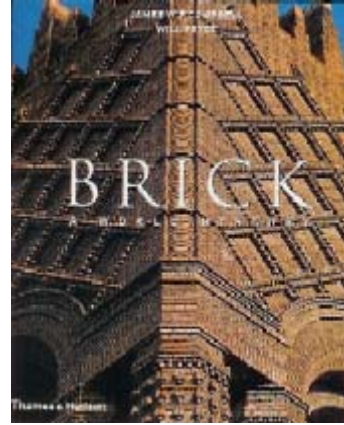
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BRICK: A World History

James Campbell and Will Pryce, Thames and Hudson. £39.95 organised, the book traces brick buildings across the globe

Chronologically from 5000 BC to the 20th century – in Mesopotamia, India and China as well as in modern skyscrapers. Seductive photographs, but perhaps not much detail about how it was done!

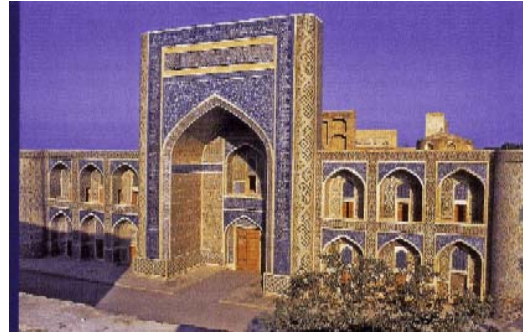


Samarkand, Bukhara, Khiva.

By Pierre Chuvin with photographs by Gerard Degeorge,

Flammarion 2002. 232pp. £35

Focussing primarily on these cities, the text and photographs in rich colour illustrate how bricks and clay was variously used in Central Asia not only to create beautiful shimmering surfaces but also as ordinary bricks to accentuate form.



Around the World

CITIES and ARCHITECTURE

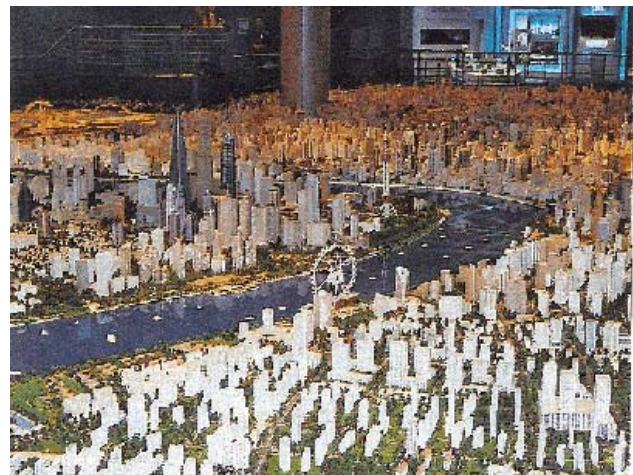
CHINA

China's construction market last year was worth GB£130 billion, its annual economy growing at 8.2% and investment in buildings and infrastructure up by 18% on the previous year. The country's accession to the World Trade Organisation and the government's intention of importing foreign architecture to the tune of 15% of the annual construction spending as well as the added lure of 2008 Olympics and the Shanghai Expo 2010 have all meant that – not unlike what happened in the Middle East a few decades ago - almost everyone from world's architectural *Who is Who* is there for a share.

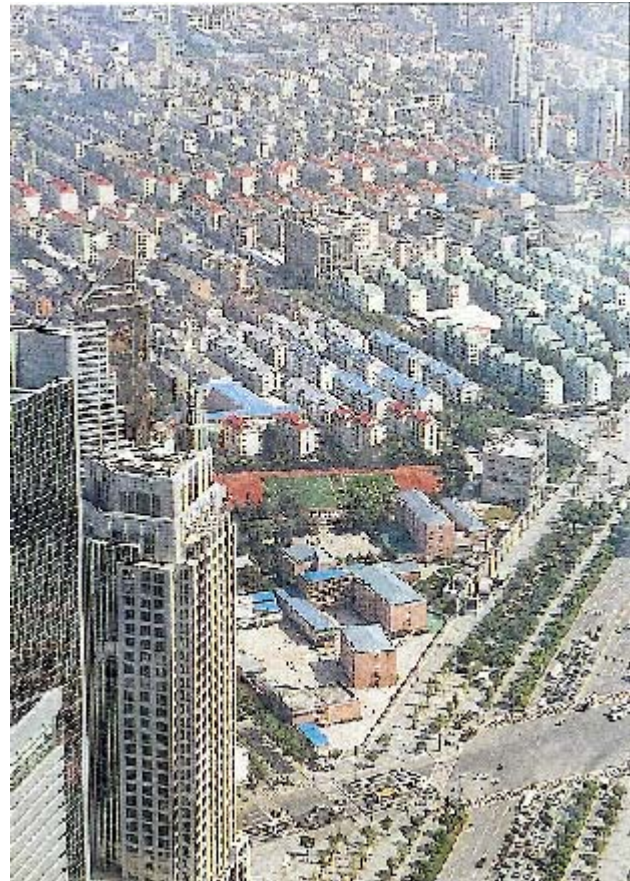
Given the dramatic economic and demographic changes of the last few years, it is estimated that by 2050 there will be an extra 700 million people living in the Chinese cities and that by then 100 million new urban jobs will need to be created for the new arrivals.

The impact of this is already evident in the breakneck pace of development and construction in the major cities. Beijing and Shanghai - already covered in a rash of skyscrapers and shopping malls - represent two of the world's most dynamic and confident cities, each taking a radically different approach towards its development. In Beijing, the Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, and older buildings in the historic centre are being retained and new development is allowed only on the periphery. In Shanghai the approach is the opposite: here people are being moved out to new satellite towns on the edge, and existing buildings demolished to build exuberant new skyscrapers.

For public information, Shanghai's Urban Planning Exhibition Hall displays a model of the city projected to 2020. At present, there are 2,700 buildings of more than 35 storeys, 2000 more of similar height or higher are planned, as indeed are six new towns around Shanghai – present population 16 million.



The disjointed skyline of Pudong in Shanghai - built on land covered in orchards only a decade ago - represents China's claim to becoming Asia's new financial centre. From the top of its 420 meters Jim Mao skyscraper - the fourth tallest in the world - miles of regimented new housing can be seen to stretch far into the horizon. Travelling at 270 miles an hour - the fastest in the world - the magnetically levitating train takes only seven minutes from the airport to the centre of Shanghai.



Eager to compete nationally as well as internationally, China's the rapidly growing cities seem all too keen to acquire icons of architectural modernity with something noticeably different bolted on. While struggling to negotiate their fees, foreign architects - however well intentioned - do from the distance what they are trained to do, often venting to their bold and pent-up ideas seldom allowed or accepted in their own countries. There is much to learn here perhaps - both by the clients as well as the architects - from what happened in the Middle East not all that long ago.

There are a few local architects working on the edge - such as Qing Yun Ma, head of MADA office of about 40 local and international architects - endeavouring to do more relevant buildings based on local knowledge of culture, climate and materials.



The staggering speed of environmental change in China makes it perhaps the most important test bed of urban and architectural ideas for the 21st century which will be of particular interest to governments, architects and planners in many South Asian cities facing similar pressures: how to successfully bring together increasing population, rapid urbanisation and

fast economic growth in a globalising world increasingly being defined by competing cities rather than by nation states.

What these cities will be like in ten or twenty years from now? Will they become an urban nightmare or be cultural, humane, liveable and sustainable models for the rapidly urbanising South Asian cities facing similar pressures? Only time will tell.

Beijing

The skyscraper is dead - long live the 'hyper-building'. The next phase in super-dense urban form-making, says RIBA Gold Medallist Rem Koolhaas, is happening in China.

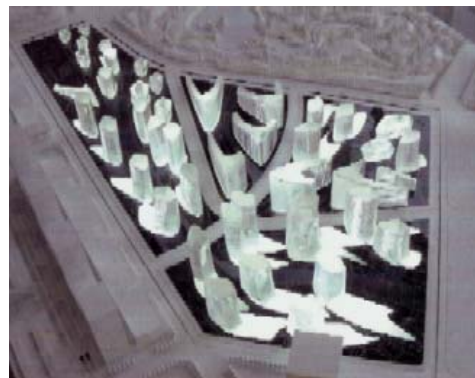
Work will start soon on the new Beijing headquarters for China Central Television. Designed by Koolhaas' practice OMA it will, he says, be a building of 'barbaric beauty, of unimaginable size and complexity' - a 230 meter high arch formed by two L-shaped towers. It holds over 400,000 sqm of floor space, and will shift development in China (and therefore the world) away from 'lonely and hideous' skyscrapers towards 'hyper-buildings' so massive that they become urban centres by themselves.



http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2004-03/02/content_1340780.htm

Soho city

Zaha Hadid has won an invited competition to design a new mixed-use development called Soho City in Beijing's Logistic Port. The design is based, according to the architect, on a crossing point of converging lines - to echo the live-work units and community that has become associated with Soho in Manhattan.



Transport hub

Started on site, one of the government's 50 most important schemes to be completed before the opening of Beijing Olympics in 2008, the Dongzimen Integrated Transport Hub designed by Marshall Architecture and Arups will include a transport interchange, a series of office towers, a shopping mall, an apartments complex and a five-star hotel.

Shanghai

Mao Tse Tung House

Mao's modest 1930's house in Shanghai's western Puxi district will be surrounded by 5 commercial towers providing more than 80,000 square meters of upmarket western retail at lower floors. To make the house into a tourist destination, a glass box might be added to display Mao's calligraphy.



I M Pei's Suzhou Museum near Shanghai - where his ancestors once lived - is underway. 'The light-infused museum takes its cues from the rich vocabulary of Suzhou's traditional architecture, with its whitewashed plaster walls, dark grey clay tile roofs and intricate garden architecture...' <http://tinyurl.com/2nauy>

BAHRAIN

A small island kingdom and not as rich as the other Gulf state, Bahrain has numerous infrastructure and mega-projects on the way. The US\$150 million international Formula One motor racing circuit is soon due to stage its first race. Foundation stone has been laid for a US\$1 billion twin tower complex dubbed as the Bahrain Financial Harbour - illustrated opposite, and there are active plans for a ski-resort with snow slopes and an ice-rink. An \$800 million new super port is already under construction together with an industrial free zone. Other schemes include a Venice style floating city with 215 waterfront villas, a \$1.2 billion holiday resort along the south-east coastline and an opera house.



And meanwhile ...

In Manama, Bahrain's capital city: the jarring juxtaposition of an old mosque and a modern new office building.



Dubai, UAE

Off-shore residential project in Dubai designed by Hopkins Architects from UK: a complex of three 35 to 65 storey towers incorporating solar and wind power facilities. Each block is tapered to provide apartments of different sizes.

**London**

After a three-year planning struggle, Renzo Piano's London Bridge Tower - nick-named the 'Shard of glass' - has been given a go ahead. At 300 meter, it will be tallest building in Europe when completed in 2009.

**Ayyub Malik**