

World Streets: The New Mobility Agenda

The Journal of Sustainable Transport Policy & Practice

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From the editor's desk



In addition to our (as yet not yet successful) continuing search for funding and support to ensure the future of World Streets, we got ourselves engaged in a major overhaul of the site itself, which you are invited to check out at www.WorldStreets.org. Our goal was to open up and facilitate access to what has grown into a pretty consequent database, with more than a thousand articles and media in since the end of 2008. We

have also tried to improve access to the considerable collection of resources and links that have been built into the main site, which is also intended to serve as a research tool. Come visit and tell us what you would like to see us doing more of and better. In the meantime over the last week we published . . .

AFRICA: 'Bicycles Are For Good'

[Eric Britton, editor](#) | 29 May 2011 at 08:45 | Categories: [Cycling](#), [empowerment](#) | URL: <http://wp.me/psKUY-1Gk>

[Gail Jennings reports from Cape Town](#). Politicians may tell us that bicycles are a sign that we are not advancing,” says Patrick Kayemba, managing director of the First African Bicycle Information Organization in Uganda, “but we ourselves have seen that cycling is a socio-economic tool. It works now – we don’t have to wait for someone to rescue us with better public transport, better this, or better that...”



Repairing bicycles in Rundu, Namibia. / Gail Jennings/IPS

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Editorial: On private, public and . . . social space

[Eric Britton, editor](#) | 27 May 2011 at 16:04 | Categories: [sharing](#), [event](#), [social space](#) | URL: <http://wp.me/psKUY-1FM>

Toward the end of last year I was asked by the team responsible for organizing this year's fifth annual congress of the [Cities for mobility](#) program, which is to take place in Stuttgart from 3-5 July, to brainstorm with them about a central theme for the presentations. We ended up with the idea of trying to orient the congress around the theme of "social space". Here is what we eventually produced to introduce the concept.



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1st National Working Party on Carsharing in France

Eric Britton, editor | 26 May 2011 at 06:42 | Categories: [carshare](#), [cities](#), [Governance](#) | URL: <http://wp.me/psKUY-1F8>

The following notes were prepared on the fly to guide my presentation as the "closing summary" I was invited to make at the closure of the Strasbourg conference. I took it as my task to sum up a certain number of observations that the formal presentations and the lively exchanges over the day brought to mind. And then to round them out here with some other findings and recommendations that I hope will be useful to the carshare community in France. The presentation itself was in French, but if you turn to Youtube.com you will see an informal commentary in English to round out these bare notes.



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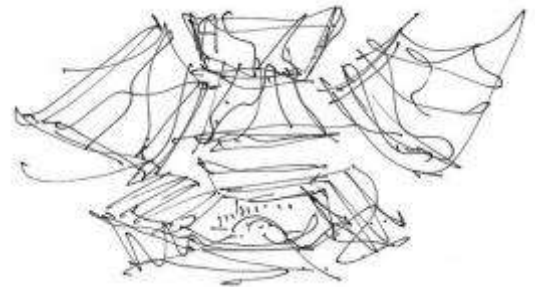
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Doodling with Frank

Eric Britton, editor | 25 May 2011 at 12:38 | Categories: [analogy](#), [creativity](#) | URL: <http://wp.me/psKUY-1F2>

A recent edition of the Atlantic Monthly carried a series of short articles on creativity, and one of their short profiles was an interview with Frank Gehry which I reproduce below. (Click [here](#) for the original article). And here is why I am sharing this with you this morning, namely my attempt to understand the early minutes of his (and yours and my) creative process. I am uber-struck by the relations between his initial pen sketches as his mind wanders about his problem, and the building that he finally makes happen a couple of years later. What is going on in his head? For that matter what is going on in MY (or your) head when an idea germinates, which in time and with luck and hard work just may turn into something that does an interesting job. Anyway I am fascinated, and if you have not seen the excellent documentary that Sydney Pollack made on this a few years back, you can catch a trailer at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vu9orvtStdY>. In the meantime excuse me, I have some important doodling to do.



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The Silly Argument Over BRT and Rail: US Perspectives

Eric Britton, editor | 24 May 2011 at 07:44 | Categories: BRT, tramway | URL: <http://wp.me/psKUY-1Fq>

Yonah Freemark reports from The Transport Politic:

The following sensible commentary from our friends over at The Transport Politic helps put this "competition" into perspective. "Silly" being an entirely apt word in this context.



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On expertise and public participation

Eric Britton, editor | 23 May 2011 at 09:45 | Categories: India, local government, participation | URL: <http://wp.me/psKUY-1EY>

Karthik Rao-Cavale reports on public participation practices in Lucknow India:

It appears that the folks at the Lucknow Municipal Corporation have a curious notion of the meaning and purpose of public participation. When their funding proposals under the centrally sponsored scheme for urban development (JNNURM) were rejected due to the lack of public participation, they came up with the brilliant idea of a "city volunteer technical corps" that would participate in the planning process. Members will be chosen by the city corporation based on "expertise" in planning and related areas. The newspaper also reports that a prior attempt to constitute such a consultative body was aborted when "undesirable" persons who were not "experts" entered the consultative group. The corporation promises only to include "desirable" persons this time round.



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Hands-on collaboration: With you and your city?

How can World Streets help support sustainable transport initiatives in your neighborhood, city, country, agency, or public interest or user group? Through special issues or supporting articles? Collaboration in support of conferences, projects, workshops, master classes, city dialogues? Local or other media programs? Cooperative programs or events with universities, NGOs, consultancies and schools?

This we will have to do together. So now all that remains to be done is to get you actively involved as a reader, subscriber, contributor, supporter and working partner so that in 2011 we can together go from strength to strength. [Get in touch](#) so that we can swap ideas concerning how to go about it.



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