
UMBRELLA NEWS

Contributions to Umbrella Museum

Anna Banana, Chuck and Judy Goodstein, Armin Hundertmark, Richard Brock, Genie Shenk, Diane Calder, John M. Bennett & C. Mehrl Bennett, Yoichi Glass, Peter Netmail, John Fumival, Marilyn Dammann, Jonas Nekrasius, Anonymous in Chicago, Gayle Wimmer

Architecture:

Pugh + Scarpa, one of five architects invited to participate in the Dwell Magazine New Home Competition to design and build an affordable energy-efficient modern home has led to Scarpa's own construction for himself, called "Solar Umbrella" which is 100 percent energy-neutral, has 90 solar panels and a host of other environmental features.

•Marion Wilson, an artist, is participating in a show called "Counter Culture" which features five works that visitors will be able to find on or around the stretch of the Bowery where the new New Museum will rise on what is now a parking lot. She bartered with residents of the Bowery Mission, an organization for the homeless that is just down the street from the hotel, and has incorporated items donated or sold to her by some of the men there such as a T-shirt, locks of dreadlocked hair, a right religious drawing into her own artwork, which she has been selling from a cheery, flower-festooned cart which she has begun pushing around the neighborhood like a hot-dog vendor. The umbrella over the cart is festooned with flowers.

•Endless lines at the Democratic National Convention held up reporters, engineers and countless young network news "runners" to get through metal detectors. And it seemed perfectly sensible to some that federal agents confiscated water bottles (possible projectiles) and *umbrellas* (you could poke out an eye with that!), but they let people keep their Leatherman tools (Swiss Army knife-like gadgets). Report from the convention: **Contraband:** The forecast for tonight: showers. For delegates or media members who packed umbrellas on their way to the Fleet Center, the Democratic National Convention Committee's decision to confiscate certain items left them all wet. On the committee's list of no-nos are umbrellas, right after weapons including knives (regardless of size), explosives and fireworks. At one entry point

Sunday, security guards reported that they were confiscating "thousands" of umbrellas, with no plans to return them.

Hong Kong: Anti-Tung Solidarity, an activist group in Hong Kong that is critical of Tung Chee-hwa, Hong Kong's chief executive, announced in June that a Hong Kong businessman had been detained for a week in Shenzhen, across the border in mainland China. The businessman had been producing *blue umbrellas* at his factory in Senzhen with the Chinese characters for "general elections" on them. After 3,000 umbrellas had been produced and shipped to Hong Kong for use in a pro-democracy demonstration planned for 1 July, the businessman was detained on 27 May and further umbrella production halted. (NYTimes, contr. By Ellen Wallenstein)

•The Japanese Meteorological Agency has launched a new rainfall forecasting system capable of forecasting downpours for every square kilometer of the country at 10-minute intervals (I kid you not!) The system is called "**Rain now-cast**" dividing the entire nation into one-kilometer-sq. areas, with expected rainfall forecast every 10 minutes and up to an hour ahead for each area. This system can prove useful in people's daily lives, so that could check whether it would be better to take an umbrella along when going out briefly to shop near a station."

•Obsidian Arts Library and Artspace in Minneapolis recently held an art exhibition, called **The Umbrella Project: Freedom-Slavery**, which was dedicated to decorating umbrellas with the themes of Freedom and/or Slavery. Thanks to Minneapolis Institute of Arts for the notice.

• A boy, 15, will stand trial for murder after he allegedly speared a year 12 student in the head with an umbrella in Melbourne, Australia. The victim was standing up for a female friend, after the boy called her a "slut". The victim died in the hospital five days later.

• Imagine being able to take a tour of Paris in an infamous Deux Chevaux, the famous Citroën 2CV. France's equivalent of the Volkswagen Beetle. Using a logo, Four Wheels Under an Umbrella (a reference to the car's canvas roof), the company offers 3 kinds of tours, and a Unique Tour of 3 hours or more. For more information, www.4roues-sous-1parapluie.com