
ArcSpace brings us a construction update on Eisenman’s City of Culture. – New Orleans and Gulf Coast rebuilding: Is smart growth really smart? Is New Urbanism not new enough? – Lessons for Texas island in Florida. New Urbanist resort developments. – Architects working faster are changing the way they work. – Adjaye claims too many public buildings alienate the public. – Kamin claims Chicago's Navy Pier makeover plans by a Canadian firm “suffer an advanced case of tackiness, with lethal doses of future schlock” (McPier couldn't find a good enough architect in Chicago?). – Foster's Hearst tower brings New York some much-needed “architectural chutzpah.” – Meanwhile, he has to tighten his belt at home. – Koolhaas snags commission for Cornell College of Architecture, Art and Planning. – Modifications made to Calatrava’s Chicago spire might get it moving faster. – Getty Villa makeover is “misguidedly slathered still more artifice.” – New York’s former lunatic asylum made over for luxury living. – Chipperfield’s attention to the bottom line has Anchorage museum moving along smoothly.

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Under construction: Eisenman Architects: City of Culture of Galicia, Santiago de Compostela, Spain

Planners anticipate a better New Orleans: But residents must guide rebuilding -- Reed Kroloff; Ray Manning - The Times-Picayune (New Orleans)

Team dreams up new model for cities: Towns may turn backs on ambitious plans; tackling the entire coast of Mississippi will give the country the best example yet of how well New Urbanism works. It's also stirred up a simmering backlash among other architects, who say New Urbanists produce a “one-size-fits-all” model. -- Andres Duany; Laura Hall; Reed Kroloff; Sun Herald (Mississippi)

Q&A: Architect draws on principles as his profile grows: Steven J. Oubre on what the state needs to do to rebuild...a champion of “smart growth” and traditional neighborhood developments. -- Architects Southwest- The Daily Advertiser (Louisiana)

ASLA Supppts Urban Planning Reprot from the Bring New Orleans Back Commission -- Wallace Roberts & Todd- American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

The Florida model: Two resorts hint at Padre Island’s future. Could they provide a glimpse into our future? It’s as if you’ve driven onto the set of “The Truman Show,” and in a way, you have. -- Cooper, Robertst & Partners [images] - Corpus Christi Caller-Times (Texas)

Architects pace rapidly builds: Under pressure to get buildings developed 15 to 30 percent faster than just a few years ago, architects are dramatically changing how they work. -- Gensler; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill; Perkins + Will; Destefano Keating & Partners (now DeStefano + Partners); OWP&P - Chicago Tribune

"Design flaw" haunts public buildings: Most of Britain’s public buildings alienate people as much as they support them, David Adjaye...has declared...threaten to isolate Britons rather than embrace them. - Freelance UK

Navy Pier's cheesy makeover plan is full of holes: ...plan for the lakefront landmark is riddled with faults both practical and aesthetic. Some would inject the 90-year-old public space, already suffering an advanced case of tackiness, with lethal doses of future schlock. By Blair Kamin -- Benjamin Thompson & Associates/VOA Associates (1995); Forres [slide show] - Chicago Tribune

A London architect brings his vision to New York with a Hearst tower that prances toward the sky. This is a show-off skyscraper for a town that could use some architectural chutzpah. By Justin Davidson -- Foster & Partners- NY Newsday

Perfectionist Foster forced to tighten belt: Tax bill and rival attraction could be double trouble for top designer - Guardian (UK)

Rem Koolhaas chosen to design ‘building of international significance’ for Cornell’s College of Architecture, Art and Planning... -- Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA)- Cornell Chronicle

Progress and changes reported in TV spire plan: The developer of a planned 2,000-foot-tall building near Navy Pier has modified its design... -- Santiago Calatrava [image] - Chicago Sun-Times

They tried ‘to respect and preserve the best aspect,’ but the museum clashes with its surroundings. Getty Villa has been born again...misguidedly slathered still more artifice; layers and layers of it... By Ann Jarmusch -- Machado and Silvetti; SPF Architects [images] - San Diego Union-Tribune

Former Lunatic Asylum Goes Luxury Rental: The Octagon (transcript) -- Becker + Becker [slide show, links] - WNYC (public radio)

Final touches: Design charges agreed on as [Anchorage Museum of History and Art's] construction start approaches...smoothness with which it appears to be proceeding may owe a lot more to David Chipperfield's careful attention to the bottom line than to his skill with drafting tools. [slide show] - Anchorage Daily News (Alaska)