
Culture and Commerce: prospects for innovative design at Chicago's Navy Pier and Block 37, and potential changes to the skyline to prep the city for a possible 2016 Olympic bid. By Edward Lifson -- Linda Searl/Searl and Associates, Architects; Larry Booth/Booth Hansen Architects; Ned Cramer /Chicago Architecture Foundation [text, audio] - WBEZ

FM Chicago Public Radio

In Javits Expansion, Old Dreams Revisited: A series of constraints imposed on Richard Rogers's designs for the Javits Center expansion seem to assure a decent but not particularly dazzling work of architecture. By Nicolai Ouroussov -- Pei Cobb Freed (1986): FXFowle Architects; A. Epstein & Sors [images] - New York Times

A Javits Expansion, Seen as Not Expansive Enough: "New York is losing its ability to think grandly and this is a great example of it." - New York Times

Not much of a tonic for Civic Center Blvd.: Look out, Philadelphia. New York starchitect Rafael Viñoly is back in town...bearing plans for another mind-bogglingly big glass atrium...The client bears as much blame as the architect. By Inga Saffron -- Perkins Eastman - Philadelphia Inquirer

Is the X-Museum right for Liverpool's Pier Head? YES: Kim Nielsen, principal,3XNielsen, NO: Robert Adam, former secretary of the RIBA, and founder member of the Traditional Architects Group-icLiverpool (UK)

Arrivederci MoMA: The more people there are in Yoshio Taniguchi's spaces, the less poetic those spaces feel, which is just about the most devastating thing that you can say about a work of public architecture. The fault, though, is not Taniguchi's alone. By Jed Perl - The New Republic

Mall Site Is Chosen for National Museum of African American History and Culture: Some expressed disappointment in the selection..."It has so many limitations. It is not going to allow for a signature building..." - Washington Post

Modern prefab: When will it catch on in Canada? Q&A with Lloyd Alter...Toronto's prefab guru...why prefab remains an intellectual exercise rather than a reality -- Kohn Shnier Architects; Michelle Kaufmann; Resolution: 4 Architecture; etc. - Globe and Mail (Canada)

Push-and-pull exercises are Mayne's recreation: ...may have found the perfect opportunity to combine two sides of his architectural personality in a new recreation center for the University of Cincinnati...the gym...among the most dramatically impressive interior spaces produced by any firm in the last decade. Architecture students will be studying images of it 30 years from now. By Christopher Hawthorne -- Morphosis; KZF Design [images] - Los Angeles Times

Albert Speer Jr. to Build "Detroit of the East" In China:...officials decided on an architectural firm to build their very own Motor City...[Changchun] district dedicated to automobile manufacturing and housing for the people who will work there...- Spiegel Online (Germany)

Detroit character makes Super Bowl venue special:...these may just be the coolest digs in Detroit...if you're lucky enough to have a ticket to the Super Bowl, you'll get a chance to look around Ford Field -- Paul Torti/SmithGroup; KMD, Rossetti Associates- Sports Illustrated

Ubiquitous Security Barriers Get a Fashionable Flourish: Bollards, those crude posts once relegated to parking lots and now considered a necessity in a security-conscious era, have become as fashionable and versatile as handbags.- Washington Post

Finalists named in international architectural design competition for the fourth tower at Absolute Community in Mississauga. -- Boyansky Murphy Architects; rojkind arquitectos; Quadrant Architects; Studio MWM; MAD office; Zeidler Partnership [images] - Canada NewsWire (CNW)

Miami+Beach Bienal 2005 / AIA Miami announce winners -- Oppenheim Architecture + Design; Richard Meier & Partners; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill; Behnisch Architecten; gpy arquitectos; 3XNielson A/S; Acconci Studio; Studio Pallaio, etc.- Miami+Beach Bienal 2005

Step right in to that fun-house feeling: The Holiday Home that was installed last week at[ the Institute of Contemporary Art by design provocateurs Ben van Berkel and Caroline

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Bos is both a happy dream and a nightmare. Inga Saffron -- UN Studio (Image)--
Philadelphia Inquirer

-- Competition winner: UN Studio: Te Papa Museum, Wellington, New Zealand
-- Shigeru Ban: The Nomadic Museum/Gregory Colbert "Ashes and Snow," Santa
Monica, California

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