

Today's News - September 12, 2006

Field notes from Venice: the Biennale grows up (libido and all). – 9/11 spillover: Nobel on why it looks like something might actually get built. – Q&A's with Libeskind and Garvin. – Perhaps now is a good time to reject Modernism: "Is there a style that can do for New York what Louis Sullivan and Daniel Burnham did for Chicago?" (How about a touch of Art Deco or - gasp - PoMo?) – 9/11 memorial under construction, but design debate continues. – If it does get built, will it be "Baroque Modernism at the beginning of the 21st century?" – King sees American skyscrapers "entering a bold, imaginative era." – The Persian Gulf needs to learn lessons from China if it's not to end up as a suburban Legoland. – A Dutch experiment in Montreal offers lessons for L.A. – Hawthorne finds Orange County's new concert hall "a plush, richly appointed piece of architecture that sags under the weight of its eagerness to impress." – Boston's ICA "has become an unlikely trailblazer" on the city's waterfront. – Herzog on the link between sex, cooking, and architecture. – Ouroussoff sees a promising trend in architects taking on urbanism. – Toronto seeks new street furniture proposals. – A documentary on the making of the Gherkin is a "tall tale of towering egos" (and entertaining). – FYI: Witold Rybczynski awarded the National Building Museum's 8th Vincent J. Scully Prize. – Frei Otto takes home \$131,000 Praemium Imperiale (awarded in fields not covered by the Nobel Prizes) for lifetime achievement in architecture.

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[Sex and the City: Field Notes from the 10th Venice Architecture Biennale - Part 1: Libidos on fire in Venice: Urbanism may not be sexy, but our lives may depend on it.](#) By Margaret Helfand, FAIA [images]- ArchNewsNow

[Rebuilding Ground Zero: Only now, five years after the attack, have the plans for Ground Zero begun to look like a standard New York City development. Which is why it's beginning to look like something might actually get built - maybe even by the 10th anniversary of 9/11.](#) By Philip Nobel – Libeskind; Childs; Arad- Dar Al-Hayat (Lebanon)

["Rebuilding Ground Zero is Rebuilding the Heart of New York": Daniel Libeskind about his plans for the Ground Zero site in New York, the changing role of architecture after the Sept. 11 attacks and the meaning of memory.](#)- Deutsche Welle (Germany)

[Q & A: On the WTC Anniversary with Alexander Garvin: "What we are now faced with is similar to urban renewal projects in cities all around us."](#)- Commercial Property News

[Art Deco, Ground Zero: Five years later, how about a design actual human beings might like? Modernism explicitly rejected the past, but now would be the perfect time to relearn some of the lessons that were lost in the process... -- Le Corbusier; Venturi; Beeby; Stern; Duany Plater-Zyberk; Tigerman; etc.](#)- Reason

[The Sept. 11 Memorial: Still Unsettled: Although a contract to build the foundation has been awarded, debate over the design continues to rage...the arguments over how to remember the dead via monuments are increasingly focusing on the power of design to offer contemplative places of mourning.](#) -- Michael Arad; Maya Lin; Edward Luytens; Anish Kapoor [slide show]- BusinessWeek

[Commentary: A hole in our hearts? Or just a hole in our wallets?..."Reflecting Absence"...what will it really remind us of if it ever gets built? The hole in our wallets poked by Baroque Modernism at the beginning of the 21st century?](#) By Dan Bischoff – Michael Arad- The Star-Ledger (New Jersey)

[The sky is hardly the limit -- high-rise architecture in America is entering a bold, imaginative era. Everything's different after 9/11...Cities across the country are opening the door to imaginative designs that exult in the unexpected - and at skyline scale.](#) By John King -- Jeanne Gang; Ramus Ella Architects; Skidmore Owings & Merrill; Deyan Sudjic; Gehry; Goster- San Francisco Chronicle

[Chinese walls: The Gulf should take a leaf from China when it comes to innovative design and build. If...we are in for the suburban Legoland experiments of late, then the planners may have much to learn from the Chinese.](#)- ITP (Dubai)

[The Wisdom of Woonerfern: A Dutch Experiment, Modern Montreal and the Future of Downtown Los Angeles.](#) By Sam Hall Kaplan- LA Downtown News

[A Stasis Symbol: Pelli's stately concert hall soothes where it could have dared, but fits OCPAC's campus...a plush, richly appointed piece of architecture that sags under the weight of its eagerness to impress.](#) By Christopher Hawthorne – Caudill Rowlett Scott (1980); Pelli Clarke Pelli; Russell Johnson/Artec [images]- Los Angeles Times

[High Visibility: Currently standing alone on 21 acres, Diller Scofidio + Renfro's museum takes on an added public role...Institute of Contemporary Art \(ICA\) was included almost as an afterthought to a long-planned development on Boston's south waterfront...has become an unlikely trailblazer.](#) [images]- Metropolis Magazine

[Herzog Explains Links Between Sex, Skin, Cooking, Architecture: ...at Venice Biennale...ETH Studio Basel, present their vision of the future.](#) -- Herzog and de Meuron- Bloomberg News

[Putting Whole Teeming Cities on the Drawing Board: Books and shows look beyond "star" buildings to urbanism's complexities...the most promising trend this year is a renewed emphasis in architectural circles on urbanism as a field for creative exploration.](#) By Nicolai Ouroussoff -- Eyal Weisman; Teddy Cruz; Philipp Oswald; Rem Koolhaas; Ricky Burdett; Andrew Zago- New York Times

[Toronto Street facelift plan in gear: Proposals sought for 2007 program; 'Street furniture' to be renewed-](#) Toronto Star

[A tall tale of towering egos: The Gherkin has swiftly become a London landmark but a new film reveals painful birth pangs...The result leaves you amazed that the Gherkin rose at all.](#) -- Norman Foster- The Times (UK)

[INSIGHT: Sounding Good: Inspired by the classics: Nashville's new Schermerhorn Symphony Center. By Paul Scarbrough -- David M. Schwarz; Akustiks; Fisher Dachs-](#)
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[Please Walk on the Grass: Recreation and Play in the Contemporary City: An exhibition explores the reinvention of urban public spaces to meet the demands of 21st century recreation and leisure. By Zoë Ryan -- Ábalos & Herreros; Acconci Studio; Adjaye/Associates; Stan Allen Architects; ATOPIA; Diller Scofidio + Renfro; FAT; Thomas Heatherwick; Walter Hood; Martha Schwartz; SHoP Architects; Ken Smith; Weiss/Manfredi; West 8 \[images\]-](#) ArchNewsNow



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