
-- ArcSpace brings us Williams and Tsien at Lincoln Center, and Calatrava's Jerusalem bridge.
-- The most walkable American cities (and why).
-- Bishop and Florida continue their discussion re: cities - what new trends mean for the future of places.
-- Lewis on brain power vs. computer power: "digital might doesn't ensure great architecture" (and some examples that, for him, prove it).
-- CABE criticizes U.K. school designs: the future looks "mediocre" and "not yet good enough,"
-- Auckland City's urban design champion, hired to "halt shonky development and bad architecture passing for urban renewal," weighs in on "alien" hotel plan.
-- An eyeful of the boldest Boston building projects that never got off the drawing board.
-- Q&A with Koolhaas on just about everything.
-- Faremil is left with an almost warm, fuzzy feeling about Australian Institute of Architects' NSW Awards.
-- Glancey weighs in on Stirling Prize shortlist: "They are all, if not exactly hip, rather cool."
-- Pearman weighs in on H+deM's Tate redesign: it's turned into architecture.
-- Kamin has high hopes for a national public housing museum: "Not all public housing was high-rise. And not all the stories are bad ones."
-- Why green roofs should not be the first item to be value-engineered: more than "eco-bling."
-- A look at the American firms who are exporting the classic college campus: where and why.
-- Dyckhoff is practically deliriously delighted that the "Great British Pier is finally back."
-- Russell reviews MoMA's "Home Delivery": "a wildly ambitious display of the pleasures and peculiarities of prefabricated houses."
-- Walk this way: The most-walkable cities are looking even better in the days of $4 gas...Not only about gas price...America's Most Walkable Neighborhoods: San Francisco, New York City, Boston, Chicago, and Philadelphia... -- WalkScore.com; Smart Growth America [links] - MarketWatch

The Sorted Nation: A Discussion with Bill Bishop and Richard Florida – Part 3: ...how the trends they are seeing differ from the way cities have evolved in history, and what they mean for the future of places. - PLANetizen

In Architectural Design, Brains and Talent Trump the Best Software: ...the ability to wield digital might doesn't ensure that these buildings...will be great architecture..."The Building, Digitally Remastered" [MIT]...Some buildings by well-known architects appear bombastic and flamboyant, a few are even scary... By Roger K. Lewis -- Hadid; Foster + Partners; Calatrava; Gehry - Washington Post

£35bn revamp will produce generation of mediocre schools: CABE criticises 80% of new building designs...less than a fifth are considered to be "good" or "excellent"... Among the problems...are bullying hotspots in secluded yards, noisy open plan areas which make teaching difficult and classrooms which are too dark or prone to overheating on sunny afternoons... By Robert Booth- Guardian (UK)

Auckland City's urban design champion rejects "alien" hotel plan: Ludo Campbell-Reid has serious concerns about "alien" plans for a 21-storey hotel towering over the historic Britomart precinct...appointed by the previous council to halt shonky development and bad architecture passing for urban renewal... [image]- New Zealand Herald

The City That Might Have Been: An illustrated history of the boldest Boston building projects that never got off the drawing board... view some amazing buildings we'll never see. -- Moshe Safdie; Jung/Brannen; Koetter Kim; Arrowstreet; Ralph Adams Cram (1897); Cesar Pelli; Robert A. M.
“An Obsessive Compulsion towards the Spectacular”: Rem Koolhaas talks about new trends in architecture and urban development, the end of the European city, the rise of Dubai, Russia and China, the obsession with XXXL and the difference between the people who design buildings for a living and "star architects." — Der Spiegel (Germany)

Accolades for architecture: Australian Institute of Architects' NSW Awards...show a strong strain of virtue-rewarded. Not in any prissy, holier-than-thou way, but in a way that tries to reward a genuine syncretism of goodness and beauty. By Elizabeth Farrelly -- Paul Pholeros; Vivian Fraser; Peter Watts; Andrea Nield/Emergency Architects

Why this year's Stirling prize is cooler than ever: Strange but true: every one of the graceful buildings...looks better suited to ice-cold climes than Britain...They are all, if not exactly hip, rather cool. By Jonathan Glancey -- Allies and Morrison; Denton Corker Marshall; Alford Hall Monaghan Morris; Allison Brooks/Feilden Clegg Bradley/Macleanor Lavington; Grimshaw; Hadid

From diagram to architecture: The redesigned extension to the Tate Modern contemporary art museum in London shows Jacques Herzog moving from what would effectively have been a built diagram of stacked boxes...into something considerably more smoothly sculpted. It's turning into architecture. By Hugh Pearman -- Herzog & de Meuron [images] - HughPearman.com (UK)

National public housing museum proposal moving forward: ...derelict Chicago Housing Authority building...would make a terrific site...To those who regard the plan as a gruesome joke...there is a simple retort: Not all public housing was high-rise. And not all the stories are bad ones. By Blair Kamin -- Holabird & Root (1928); Landon Bone Baker Architects [image] - Chicago Tribune

Don't let green roofs be victims of the crunch: Why green roofs add real value to a building, not just 'eco-bling'...- BD/Building Design (UK)

Exporting the Quad: Moore Ruble Yudell — and a handful of other top firms—is reshaping the university experience by creating, overseas, that uniquely American place: the college campus. -- Foster + Partners; HOK; Ayers Saint Gross; RMJM Hillier; SHW Group; Perkins Eastman [images] - Metropolis Magazine

The National Piers Society: will Britain's new plans all end in piers? After decades of decline, the pier is making a triumphant comeback at adventurous resorts. By Tom Dyckhoff -- Niall McLaughlin; Atomik Architecture; Levitate - The Times (UK)

MoMA's Pods, Solar-Panel Scaffolds Show Prefab Housing's Future: "Home Delivery"...a wildly ambitious display of the pleasures and peculiarities of prefabricated houses...capture both the earnestness of architecture's obsession with industrial technique and its faith in technology as an agent of progress. By James S. Russell -- Oskar Leo Kaufmann/Albert Ruf; Douglas Gaultier/Jeremy Edmiston; Horden Cherry Lee Architects/Haack & Hyslop; Kristian Gulichsveit/Juhani Pallasmaa; KieranTimberlake - Bloomberg News
"Phantom hotel" freed from development limbo in Pyongyang: Once dubbed by Esquire magazine as "the worst building in the history of mankind," the 105-storey Ryugyong Hotel is back under construction after a 16-year lull. — Paektu Mountain Architects (1987) [image] - Globe and Mail (Canada)

Call for entries: Next American City Urban Leaders Fellowship Program; deadline: September 15 (fall), December 1 (winter) - Next American City

Call for entries: Round Building Reuse : 360 (RBR:360) International Ideas Competition: develop an innovative reuse of Orlando's American Federal Building/Round Building (Bob Murphy, 1963) precast concrete brise soleil on another site or sites; deadline: August 8 - Nils M. Schweizer Fellows | Central Florida Modern

Call for entries: Make Some Green International Competition: upcycle waste material into new material, product, or packaging; cash prizes; deadline: October 1 - Keeseh Studio

Call for entries: 2008 Canadian Architect Awards of Excellence; deadline: September 16 - Canadian Architect