

Today's News - Monday, August 18, 2008

- ArcSpace brings us a preview of Copenhagen's new aquarium, Strasburg's new music hall, and a new "Garden City" in Kuala Lumpur.
- Lewis wonders why the architects of buildings splashed all over the media are rarely mentioned (one of our prime peeves, too).
- Meier on plans to partly demolish his Ara Pacis: he's "very disappointed and sad, but optimistic at the same time that those involved will see the light."
- Schumacher on reception desks now marring Calatrava's grand reception hall in Milwaukee museum: "instead of that first expansive view...we see people's backsides" (and a total insult).
- Where to put Piano's Kimbell museum expansion: the lawn or the parking lot?
- Arthur Erickson not keeping up his CEU's, so can't call himself an architect.
- Should architects work for free? Yes, says Addy; no says Simpson.
- Goldberger tours Cloepfil's Museum of Arts and Design and likes (most) of what he sees.
- King gives thumbs-up to report on where to put Presidio museum: "Not only is the alternative location more respectful, it offers real architectural potential."
- Saffron saddened by the lost opportunity in Philly's University Science Center new building: "a marginal improvement over the wrinkly white-haired dudes that populate the Center's zone of dullness."
- Kamin's Skyscraper wars, part five: What happens when contrasting cultures come together through the medium of architecture?
- Heathcote on how developers and architects are turning archeological discoveries from disaster to advantage.
- King has high hopes for San Mateo racetrack transformation into a New Urbanist community (hopefully not just another smart growth enclave).
- Oslo plans to move its culture to a district (we'll keep an eye out for competition details).
- In the town of Roebling, NJ, plans to build a museum to Roebling and sons.
- An eyeful of Rogers Stirk Harbour's new Spanish winery.
- Dunster plans "Landark": luxury log cabins for eco-tourists (or disaster housing).
- Psychologists determine what it means to think 'green' (time to take out the politics, folks).
- Rawsthorn says design has become such an ambiguous term - so what does it mean now?
- "Architecture School" documentary series "belies its bland title... It's got form and function," and it premieres Wednesday, August 20, on the Sundance Channel.

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-- 3XN: The Blue Planet Aquarium, Copenhagen, Denmark
-- Massimiliano Fuksas Architetto: Zenith Music Hall, Strasburg, France
-- Studio Nicoletti/Hijias Kasturi Associates: Putrajaya Waterfront, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

A Stunning Work of Art, but Who's the Artist? You May Never Know: When buildings receive media attention, why do the architects who design them often go unmentioned? Failing to acknowledge designers of newsworthy buildings is not new...consistently disclosing design authorship does not seem too much to ask. By Roger K. Lewis -- Herzog & de Meuron; Frank Lloyd Wright; Eero Saarinen; I.M. Pei; Frank Gehry- Washington Post

Meier Says Ara Pacis Is Victim of Italian Politics: ...plans to remove a travertine stone wall to facilitate viewing of two historic churches...A section of another travertine wall...also will be knocked down..."I've never had a reaction like this to any of my work...I'm very disappointed and sad, but optimistic at the same time that those involved will see the light."- Bloomberg News

Calatrava controversy: Milwaukee Art Museum's grand reception hall...Now, instead of that first expansive view...we see people's backsides. We see people waiting in line, a couple of desks and cash registers... Calatrava...insisted that admissions should never be placed in the reception hall...an insult to one of the world's finest architects, a man who transformed the image of our city. By Mary Louise Schumacher [images]- Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Autos for Art's Sake: Parking — and ego — could trump Westsiders' attachment to the lawn beside the Kimbell Art Museum...The museum designated a site for the addition last year on the other side of the Kimbell, but is now weighing the possibility of putting it on the lawn instead. -- Louis I. Kahn (1972); Renzo Piano- Fort Worth Weekly

Famed architect runs afoul of regulator: Arthur Erickson has been called Canada's most famous architect and the first to put Canadian architecture on the world map. But he is no longer allowed to call himself an architect...- Globe and Mail (Canada)

Should architects ever offer to work for free? Yes, it's a long term investment, says Ben Addy of Moxon, but Ian Simpson believes it makes no business sense- BD/Building Design (UK)

Hello, Columbus: A building that can't break free of its predecessor...Cloepfil is trying as hard as he can to be different while trying also to be the same. Rarely has an architect been pulled so completely in opposite directions...has done the impossible — making the building's interior at long last functional, logical, and pleasant to be in. By Paul Goldberger -- Edward Durell Stone (1964); Allied Works Architecture- New Yorker

Presidio museum location needs creativity: At first glance, the report released this week...is more bad news for the proposal...But there's more to the study than putdowns...Not only is the alternative location more respectful, it offers real architectural potential. By John King -- Gluckman Mayner [image]- San Francisco Chronicle

University Science Center can't seem to get it right: ...the place feels like a suburban office park that took a wrong exit off the expressway...newest addition was supposed to turn that situation around...a marginal improvement over the wrinkly white-haired dudes that populate the Center's zone of dullness. But mainly it's dull in a more up-to-date way. By Inga Saffron -- Zimmer Gunsul Frasca (ZGF); Kling [images]- Philadelphia Inquirer

Skyscraper wars, part five: What happens when contrasting cultures come together through the medium of architecture? There is tension, to be sure, but significant aesthetic transformations can also emerge. By Blair Kamin -- Adrian Smith; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Pelli- Chicago Tribune

No longer haunted by history: The Marmaray Tunnel is an extreme example of the problems construction projects can face because of archaeological discoveries, but it is far from unique...in some cases, companies have turned archaeological discoveries, which at first appeared to be corporate disasters, to their advantage. By Edwin Heathcote -- Swanke Hayden Connell; Eric Parry- Financial Times (UK)

Smart growth at the San Mateo racetrack: Bay Meadows will begin to symbolize something else: the evolution of suburbia...plan is designed to encourage transit use and errands on foot. It trades private space for a well-landscaped public realm. By John King -- Hellmuth Obata + Kassabaum (HOK); Cooper Robertson & Partners; BCV; CMG [images]- San Francisco Chronicle

New cultural district for Oslo: ...a plan to move several museums and its main library to a central waterside location near the harbour and close to the new Nkr3.3bn (\$500m) National Opera house...A series of architectural competitions for the new buildings are to be held next year...- The Art Newspaper

Men of Steel: A new museum will commemorate John Roebling and sons in the town named for them...A group of architecture students from Harvard recently picked Roebling, NJ, as an example of new urbanism... -- Solomon & Bauer; Van Sickler & Roller; Clifford Zink [images]- Princeton Packet

Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners opens new winery in Penafiel, central Spain: ...commissioned for a winemaking co-operative to provide a new, tourist-friendly base. [images]- The Architects' Journal (UK)

Bill Dunster plans luxury log cabins for eco-tourists: £50k holiday homes would not need a connection to electricity, gas or sewerage utilities...ZEDfactory has produced draft plans for 30m2 "Landark" cabins... [link to image]- Building (UK)

Psychologists determine what it means to think 'green': Those who make human behavior their business aim to make living "green" your business...American Psychological Association is stepping up efforts to foster a broader sense of eco-sensitivity that...will translate into more public action to protect the planet. - USA Today

What defies defining, but exists everywhere? ...design has become such an ambiguous term, complex and often contradictory with a range of meanings that change over time. So what does it mean now? By Alice Rawsthorn- International Herald Tribune

Premier: "Architecture School" brilliant by design: ...new documentary series about [Tulane] college kids designing and building state-of-the-art low-income housing in post-Katrina New Orleans, belies its bland title...unexpectedly engaging, fast-paced show with an edge. It's got form and function. And it premieres Wednesday [August 20] on the Sundance Channel. - Kansas City Star

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