

Today's News - Monday, August 25, 2008

- End-of-summer fun in San Francisco with bushels of architects working fast for Slow Food Nation fete; and the city's 5th Annual Architecture and the City Festival.
- An interesting look at how many Olympic star buildings have turned into expensive burdens to host cities (take heed, London).
- Kuhne waxes almost poetic about his \$132 billion City of Silk in Kuwait.
- Heathcote hits the nail on the head about what's going on with NYC's skyline.
- Who isn't working on a Manhattan tower you've probably never heard of (except by accident - literally).
- Brooklyn not getting a Gehry (a surprise to him); it's all in Hardy's hands now.
- Barton Meyers (finally) unveils his performing arts center in Orlando.
- Pro bono architectural efforts are "making some of the boldest statements in urban design today" (and proving doing good can be good for business)
- Mays takes a look at young Toronto architects' Living Steel winning design for sustainable, affordable housing - and likes what he sees.
- Plans for Saarinen's U.S. embassy in London still in limbo.
- A Corbu center to open in Chandigarh.
- Hawthorne revisits his reviews and has no regrets.
- Rose tracks down Soleri at Arcosanti (no, it's not a utopia).
- Ouroussoff tracks down Lebbeus Woods (the loneliest architect on the planet?).
- Heathcote pays tribute to an almost forgotten British master of Brutalism.
- 66 winners take 2008 American Architecture Awards.

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Design by the Bushel: San Francisco design firms work fast to bring Slow Food Nation '08 to the city's front door, August 29 to September 1 [images] - ArchNewsNow

5th Annual Architecture and the City Festival: Design for Community: tours, films, exhibitions, lectures, green programming and more celebrating San Francisco's unique built environment and design community; September 1-30 - AIA San Francisco / Center for Architecture + Design

Architecture after the flame goes out: Grand Olympic building projects more often than not become expensive burdens to host cities once the Games are over...Building coliseums whose justification is grounded primarily in architectural one-upmanship is a strategy that can steer a city in the wrong direction. -- Herzog & de Meuron; Calatrava; Roger Taillibert; Bligh Lobb Sports Architects; Andreu; Koolhaas - Guardian (UK)

City of Silk: Arabian Business examines the \$132bn mega-development [Madinat Al Hareer] set to transform the future of Kuwait..."Instead of trying to build a city that's just another European or North American anaemic master plan, City of Silk will look Arabic and celebrate Arabic culture, business and science" -- Eric R Kuhne & Associates - ArabianBusiness.com

The new New York: The hole that [9/11] left in both the skyline and the psyche of New York prompted one of the most extraordinary shifts in the city's culture of building...every big figure from contemporary architecture is building there now, and building big. By Edwin Heathcote -- Foster; Rogers; Piano; Nouvel; Herzog & de Meuron; Koolhaas; Libeskind; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Taniguchi; SANAA; Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA); Diller Scofidio + Renfro - Financial Times

A New Goldman Sachs Headquarters Sneaks Into the Lower Manhattan Skyline: Now that the steel framework has reached its full 739-foot height and the building has become an undeniable presence...Goldman has permitted a peek into the headquarters and how it was designed. -- Pei Cobb Freed; Adamson Associates; Preston Scott Cohen; SHoP; Ken Smith; Piet Oudolf; Office dA; Architecture Research Office (ARO); Kuwabara Payne McKenna Blumberg (KPMB); Gensler; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) - New York Times

Gehry Out as Architect of Theater in Brooklyn: ...will no longer be a part of the project to build a permanent home for the Theater for a New Audience in the BAM Cultural District...But the announcement came as a surprise to Gehry, who said he wasn't told of the change. By Robin Pogrebin -- Hugh Hardy - New York Times

First look at Orlando's new performing-arts center...a work of art: ...a modern-day Greek temple interpreted for 21st-century audiences. -- Barton Myers; HKS Architects; Baker Barrios Architects [image, video] - Orlando Sentinel (Florida)

A blueprint for good: A new movement aims to change the world through free architecture: In the age of "starchitecture"...John Peterson and his colleagues might be making some of the boldest statements in urban design today. -- Public Architecture; Community Design Resource Center; The 1%; Tod Williams Billie Tsien; Fougerson Architecture; Perkins+Will; Richard Swett; Architecture for Humanity - Boston Globe

Housing with more bang: Toronto architects win international award with scheme to build sustainable housing with all the bells and whistles...The Latitude house is...compact yet gracious... By John Bentley Mays -- rvtr [images] - Globe and Mail (Canada)

US embassy plan could be stymied by listed status: ...current ambassador is exploring options which include moving, but if the building is listed it would become harder to sell. -- Eero Saarinen (1960) - Guardian (UK)

Le Corbusier Centre in Chandigarh from October: ...will preserve, interpret, research and display Corbusier's works and maintain his legacy. - Express India

Christopher Hawthorne revisits his reviews and finds no regret in feelings, just the occasional turn of phrase: A great building (or a really terrible one, for that matter) hits you in the gut. It provides a kind of aesthetic jolt that is essentially irreversible -- regret-proof. -- Kahn; Siza; Maybeck; Scarpa; Roche - Los Angeles Times

The man who saw the future: In the 1970s, visionary architect Paolo Soleri built an extraordinary eco-city in the Arizona desert. Did it work? Steve Rose tracks down a guru who now finds himself back in demand..."utopia' is just an arrogant notion that has no room for evolution." - Guardian (UK)

[An Architect Unshackled by Limits of the Real World: These are lonely times for Lebbeus Woods, the irreverent architect...that he now stands virtually alone underscores a disturbing shift in the architectural profession..."Maybe I can show what could happen if we lived by a different set of rules." By Nicolai Ouroussoff \[slide show\] - New York Times](#)

[Victim of brutalism's fall from grace: Brutalism is one of Britain's two contributions to modern architecture...One of its finest British proponents was Rodney Gordon, who has died aged 75...did not emerge from obscurity to take credit for the buildings – he did so only once they began to be admired by a younger generation of architects. By Edwin Heathcote - Financial Times \(UK\)](#)

[2008 American Architecture Awards: 66 new distinguished buildings selected this year \[images\] - Chicago Athenaeum/European Centre for Architecture, Art, Design and Urban Studies](#)

[Green and Graceful: Sunset Community Centre in Vancouver is now the focal point of culturally diverse neighborhood, both civically and architecturally. -- Bing Thom Architects \[images\] - ArchNewsNow](#)

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