

Today's News - Wednesday, September 10, 2008

- Huxtable takes on what's gone on - and is going on - at Ground Zero: the "greatest planning fiasco in the history of the world" (where's Ed Logue when we really need him?).
- Meanwhile, first look at (final?) plans for WTC museum pavilion.
- In Prague, the head of National Library sacked over 'Blob' dispute (and project's chances looking dimmer).
- Rybczynski muses on why architects never retire (part of Slate's "Geezer" issue).
- Transition Town movement gaining ground internationally.
- The battle for tuition dollars: schools are "plowing big money into new, iconic facilities."
- Exhibit A: first review of Gehry's Lewis Library at Princeton (mostly positive - the back story is a pip).
- Exhibit B: Koolhaas's Milstein Hall at Cornell moves one step closer to actually happening (fingers crossed).
- Exhibit C: Moriama & Teshima to take a Canadian university to LEED Platinum.
- It only took 20 years and \$400 million to finally finish a high school in L.A.
- Kitahaus pods are finally on the move - to a prep school in Windermere, U.K. (lotsa pix!).
- An eyeful of Oslo's Central Station redesign: a "celebration of travel" (wow).
- Newark gets its first massive mixed-use project in 15 years.
- In Scotland, a new HQ offers "fresh air, solar windows, and impressive toilets" (too bad the architect isn't credited).
- An eyeful of Record Interiors 2008 from around the world.
- King kicks back with Rebar on their way to Venice and Park(ing) Day.
- A stroll around the Biennale fair grounds with busy bees building everywhere (fun pix).
- Woodman explains how he curated the British pavilion: the U.K. has "some of the best architects in the world but in the field of housing we are manifestly failing to make good use of them."
- A tribute to Rodney Gordon: "Loved and loathed, but never unnoticed."

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New York's 9/11 Site Needed Not a Moses but a Logue: ...it is clear that the rebuilding of Ground Zero has failed...a reversal of the old, discredited urban renewal policies that ignored community input has become an abdication of all responsibility for a kind of goofy planning populism...The critical factor that did Ground Zero in was the denial of the professional planning role... By Ada Louise Huxtable -- Libeskind - Wall Street Journal

Latest Design for 9/11 Museum Merges Old and New: Two surviving trident shaped columns from the World Trade Center, each almost 90 feet tall, will return to ground zero to be incorporated in the atrium of the \$80 million National September 11 Memorial and Museum pavilion. -- Minoru Yamasaki (1973); Craig Dykers/Snohetta [images]- New York Times

Head of National Library sacked over 'Blob' dispute: ...move was connected with the dispute over the new library building...minister of culture...also ruled out the possibility of continuing preparations for Kaplický's project. -- Jan Kaplický/Futue Systems - Radio Prague

The Oldest Profession: Why don't architects ever retire? Architecture is a delicate balancing act between practicality and artistry, and it takes a long time to master...once you finally get really good at it, why stop? By Witold Rybczynski -- Philip Johnson; I.M. Pei; Frank Lloyd Wright; Mies van der Rohe; Le Corbusier; Louis Kahn; Frank Gehry - Slate

A peak into the future: Described as 'a social experiment on a massive scale', the Transition Town movement offers positive ideas for low-carbon living...has grown from a classroom idea to a sprawling international network... - Guardian (UK)

The Building Blocks Of Marketing: The battle for tuition dollars...why large U.S. state schools and second-tier private colleges are joining brand-name ivory towers in plowing big money into new, iconic facilities to raise their stature and boost enrollment. -- Enrique Norton/TEN Arquitectos; Pei Cobb Freed; Gund Partnership; Frank Gehry; Steven Holl; Rem Koolhaas [slide show]- Forbes

After Bumps and Bribery Charges, Frank Gehry's Lewis Library Opens at Princeton: First, the building — ta-da! For its trouble, the university has gotten a structure that will probably inspire and delight those who work in it. [images]- The Chronicle of Higher Education

Milstein Hall Garners City Approval Regarding Environmental Impact: The building, with nearly six years of history — and two redesigns — behind it, has run into numerous complications...The costly delays to the project have also left students in the College of Art, Architecture and Planning with a lack of space for their studies. -- Koolhaas; Trowbridge & Wolf- Cornell Daily Sun

Lakehead University Builds New Orillia Campus to Highest Environmental Standards: Moriama & Teshima Lead Project...to achieve LEED Platinum - Canada NewsWire (CNW)

A New Start. Finally. Roybal Learning Center (aka Central Los Angeles High School #11) opens in downtown LA after two-decade wait...one of the most notorious building projects in California history. Since its inception in 1988 the school...has been delayed, partially demolished, in limbo, and then, finally redesigned... -- McClarand Vasquez & Partners (1997); WWCOT [image]- The Architect's Newspaper

The first Kitahaus relocatable living and office pods: ...first pods are currently going into Ellera Prep School in Windermere, UK as three classrooms... -- Robert Gaukroger/KITA [images]- Gizmag (Australia)

Oslo Central Station Redesign: Space Group Reinvents a Major Transit Hub: ...the \$160 million, 861,000-square-foot glass and steel building...will be a "celebration of travel" [slide show]- Architectural Record

\$150M Newark Mixed-Use Project Moves Forward: ...Liberty Plaza, Newark, N.J.'s first Class A office and mixed-use project in 15 years... -- RMJM Hillier [image]- Commercial Property News

Fresh air, solar windows and impressive toilets - Is this the future of green building? ...new Scottish headquarters of building services firm NG Bailey...the case for energy-saving building innovations is strengthening all the time..."Solais House is a showcase of what can be done with existing technology in a typical developer spec building"- BusinessGreen.com

Record Interiors 2008 -- Johnsen Schmalig; CL3; Dean/Wolf; Wonderwall; BAR/architecten Van Mourik; 3SIX0; Lyn Rice; LOT-EK; Realarchitektur; Ryuji Nakamura; Gensler; Gluckman Mayner; Neri & Hu [slide shows]- Architectural Record

Civic adventures with Rebar design collective: ...a partnership they describe as an "open forum for outlandish ideas." By John King [images, links]- San Francisco Chronicle

A Prologue to Venice: The grounds have come alive with activity as workers are steadily transforming the giardini from an overgrown ghost town into a showcase of contemporary international architecture. [images]- Metropolis Magazine

Venice Architecture Biennale: Time to put our house in order: Ellis Woodman explains how he curated the British pavilion on the theme of housing..."Home/Away"...Britain can currently claim some of the best architects in the world but in the field of housing we are manifestly failing to make good use of them. -- Sergison Bates; de Rijke Marsh Morgan; Witherford Watson Mann; Maccreanor Lavington [slide show]- Telegraph (UK)

Rodney Gordon: Brutalist architect whose futuristic buildings have not all stood the test of time: Loved and loathed, but never unnoticed, Gordon's audacious designs marked him out as a seminal figure in English brutalist architecture.- Guardian (UK)

WORDS THAT BUILD: Learning How to Persuade Through Learning Variations on a Theme. Tip #6: Master a communications tool that generates copious variations on your theme. By Norman Weinstein- ArchNewsNow



-- Under construction: Atelier Christian de Portzamparc: Cidade da Musica, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
-- José Rafael Moneo: Chase Center, RISD Museum of Art, Providence, Rhode Island
-- Summer 2008 review

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