

Today's News - Friday, September 12, 2008

- Heathcote offers a "depressing tale of what might have been" a visionary project in Budapest.
- Survey shows gap between international design practices and construction realities in India.
- Jenkins on UNESCO's threat to list U.K. treasures as endangered: "the rebuke is merited."
- Perhaps it's time to revisit Arcosanti for its "lessons of density, energy conservation, and self-reliance."
- Does traditional architecture still have a place in Britain? A yes and a no.
- More info (and more pix) of Snøhetta's scaled-back pavilion at Ground Zero.
- Koolhaas lands on Madison Ave.
- Public input sought on two bridge proposals for Sunderland, U.K. (looks like a no-brainer to us).
- An eye-ful of 2008 DesignShare Awards for learning environments.
- NEA Chairman Dana Gioia stepping down; heading to the Aspen Institute (and poetry).
- Weekend diversions: Baillieu says the Venice Biennale "has become a sad reflection of the state architecture is in" (but it is fun).
- London Design Festival launches tomorrow.
- Saarinen's "killer curves" take over Minneapolis.
- Heathcote finds "Design Cities" an "intriguing premise but a little too glib (Sudjic's new book is better).
- Page turners: "Oscar Niemeyer: Curves of Irreverence" should convince all but his most resolute detractors.
- "Intersection: Sidewalks and Public Space" picks up where Jane Jacobs left off.
- New architecture guides to London and Columbus.
- "The Museum" documentary about the ROM renovation finds Libeskind an enigma, and Thorsell "the man who got something big and controversial built in a city that hates to commit."

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A depressing tale of what might have been: A year ago, a visionary proposal astonished the residents of Budapest. It was one of the most ambitious designs for the heart of any European city...But it's not going to happen...What remains of this remarkable proposal is a watered-down version comprising a commercial building and another shopping mall. By Edwin Heathcote -- Kengo Kuma; Peter Janesch; Attila Ertsey- Financial Times (UK)

Survey Reveals Gap Between International Design Practices and Onshore Construction Realities in India: ...characterized by...unprecedented demand for more and better buildings...shortage of local architects with international experience, project overruns...insufficient number of graduates to fill the growing need for skilled talent...among other pressures. -- Satellier- MarketWatch

The neglect of our heritage is shameful - to be told it by outsiders doubly so: How, and why, did we get to the point where bureaucrats in Paris have to come to the rescue of British public design? Worse, the rebuke is merited. By Simon Jenkins- Guardian (UK)

Is It Time to Go (Back) to Arcosanti? Its lessons of density, energy conservation, and self-reliance are the very ones we are looking to now as we strive for carbon neutrality in a mere 22 years. -- Paulo Soleri [images]- AIArchitect

Does traditional architecture still have a place in Britain? Yes, it's sustainable and a pleasure to draw, says Francis Terry; while Ian Wroot argues that we cannot return to simpler times - BD/Building Design (UK)

Ground Zero Pavilion Unveiled: Scaled-back Snøhetta design to serve as memorial beacon: Craig Dykers remarks subtly referred to the jousting that made the pavilion so modest. -- Snøhetta; Foster; Rogers; Maki; Calatrava [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

OMA Goodness! Madison Square Park tower unveiled: Koolhaas had no interest, according to...Shohei Shigematsu, in adding "another masterpiece condo to the market." -- Office for Metropolitan Architecture [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Spence Associates' Wear Bridge comes face to face with 'basic' rival: ...public is being asked which one it prefers. [images]- The Architects' Journal (UK)

2008 DesignShare Awards for learning environments that meet at the crossroads of innovative design and pioneering educational programs. -- Gordon Murray + Alan Dunlop; Studio Leon Thier; Ehrenkrantz Eckstut & Kuhn; Harley Ellis Devereaux; Maryann Thompson; McCool Carlson Green; Pablo Campos - UTOPLAN; Spaces Architects; etc. [images]- DesignShare

NEA Chairman Dana Gioia to depart: ...plans to divide his time between writing and a position at the Aspen Institute... -- National Endowment for the Arts - Los Angeles Times

The Venice Biennale has become a sad reflection of the state architecture is in: ...the real cultural event of this week was not the opening of the Venice Biennale but the switching on of the Large Hadron Collider...should be a hugely important cultural event, but it isn't. It's a lot of fun and can be hugely stimulating...unlike science, it is short of a big idea. By Amanda Baillieu- BD/Building Design (UK)

London Design Festival 2008: Hundreds of design events, imaginative exhibitions and installations taking place across the city -- September 13-23- London Design Festival

Killer Curves: "Eero Saarinen: Shaping the Future" a joint exhibition at the Walker Art Center and the Minneapolis Institute of Arts...the first all-inclusive, retrospective examination of his design portfolio. September 13-January 4- Minnesota Daily

The paperclips are missing: "Design Cities" at London's Design Museum...is an intriguing premise but...it reveals itself as a little too glib, both in its conventional storytelling and in its cosy conclusion that design has come home...Deyan Sudjic's new book, The Language of Things, presents a far more sophisticated and nuanced story. By Edwin Heathcote- Financial Times (UK)

Book review: Oscar Niemeyer, sensuous centurion: The career of Brazilian architect often underrated, is celebrated in this marvellous account, "Oscar Niemeyer: Curves of Irreverence" by Styliane Philippou...should convince all but [his] most resolute detractors...a fine example of how to situate and interpret the subject's work as part of the wider culture. By Richard Weston- BD/Building Design (UK)

Book review: Investigating "Intersection: Sidewalks and Public Space": A collection of essays picks up where Jane Jacobs left off. - Metropolis Magazine

Book review: London as it is built: Architects Edward Jones and Christopher Woodward have updated their seminal guide to the capital's architecture 25 years after their first excursions..."A Guide to the Architects of London"...If the original guide was a lament for the London that was being lost...they are no less gloomy about the recent wave of demolition and construction.- BD/Building Design (UK)

Book review: What was the architect thinking? "The AIA Guide to Columbus" by Nancy Recchie and Jeffrey Darbee...Commissioned by the Columbus Architecture Foundation and AIA Columbus, the guide has taken about 10 years to compile and publish... - Benjamin D. Rickey & Co.- The Other Paper (Columbus, Ohio)

Diary of a Crystal gazer: Documenting the ROM reno..."The Museum"...The film's protagonist is not Libeskind, whom Vaughan describes as an enigma...Rather it is the dogged Thorsell, the man who got something big and controversial built in a city that hates to commit.- Globe and Mail (Canada)

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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