

Today's News - Wednesday, September 24, 2008

- Terreform 1's Joachim is someone the next president should listen to re: how to reduce the ecological footprint of cities.
- A childhood expert calls for better urban planning to create safer, greener spaces for children (and the rest of us, too?).
- Q&A with a group investigating how the aesthetics of Black Diasporic culture "could influence and inspire architectural form making."
- An eyeful of Snohetta's Ground Zero museum Dykers much prefers over what NYC issued.
- Ouroussoff ogles Piano in San Francisco and finds "a comforting reminder of the civilizing function of great art in a barbaric age" (great slide show, too).
- Nobel nestles into the primal power of Ando's Clark Art Institute and his "sublime use" of concrete.
- Rensselaer's Empac is "a technological pleasure dome for the mind and senses."
- Pearman chimes in on his not-so-grand adventure in Venice (but does find one "triumph").
- The Basque health department building is Guggenheim Bilbao's new rival.
- Kamin not at all pleased with Navy's plans to sink the Gunner's Mate School.
- King offers better news for preservationists on a street in San Francisco.
- A post-war prefab housing estate heading for landmark status?
- British Council answers criticism by Alan Dunlop re: the London-centric British Pavilion at the Biennale.
- 2008 MacArthur "Genius" grants include a structural engineer/architectural preservationist and an urban farmer.
- An eyeful White House Redux winners (your turn to vote).
- A good reason to head to Santa Fe: UNESCO's International Conference on Creative Tourism.

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The 2008 Smart List: 15 People the Next President Should Listen To - Mitchell Joachim/Terreform 1: Redesign Cities From Scratch...At the top of the agenda is mobility and its inefficiencies...For nearly a century, "cities have been designed around cars. Why not design a car around a city?" - Wired magazine

Op-Ed: A world in a windscreen: Too many children's lives are dominated by cars: yet we could, through better urban planning, create safer, greener spaces. By Tim Gill - Guardian (UK)

Office/MA: Black Urbanism: Heather Ring interviews The Office for Metropolitan Alternatives (Office/MA), a group founded by Paul Goodwin and John Oduro to investigate how the aesthetics of Black Diasporic culture could influence and inspire architectural form making...forces us to engage the uneasy issues of race, class, and culture. - Archinect

The Real McCoy: Craig Dykers...the man behind the 9/11 museum, divulged that he was rather disappointed with the renderings that the city released last week...sent along some model shots he greatly prefers. -- Snohetta [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

A Building That Blooms and Grows, Balancing Nature and Civilization: If you want reaffirmation that human history is an upward spiral rather than a descent into darkness, head to the new California Academy of Sciences...a blazingly uncynical embrace of the Enlightenment values of truth and reason. By Nicolai Ouroussoff -- Renzo Piano [slide show]- New York Times

Concrete Splendor: The primal power of Tadao Ando derives from his sublime use of one material and one move...Stone Hill Center at Clark Art Institute...could be among his best work. By Philip Nobel [images]- Metropolis Magazine

Art and Science, Virtual and Real, Under One Big Roof: Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute has erected a technological pleasure dome for the mind and senses...8 years and \$200 million in the making, the Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center [Empac]...220,000 square feet of theaters, studios and work spaces hooked to supercomputers. -- Grimshaw - New York Times

Cabbage Patch Moll: beyond architecture at the Venice Architecture Biennale 2008: It's always dangerous to ask architects to do something other than buildings or urban designs...the outcome is more usually embarrassing...Betsy had one good idea that has paid off handsomely...He decided he needed a Paradise Garden, and he asked Kathryn Gustafson to design it. It is a triumph. By Hugh Pearman [images, video]- HughPearman.com (UK)

Guggenheim has new rival: Glass version of a crushed tin can ... the Basque health department building in Bilbao. -- Gehry; Juan Coll-Barreu/Daniel Gutiérrez Zarza [image]- Guardian (UK)

The Navy sinks a modernist gem in North Chicago: ...Gunner's Mate School, also known as Building 521...The so-called "mitigation measures"...should be seen for what they are: Bones thrown to historic preservationists, not the genuine recycling of the past. By Blair Kamin -- Bruce Graham; Gordon Bunshaft; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill [image]- Chicago Tribune

Saved for the nation - (pre)fab little postwar estate set to make history: A threatened community in south-east London may be about to get Grade II listing...culture ministry is hinting strongly that it plans to protect the Excalibur prefab estate of 185 prefabs, along with its rare, tin-roofed "temporary" church... [slide show]- Guardian (UK)

In San Francisco, Jessie St. is looking good: The accumulated layers of history - some obvious, some not - remind us that cities have a life of their own beyond the spin of daily news or the edicts of city planners. By John King -- Ratcliff; Heller Manus [images]- San Francisco Chronicle

British Council reaffirm commitment to nations and regions: Responding to criticism aired by Glaswegian architect Alan Dunlop, which voiced the perception of a London-centric British Pavilion at the recent Venice Biennial, the British Council have issued a statement specifying the contributions and efforts that have been expended in promoting the United Kingdom as a whole. - Architecture Scotland

2008 MacArthur Foundation 'Genius' Grants Announced: include a structural engineer/architectural preservationist, urban farmer, and stage lighting designer -- John Ochsendorf/MIT; Will Allen/Growing Power; Jennifer Tipton; etc. [links, videos]- MacArthur Foundation

White House Redux winners by Jury selection; public voting ends November 3 [links to images]- Storefront For Art and Architecture

Santa Fe International Conference on Creative Tourism, a project of UNESCO Creative Cities Network, and the first global gathering of its kind; September 28 - October 2 - Santa Fe International Conference on Creative Tourism

A Treasure Reborn: The Currier Museum of Art: An important cultural resource reopens its doors after a thoughtful renovation and expansion. -- Ann Beha Architects [images]- ArchNewsNow

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- Renzo Piano Building Workshop: California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco
  - Rafael Viñoly Architects: Brooklyn Children's Museum, Brooklyn, New York

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