

Today's News - Monday, October 13, 2008

- ArcSpace brings us an eyeful of Morphosis in Madrid: radically different social housing.
- It's Stirling kind of day for housing: Glancey and Heathcote both surprised and pleased: "What a joy to see innovative public housing beat big-name projects" and "may provide a jolt to unimaginative developers."
- AJ interviews the winners; and there were other awards as well.
- Pearman takes in U.K.'s housing theme in Venice: forget the "almost pathological fear" of being London-centric, and it being "a neat and very dour little show" - it is "actually a rather pleasing, straightforward, even refreshing exhibition"; the Scots go for impact.
- King walks San Francisco waterfront with Gehl, who finds "too little water, and too much of everything else."
- Kaplan swims through lessons Munich's Isar River reclamation could teach Los Angeles River advocates.
- A study finds closing streets can actually relieve traffic congestion (and create "fewer opportunities for people to drive like jerks").
- Saffron calls for more - and better - bike racks as Philadelphia reaches a critical parking shortage for the two-wheeled variety.
- Libeskind tells Seoul it needs to "shed old notions and really create new neighborhoods and iconic places" if it wants to be a world-class city.
- Cloepfil feels the heat in NYC.
- A billionaire from Liechtenstein hopes to build an art museum in Las Vegas.
- Hawthorne finds Santa Monica College's new theater "a happily, even confidently unresolved piece of architecture," but also "another sign of the growing Balkanization of the L.A. area."
- Mays is amazed by a Teeple tower: Toronto has never seen anything like it.
- Ouroussoff oooh's and ahhh's "Tulou: Affordable Housing for China" at the Cooper-Hewitt: "projects as divine as this one are still the exception, not the rule...a rare tenderness for the social and historic fabric of the city."
- Lewis on why prefab housing works in a museum, but not the marketplace.
- "Performatism" is "an enthusiastic manifesto" about digital technology with hopes it will be used "to meet the needs of those who simply need a decent place in which to spend their lives."

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[Morphosis: Madrid Social Housing, Madrid, Spain](#)

[Stirling prize 2008: At last, homes: What a joy to see innovative public housing beat big-name projects...This is some of the very best new housing anywhere in Britain...The judges did well to choose Accordia...If bright younger practices...can be teamed up with established firms, then originality and experience can be merged to produce intelligent new designs. By Jonathan Glancey -- Feilden Clegg Bradley/Alison Brooks Architects/Maccreanor Lavington - Guardian \(UK\)](#)

[Housing scheme beats tradition to take top architecture prize: ...it is striking that Britain's most prestigious architecture prize has been won, not by a glitzy embodiment of corporate or public ambition...may provide a jolt to unimaginative developers or it may have come at a moment when it is swamped by bigger concerns. But it remains a good choice. By Edwin Heathcote - Feilden Clegg Bradley; Maccreanor Lavington; Alison Brooks Architects - Financial Times \(UK\)](#)

[The Stirling Prize winners talk to the AJ: This year's RIBA Stirling Prize was given to a housing project for the first time in the award's history. The three winning architects...give their first interviews -- Keith Bradley/Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios; Alison Brooks/Alison Brooks Architects; Richard Lavington/Maccreanor Lavington - The Architects' Journal \(UK\)](#)

[Denton Corker Marshall bags Sustainability Award after missing out on Stirling Prize: Other winners on the night included... - Allford Hall Monaghan Morris \(AHMM\); John Pawson; Gustafson Porter; Rogers Stirk Harbour - The Architects' Journal \(UK\)](#)

[Accordia wins the Stirling Prize: "This is high density housing at its very best, demonstrating that volume house-builders can deliver high quality architecture"; RIBA special awards announced -- Feilden Clegg Bradley/Alison Brooks Architects/Maccreanor Lavington; David Sheppard Architects; Gustafson Porter; Alastair Lansley; Denton Corker Marshall; Allford Hall Monaghan Morris \[images\] - BD/Building Design \(UK\)](#)

[The glory of the garden: At the Venice Biennale, the Brits have gone for a dour critique of the state of the nation's housing. But if it's earthly delights you're after, head to the bottom of Kathryn Gustafson's Paradise Garden. By Hugh Pearman -- Betsky; Woodman; Mccreanor Lavington; Sergison Bates; Tony Fretton; Witherford Watson Mann; de Rijke Marsh Morgan \(dRMM\); Gareth Hoskins; etc. - RIBA Journal \(UK\)](#)

[Urban expert offers advice on San Francisco: Jan Gehl knows a thing or two about cities..."There's too little water, and too much of everything else...It has gone completely overboard in the quick-buck focus - how to skim a half-day tourist." By John King - San Francisco Chronicle](#)

[The Munich Way: If the German City Can Turn Around a River, Why Can't L.A.? Up until a few years ago, the Isar River was mostly an unattractive, concrete-lined flood channel, similar in many respects to the Los Angeles River... By Sam Hall Kaplan - LA Downtown News](#)

[Does closing roads cut delays? File this one under "intensely counterintuitive." A recent study has found that closing off certain streets can actually relieve traffic congestion..."The Price of Anarchy in Transportation Networks"...It's not too difficult to imagine a city designed with these principles in mind...fewer opportunities for people to drive like jerks. Sounds like a nice place to take a walk, actually. - Christian Science Monitor](#)

[The city needs to get creative on bike parking: Philadelphia's parking shortage is approaching critical proportions...this time...parking crisis involves vehicles of the two-wheeled variety...The time has come to build a better bike rack. By Inga Saffron - Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

[Seoul Can Upgrade Beauty Through Unique Design: Daniel Libeskind said that Seoul needs to seek a breakthrough in design and architecture in order to compete with other cities..."needs to be developed and it needs a breakthrough in innovation and architecture, shed old notions and really create new neighborhoods and iconic places"... - Korea Times](#)

[Northwest architect Brad Cloepfil feels the heat in NYC: ...getting scrutiny from both coasts for his remodel of the Museum of Arts and Design building in New York. -- Edward Durell Stone \(1964\); Allied Works \[images\] - Seattle Times](#)

[Art museum + entertainment = boom? Billionaire wants to show his collection, help attract Fremont district biz...Poju Zabudowicz, of Liechtenstein...proposal for a 23,000-square-foot Las Vegas Museum of Contemporary Art, which would also include a club and restaurant, is one of four projects vying for the 40-year-old brick building... -- WPH Architecture \[images\]](#)- Las Vegas Sun

[Renzo Zecchetto's Eli and Edythe Broad Stage at Santa Monica College appears unresolved. And that's fine...a happily, even confidently unresolved piece of architecture. Rather than try to smooth over the gaps between its various architectural impulses...it seems content, for the most part, to leave them on display. It's not a bad strategy... By Christopher Hawthorne-](#) Los Angeles Times

[A new modernist muscles in: Stephen Teeple has crafted a building style that bypasses the glass boxes and historical boxes that make up most new condo forms...This city has never seen anything like Giraffe and Gansevoort...will help galvanize an urgently needed discussion about the future of building high in Toronto. By John Bentley Mays \[image\]](#)- Globe and Mail (Canada)

[In Modern China, 'Little Kingdoms' for the People: "Tulou: Affordable Housing for China" at the Cooper-Hewitt...offers further evidence that China has become the most fertile territory on the globe for experimentation by architects...projects as divine as this one are still the exception, not the rule...imbues their work with a rare tenderness for the social and historic fabric of the city. By Nicolai Ouroussoff -- Urbanus \[images\]](#)- New York Times

[Prefab Housing Works in Museum, if Not in Marketplace: "Home Delivery" is visually delightful and informative. But the story it tells is incomplete...Prefabrication is alive and well, but at the scale of bricks, not buildings. By Roger K. Lewis -](#) Washinton Post

[Book review: In search of 'personal' space: "Performatism/Form and Performance in Digital Architecture" edited by Yasha Grobman and Eran Neuman...an enthusiastic manifesto...it can still be hoped that digital technology will ultimately be used not only...to satisfy the whims of the money barons and totalitarian regimes, but also to meet the needs of those who simply need a decent place in which to spend their lives. -](#) Ha'aretz (Israel)

[Field Notes from the 11th Venice Architecture Biennale - Part 1: The Arsenale: Betsky's eclectic curating and the polished and thoughtful presentations of the exhibitors make it a challenging, entertaining, and provocative show. By Terri Peters -- David Rockwell; Jones|Kroloff; Thonik; Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Greg Lynn; Droog; ArandaLasch; Gehry; Hadid; Philippe Rahm; An Te Liu; Barkow Leibinger \[images\]](#)- ArchNewsNow

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