

Today's News - Friday, October 24, 2008

- Oslo drops Koolhaas library design; issues an impressive shortlist for both library and two museums.
- Is Boston's new Mandarin Oriental really a "boil on Boylston Street"?
- U.K.'s 2010 Shanghai Expo plans hit a snag (or three or more).
- Baillieu bemoans the "prickly problems" that presents: "We can do great temporary buildings, but we fall flat on our face trying to do the exhibitions inside" - She also wonders if letting the public decide the outcome of architectural competitions is a good idea (answer: no).
- Impressive winners in Holcim Awards for Sustainable Construction in Latin America.
- Kamin impressed with AIA Chicago Awards that "turn up good design that's either been overlooked or under-publicized."
- Lots of weekend diversions: Hadid in Central Park: is she channeling The Brady Bunch?
- Q&A with Joseph Grima re: Storefront's "White House Redux" exhibition.
- Hawthorne says a Greene & Greene show makes the case that "there was nothing necessarily anti-modern about their version of California regionalism."
- A Christo show in D.C. won't float everyone's boat: it "feels more like a publicity campaign for a product than like a considered investigation of an important aesthetic event."
- "Unbuilt Toronto: The City That Could Have Been" stars at the ROM.
- In Berlin, a derelict German mint is taken over by 1960's visionary architecture.
- Maya Lin x 2 on view in San Francisco "marks a new direction."
- 30 years of Zumthor's "buildings that belong" on view in Lisbon.
- Page turners: Heathcote finds Sudjic's "The Language of Things" a "readable, sharp and worthwhile account" of the "anonymous realm of manufactured stuff."
- "For the Record: The First Women in Canadian Architecture" is a valuable resource.

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Oslo scraps Koolhaas library design: 20 practices have been shortlisted to design the library and two museums... -- OMA/Space Group -- Ando; Foreign Office Architects (FOA); Hadid; Tony Fretton; REX; Henning Larsen Tegnestue; Heneghan Peng; Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Sauerbruch Hutton; Toyo Ito; Smidt Hammer Lassen; David Chipperfield/Divv Architects; Behnisch Architekten; Snøhetta; etc. - BD/Building Design (UK)

The boil on Boylston Street: The Mandarin Oriental, Boston...How did this happen? I thought the Boston Redevelopment Authority had a policy forbidding the "canyonization"... By Alex Beam -- CBT/Childs Bertman Tseckares - Boston Globe

Heatherwick's Shanghai Expo 'jewel' hit by row: ...in disarray following the departure of both the exhibition's designer and curator...Philip Dodd resigned last week after a major row with Heatherwick over the exhibition content... [image]- BD/Building Design (UK)

Prickly problems at Shanghai: Finding some meaningful content for the British pavilion at the 2010 expo brings back memories of the Millennium Dome...We can do great temporary buildings, but we fall flat on our face trying to do the exhibitions inside; ...is letting it decide the outcome of an architectural competition a good idea? In Weston-super-Mare, where locals have voted for a tacky new replacement pier, the answer must surely be no. By Amanda Baillieu - BD/Building Design (UK)

Holcim Awards for Sustainable Construction in Latin America -- Gustavo Adolfo Restrepo; Angelo Bucci/SPBR; Maria Andrea Triana/LabEEE-UFSC; Alberto Fernandez Gonzalez; etc. [links to images]- Holcim Foundation

This year's Chicago architecture awards--and the winners are...: It's nice when architecture awards confirm the excellence of masterpieces...but it's far more bracing when they turn up good design that's either been overlooked or under-publicized. That's what I like about this year's awards lineup... By Blair Kamin -- Krueck & Sexton; Sheehan Partners; Frederick Phillips; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Wheeler Kearns Architects; Brininstool + Lynch; VOA; Harley Ellis Devereaux; Torchia Associates; Studio Gang; Perkins+Will; RTKL; FGM; Wheeler Kearns; Rafael Viñoly; etc. - Chicago Tribune

Is Zaha "Chanel"ing Mike Brady? ...alien mothership—a.k.a Chanel's Mobile Art—has landed safely in Central Park...not the first over-the-top architectural/cosmetic/fashion mashup on record. Koolhaas and Prada, yes. Gehry and Tiffany and Company, yes. But where else? And then it suddenly dawned on me—The Brady Bunch. [images, links]- Metropolis Magazine

Q&A with Joseph Grima: A conversation with the director at New York's Storefront for Art and Architecture, about the exhibition "White House Redux." - Architectural Record

"A 'New and Native' Beauty: The Art and Craft of Greene & Greene": The Huntington exhibition shows how the brothers wound up developing a unique California style...curators make the case that it helped pave the way...to another strain of Modernism: one comfortable with the idea of taking cues from local conditions. By Christopher Hawthorne -- Kelly Sutherland McLeod; Brenda Levin [slide show]- Los Angeles Times

Christo River Show Doesn't Float Everyone's Boat: "Christo and Jeanne-Claude: Over the River, a Work in Progress" at the Phillips Collection...presents a work of art that has yet to be made, and may never be...feels more like a publicity campaign for a product than like a considered investigation of an important aesthetic event. [images]- Washington Post

"Unbuilt Toronto: The City That Could Have Been" at the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM), in partnership with the Toronto Society of Architects...images of unbuilt projects from practicing architects and designers are juxtaposed against historical images of unrealized building proposals drawn from Mark Osbaldeston's forthcoming book... - Canadian Architect

Megastructures Reload: A derelict old German mint in Berlin has been taken over until November 2 by an exhibit of 1960's visionary architecture...Something funny is happening in Berlin. -- Dennis Crompton/Archigram; Yona Friedman/Eckhard Schulze-Fieltz; Cedric Price; Constant Nieuwenhuys; Tobias Putrih; Katrin Sigurdardottir; raumlabor_berlin [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Maya Lin looks at nature - from the inside: "Systematic Landscapes" at the the M.H. de Young...eight years in the making and marks a new direction...has brought nature indoors at the new California Academy of Sciences...in the form of a permanent sculpture, "Where the Land Meets the Sea"... [images]- San Francisco Chronicle

Buildings that belong: "Peter Zumthor, Buildings and Projects 1986 – 2007" until November 2, LX Factory, Lisbon - Financial Times (UK)

Book review: In the consumer's clutches: "The Language of Things" by Deyan Sudjic...touches on the anonymous realm of manufactured stuff which appears to have no author...in a sparse intellectual field...a readable, sharp and worthwhile account of a world far bigger, more influential and less fluffy than it at first appears. By Edwin Heathcote - Financial Times (UK)

Book review: "For the Record: The First Women in Canadian Architecture" edited by by Joan Grierson...takes a comprehensive look at the women's careers as well as the cultural forces surrounding the profession.- Canadian Architect



-- LAVA: Michael Schumacher Tower, Abu Dhabi, UAE
-- Snøhetta: Petter Dass Museum, Alstahaug, Norway

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