Today's News - Monday, May 18, 2009

- Arcspace brings us Architects Collective & at.103 in Mexico City, and GRAFT in Berlin.
- Forgy on the balancing act architects have to play when designing federal buildings post-9/11, and the "critical difference between overreaction and rational response."
- Lewis on the "perfect recipe for boring buildings": it's "our utilitarian culture" that allows "architecturally banal and sometimes downright ugly" buildings.
- Glancy faces down the "secretive bully-boy quango" that is CABE in his own town (will he frame the letters, or use them as beds for his giant, flop-eared rabbits?).
- Saffron cheers Philadelphia's own Piazza Navona: instead of "a cheap, cringe-worthy theme park" - "Actually, it's pretty wonderful."
- Experts urge NYC to Disneyfy Coney Island (theme park experts, of course).
- Russian officials claim 2014 Winter Olympics site in Sochi is a "huge construction site" (guerilla farmers and rusting cars tell a different story).
- Hume says there's "plenty of time for Canadians to think of reasons not to participate" in Milan's Expo 2015: "It's so much easier just to stay home."
- Gardenier's plans for a Piano preservation up in arms.
- In Germany, another bridge threatens UNESCO status in National Germany's Most Endangered list: "When they hold their yearly adopt-a-puppy day, they don't slight the mutts, the mangy and the ill-tempered."
- Gardner Museum's plans for a Piano expansion have preservationists up in arms.
- Want to get all NIMBY about a jail? Blame the architects.
- Goldberger and Davidson give very positive spins to Guggenheim's FLW show: it's great to see the museum "at least a bit closer to its 1959 condition"; and "a bracing tonic to today's narrow horizons and diminished ambitions."
- Dyckhoff dishes the dirt with Zaha: "People say it's the end of the icon project...Psssht...it's too simplistic to say there'll be no more exuberance in architecture."
- Pitt picks second batch of architects for "Make It Right" - this time, for duplexes.
- Kennicott gives (mostly) thumbs-up to National Trust's Most Endangered list: "When they hold their yearly adopt-a-puppy day, they don't slight the mutts, the mangy and the ill-tempered."
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feud between city officials and owners of upscale villas. In the most recent salvo, the homeowners have blocked a shoreline path that traces the former route of the Berlin Wall. [Images: Der Spiegel (Germany)]

Jail Bait: In bid to stop Brooklyn project, politician blames architects -- RicciGreene Associates; 1100 Architects - The Architect's Newspaper

Spiralling Upward: Celebrating fifty years of Frank Lloyd Wright's Guggenheim...It's wonderful now to see the Guggenheim at least a bit closer to its 1959 condition...You're not sure whether the curators are jousting with Wright or protecting him, but there isn't a moment when you are not aware of, and reacting to, his space. This is exactly how he wanted it. By Paul Goldberger - New Yorker

Endless Spiral: The Guggenheim celebrates Frank Lloyd Wright...sweeping exhibit...a bracing tonic to today's narrow horizons and diminished ambitions. By Justin Davidson - New York Magazine

Zaha Hadid defies recession with ground-breaking architecture: The world has finally fallen for the fiery, Iraqi-born architect, and nothing can stop her, she says...“People say it’s the end of the icon project...Pssshh.” Nothing withers like a withering look from Hadid. Her eyes are ablaze. “I think it’s too simplistic to say there’ll be no more exuberance in architecture.” By Tom Dyckhoff - The Times (UK)

An architect in space: How did this student of architecture, whose path in Italy should have been remodelling historic houses, end up designing space shoes...? -- Annalisa Dominoni/SPIN-DESIGN LAB - WAtoday (Australia)

Buet team wins international architectural design competition: Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology has brought great honour to the country by winning the first prize[a] 'Design for the Children'...to develop an adaptable, sustainable and culturally responsive pediatric clinic which can be modified to fit different sites in East Africa. -- Lara Calder; Perkins + Will - The Daily Star (Bangladesh)

AIA selects the 2009 recipients of the Small Project Awards: furniture/objects, structures and accessible residential design. - ZAI inc.; ASTIGMATIC Studio; Min | Day; CORE architecture + design; Johnsen Schmaling; Intrinsik Architecture; Lightroom Studio; Moorhead & Moorhead; Legge Lewis Legge; John Minler ; Clayton Levy & Little Architects; Laboratory for Environments, Architecture & Design; Stephen Dalton; Robert Maschke; mcfarlane green biggar; EASA Architecture; david thompson; Moskow Linn; Miró Rivera - American Institute of Architects (AIA)