

Today's News - Wednesday, May 20, 2009

- Note to nay-sayers re: Calatrava's WTC transit hub: "Even late, clipped, and costly, the station achieves nearly everything we loved it for in the first place" (and an animated rendering to prove it).
- Meanwhile, a new design manual and NYC's transportation commissioner aim to "tilt the balance of asphalt power away from the automobile and toward cyclists and pedestrians."
- King cheers San Francisco's own Pavement to Parks program: "block off cars, add trees - presto, it's a park."
- Also on the left coast, L.A.'s new light rail is on track and spurring a flurry of development - but not everyone is happy.
- Which state has the boldest architecture? Ohio might not be your first choice - but think again (great images).
- The mauling of Modernism continues: rallying cry continues to save the "exquisite beauty and refined engineering" of Portland's Memorial Coliseum.
- Rudolph's Riverview High School closer to be flattened (efforts continue to try to raise the funds necessary to green-light the Music Quadrangle plan).
- A much happier ending for Becket's 1965 Pauley Pavilion at UCLA.
- Lacayo likes Piano's Modern Wing: "a complicated exercise in reconciliation" with "three tricky neighbors."
- Rojkind and BIG tapped for Tamayo Museum branch in Mexico.
- Moore on London's first vertical garden: an idea "so brilliantly simple... Its potential is only beginning to be discovered."
- Q&A with Ponce de Leon re: her "radical, interdisciplinary approach to architectural education."
- Calls grow for a Mackintosh statue in heart of Glasgow.
- Cannell channels ICFF: "The mood was cheerful enough...But there were no molten-hot objects of desire...the whole affair felt subdued and reduced" (but great pix).
- Q&A with Competitions magazine's Collyer re: competitions: ya gotta enter 'em to win 'em (you can win even if you don't).
- Call for entries: 100Spaces. Design, Architecture, Landscape (for under-40s only).
- We couldn't resist: Frank Lloyd Wright Lego kits (we want one!).

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In Defense of Calatrava's World Trade Center Hub: ...still glimmers, altered but unbesmirched, in a future that might actually come...what's extraordinary about the latest iteration is not how much has been edited out but how intact Calatrava's original vision has remained. Even late, clipped, and costly, the station achieves nearly everything we loved it for in the first place. [animated rendering]- New York Magazine

Block off cars, add trees - presto, it's a park: San Francisco's newest public space...offers urbanity at its ad-hoc best- and a reminder that when the aim is to better a city, small moves can be more fruitful than grand schemes... There's a planning context to Pavement to Parks... By John King -- John Peterson/Public Architecture [images]- San Francisco Chronicle

In the Future, the City's Streets Are to Behave: A new design manual conceives of streets as multiple-use public spaces, with an emphasis on aesthetics...a handbook for the present: getting people to think about streets as not just thoroughfares for cars, but as public spaces incorporating safety, aesthetics, environmental and community concerns. [images]- New York Times

Honk, Honk, Aaah: Janette Sadik-Khan, New York City's Transportation commissioner, manages to be equal parts Jane Jacobs and Robert Moses. As she prepares to close swaths of Broadway to cars...she is igniting a peculiar new culture war —over the role of the automobile in New York. [images]- New York Magazine

Crossing the Line: LA's Expo Light Rail on track with controversies in tow...a flurry of development has cropped up along the Phase I transit corridor...Not everyone is happy. -- Gruen Associates, Parsons; Moule & Polyzoides; Eric Owen Moss; ah'bé landscape architects [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Which State Has the Boldest Architecture? Ohio didn't roll of your tongue, did it? But Bowling Green State University, near Toledo, just broke ground on...Wolfe Center for the Arts...And that's on top of a slew of other works by contemporary masters... -- Snøhetta; Coop Himmelb(l)au; Gehry; Mayne/Morphosis; SANAA; Hadid; Pei; Eisenmann; Pelli; Stern; Isosaki; Vinoly [images]- Fast Company

Protest: Save the Memorial Coliseum: A proposed stadium in Portland, Oregon, threatens its famous predecessor...the structure's exquisite beauty and refined engineering has motivated a host of architects, sports fans, historians, artists, and design enthusiasts to join together in an attempt to preserve it. -- Gordon Bunshaft/Skidmore, Owings & Merrill/SOM (1961) [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Demolition Nears for Paul Rudolph's Riverview High School: ...Riverview Music Quadrangle plan ultimately did not win over the school board...still working to raise the funds necessary to green-light the Music Quadrangle. -- BMK Architects; Diane Lewis, AIA- Architectural Record

Pauley Pavilion: NBBJ to overhaul UCLA's famed modernist arena...the project presents a careful balance between celebrating history and looking forward. -- Welton Becket (1965) [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Chicago's Art Institute Expands, with Elegance: ...a complicated exercise in reconciliation...A resolutely modern building, it not only manages to gently introduce itself into the greenery of Chicago's Millennium Park but also draws in three tricky neighbors... By Richard Lacayo -- Renzo Piano [images, links]- Time Magazine

Rojkind Arquitectos and BIG win Tamayo Museum competition: ...a new 3,500 sq m branch of the Tamayo Museum on the outskirts of Atizapan, Mexico. [images]- Building (UK)

The height of fashion: As London's first vertical gardens are unveiled to the public, Patrick Blanc, the French artist/botanist who created them, explains what inspired him...His idea is so much in tune with the Zeitgeist, and so brilliantly simple...a way of shaping public spaces and bits of city. Its potential is only beginning to be discovered. By Rowan Moore - Evening Standard (UK)

Newsmaker: Monica Ponce de Leon: as dean of the University of Michigan's Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning...where she has begun to implement a radical, interdisciplinary approach to architectural education...new technology and a post-crash global consciousness should change the way we teach. -- Office dA- Architectural Record

Calls grow for Charles Rennie Mackintosh statue in heart of Glasgow: "He is inextricably linked to Glasgow in the same way that Antonio Gaudi is with Barcelona." - Evening Times (Scotland)

ICFF Wrap-Up: The End of Luxe: With high-end furniture in eclipse, the furniture fair looks for a new esthetic of efficiency...The mood was cheerful enough this year, and there was enough good work...But there were no molten-hot objects of desire this time around, and the whole affair felt subdued and reduced. By Michael Cannell [images, links]- Fast

Company

[Get in the Game: You won't win every design contest, but participation offers its own rewards: Q&A with Competitions magazine founder and editor G. Stanley Collyer - Architect Magazine](#)

[Call for entries: 100Spaces. Design, Architecture, Landscape, an Online Design Competition; Professionals must be under 40 years old; deadline: July 31 - RomaEuropa FakeFactory \(REFF\)](#)

[Totally amazing Frank Lloyd Wright Lego: Great news: the Guggenheim Museum and 'Fallingwater' will soon be available for architects of all ages \[image, links\]- The Architects' Journal \(UK\)](#)



- [-- Architects Collective & at.103: Ozuluama Residence, Mexico City](#)
- [-- GRAFT: Gleimstrasse Loft, Berlin, Germany](#)

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