

Today's News - Thursday, May 28, 2009

- Rosenbaum ruminates on Guggenheim's pledge to honor human rights on Abu Dhabi project (lots of great links).
- A call for architects to get political.
- A call to follow Queensland's lead in combating the global financial crisis by using architecture as a new economic driver.
- Schumacher says plans for a symbol of Milwaukee as "water hub" on the waterfront are "a mess."
- San Antonio celebrates the opening of its river's new Urban Segment.
- China's solution to saving an ancient city: raze it.
- Kamin x 2: the often contentious ties between historic preservation and green architecture: "if we are designing new buildings in new ways, why shouldn't we preserve old buildings in new ways as well?"; and a makeover "offers a rare bright spot amid Chicago's problem-plagued attempt to transform its notorious public housing" (comments are depressingly contentious).
- Contrary to some reports, Rogers' Chelsea Barracks project is not dead in the water.
- Safdie declares his disgust over possibility a police station could go up in the heart of Salt Lake City's cultural block.
- San Francisco's urban watchdog, SPUR, gets new home: "the building is a triumph, not just architecturally but socially."
- Charleston's largest performance venue to get a makeover - if enough money can be raised to pay the hefty price tag.
- Two more thumbs-up for Piano's Modern Wing (the art looks good, too).
- Mayne museum still a go in Dallas; not such good news for his Orange County Museum of Art.
- "Sleepover Project" opens architects' eyes on nursing home design.
- Pediatricians issue policy statement linking design and public health.
- AJ100 list announced; Woods Bagot named International Practice of the Year; Darling Associates is Practice of the Year; and how they'll all beat the crunch.
- AIA Wisconsin Awards: winners "contributed to the profession in unique ways."
- Call for entries: London Bridge 800: Design an Inhabited Bridge; and AIA 2009 Upjohn Research Initiative.

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Richard Armstrong Does It Right: Guggenheim's Letter to Human Rights Watch on Abu Dhabi: ...museum's director...had just dispatched to HRW, responding seriously to its new 80-page report. By Lee Rosenbaum [links] - ArtsJournal

It's time for architects to get political: Speakers and delegates at RIAS conference called for the RIBA and RIAS to get more involved in politics at a time the industry is under attack and suffering the worst recession in living memory...RIBA and RIAS both denied the accusations, insisting they are in constant contact with political leaders. - BD/Building Design (UK)

Architecture the new economic driver: The Australian Institute of Architects (AIA) is calling on the federal and state governments to...lead in pushing creative industries as the new economic powerhouse...Queensland is leading the country with strong marketing to combat the global financial crisis, by introducing architecture to the world stage. -- HEAT-Queensland Business Review (Australia)

No Walk in the Park: The proposed site for the symbol of Milwaukee as "water hub"...might be the one of the last possible spots for a significant structure on the downtown lakefront...Unfortunately, our so-called cultural campus has no singular sense of place. It is, in fact, a mess...it may be the perfect time for the the global aspirations of the unique-to-the-world school of Freshwater Sciences be equalled by its architecture. By Mary Louise Schumacher [images] - Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

The San Antonio River Improvements Project: Urban Segment of the Museum Reach...a grande leap forward with this \$76.5-million investment in the Urban Segment's 1.2 miles... -- Ford, Powell and Carson [images, links] - San Antonio Current

To Protect an Ancient City, China Moves to Raze It: Saying it fears earthquake damage, the government has moved 900 families from Kashgar's picturesque Old City, 85% of which will be demolished and rebuilt..."the best-preserved example of a traditional Islamic city to be found anywhere in central Asia"...officials have offered somewhat befuddling explanations for their plans. [images, slide show] - New York Times

Historic preservation and green architecture: friends or foes? ...should the rise of the green movement prompt everybody to rethink what it mean to be a historic preservationist at the dawn of the 21st Century? ...if we are designing new buildings in new ways, why shouldn't we preserve old buildings in new ways as well? By Blair Kamin - Chicago Tribune

Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) architecture gets it right with Dearborn Homes public housing complex; new limestone decorations transform the buildings from hulking to inviting, and the update has improved the interior, too...offers a rare bright spot amid Chicago's problem-plagued attempt to transform its notorious public housing. By Blair Kamin --Loebl, Schlossman and Bennett (1950); Henry Zimoch/HPZS [images] - Chicago Tribune

Rogers survives Chelsea Barracks crisis meeting: Reports that architect could be thrown off £1bn West London development apparently unfounded..."I can say with confidence that we are still working on the scheme." -- Rogers Stirk Harbour; Allford Hall Monaghan Morris (AHMM); Thomas Heatherwick - Building (UK)

Famed library architect: Keep cop shop off the block: Park or police? After weeks of silence, perhaps the paramount voice in the Library Square debate is declaring his disgust...calling the resulting arrangement a "fundamental transformation for the worse...a police station and emergency operations center is hardly a complementary use to the public life of the park." -- Moshe Safdie - Salt Lake Tribune (Utah)

Silver Spur: San Francisco's urban watchdog gets new home: For 50 years, the San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR) has been advocating sound planning...will finally have a welcoming space to match its community-oriented goals...the building is a triumph, not just architecturally but socially. -- Pfau Architects [image] - The Architect's Newspaper

Gaillard Auditorium \$105M makeover: Charleston's largest performance venue and an essential stage for local arts groups and Spoleto Festival USA, will undergo extensive renovations beginning as early as 2011 if enough money can be raised to pay the hefty price tag. -- David M. Schwarz Architects - Charleston Post and Courier (South Carolina)

Hitting the right notes: ...Renzo Piano's crystalline blend of glass and steel has refined rather than reinvented his own architectural language. The \$293 million (Dh1,1bn) Modern Wing...is an assured example of [his] elegance...And the art looks good. By David D'Arcy - The National (Abu Dhabi)

Renzo Piano adds onto Art Institute of Chicago: Architecture - the noun - nudges us toward thinking materialistically about buildings...But no such view captures the distinctive achievement of [his] grand new addition...has delivered a luminous, seemingly weightless addition to the AIC's complex of buildings. By Kenneth Baker - San Francisco Chronicle

[Thom Mayne museum building still a go in Dallas: With many a cultural construction project having gone from the pipeline to a pipe dream since summer, enough cash continues to flow in Dallas...to remain on track to create what would be his first museum building...Perot Museum of Nature & Science...- Los Angeles Times](#)

[Sleepover Project opens architects' eyes on nursing home design: "What we design today will be what my generation inherits in its old age. That's a big incentive to do better." -- David Dillard/CSD Architects - Dallas Morning News](#)

[Pediatricians Issue Policy Linking Design and Public Health: The American Academy of Pediatrics has released a policy statement strongly supporting the need to encourage outdoor play and mobility among children..."The Built Environment: Designing Communities to Promote Physical Activity in Children" \[link to statement\]- The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects \(ASLA\)](#)

[Atkins reaches AJ100 top spot: BDP has been knocked off the top spot...for the first time in nine years...Ken Livingstone presented with the Greatest Contribution to the Profession... \[link to list\]- The Architects' Journal \(UK\)](#)

[AJ100: How we'll beat the crunch: ...retooling their practices for an expected - and highly anticipated - economic upturn...based on the headlines of early 2009 – including the stalling of the Learning and Skills Council \(LSC\) college-building programme – the true damage to the profession may only reveal itself in next year's AJ100. - The Architects' Journal \(UK\)](#)

[Restaurant, train station, warehouse garner AIA Wisconsin architectural awards: ...jurors said they were "quite selective" and focused on projects that contributed to the profession in unique ways... By Mary Louise Schumacher -- Aro Eberle Architects; Johnsen Schmalig Architects; Kahler Slater; Eppstein Uhen Architects; Potter Lawson; River Architects; William P. Wenzler \[slide show\] - Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#)

[Call for entries: London Bridge 800: Design an Inhabited Bridge; deadline: June 25 - Royal Institute of British Architects \(RIBA\)](#)

[Call for entries: AIA 2009 Upjohn Research Initiative; up to four grants between \\$15,000 and \\$30,000 each, for selected projects that address practice issues, building typology, or materials and methods of construction; deadline: September 1 - American Institute of Architects \(AIA\)](#)



[-- Nearing completion: Asymptote Architecture: The Yas Hotel, Abu Dhabi, UAE](#)
[-- Exhibition: "Frank Lloyd Wright: From Within Outward," Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York City](#)

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