

## Today's News - Monday, June 8, 2009

- ArcSpace brings us eye-fuls of Siza's museum in Brazil, and Zaha's latest concoctions for our tootsies.
- Calthorpe and others weigh in on the Stapleton paradigm and more on the eve of CNU's confab in Denver.
- Houpt on Gehry's departure from Atlantic Yards: "good news for the architect, bad news for the neighborhood."
- Pedersen has second thoughts about his earlier support for the project.
- Schumacher calls for serious discourse about university development on Milwaukee's lakefront, and launches her own "unorthodox" design competition: "this lakefront plan is too important to be left to the devices of bureaucracy."
- Davidson gives two cheers to the High Line (opening tomorrow!) and its district of lively architecture: "The tale is a triumph of urban salvage."
- Gardner cheers Times Square transformation: a perfect example of "how cities are evolving on our post-industrial planet."
- Morgan is not very enthusiastic about EMPAC: while it's "a technological tour de force; unfortunately, it is not a landmark of contemporary architecture."
- Betsky on OMA's Prada Transformer: the only disappointing thing about it is that it doesn't actually transform.
- Pearman takes on four "profoundly unfashionable buildings" (mostly Po-Mo) that he thinks "will sooner or later regain favor."
- RMJM's 1985 "flawed masterpiece" in Edinburgh under threat - again; is it part of the city's architectural heritage, or a building with "no future"?
- The same battle rages over Detroit's Tiger Stadium with a last-minute reprieve from the wrecking ball (for the time being, anyway).
- Thailand weighs legal options for foreign architects.
- The greening of AIA's 1973 HQ gets thumbs-up from D.C. planning commission.
- A study finds that making buildings more "physical activity friendly" can help fight obesity (a fitting story on the day of Fit City conference in NYC).
- Q&A with Ed Feiner: What to do once you've revolutionized the GSA?
- Q&A: Pentagram's Paula Scher on failure (in Psychology Today, no less).
- Call for entries: Guggenheim/Google Design It: Shelter International Competition.

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-- Álvaro Siza: Iberê Camargo Museum (ICM), Porto Alegre, Brazil  
-- Zaha Hadid: Lacoste Footwear Capsule Collection

The Stapleton paradigm admirable: As a sustainable development, Stapleton demonstrates good design...part of a progressive regional vision that places development in compact communities, served by transit, close to the metropolitan center. By Peter Calthorpe/Calthorpe Associates [[links to other New Urbanism articles](#)]- Denver Post

Gehry leaves Brooklyn megaproject: Good news for the architect, bad news for the neighbourhood. So much for architecture...Gehry should pour himself a glass of Champagne at the news: He just safeguarded his legacy...the \$4-billion Atlantic Yards has given the mother of all migraines to anyone who has dared get involved. By Simon Houpt -- Ellerbe Becket- Globe and Mail (Canada)

On Second Thought: Now that Gehry has been "value-engineered" out of Atlantic Yards, our executive editor recants his earlier support for the project. By Martin C. Pedersen -- Ellerbe Becket [[images](#), [links](#)]- Metropolis Magazine

Precious parcel deserves discourse: While a plan to place the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's School of Freshwater Sciences on a signature lakefront spot has wide support among political and business leaders, capturing the popular imagination is going to take more work...if families in the suburbs wouldn't pile into their cars to come see it, then it doesn't belong there. By Mary Louise Schumacher [[links](#)]- Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Elevated: The twin pleasures of the High Line: a petite new park, and a district of lively architecture...levitating parkland has been so long and so rapturously anticipated that the nine-block segment that opens this week can hardly compete with its own story. The tale is a triumph of urban salvage. By Justin Davidson -- Field Operations; Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Della Valle Bernheimer; Nouvel; Gehry; Polshek; Work AC; Handel; Matlock; Selldorf; Shigeru Ban; Denari; Lindy Roy [[images](#)]- New York Magazine

Times Square Goes From Pavement to Park: ...you are witnessing the future of New York City and, indeed, the future of the city itself as a human institution...recognition of how cities are evolving on our post-industrial planet. For the first time in history, urban-ness has become its own reward. By James Gardner- The Real Deal (NYC)

Hulking Arts Center Beached At Rensselaer: Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center (EMPAC)...is a technological tour de force; unfortunately, it is not a landmark of contemporary architecture...functions well, does what it is supposed to and is beautifully built, but its appearance is neither attractive nor inspiring. The expression of architectural greatness promised in the winning competition scheme was not realized in the finished building. By William Morgan -- Grimshaw; Davis Brody Bond Aedas - Hartford Courant (Connecticut)

On a Roll: OMA takes a turn at event architecture in Seoul: It didn't actually transform, but that was the only disappointing thing about the Prada Transformer...This is event architecture...As a temporary object, it is probably the purest example of such. By Aaron Betsky -- Koolhaas/Reichert/Office of Metropolitan Architecture [[images](#)]- The Architect's Newspaper

The dark knights return: four profoundly unfashionable buildings in London: I contend that my quartet of buildings - if they survive this dangerous period in the critical wilderness - will sooner or later regain favour. By Hugh Pearman -- James Stirling; Michael Wilford; Terry Farrell; Michael Hopkins; Colin St. John Wilson [[images](#), [links](#)]- HughPearman.com (UK)

RMJM's post-modern gem facing bulldozers once more: ..."flawed masterpiece", the practice's 1985 Balfour Stewart House in Edinburgh, is again under threat of demolition...Last February (2008)...saved from the bulldozers when plans to replace the empty building with 119 homes were thrown out by the city council...revised plans for Rumney Manor...now features just 80 flats. -- Archial (formerly SMC Hugh Martin) [[images](#)]- The Architects' Journal (UK)

Another reprieve for Tiger Stadium: Temporary order invoked to halt demolition- Detroit News

Legal opening weighed for foreign architects: The Architect Council of Thailand (ACT) has proposed liberalising the profession to legalise ventures between Thai and foreign architects...new Central Embassy project is at the heart of a

[complaint...could not find its design firm, London-based Amanda Levete Architects, on a list of licensed Thai architects or architecture firms.](#) - Bangkok Post

[American Institute of Architects project is backed by the National Capital Planning Commission: AIA is in the process of turning its 1970s-era headquarters into a green and carbon neutral building.](#) -- The Architect's Collaborative (1973); Studios Architecture- Washington Business Journal

[Change staircase design to fight obesity: A few simple changes in the design and location of staircases could help fight obesity by making the buildings more "physical activity friendly," according to a study..."requires a set of interventions on both architectural and legislative levels to create physical environments that support active living"...](#) - Times of India

[Q&A: Ed Feiner: What to do once you've revolutionized the GSA? ...his experiences and expectations when it comes to government and good architecture.](#) By Julie V. Iovine -- Perkins+Will- The Architect's Newspaper

[Q&A: Paula Scher on Failure: "You have to fail in order to make the next discovery. It's through mistakes that you actually can grow."](#) -- Pentagram- Psychology Today

[Call for entries: Guggenheim Museum/Google Design It: Shelter International Competition; deadline: August 23-](#) Guggenheim Museum

[Book Review: A Subversive Book Every Architect Needs: "Architect's Essentials of Negotiation" by Ava J. Abramowitz: Supposedly architects don't need negotiating skills along with other communication skills because great design "sells itself." How lovely that an AIA legal counsel created this definitive book to shatter that thin myth.](#) By Norman Weinstein- ArchNewsNow

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