

Today's News - Wednesday, June 10, 2009

- An in-depth look at what makes Amsterdam the poster child for the smart city/smart grid concept.
- Wilson offers an in-depth look at the pros and cons of building-integrated wind turbines and "why it's usually a bad idea."
- Ouroussoff is totally taken by the High Line, "an invaluable and transformative gift" to NYC.
- Advocates for other NYC parks are not so happy (but a terrific slide show).
- Kamin on "the last four miles" proposed by Chicago's Friends of the Parks for the city's lakefront: it'll be expensive, but "a seed worth sowing."
- Another take is against the last four miles: "Instead of Burnham, how about a little Jane Jacobs?"
- Even supporters of Brooklyn's Atlantic Yards project cry foul over new arena design.
- Calys has an update on the CAMP battle in San Francisco: there's "some pretty serious saber rattling. It has all the earmarks of a battle to the death."
- Rosenbaum, as promised, offers her irreverent photo essay on Piano's Modern Wing: "Form is one thing; function, another."
- Zaha wins a zinger in Cairo (and pix to prove it).
- Design approved for U.S. Marshals Service Museum in Arkansas (now all they need is \$\$\$).
- Another take on Brooklyn Cohousing's passive house plans (and there are more on the horizon).
- No sedum here; instead, a forest of pine trees for a Manhattan rooftop.
- Q&A with Acconci and why he's closing his studio: "I am still shell-shocked. I am trying desperately to think of alternative ways."
- Q & A Rockwell: a happier tale to tell.
- RMJM and Stephen Lawrence Trust to send six youngsters to Harvard.
- Call for entries: Idea for Action Kaohsiung International Competition open to young urban planners, students (and anyone born after 1969).
- We couldn't resist: has someone actually calculated how tall the Burj Dubai will be?

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Amsterdam: A Smart City Goes Live: The Dutch city's eco-friendly infrastructure has new power hookups for electric cars, solar panels and household wind turbines...one of the most ambitious adopters of the smart city/smart grid concept... - BusinessWeek

The Folly of Building-Integrated Wind: It turns out that, despite some benefits, building-integrated wind doesn't make much sense as a renewable-energy strategy...the pros and cons of this technology, look at some examples of how it's been tried, and why it's usually a bad idea. By Alex Wilson -- Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Atkins - Environmental Building News/BuildingGreen.com

On High, a Fresh Outlook: High Line is one of the most thoughtful, sensitively designed public spaces built in New York in years...A subtle play between contemporary and historical design, industrial decay and natural beauty sets the tone...given New Yorkers an invaluable and transformative gift. By Nicolai Ouroussoff -- James Corner Field Operations; Diller Scofidio & Renfro[slide shows, video] - New York Times

Advocates for other parks angered by extra security for new High Line: Manhattan's new celeb-backed park in the sky is getting more security resources than other, more sprawling parks in other boroughs [slide show] - NY Daily News

The last four miles: Friends of the Parks unveils a plan for an entirely-open Chicago lakefront: Now comes the hard part: The estimated tab...runs anywhere from \$350 million to \$450 million...Still, the idea of a completely open lakefront is a seed worth sowing... By Blair Kamin -- BauerLatoza Studio; Greene & Proppe Design; Solomon Cordwell Buenz; Topografis; AECOM [images, links] - Chicago Tribune

Against the Last Four Miles, or at least the last two on the North Side: Bill Savage summons the ghost of the Jane Jacobs, that champion of the stoop and small-scale city life, to vie with Friends of the Parks' evocation of Daniel Burnham, Mr. Big Plans. - Chicago Tribune

Brooklynites call foul on new designs for Atlantic Yards arena project: Described alternately as an airplane hangar and a suburban big-box chain store, designs commissioned by Forest City Ratner got failing grades, even from supporters of the project. -- Frank Gehry; Ellerbe Becket - NY Daily News

Bombs away! the CAMP battle looms large: ...final comments submitted by groups opposing the Contemporary Art Museum of the Presidio may be the opening salvos of a looming legal battle...constitute some pretty serious saber rattling. It has all the earmarks of a battle to the death. By George Calys - San Francisco Examiner

Virago in Chicago: My Irreverent Photo Essay on the Modern Wing: Form is one thing; function, another. By Lee Rosenbaum -- Renzo Piano [images, links] - ArtsJournal

Zaha Hadid lands Cairo Expo competition: ...has seen off competition from Norwegian firm Snohetta to land its second major Egyptian project...undulating design was inspired by the natural topography of the Nile Valley. [images] - The Architects' Journal (UK)

Marshals museum design OK'd: ...directors of the U.S. Marshals Service Museum approved the design for a unique building they hope will draw tourists from around the world to the banks of the Arkansas River. -- Polk Stanley Rowland Curzon Porter Architects; Cambridge Seven Associates; Christopher Chadbourne & Associates [image] - Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

Park Slope getting passive housing: Brooklyn Cohousing would be one of the first residential projects in New York and one of only a handful in the country to be built as a passive house...More passive houses are on the horizon. -- Levenson McDavid Architects; David White; Chris Benedict - The Real Deal (NYC)

A Singular Creation: The unusual choice of pine trees turns an urban rooftop into a virtual forest...a monoculture of evergreens that emulates northern forests. The goal was to achieve a tranquil place rather than a pretty or functional one. By Alan G. Brake -- Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Thomas Balsley Associates [slide show] - Metropolis Magazine

Recession Tales: Vito Acconci: So you are closing your studio. Why? "The economic crisis made a big difference. At first, I thought it wouldn't affect us, because we never made a lot of money...This is just very new. I am still shell-shocked. I am trying desperately to think of alternative ways." - The Architect's Newspaper

Q & A with David Rockwell, veteran W hotel architect, and designer of a free-play playground in Lower Manhattan. Architects do more than design shiny new buildings. Rockwell can vouch for that. - The Real Deal (NYC)

RMJM and Stephen Lawrence Trust to send six youngsters to Harvard: Six youngsters, with limited or no formal

[qualifications have won an all-expenses trip to study an architecture foundation course- The Architects' Journal \(UK\)](#)

[Call for entries: Idea for Action Kaohsiung International Competition;; ...to infuse urban planning with new blood, greater vitality and innovativeness; open to young planners, students, and anyone born after 1970 \(including 1970\); cash prizes; deadline: July 15- Kaohsiung City Government, Taiwan](#)

[Has Astragal stumbled across the answer to the world's most asked question – "How tall will the Burj Dubai be?" - The Architects' Journal \(UK\)](#)

[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](#)



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

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