

Today's News - Thursday, June 11, 2009

- IT's new student residence halls will give students control over their environment and generate performance data to be shared beyond the IIT campus.
- Revisions in landmarks laws have preservationists hopeful and developers fuming in Los Angeles, NYC, and St. Augustine, Fla.
- France's president has scaled back his grand plans for Paris; focus will be on transportation and housing (not a bad thing).
- Brussat has a few things for mayors to think about on the eve of the U.S. Conference of Mayors: "Channeled through the ego of the modern architect" the "spread of greed and corruption...might perhaps be most clearly perceived and understood through its most visible symbol - modern architecture" (yikes!).
- King thinks Emeryville must be doing something right as he discovers "blocks of lavish delight" and a "burst of pure cutting-edge fun" - even with its "scars on full display."
- A call for leadership from architects and designers to "re-imagine their cities in very directly political ways."
- Architecture for Humanity is another kind of model for activist architects.
- DIGMA, a new design industry organization to promote Massachusetts' design industry.
- Rosenbaum continues her Chicago adventure; this time, it's a "Gehry- Piano smack-down" (each wins points).
- de Portzamparc explains his personal connection to his new Hergé Museum (great pix).
- An eyeful (and fly-through) of Wilkinson Eyre's dramatic plans for London's Science Museum - bulges and all.
- Bose basks in the new West Harlem Piers Park, but suggests an adjacent marine transfer station is now "ripe for repurposing."
- Glancey doesn't think building tower blocks for wildlife is all that batty of an idea.
- Russell on the impending re-do of Johnson's landmarked Four Seasons restaurant - "to reveal more of its elegance."
- Steve Jobs' 8-year campaign to demolish his historic mansion goes back to court - again.
- London School of Economics picks shortlist for new student center; can you match the architect with the design?
- No big surprises on Lubetkin Prize shortlist (but you get to match pix with firms here, too).
- Quite a few surprises on 9th Prime Minister's Better Public Building Award shortlist (no need to guess which firm goes with which pix here).
- Call for entries: AIAS/Kawneer 2009 Student Design Competition: design a green municipal courthouse.

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Engaging Students in Smart-Building Design: Illinois Institute of Technology New Student Residence Halls: Performance-calibrated building design and student-centric spaces will give students control over their environment and generate performance data to be shared with university and architectural communities beyond the IIT campus. -- Dirk Denison Architects [images]- ArchNewsNow

Major revisions proposed for Los Angeles' preservation ordinance: The changes would give the city's Cultural Heritage Commission the power to block demolition of designated landmarks...a power it now lacks. By Martha Groves - Los Angeles Times

Historic Battle for NYC: Landmark Fight at 2,300 Buildings. "Freeze" Foes vs. Preservationists: Official proposals could make a dozen new districts virtual no-grow zones, and developers are fuming that the city will turn into a "mausoleum." - New York Post

Op-Ed: City's architectural future at crossroads: "What is the correct type of architecture for downtown St. Augustine?" ...Are we to become a "Spanish Williamsburg"...This ordinance as proposed, has the potential of allowing our city to develop into a cheap, Spanish Colonial amusement park. By Don Crichlow - The St. Augustine Record (Florida)

A Paris Plan, Less Grand Than Gritty: France's president has scaled back his ambition to redesign Paris, but still plans to improve the city's transportation and housing stock...The architects have provided the ribbons and the balloons, but few if any of the plans are likely to be carried out. -- Roland Castro/Atelier Castro Denissot Casi; Jean Nouvel; Antoine Grumbach; Rogers Stirk Harbour; Christian de Portzamparc - New York Times

Things for mayors to think about: Channeled through the ego of the modern architect, the fascination with absurdities of form and size causes ever greater complexity and expense in design, engineering and construction...We have reached a point where architecture has grown too clever by half. So have the systems of development, bureaucracy, planning and finance that support modernism. By David Brussat - Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

Postcards from the edge of Emeryville: ...nothing prepares you for the green extravaganza that starts at the north end of Doyle Street. It's three blocks of lavish delight...a burst of pure cutting-edge fun...This landscape is changing fast, with scars on full display. But as long as there's room for the unexpected, Emeryville will do just fine. By John King -- GLS Landscape Architecture; Roma Design Group; David Baker + Partners [images]- San Francisco Chronicle

Needed: Leadership From Architects and Designers: ...what we may need most from them has little to do with the act of design itself...We urgently need people to re-imagine their cities in very directly political ways, and no one else is as prepared for that job as the talented few who've been trained to understand form and space and place. -- Mazria/Architecture 2030; Bertolet/GGLO; Browning/Terrapin Bright Green - WorldChanging

Activist Architects Design Solutions to Humanitarian Problems: A movement of socially conscious architects is emerging around the globe with novel ideas for solving the slum problem. -- Cameron Sinclair/Architecture for Humanity; Open Architecture Network [images, links]- Voice of America (VOA)

DIGMA launches to promote Bay State design industry: John Adams Innovation Institute has given \$150,000 to create a design industry organization called the Design Industry Group of Massachusetts...intended to represent fields including architecture, advertising, graphic design, industrial design, interior design, landscape architecture and other design specializations. -- William Mitchell/MIT Media Lab Smart Cities/Smart Cars; William Rawn; Martha Schwartz; etc. - Mass High Tech: The Journal of New England Technology

Virago in Chicago: Frank Gehry-Renzo Piano Smackdown: The spirit and visual impact of the Art Institute's elite cultural retreat and Millennium Park's populist public space are as different as the architecture of Piano and Gehry... By Lee Rosenbaum - ArtsJournal

A letter to Hergé: Secluded in a landscape fit for adventure...a tribute to the creator of Tintin 13 years in the making...Christian de Portzamparc explains his personal connection to its realisation [images]- World Architecture News (UK)

Wilkinson Eyre's dramatic plans for Science Museum revealed: £100 million Museum of the Future project, features the Beacon, a glass and light structure which will bulge out of the museum's facade. [images, fly-through]- BD/Building Design (UK)

MTS casts shadow on West Harlem Piers Park: Shumi Bose recaps the opening of park, and suggests we not forget the

adjacent 135th Marine Transfer Station, ripe for repurposing and currently lying dormant and unused. -- [W Architecture & Landscape Architecture](#); [Archipelago Architecture and Landscape Architecture](#) [images, links]- [Urban Omnibus](#)

Wildlife tower blocks: Why shouldn't animals get a taste of the high life? Encouraging animals to live in skyscrapers might sound batty, but architects have long loved designing buildings for non-human clients...Garnett Netherwood has just won an international competition to design a number of 12-metre high residential towers...made from bits and pieces of demolished buildings... By Jonathan Glancey [slide show]- [Guardian \(UK\)](#)

Four Seasons, Power Lunch Palace, Gets 50th Birthday Remodeling: ...pumping cash into this lavish monument to New York's "Mad Men" era is an act of faith...The entire interior has been a New York City historic landmark since 1989, permitting little obvious change. By James S. Russell -- Philip Johnson (1959); Belmont Freeman Architects [images]- [Bloomberg News](#)

Apple's Jobs Ordered Back to Court Over Mansion-Demolition Plan: ...faces a further delay in his eight-year campaign to tear down his historic mansion in Woodside, California, after a state judge ordered him and preservationists back to court. -- George Washington Smith (1926)- [Bloomberg News](#)

Spot the architect: ...first images of the six shortlisted schemes in the competition for the London School of Economics' (LSE) new £21.5 million students' centre...Can you pick which scheme has been designed by which architect? -- David Chipperfield; Feilden Clegg Bradley; O'Donnell + Tuomey; 3XN; Allford Hall Monaghan Morris (AHMM); de Rijke Marsh Morgan (dRMM) [images]- [The Architects' Journal \(UK\)](#)

World's best building - Lubetkin Prize shortlist revealed -- Foster + Partners; Herzog & de Meuron; O'Donnell and Tuomey Architects; Richard Murphy Architects; Sauerbuch Hutton; PTW Architects [images]- [The Architects' Journal \(UK\)](#)

Shortlist for Britain's top public architecture prize announced: 24 works in contention for ninth Prime Minister's Better Public Building Award -- Building Design Partnership/BDP; Wilkinson Eyre; Ramboll; Halcrow; Scott Wilson/Benaim; 5th Studio Architect; Pringle Richards Sharratt; SCABAL (Sall, Cullinan and Buck Architects); Arup; Architects Co-Partnership; Make Architects; Clash Associates; A-EM Studio [slide show]- [Guardian \(UK\)](#)

Call for entries: AIAS/Kawneer 2009 Student Design Competition: Municipal Courthouse utilizing green building principles; cash prizes; registration deadline: October 14- [American Institute of Architecture Students \(AIAS\)](#)



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

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