

## Today's News - Friday, July 10, 2009

- Gruber goes in search of a fourth urbanism: "The same goals do not make Cityism and New Urbanism the same thing."
- The battle continues over the fate of a New Orleans Art Deco landmark and other historic properties.
- London's National Gallery director bemoans the "pedestrianization" of Trafalgar Square is "bloody awful" (oh those pesky pedestrians and their pedestrian pursuits of pleasure in a public space!).
- Hawthorne sees "perhaps a glimmer of hope for embassy architecture" in the new AIA "Design for Diplomacy" report that "challenges the one-size-fits-all mentality."
- Baillieu and others decry RIBA's choice of a Chinese company as major Stirling Prize sponsor that "undercuts its own members' work" and "smacks of gross hypocrisy."
- D.C.'s Octagon Building back in AIA hands.
- A call for San Diego to follow Paris example by commissioning local urbanists, architects, and designers to craft a master vision for the city.
- Adobe Alliance applies North African earthen building techniques to adobe buildings in the American Southwest.
- The first peek we've seen of EMBT's Spanish Pavilion for Shanghai Expo 2010.
- Lots of diversions for a summer weekend: "New Light on No Man's Land" at DAZ is a Dutch landscape architect's vision to transform the Berlin Wall's former no man's land into a giant garden.
- Heathcote on "Remembering Jan Kaplicky" at London's Design Museum: "You would not want to live in a world built by Kaplicky - but what a wonderful dream"; and the Hayward Gallery unveils "Skystation," a Corbusier-inspired chaise-long for Futurecity seating project.
- Damon Rich transforms the Panorama of the City of New York into a "bird's-eye view of foreclosure misery."
- In Chicago, more Burnham, Bennett, and others on view at DePaul University Art Museum.
- Page turners: Smith's "The Plan of Chicago: Daniel Burnham and the Remaking of the American City" is "a revealing and at times fascinating account" of how the plan "reverberates today in cities across the world."
- Flint's "Wrestling with Moses: How Jane Jacobs Took On New York's Master Builder and Transformed the American City" does not "shrink from the mixed legacy of Jacobs's efforts" and the "unintended consequence of inspiring rampant community NIMBY-ism."
- Risen finds Sorkin's vision in "Twenty Minutes in Manhattan" is "refreshingly social-democratic"; the problem: while he "knows what he doesn't like, it's not clear what he would replace it with."
- Rawsthorn cheers Pullins' "Design Meets Disability" as a "manifesto" challenging designers to use their skills to develop inspiring products for people with disabilities.
- Cannell on why design documentaries are on a roll: despite being mostly "wrinkly old white men talking about fenestration and foundation walls...designers are, almost without exception, charismatic figures who know how to court the camera" (take that, Johnny Depp!).

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[In Search of a Fourth Urbanism Part 3; Wherein I Name One: The name I've been thinking of...is Cityism...The same goals, however, do not make Cityism and New Urbanism the same thing.](#) By Frank Gruber- Huffington Post

[Charity Case: Court challenge filed against New Orleans Charity Hospital plans: ...lawsuit claims the VA and LSU failed to prepare an environmental impact statement \(EIS\) regarding the historic properties that would be razed to make way for the \[\\$2.2 billion\] project. -- National Trust for Historic Preservation; NBBJ; Blitch Knevel Architects; Studio NOVA; Eskew+ Dumez+Ripple; Rozas Ward Architects; RMJM \[images\]- The Architect's Newspaper](#)

['Bloody awful' Trafalgar Square shatters calm of the National Gallery: "The chief result of pedestrianisation has been the trashing of a civic space...instead of an air of civilised reflection and pedestrianisation that it has become an opportunity to turn the whole square into a stadium."](#) - The Times (UK)

[A new direction for embassy architecture? The most recent generation of U.S. embassies hasn't exactly provided a sterling symbol of American values...Perhaps a glimmer of hope for embassy architecture, however, can be seen in a detailed new report...by the American Institute of Architects.](#) By Christopher Hawthorne [[link to report](#)]- Los Angeles Times

[RIBA's choice of Stirling Prize sponsor 'undermines UK firms': Crystal clear hypocrisy...there is a moral dimension to this which the RIBA has chosen to ignore.-](#) BD/Building Design (UK)

[AAF Gives Landmark Octagon Building Back to AIA: American Institute of Architects is regaining stewardship of a national architectural treasure... -- American Architectural Foundation; William Thornton \(1799\) \[images\]- Architectural Record](#)

[Museum's 'MIX: Nine San Diego Architects and Designers' raises questions: The future of urban design: Paris vs. San Diego? The region might well follow the example of Paris. Why not commission local urbanists, architects, and designers to craft a master vision? How can architects counteract an urban culture where city dwellers melt into exurban spaces whose very designs negate any sense of being part of a larger whole? By Larry Herzog- San Diego News Network](#)

[Natural Building with Earth: Simone Swan and her students at the Adobe Alliance are applying North African earthen building techniques to adobe buildings in the southwestern United States.](#) By Catherine Wanek -- Hassan Fathy [[slide show](#)]- Mother Earth News

[Shanghai Expo 2010: The Spanish Pavilion: ...will be one of the biggest pavilions...spanning 7,000 square meters...under the theme called "Habitable Constructions." -- EMBT Miralles-Tagliabue \[image\]- China Briefing](#)

[Landscaping the Death Strip: A Vision of the Berlin Wall as a Giant Garden: ...Dutch landscape architect wants to transform the former no man's land into a series of secret gardens and recreational areas...Joyce van den Berg is the curator of "New Light on No Man's Land," opening at the German Center for Architecture \(DAZ\) in Berlin...July 10 through August \[\[slide show\]\(#\)\]- Der Spiegel \(Germany\)](#)

[Legacy of a futuristic vision: "Remembering Jan Kaplicky: Architect of the Future" at Design Museum, London..."the fact that he built anything at all was amazing". And amazing it was...You would not want to live in a world built by Kaplicky – but what a](#)

wonderful dream. By Edwin Heathcote -- Dejan Sudjic; Future Systems- Financial Times (UK)

Mapping a Bird's-Eye View of Foreclosure Misery: ...Damon Rich...used the 9,335-square-foot Panorama of the City of New York, the intricate architectural model built for the 1964 World's Fair, and hundreds of neon-pink triangles to demonstrate...in a single glance precisely where subprime lenders wreaked the most havoc..."Red Lines Housing Crisis Learning Center" at the Queens Museum of Art... -- Center for Urban Pedagogy (CUP) [images]- New York Times

Skystation unveiled at the Hayward Gallery: Peter Newman has revealed...a Corbusier-inspired chaise-long which forms the first installment of the Futuricity seating project until 14 September. [images]- The Architects' Journal (UK)

"Building the Business of Architecture: the Burnham Brothers and Chicago in the Golden Twenties" Opens July 9 at DePaul University Art Museum in Chicago...exploring the works of Plan of Chicago architects Daniel Burnham and Edward Bennett and others...- ArtDaily.org

"The Plan of Chicago: Daniel Burnham and the Remaking of the American City" by Carl Smith chosen for One Book, One Chicago...a revealing and at times fascinating account of how Burnham's plan for Chicago reverberates today in cities across the world...gives fresh perspective on where we've been and where we're going. -- Edward Bennett [links]- Chicago Examiner

Book Review: "Wrestling with Moses: How Jane Jacobs Took On New York's Master Builder and Transformed the American City" by Anthony Flint...does not shrink from the mixed legacy of Jacobs's efforts, nor does he fall into the trap of questioning the motives of Moses or his cohorts...history might imply that, at its worst, Jacobs's success has had the unintended consequence of inspiring rampant community NIMBY-ism...- Metropolis Magazine

Book review: Vexed Village: An Architect's Daily Commute Inspires Sweeping Critique of City: "Twenty Minutes in Manhattan" by Michael Sorkin...[his] vision is refreshingly social-democratic; I imagine his heaven looks something like Amsterdam...The real problem...is that while Sorkin knows what he doesn't like, it's not clear what he would replace it with. By Clay Risen- New York Observer

Book review: Crafting for the Body and Soul: "Design Meets Disability" by Graham Pullin...acts as a manifesto by condemning many of the existing products designed for people with disabilities, and challenging designers to use their skills to develop inspiring alternatives. By Alice Rawsthorn- New York Times

Watch Your Back Depp: Design Films Are On a Roll: For the most part it's just wrinkly old white men talking about fenestration and foundation walls. Design documentaries may not be sexy, but they're enjoying a surprising surge on the indie film circuit...designers are, almost without exception, charismatic figures who know how to court the camera. By Michael Cannell- Fast Company

Market Research Strategies in Uncertain Times #2: Finding Leads that one can act on right away is a difficult task, especially during tough economic times, but these strategies can help. By Frances Gretes- ArchNewsNow



-- Alberto Campo Baeza: MA: Andalusia's Museum of Memory, Granada, Spain  
-- LAM architects: Giraffe House, Rotterdam Zoo, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

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