

## Today's News - Monday, July 13, 2009

- ArcSpace offers eyefuls of Tschumi's Acropolis Museum, and OMA/Urbanus plans for Shenzhen Creative Center in China.
- Seattle gets serious about what new urbanism should be.
- Bogotá's TransMilenio BRT (bus rapid transit) is the model for developing countries around the world (less traffic, pollution - and a lot less costly than subways).
- Glancey on the need for safety audits in council estates, and how sad it is that "when they are demolished, replacement homes are often as mean-spirited as money will buy."
- High hopes for NYC's HARP program to convert vacant and stalled high-end projects for middle-income families.
- Bayley gives two thumbs-ups to Alsop's "delicious canalside apartment block" in Manchester: "I'd like to see more Chips everywhere."
- Ouroussoff spends some quality time with Ito, and finds him to be "one of our great urban poets" who has "created a body of work almost unmatched in its diverse originality."
- Rosenbaum offers a "(non)update on Barnes Foundation's new Philadelphia digs.
- The Maya Lin-designed Museum of Chinese in America in NYC chooses to open its new home "quietly and gradually."
- UNESCO vows to make Babylon a World Heritage site: its use "as a military base was a grave encroachment on this internationally known archaeological site."
- Prince Charles charges censorship and resigns from the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings.
- "Concrete Thinking for a Sustainable World" 4th International Student Design Competition winners announced.
- Call for entries: Brick-stainable: Re-Thinking Brick.
- Two we couldn't resist: China plans to build its own Neverland as Michael Jackson tribute
- not everyone is convinced it's a good idea.
- In "Tetragram for Enlargement, " a castle gets "wild and wobbly" (a must-see video!).

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-- Bernard Tschumi Architects: [New Acropolis Museum, Athens, Greece](#)  
-- Competition winner: [Office for Metropolitan Architecture \(OMA\)/Urbanus: Shenzhen Creative Center, Crystal Island, Shenzhen, China](#)

Seattle's 'new urbanism': making smart, sustainable, stylish dwellings: As questions of density, affordability and livability continue to drive discussions about how to design our urban worlds...whether and how to regulate, encourage and ultimately create the kind of built environment we want...not just exemplary but affordable. -- b9 Architects; David Neiman; John DeForest; Rod Novion; Mithun; Ray Johnston [slide show]- Seattle Times

The Buses of Bogotá: Over the last decade, cities in developing countries around the world have been adopting bus systems like Bogotá's TransMilenio BRT (bus rapid transit), which eases traffic and pollution...at a fraction of the cost of building a subway. -- Enrique Penalosa [slide show, video]- New York Times

Our lethal estates: The Lakanal House deaths cast shame on Britain. We urgently need to audit all similar blocks...For all the talk about urban regeneration over the last decade, council estates are still very low in the residential pecking order...Sadder still is the fact that when they are demolished, replacement homes are often as mean-spirited as money will buy. By Jonathan Glancey- Guardian (UK)

HARPing on Affordable Housing: New York City unveils program to convert vacant and stalled high-end projects for middle-income families...Housing Asset Renewal Program is as much about protecting surrounding neighborhoods as it is about completing stalled projects.- The Architect's Newspaper

Chips ... the hottest place in town: Will Alsop's delicious canalside apartment block could be the start of something big in Manchester's former wastelands...a building to brand desolation with social ambition to rival London's N1...Bloxham did not want a "prissy" masterplan, hence the choice of Alsop, the least prissy architect you could hope to find...I'd like to see more Chips everywhere. By Stephen Bayley [image]- Observer (UK)

Inside His Exteriors: Toyo Ito designs buildings that suggest the world beyond, and the one he envisions...His career can be read as a lifelong quest to find the precise balance between seemingly opposing values...has made him one of our great urban poets, someone who has been able to crystallize, through architecture, the tensions that lie buried in the heart of contemporary society. By Nicolai Ouroussoff- New York Times

Barnes Design (Non)Update: "On Schedule" (Two Years Late); "On Budget" (Doubtful): ...design plans...for the the Barnes Foundation's new Philadelphia facility...were to have been announced in late 2008...and were subsequently expected to be released last spring, will now be delayed until the fall... By Lee Rosenbaum -- Tod Williams Billie Tsien- ArtsJournal

New Home for Chinese Experience in America: The newly expanded, newly relocated Museum of Chinese in America has chosen to open the doors of its new home on the edge of Chinatown quietly and gradually... -- Maya Lin [slide show]- New York Times

UNESCO vows to make Babylon a World Heritage site after US damage: "The use of Babylon as a military base was a grave encroachment"...hopes are pinned on a two-year, \$700,000 project financed by the US State Department to develop a program aimed at balancing tourism and archaeology...The Future of Babylon Project -- World

[Monuments Fund \(AP\)](#) - The Daily Star (Lebanon)

[Don't mention the restoration! Prince Charles quits Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings in censorship row...after it rejected a foreword he had written for a handbook on the restoration of old houses.](#) - Independent (UK)

[2009 "Concrete Thinking for a Sustainable World": 4th International Student Design Competition Winners Announced: challenged students to investigate innovative, sustainable applications of portland cement-based materials.](#) - Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA) / Portland Cement Association (PCA)

[Call for entries: Brick-stainable: Re-Thinking Brick; cash prizes; registration deadline: September 15](#) - Potomac Valley Brick

[China to build own Neverland as Michael Jackson tribute: Investors...hope it will open on Chongming island ahead of next year's Expo in Shanghai...But not everyone is convinced it's a good idea.](#) - Reuters

[Tim Burton, Eat Your Heart Out--and Watch This Castle Transform Before Your Eyes: Lightshows don't get much better than "Tetragram for Enlargement," an architectural installation by Apparati Effimeri...things get wild and wobbly...like its melting, blowing away in the wind, like a painted canvas, or another castle entirely. \[video\]](#) - 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

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