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."
- Prince Charles charges censorship and resigns from the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings.
- 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."
- The Maya Lin-designed Museum of Chinese in America in NYC chooses to open its new home "quietly and gradually..." -- Maya Lin [slide show]
- 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)
- Call for entries: Brick-stainable: Re-Thinking Brick. -- Competition winner: Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA)/Urbanus: Shenzhen Creative Center, Crystal Island, Shenzhen, China
-芯片...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...Bloxbam 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)
- 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
- B9 Architects: New Acropolis Museum, Athens, Greece
- Bernard Tschumi Architects: New Acropolis Museum, Athens, Greece
- Competition winner: Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA)/Urbanus: Shenzhen Creative Center, Crystal Island, Shenzhen, China
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