

Today's News - Friday, July 17, 2009

- A sad day indeed: we lose Julius Shulman, a true master of photography; Hawthorne and Lubell offer up their appreciations (and wonderful slide shows).
- If NYC's "Greener, Greater Buildings" plan is successful, "it will be the equivalent of making the City of Oakland carbon-neutral."
- An in-depth look at how cities are "peeling back the pavement" to "daylight" buried urban waterways.
- Weinstein finds that "innovations in glass technology come with a price - literal as well as artistic" as architects and engineers try to balance aesthetics with performance.
- Winning the Burnham memorial competition could lead Woodhouse to more lucrative commercial assignments (and his secret life: he's an opera buff).
- Kamin on the renaming of Sears Tower (now dubbed the Willie - ugh): "Would New York let this happen to the Empire State and Chrysler Buildings?" (very doubtful...we diehards still call MetLife the PanAm Building).
- Weekend diversions: NYC's Governors Island has turned into an "art island" for the summer (and the ferry ride is free).
- Hatherley on "The New Monumentality" in Leeds: is it time to revive 1960s British Modernism?
- "Agents of Change: Civic Idealism and the Making of San Francisco" at SPUR looks at the legacy of top-down planning (it's not the buildings that should be blamed for misguided urban renewal projects).
- "Radical Nature: Art and architecture for a changing planet" at the Barbican: you'd "have more pleasure and more to learn with less effort from going for a walk in Hyde Park."
- "Arthur Q. Davis: Legacy of a Modern Architect" at the Ogden Museum offers "a glimpse into the accomplishments of one of the most important architectural style-setters in New Orleans history."
- Rawsthorn on the V&A's "Telling Tales": it "ignores the modernist goal of making decent products for as many people as possible at the lowest price in favor of unique objects that tell a story."
- Something to really sink your teeth into: "Baking Architecture" exhibition at Melbourne's State of Design Festival.
- Page turners: "Resilient Cities" outlines "some less-than-ideal future scenarios if nothing is done" about the energy and climate crises - and offers some options to help create more resilient urban areas.
- "You Are Here" is a "delightfully lucid book shifting focus from feats of navigation to the design of public spaces."
- "The Plan of Chicago @ 100" is a call for "us to take responsibility for making the city a beautiful place to live."
- Just because: Floto+Warner's beautiful portfolio of the High Line.

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Obituary: Julius Shulman's photos promoted the allure of Southern California living: In conveying the sunny Los Angeles lifestyle, the photographer turned boosterism into an art form. By Christopher Hawthorne [slide show, links]- Los Angeles Times

Tribute: Julius Shulman, 1910-2009: World's preeminent architectural photographer was consummate image maker, taste maker..."He lived a charmed life"...will forever be a fixture of architecture, and of American culture. By Sam Lubell [images, links]- The Architect's Newspaper

NYC's "Greener, Greater Buildings" Plan for Reducing Building CO2 Emissions: ...from the city's almost one million buildings, while also cutting back energy use...part of the broader PlaNYC 2030..."If we succeed, it will be the equivalent of making the City of Oakland carbon-neutral"... [links]- The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Peeling Back Pavement to Expose Watery Havens: Cities from San Antonio to Singapore are resuscitating waterways that once lay buried under rivers of concrete...The restoration of the Cheonggyecheon is part of an expanding environmental effort...to "daylight" rivers and streams... [images, video, links]- New York Times

The new science of glass: Glass architects and engineers are balancing aesthetics with performance...innovations in glass technology come with a price - literal as well as artistic. By Norman Weinstein -- Frank Lloyd Wright; Michael Bell; Robert Heintges; Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Arup; Werner Sobek; SANAA [images]- Christian Science Monitor

Opera buff composes winning Burnham memorial: David Woodhouse, an architect known for public-space projects who has appeared as an extra more than 500 times at the Lyric Opera, designed a memorial to Daniel Burnham that could lead to more lucrative commercial assignments.- Crain's Chicago Business

Sears Tower's name change: Would New York let this happen to the Empire State and Chrysler Buildings? Putting your name on the city's--and the nation's--tallest building is a privilege that should be earned, not simply coaxed out of owners in a real estate deal. Willis...is taking a mere three floors in the 110-story skyscraper. By Blair Kamin- Chicago Tribune

Art Island: The physical distance that separates Governors Island from most New Yorkers often offsets the draw and mystery of the place..."PLOT09: This World & Nearer"...features artwork by 19 international artists...Go any weekend this summer, the ferry is free. [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Building the future: "The New Monumentality" at the Henry Moore Institute, Leeds: In the 1960s, British architecture was at the forefront of modernism. Is it time for a revival? As if to confirm that these are places that can represent an ambiguous future or a reviled past, but never a present, such buildings become almost unrecognisable when they are "restored"... By Owen Hatherley -- Chamberlin, Powell & Bon- New Statesman (UK)

The Rational City: The complex legacy of top-down planning: "Agents of Change: Civic Idealism and the Making of San Francisco" at San Francisco Planning and Urban Research (SPUR)... "There is an inherent dislike of modern buildings because of what they are perceived to have done to the city by way of Urban Renewal, but the buildings were not at fault." - San Francisco Examiner

Barbican's nature ramble: "Radical Nature: Art and architecture for a changing planet"

is too diffuse and backward-looking to give a coherent view of 'eco' art...The public would have more pleasure and more to learn with less effort from going for a walk in Hyde Park. - BD/Building Design (UK)

"Arthur Q. Davis: Legacy of a Modern Architect" at the Ogden Museum of Southern Art...a glimpse into the accomplishments of one of the most important architectural style-setters in New Orleans history...perfect primer for "It Happened by Design: The Life and Work of Arthur Q. Davis," the 89-year-old architect's illustrated memoir. [images]- The Times-Picayune (New Orleans)

Honoring the Heady Days of 'Design-Art': "Telling Tales: Fantasy and Fear in Contemporary Design" at the Victoria & Albert Museum...ignores the modernist goal of making decent products for as many people as possible at the lowest price in favor of unique objects that tell a story. By Alice Rawsthorn [slide show]- New York Times

Architectural digest: 2009 State of Design Festival kicks off...and food is very much on the menu...Australian Institute of Architects' Baking Architecture exhibition...using non-perishable food to construct models of projects that, in most cases, are slated for construction in the next year or two. -- Maddison Architects; Elenberg Fraser; John Wardle Architects; Harrison & White Architects (HAW); BKK Architects; FMD Architects; Kovac Architecture; O'Connor + Houle- The Age (Australia)

Book review: "Resilient Cities: Responding to Peak Oil and Climate Change" by Newman, Beatley, and Boyer...argues that expanded use of cars, ever-growing urban sprawl, and poorly managed urban development could lead to a twin energy and climate crisis for cities...outline some less-than-ideal future scenarios if nothing is done...also presents a range of options to help...create more resilient urban areas.- The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Book review: Where Am I? "You Are Here: Why We Can Find Our Way to the Moon But Get Lost in the Mall" by Collin Ellard...delightfully lucid book...shifting focus from feats of navigation to the design of public spaces...larger lesson is that the form of an urban space is often more important than its supposed function.- New York Times

Book review: Daniel Burnham's vision still offers lessons: "The Plan of Chicago @ 100"...challenges us to take responsibility for making the city a beautiful place to live... "It not only gave us a plan, but it taught us how to be planners." For the rest of us, the Burnham plan taught us to care, and to act. -- Edward Bennett [slide show]- Chicago Sun-Times

Gallery: The High Line by Floto+Warner [slide show]- Icon (UK)

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



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

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