

Today's News - Wednesday, July 29, 2009

- Risen on the reason the design of the National Museum of African American History and Culture succeeds: it speaks "to both a particular history and a universal set of experiences."
- Russell is not so kind to NYC's Bank of America eco-tower, despite its good intentions.
- Piano's new Cooper Union building is "a remarkable combination of excess and restraint."
- London 2012 infrastructure buildings could be "the best architecture to come out of the event" and a good argument "for design-architects to play a part in other infrastructure projects."
- Rochon gets "high on the green stuff," savoring the High Line and cheering proposal to transform Toronto's elevated expressway into a Green Ribbon: it "deserves a standing ovation for its guts" (but caveats are in order).
- St. Petersburg's Mariinsky Theatre makeover will carry a Canadian accent (and no tears shed over scuttling of Perrault's "golden potato").
- A battle brews in Melbourne over plans for a glass tower over historic hotel.
- An impressive long list for Manchester's Whitworth Art Gallery makeover.
- Piano's green home for cultural center in Athens' seaside district.
- Louisville architects are changing the rural rules when it comes to building barns (they're very cool and LEED Gold to boot).
- Development remains bullish in Abu Dhabi despite tough economic times.
- A new fast track registration program to make it easier for architects from New Zealand and Japan to become registered in each other's countries.
- Help design a car for the future.
- Spark Awards to spark up the design industry in China.
- BD+C's 2009 Giants 300 survey includes Top 150 Green Design Firms, Top 170 BIM Adopters, and much more.
- An eye full of the 32nd SMPS Annual National Marketing Communications Awards.

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Plinth and Crown: A museum design that speaks to both black America and the global African diaspora should be welcomed...National Museum of African American History and Culture...The design succeeds because, through that balance of symbolic elements, it speaks to both a particular history and a universal set of experiences. By Clay Risen -- Freelon Adjaye Bond/SmithGroup - Architect Magazine

Bank of America's Earnest Eco-Tower Rises From New York Slump: Combining soaring form, welcome urbanity and green innovation is certainly challenging, but good intentions are ill-served by such feeble expression. By James S. Russell -- Cook + Fox - Bloomberg News

Crit: 41 Cooper Square: Mophosis's new building for the Cooper Union packs a punch...a remarkable combination of excess and restraint. By Thomas de Monchaux - Gruzen Samton [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Aesthetics and Infrastructure at London 2012: ...already it looks like the buildings housing the infrastructure will be the best architecture to come out of the event...being widely used as evidence in an argument for design-architects to play a part in other infrastructure projects. -- Nord; John Lyall; John McAslan; Architecture and Design Solutions [images]- Blueprint Magazine

Here's to getting high on the green stuff: It could be that now's the time to admit there's a far more compelling way to handle the Gardiner than merely tearing it down...while Green Ribbon deserves a standing ovation for its guts, there are some serious issues to be considered. By Lisa Rochon -- Les Klein/Quadrangle Architects; James Corner Field Operations; Diller, Scofidio + Renfro [image]- Globe and Mail (Canada)

From Toronto with love, a new theatre for St. Petersburg: Diamond + Schmitt has signed on to build Russia's first major opera house since the time of the czars, in the coveted \$452-million revamp project for the Mariinsky Theatre. -- KB ViPS Architects [images]- Globe and Mail (Canada)

Row over plan for Hotel Windsor tower: The National Trust of Victoria says a proposed 25-storey tower to be built behind Melbourne's iconic hotel could threaten the heritage character of the area...[architect] has proposed an innovative wavy all-glass "shower curtain" to diminish the visual impact of the tower..."floating discreetly" behind the original hotel. -- Denton Corker Marshall [slide show]- The Age (Australia)

Hadid and Levete on impressive Whitworth Art Gallery longlist: ...some of the country's brightest lights on the longlist to extend and remodel the gallery in Manchester. -- Dixon Jones; Edward Cullinan; Eric Parry; Feilden Clegg Bradley; Haworth Tompkins; MUMA; Stanton Williams; Stephenson Bell/Carmody Groake- The Architects' Journal (UK)

Renzo Piano Designs Green Home for Greek National Library and Opera: ...Stavros Niarchos Foundational Cultural Center...located in a seaside district in south Athens...will be largely embedded in a hillside and surrounded by parkland... [images]- Architectural Record

Barn again: Farm buildings get a design makeover...some Louisville architects are changing the rural rules...These are not your grandparents' barns. -- De Leon & Primmer Architecture Workshop; Environs Inc. [images]- Courier-Journal (Louisville, KY)

Abu Dhabi projects continue despite downturn: The UAE's construction sector has witnessed a traumatic nine months. Dubai's market all but stopped overnight...In the capital Abu Dhabi, however, progress has been hampered but not stopped. The emirate is maintaining a bullish pace with many developments continuing to progress. - AME Info (United Arab Emirates)

Fast track registration for architects: Senior architects from New Zealand and Japan can now become registered architects in each other's countries under a new fast

[track registration arrangement.](#) - TVNZ (New Zealand)

[Help design a car for the future: C,mm,n](#) (pronounced common) is an open community design project that is not only counting on its members to help design a car but is also tasking them with producing a whole new mobility solution to cope with the challenging demands of the future. - Gizmag (Australia)

[Spark Sets Eyes On China: Spark Design & Architecture Awards](#) is extending its role in the booming Chinese design industry through SparkChina. These new awards will help Chinese creative teams raise their profile globally. - PR Web

[2009 Giants 300: survey the country's largest AEC firms in the nonresidential building industry; includes: Top 150 Green Design Firms; Top 170 BIM Adoptors; etc.](#) - Building Design & Construction (BD+C)

[2009 recipients of the 32nd SMPS Annual National Marketing Communications Awards -- HNTB; Arup; Perkins+Will; Walter P Moore; la terra studio; Cannon Design; BBG-BBGM; Golder Associates; HGA; Avila Design; etc.](#) [link to images] - Society for Marketing Professional Services (SMPS)

[Book Review: "Everything Must Move: 15 Years at Rice School of Architecture 1994-2009": There's a Texas flood of architectural ideas that gives ample evidence of an architecture school that unsettles pat assumptions. Who could ask for anything more? By Norman Weinstein](#) - ArchNewsNow



[Christian de Portzamparc: Musee Hergé, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium](#)

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