Today’s News - Wednesday, August 5, 2009

- It is with a heavy heart we report the passing of Charles Gwathmey.
- CABE criticizes outline plan for U.S. embassy in London for several reasons, including "it effectively turns its back on the existing street."
- Not all are pleased with Honolulu’s plans for an elevated train line or the "aircraft carriers in the sky" station designs.
- LOT-EK lands Pier 57 with design of a "container-centric community" for NYC’s West Chelsea pier.
- Kamin says delayed Hadid pavilion was "worth the wait": it’s a "virtuoso display of structure, space and light" (with only a few flaws).
- A first in mosque architecture: a woman architect; but is it a giant leap for womankind? Not exactly (better odds if you’re a husband/wife team, it seems).
- First look at Nelson Mandela Children’s Hospital in Johannesburg, South Africa.
- A look at "Balancity," the German Pavilion planned for Shanghai Expo 2010.
- SWA Group wins master plan assignment for Mexico’s University of Monterrey (an Ando building included).
- Callison talks about working in China: are they upset theirs is no longer the tallest? "For some firms that's a big motivator. But we won't go into any of the Freudian reasons for that…"
- Houston Zoo has big plans for its African Forest "immersive landscape."
- Three we couldn’t resist: Waite’s amusing conversation with a “Dunlop doppelganger.”
- Despommier speaks about why farms of the future will be skyscrapers.
- Heatherwick’s “B for the Bang” meets a sad end, but there is an upside: "It’s certainly been a topic of conversation for a lot of people, so in that sense it’s been a successful piece of art."
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Houston Zoo starting work on $50 million African Forest: ...will be a second- or third-generation manifestation of the "immersive landscape" concept in exhibit design. -- PJA Architects; - Houston Chronicle

Podcast: can Vertical Farming solve the impending global food crisis? Dickson Despommier speaks about the social, economic and environmental issues we’ll have to face...in the next 40-50 years...the solution seems clear...The farms of the future, it seems, will be skyscrapers. - Gizmag (Australia)

"B of the Bang" sculpture meets a sad end: The last of the 180 hollow spikes on the sculpture next to Manchester City's Eastlands stadium have been cut off for recycling...the core and legs of Britain's tallest artwork will be kept in storage..."It's certainly been a topic of conversation for a lot of people, so in that sense it's been a successful piece of art." - Thomas Heatherwick [images]; - Guardian (UK)

A chat with a Dunlop doppelganger: "Excuse me, haven't I seen you before?"..."I thought you were Gordon Murray + Alan Dunlop Architects' multi award-winning Hazelwood school..."No, I'm Austin Smith; Lord's recently complete Merrylee Primary School..." By Richard Waite [images]; - The Architects' Journal (UK)

Carbuncle Cup 2009 longlist unveiled: Carbuncle is clearly in the eye of the beholder! -- Allan Murray Architects; Make; Hamilton Architects; Dyer Associates; Austin Smith; Lord; Coogan and Co; Pelli Clarke Pelli; Halliday Fraser Munro; etc. [images]; - Building Design (UK)

Call for entries: Live Forever: The Michael Jackson Monument Design Competition; deadline: August 22; - Archinect / Bustler

WORDS THAT BUILD Tip #17: Shape dialogues with clients to catalyze designs promoting clear meanings of human relationships in proposed spaces. By Norman Weinstein; - ArchNewsNow

HEAT Rises Down Under Despite the Economy: Queensland's New Wave of Environmental Architects. By Debra Pickrel [images]; - ArchNewsNow

-- Construction start: OMA/Office for Metropolitan Architecture: MahaNakhon, Bangkok, Thailand
-- Kengo Kuma & Associates: Hoshakuji Station, Takanezawa, Japan