

Today's News - Wednesday, August 5, 2009

- It is with a heavy heart we report the passing of Charles Gwathmey.
- CBE 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."
- 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."
- Three we couldn't resist: Waite's amusing conversation with a "Dunlop doppelganger."
- BD's Carbuncle Cup 2009 longlist (the architects must be none too happy).
- Call for entries: Live Forever: The Michael Jackson Monument Design Competition (for those with some time on their hands).

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[Obituary: Charles Gwathmey, Modernist Architect, 71: ...part of a generation of architects who put their own aesthetic stamp on the "high Modernist" style developed in the early 20th century by Le Corbusier...turned his passion for geometrical complexity into a series of compelling houses and sometimes controversial public buildings. By Fred A. Bernstein -- Gwathmey Siegel & Associates \[slide show\]- New York Times](#)

[Charles Gwathmey, 1938-2009: Modernist architect recalled as distinguished residential designer and generous spirit...With Peter Eisenman, John Hejduk, Richard Meier, and Michael Graves, \[he\] was known as one of the New York Five, also called the Whites...Readers are invited to share their own memories of Gwathmey... -- Gwathmey Siegel & Associates \[images\]- The Architect's Newspaper](#)

[Cabe criticises plans for new US Embassy: ...had serious concerns over the proposed £500 million complex in Battersea, including the footprint of the site, its relationship to nearby Nine Elms Lane and "the nature and deliverability of the public realm elements." -- Zimmer Gunsul Frasca \(ZGF\); KieranTimberlake; Mayne/Morphosis; Pei Cobb Freed; Richard Meier \[images\]- BD/Building Design \(UK\)](#)

[Train stations designed to reflect communities: Drawings are themed to blend into scenery; foes call them misleading...To critics, they're aircraft carriers in the sky. Proponents argue that the massive elevated train stations will be the most efficient way to move an estimated 95,000 people a day... -- Group 70 International; AIA Hawaii \[images\]- Honolulu Advertiser](#)

[LOT-EK Lands Pier 57: Hudson River Park Trust picks container-centric community favorite for West Chelsea pier...basic structure will be preserved, with layers of containers housing a mix of studio, retail, and community spaces. \[images\]- The Architect's Newspaper](#)

[The Z-pod has landed: Delayed but worth the wait, Zaha Hadid's Burnham pavilion is a small structure that celebrates big plans...a virtuoso display of structure, space and light. By Blair Kamin \[images\]- Chicago Tribune](#)

[Mosque modern: A Turkish designer brings a woman's touch -- and perspective -- to the interior...Zeynep Fadillioglu role as designer was a breakthrough for women...a first in mosque architecture...But is it one small step for a woman, one giant leap for womankind? Not exactly..."celebritect" Hadid and husband-and-wife firms have the edge. -- Hüsrev Tayla; Esra Akcan; Mary McLeod; Faryar Javaherian; Sébastien Ursula Xirinachs/de Rham Architectes; Rashid/Couture/Asymptote; Moussavi/FAO; Venturi, Scott Brown \[images\]- Christian Science Monitor](#)

[First Look: Nelson Mandela Hospital, Johannesburg: ...competition winning design for a new specialist children's hospital..."a highly sustainable design..." -- Sheppard Robson; John Cooper Architecture; Gapp and Ruben Reddy \[images\]- The Architects' Journal \(UK\)](#)

[Shanghai Expo 2010: The German Pavilion: "Balancity"...a city in balance between renewal and preservation, innovation and tradition, urbanity and nature, society and its individuals, work and recreation, and finally, between globalization and national identity. -- Schmidhuber + Kaindl; Milla & Partner \[images\]- China Briefing](#)

[SWA Group Wins Master Plan Assignment for Mexico's University of Monterrey Including Site-Design for Tadao Ando Building: ...will help transform the campus from a vehicular orientation to one that encourages pedestrian, bicycle and transit use. - BusinessWire](#)

[Building The Two Towers: Meet the team who brought the first shopping mall to China, with Shanghai's Grand Gateway: How do architects feel when newer, taller buildings usurp their own? "For some firms that's a big motivator. But we won't go into any of the Freudian reasons for that..." -- Callison- Urbanatomy \(China\)](#)

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]- BD/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: Hoshakujji Station, Takanezawa, Japan

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