

## Today's News - Thursday, August 6, 2009

EDITOR'S NOTE: We're taking Friday's off through August - we'll be back Monday, August 10.

- Chakrabarti charts many aspects of NYC's Grand Central Terminal, including how it has transformed urban and regional economies.
- Glancey hikes up to Mount Snowdon's "magical mountaintop cafe" and cheers "a truly heroic design and building process" resulting in "engineering sorcery and magical architecture" (great pix, too).
- A young architect launches a new nonprofit to offer architectural assistance to the Tibetan exile community living in northeast India.
- An eyeeful of the 7 finalists in "Intersections: Grand Concourse Beyond 100" Ideas Competition.
- A shipping container design wins dockland competition for a new civic and public space for Dublin.
- ASLA's latest handy resource guide, Sustainable Urban Development, includes tools for fighting sprawl, sustainable zoning, the reuse of brownfields, and much more.
- Alsop quits Archial "to spend more time painting" - though he'll still consult (or will he?).
- Whiting leaves Princeton U. to head Rice University School of Architecture.
- Call for entries: HOW International Design Awards.
- Weekend diversions: A new tour in Lyon spotlights avant-garde housing projects once considered utopian models (2 Corbu's included).
- Huxtable finds all's Wright with the world at the Guggenheim for the cognoscenti (but "the average viewer is going to have a hard time of it").
- Lifson riffs on the spiral on Fifth.
- AIANY's Center for Architecture is one of NYC's "not-boring museums" (you might even find yourself rubbing elbows "with architectural rock stars").
- A good reason to return to Woodstock: 16 architects' fanciful "memorials" to Henry Hudson.
- Three takes on MoMA's "Ron Arad: No Discipline" - all agree the title is most fitting.
- Hawthorne goes to the movies: "(500) Days of Summer" is about obsessions of an aspiring architect, where downtown L.A. looks like "an architectural guidebook come to celluloid life" (and nary an icon in sight).
- Page turners: "49 Cities" poses the question: "might non-judgmental reassessment of these projects allow us to recompose the language of urban planning outside of traditional partisan arguments?"
- "Hadid, Complete Works 1979-2009" is a "monumental monograph" that charts her "slow ascent to stardom."
- "10x10/3 - 100 architects, 10 critics" aims high and "a pleasure to flick through," but is not more "than a look-book catalogue of the current milieu."

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Why Grand Central Terminal Works: Vishaan Chakrabarti talks design details...how [it] has transformed urban and regional economies...and lessons to be learned that could be applied to Moynihan Station. [video links]- Urban Omnibus

High tea: Mount Snowdon's magical mountaintop cafe: It's a long slog to get to Hafod Eryri...but it's worth it for the stunning design - and the brews with a view...a truly heroic design and building process...engineering sorcery and magical architecture. By Jonathan Glancey -- Clough Williams-Ellis (1930s); Ray Hole Architects [slide show]- Guardian (UK)

New Nonprofit Group Offers Architectural Aid to Tibet: ...wants to offer architectural assistance to a group of people it feels is underserved—the Tibetan exile community living in northeast India...organization's first project is the Manjushree Orphanage Academic Center. -- John Ullman/Architecture for Tibet [images]- Architectural Record

Jury Selects 7 Finalists in "Intersections: Grand Concourse Beyond 100" Ideas Competition -- EDAW/AECOM; Nadau Lavergne Architects; Angus McCullough; Dongsei Kim/Jamieson Fajardo; MSI Company/tir Sonuparak; Austin+Mergold [images]- Design Trust for Public Space / Bronx Museum of the Arts

Shipping container design wins dockland competition: ...to re-develop the Point Square as a new civic and public space for Dublin...cheap and basic building blocks that can be configured creatively to suit whatever event is being housed in the docklands space, which is known as 'The Parlour' -- LiD Architecture [images]- Business & Leadership (Ireland)

Sustainable Urban Development Resource Guide: ...includes sections on: tools for fighting sprawl, sustainable zoning, the reuse of brownfields, investment in open spaces... [link to guide]- The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Alsop quits practice 'to spend more time painting': Archial says deal is good for both sides with Stirling Prize winner still a consultant...his latest manœuvre has already prompted speculation that he could eventually re-establish an independent outfit.- BD/Building Design (UK)

Rice University appoints new architecture dean: Sarah Whiting to leave Princeton post for Houston -- WW Architecture- Rice University

Call for entries: HOW International Design Awards; categories include: annual reports; brochures/catalogs/flyers; environmental graphics; illustration/photography; invitations/announcements/greeting cards; letterhead/identity; etc.; deadline: September 1- HOW magazine

Concrete Dreams: France's Housing Utopias: A new tour in Lyon spotlights four avant-garde housing projects built in the 1920s and early '30s that were once considered utopian models. -- Le Corbusier; Tony Garnier [links]- New York Times

The Hand and Eye of Genius: "Frank Lloyd Wright: From Within Outward"...a show for architects, scholars and connoisseurs...the average viewer...is going to have a hard time of it...The man behind the building and the show remains a paradox, a stubborn set of contradictions, a visionary of staggering talent anchored in the past, charming, intransigent, wrong as often as he was right. By Ada Louise Huxtable [slide show]- Wall Street Journal

The Guggenheim At 50: A Legacy Spirals On Fifth...broke rules of architecture that had existed for centuries. By Edward Lifson -- Frank Lloyd Wright- National Public Radio

(NPR)

Not-boring museums: Aiany Center for Architecture: ...smack in the heart of NYU county, but that doesn't mean it's swarmed with students—in fact, we rubbed shoulders with architectural rock stars... [slide show]- Time Out New York

"AHOY! Where Lies Henry Hudson?": ..."memorials" to Henry Hudson designed and constructed by 16 architects...in Woodstock, NY -- Interboro; Bell Larson; CentraRuddy; Gerner Kronick & Valcarcel; Nicholas Goldsmith/Gisela Stromeier; Michael McDonough; Todd Rader + Amy Crews Architecture + Landscape Architecture; Gisela Stromeier [links to images]- Woodstock Byrdcliffe Guild

Bravado That Swaggers to Its Own Beat: Ron Arad has always had a lot of nerve, and it ricochets around his rambunctious, ultimately inconclusive retrospective at the Museum of Modern Art like an ammo belt's worth of stray bullets. Sometimes the bullets hit...More often they are wide of the mark, resulting in things that seem self-indulgent and frivolous. No wonder this show...is titled "Ron Arad: No Discipline." [slide show]- New York Times

The Disciplinarian Without a Discipline: When he was asked why he wanted to be an architect, he responded, "I don't want to be an architect; my mother wants me to be an architect."..."Ron Arad: No Discipline" packages an artist with no apparent respect for the social discipline that attaches to his field.- New York Observer

Seat Of Power: "If you want to take away one word," said Paola Antonelli..."it's pluralism." Arad will not be confined by any definition; he will work in any medium, for any audience and with any artist. That ethic...is evident even in the show's title: "Ron Arad: No Discipline at the Museum of Modern Art"- The Jewish Week

L.A. as filtered by love in '(500) Days of Summer': ...a movie about obsessions...Chief among them...is architecture...there's another element of the picture's thematic use of architecture that says something intriguing about the relationship between design and certain quarters of American culture... By Christopher Hawthorne- Los Angeles Times

Book review: ...a survey of 49 ideal, utopian and significant urban plans. Some of these cities are real, some imaginary...The question "49 Cities" poses is suggestive: might non-judgemental reassessment of these projects allow us to recompose the language of urban planning outside of traditional partisan arguments? -- Work AC; Storefront for Art and Architecture- Icon (UK)

Book review: "Hadid, Complete Works 1979–2009": ...a monumental monograph...a fascinating record of architectural fame, the slow ascent to stardom followed by a glowing stardom... [slide show]- Wallpaper\*

Book review: Phaidon's new "10x10/3 - 100 architects, 10 critics" prompts a weighty debate: The newest big architecture book aims higher but still fails to overcome the limitations of its format...- BD/Building Design (UK)

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



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

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