

Today's News - Tuesday, August 25, 2009

- Moore and Glancey respond to Dittmar's call for "Enquiry by Design" (it's so 1980s).
- Bernheimer's open letter to Ourossoff: "Gotham isn't nearly as barren of the 'heroes' he seeks." (click "Yesterday's News" to read Hank & Nicolai's columns.)
- Are Israel's suburban malls destroying its urban centers? "Little Israel learns all sort of things from Los Angeles" (so it can enter the "Golden Age of Sprawl" - oh joy).
- DPZ's "radical new way of looking at the street grid" takes shape north of New Orleans.
- Becker cheers Landmarks Illinois' Athletes Village plan: it "demonstrates how the irreplaceable Bauhaus-inspired buildings can not only co-exist with the village, but improve it."
- Should bad architecture be named and shamed? Yes, says FAT's Sean Griffiths; no, says Tonkin Liu's Anna Liu.
- Sad news we were hoping not to hear: The Lighthouse in Glasgow to go into administration.
- St. Petersburg's Mariinsky Theatre drops Perrault for Diamond + Schmitt and a "very, very" different design.
- Abu Dhabi's Saadiyat Island: the "dawn of a new Middle Eastern Golden Age, or the most expensive white elephant of our millennium"?
- Ziba Design's new HQ is a "sustainable pillar of the community."
- Jacobs sits down with a lighting designer and a dark-sky activist to debate two very different views about "the best (if not the brightest) ways to light the environment."
- Climate change + Venice = bad news.
- Laser pioneers creating 3D models of world heritage treasures so they "can be re-created if they fall victim to climate change, natural disaster, war or terrorism."
- Hawthorne's amusing take on Huxtable being cited on "Mad Men" re: Penn Station demolition (ouch! check listings for repeats).

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You cannot build great cities by consensus alone: ...why do Hank Dittmar's comments inspire in me a certain queasiness?...It's this: this great, marvellous, multi-faceted city was not created by workshops and communities designing things in groups...If [he] is just saying that people's opinions matter, I couldn't agree more, but if he believes that major projects can be designed by collective consensus, I beg to differ. By Rowan Moore- Evening Standard (UK)

The Carbuncle Charles row is a gift to concrete mixers: We seem to have relapsed into the asinine stylistic debate of the 80s. It should be about what we build, for whom and why...it is profoundly sad, and downright annoying, to see architectural debate, and discussion over the future of our towns and cities, reduced to this kind of penny dreadful lark. By Jonathan Glancey- Guardian (UK)

An Open Letter to Nicolai Ourossoff: I would like to challenge The New York Times' architecture critic's assertion...that Los Angeles has fostered two generations of architects "that has no real equivalent in New York"...Gotham isn't nearly as barren of the "heroes" he seeks...He should be looking more closely. By Andrew Bernheimer/Della Valle Bernheimer -- Alexander Gorlin; Lewis.Tsurumaki.Lewis; Leven Betts Studio; Adam Yarinsky/Stephen Cassell/Architecture Research Office (ARO); nArchitects; SHoP, Lyn Rice; WORKac; Leroy Street Studio/Hester Street Collaborative- Design Observer

Shopping Sprawl: Are Israel's suburban malls destroying its urban centers? "Little Israel learns all sort of things from Los Angeles"...Indeed, the similarity in architecture and style is uncanny...worries that Israel is entering the Golden Age of Sprawl. -- Yodan Rofe/Merhav: The Movement for Israeli Urbanism; Amiram Gonen- Tablet Magazine

Goodbye Square: the Quest for a Contemporary Urban Pattern: DPZ Associates was hired to turn a greenfield about 50 miles north of New Orleans into a 1,280-unit blend of town and rural living. In the process, they proposed a radical new way of looking at the street grid. Fanis Grammenos explains. [images]- PLANetizen

No, it's not impossible. Landmarks Illinois' Athletes Village plan for the 2016 Olympics shows how to save Chicago's Gropius/Bauhaus legacy...alternative plan...demonstrates how the irreplaceable Bauhaus-inspired buildings on the former Michael Reese Hospital campus...can not only co-exist with the village, but improve it. By Lynn Becker [images, links]- Repeat (Chicago)

Should bad architecture be named and shamed? FAT's Sean Griffiths says that by denouncing bad buildings quality will improve, but Anna Liu/Tonkin Liu argues this is a dangerous vehicle for biased criticism- BD/Building Design (UK)

The Lighthouse to go into administration: ...blamed on a lack of income from commercial activities..."we want to find a way for the Lighthouse to continue in some way to fulfil its role as Scotland's National Centre for Architecture, Design and the City."- The Architects' Journal (UK)

New Chapter for Troubled Theater Project In Russia: Diamond and Schmitt are designing the New Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg, replacing Dominique Perrault...design is "very, very different, in every respect"... [images]- Architectural Record

Saadiyat in Abu Dhabi: artistic oasis takes shape amid the dunes: A \$27billion makeover...is aimed at turning the city into a cultural mecca. But will it bring happiness to its creators? By 2015, we will know if the Cultural District embodies the dawn of a new Middle Eastern Golden Age, or the most expensive white elephant of our millennium. -- Zaha Hadid; Frank Gehry; Jean Nouvel; Foster + Partners- Telegraph (UK)

Ziba Design's New HQ Is a Sustainable Pillar of the Community: As one of the earliest adopters of the Designers Accord, Portland-based Ziba Design has long anchored the sustainable design industry in the Northwest...collaborating on a building that was not only LEED-certified, but one that better served the local community... -- Holst Architecture [images, links]- Fast Company

A Thousand Points on Light: Part I: A dark-sky activist and a celebrated designer discuss the best (if not the brightest) ways to light the environment. By Karrie Jacobs -- Susan Harder/International Dark-Sky Association; Leni Schwendinger [images, links]- Design Observer

A Thousand Points on Light: Part II: Is a well-lit neighborhood really safer? Is "pollution" the best way to describe excess light? The conversation continues between lighting designer Leni Schwendinger and dark-sky activist Susan Harder. By Karrie Jacobs [images, links]- Design Observer

Climate change could swamp Venice's flood defence: By the end of the century...could face daily floods, and according to a new study, the costly and controversial flood barriers now being built might not be able to protect it. [links]- New Scientist

Scottish laser pioneers lead way in preserving world heritage treasures: Mount Rushmore carvings will be first test of plan to guard historic sites from ravages of weather and pollution by creating accurate 3D models...so that they can be re-created if they fall victim to climate change, natural disaster, war or terrorism. -- Historic Scotland; Glasgow School of Art; CyArk- Guardian (UK)

'Mad Men' and architectural criticism: Ada Louise Huxtable was on "Mad Men"...the show's ad executives were meeting with developers to discuss plans to knock down Penn Station to make way for the new Madison Square Garden...reads from a Huxtable piece condemning the plans... By Christopher Hawthorne- Los Angeles Times



-- SANAA: Serpentine Pavilion 2009, London, UK
-- KK Letter: Architecture, Art and Design in London...Design Museum, The Tate, Trafalgar Square, Herzog & de Meuron, Jeff Koons, Richard Long, Antony Gormley, Futurism, Per Kirkeby, Jan Kaplicky, Javier Mariscal

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