Today's News - Tuesday, August 25, 2009

- Moore and Glancey respond to Dittmar's call for "Enquiry by Design" (it's so 1980s).
- Benheimer's open letter to Ouroussoff: "Gotham isn't nearly as barren of the 'heroes' he seeks." (click "Yesterday's News" to read Hank & Nicola'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.
- 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."
- 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."
- 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."
- Ziba Design's new HQ is a "sustainable pillar of the community."
- St. Petersburg's Mariinsky Theatre drops Perrault for Diamond + Schmitt and a "very, very" different design.
- 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 - Evening Standard (UK)
- An Open Letter to Nicolai Ouroussoff: 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 Benheimer/Della Valle Benheimer -- 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
- Goodbee 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
- 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 dreadful lark. By Jonathan Glancey - Evening Standard (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
- 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] - 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


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