Today’s News - Wednesday, September 2, 2009

• Gretes’ Market Research Strategies in Uncertain Times #3: Preparing for the Rebound.
• Good news/bad news for eco-city plans around the world.
• Austin Williams x 2: a no-holds-barred take on why Dongtan is "the eco-city that never was...not because it was too ambitious, but because it wasn't ambitious enough"; and his musings about whether there is such a thing as Communist architecture: "We should not confuse Brutalist architecture with brutal political legitimacy."
• The 98-page IOC report on the four cities vying for 2016 Summer Olympics notes problems with all the bids.
• Plans for a "two-speed" (pay more, move faster) planning process by a U.K. council is panned by architects and planners.
• Lawsuits filed to halt construction of Hadid's library in Seville (we’ll see how far they get).
• Rose re: Britain's first tailor-made homeless hostel - a "cool modernist building" that should be a model for the future, but will it "end up being a one-off"?
• Ron Arad's Design Museum in Israel could be a "model for a new kind of Middle Eastern museum" - or a "rusty Guggenheim" (great pix).
• Kamin cheers Chicago's newest charter school housed in a 1905 power station: "a model for recycling historic buildings" as a "palace of steam is now a palace of learning" that harnesses "architecture's aesthetic power to a broader social purpose."
• The new Times Square Info Center organizes information in a whole new way.
• The traditional Filipino dwelling, a.k.a. bahay kubo, inspires contemporary architects.
• The Dirt has more (good) dirt on Israel's massive Ariel Sharon Park.
• Profiles in design: Jeanne Gang brings the "sensuousness of nature," sustainability, and "the thrill of the new to Chicago and beyond." - A Q&A with David Dillard of the Dirt.
• An eyeful of London's Athenaeum hotel sprouting a forest façade (an amazing piece of art - let's hope it stays green).
• Call for entries: 57th Annual P/A Awards for unbuilt projects.
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The bahay kubo goes eco: Because [it] is the ubiquitous Filipino dwelling and still stands for bayanahan, resourcefulness and architectural ingenuity, many architects have been inspired by it in creating their own design...The carbon-neutral part is of
course an amplification of, and not an addition to, the traditional bahay kubo. -- Francisco Manosa; Michael Pena; James Jao [image] - Manila Bulletin (Philippines)

Israeli Park Built on Garbage Dump Will Now Include 50,000-seat Amphitheater: Hiriya was Israel's largest landfill...now being redeveloped as Ariel Sharon Park...Much like Fresh Kills in development in New York City...collects bio-gas for clean energy, controls leachate (liquid that drains from landfills), and includes man-made wetlands and water recycling facilities. -- Latz + Partner; Brodsky-Max; Maria Seikelo [links] - The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Name to Know: Architect Jeanne Gang: She's bringing the sensuousness of nature, the sustainability of LEED building, and the thrill of the new to Chicago and beyond -- Studio Gang Architects - BusinessWeek

Newsmaker: David Dillard of Project Sleepover: ...has been designing senior-living communities since the early 1990s, came away with a refreshed understanding of how these spaces function...now requiring most of his firm’s 60 staff members, including non-designers...to go undercover and spend the night at a similar institution around the country. -- CSD Architects - Architectural Record

Shaping a century from Minnesota to the Mideast: Over a remarkably long time, the architecture firm Ellerbe Becket has changed the environment from Minnesota to the Mideast. By Linda Mack [images] - Minneapolis Star Tribune

8-Story Antigravity Forest Facade Takes Root: ...recently completed facade for the Athenaeum hotel in London...Looming over Green Park, It’s an eight-story antigravity forest composed of 12,000 plants. -- Patrick Blanc [images] - Wired

Call for entries: 57th Annual P/A Awards for unbuilt projects; open to architects and other design professionals practicing in the United States, Canada, or Mexico; deadline: September 28 - Architect Magazine

2009 R+D Awards: Research and development may seem like luxuries right now...[but] the bust is motivating a major boom in architectural technology. -- Office for Visual Interaction; Dean/Wolf Architects; Skidmore, Owings & Merril (SOM); Barkow Leibinger Architects; Perkins Eastman; IwamotoScott Architecture [links to details, images] - Architect Magazine

California Architectural Foundation Announces the Recipients of the William Turnbull Jr., FAIA, Off-Grid 2.0 Ideas Competition: ...[and] recognition as the "2009 William Turnbull Prize" winners at the 2009 Monterey Design Conference (in October). -- EHDD Architecture; Anderson Anderson Architecture; Cal Poly Pomona; NewSchool of Art and Architecture - BusinessWire

INDEX: Award 2009 Winners Announced: ...a competition that focuses on designs to improve life...Here’s a rundown of the five winners... [links] - Metropolis Magazine

The Font War: Ikea Fans Fume over Verdana: ...has switched to what it sees as a more functional typeface: Verdana. In the process, it has provoked an instantaneous global backlash..."It's a sad day." [images] - Time Magazine

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