

Today's News - Tuesday, September 22, 2009

- Heathcote on controversial U.S Embassy plans in London: can "overbearing security" and "an architecture of isolation and paranoia" really boost regeneration in a neighborhood "already blighted by gated development"?
- Controversial Gazprom tower in St. Petersburg wins final approval despite protests.
- The Cleveland Museum of Art chooses a "highly unorthodox way out" of a "perfect storm" to move ahead with expansion plans.
- Spain disqualifies an Israeli university from this year's Solar Decathlon because the team is located in "occupied territory."
- Staten Island naval base transformation to be NYC's first LEED ND (it's only taken more than a decade).
- Lacayo visits new Dallas Cowboys stadium and finds it "an adroitly glamorous exercise in how to balance muscle and lightness," with not so much groundbreaking architectural features as "smart adaptations, well deployed."
- Maya Lin's Museum of Chinese in America opens today in NYC: though "a warm and inviting new space...it also harbors a tension that reveals some of the problems with the identity archetype."
- An impressive design team selected for U.S. Courthouse in San Antonio.
- Rochon finds architectural ecstasy in Rome, and ruminates on "moments of ecstasy within the architecture of Canada."
- Fred Kent moves beyond his "smackdown" with Gehry.
- Hawthorne's touching report on Shulman memorial: more than the photographer "was being eulogized and laid symbolically to rest."
- A roundup of reports on some of the illuminating speakers at ASLA's annual meeting discussing how to regenerate cities and communities.
- An amusing (and illustrated) report on riding the new Dubai Metro Rail System on its first day running: "crowds were downright civil, even jovial...It will be interesting to see if that mood lasts."
- A long list of 2009 MIPIM Asia Awards nominees announced today.
- AJ rounds up the best in design from the 7th London Design Festival.
- Call for votes: Greensburg, Kansas/FreeGreen Chain of Eco-Homes Competition.
- Call for entries: 2010 Rieger Graham Prize for Classical Design Fellowship at the American Academy in Rome (U.S. only).

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[Problems build for US on £500m London embassy plans: Supporters...say the controversial project will provide a huge boost to regeneration...have raised worries about overbearing security...it remains unclear how such an architecture of isolation and paranoia would help regenerate an area already blighted by gated development.](#) By Edwin Heathcote -- [Zimmer Gunsul Frasca \(ZGF\)](#); [KieranTimberlake](#); [Morphosis](#); [Richard Meier](#); [Pei Cobb Freed](#)- [Financial Times](#) (UK)

[Gazprom Wins Final Approval to Build Disputed St. Petersburg Tower: overcoming objections from local residents and UNESCO...exemptions to the former czarist capital's zoning laws...allow for the 400-meter \(1,300-foot\) Okhta Center project to proceed...](#) -- [RMJM](#)- [Bloomberg News](#)

[Ghosts in the Museum: Last fall...the Cleveland Museum of Art found itself caught in..."a perfect storm"...has chosen a highly unorthodox way out of its quandary...doesn't see its actions as violating its donors' wishes...The precedent this could set is bad enough...rationalizing its actions by communing with the dead.](#) By Eric Gibson -- [Rafael Viñoly](#) [slide show]- [Wall Street Journal](#)

[Spain Throws Out Israeli University From Int'l Contest: ...has disqualified the Israeli team from the bi-annual Solar Decathlon because the team is located in "occupied territory"...visitors to the Solar Decathlon will thus be denied the opportunity to study..."Stretch House" designed and built by students of the Ariel University Center of Samaria.](#) - [Arutz Sheva/Israel National News](#)

[Welcome Homeport: Abandoned Staten Island naval base finally set to become sustainable community...the latest step in more than a decade of slowly churning redevelopment plans...aims at reconnecting locals with the waterfront and encouraging smart growth in an area not known for it.](#) -- [WRT](#); [Marpillero Pollak](#); [Leni Schwendinger Light Projects](#); [Minno & Wascko](#) [images]- [The Architect's Newspaper](#)

[Inside the New Dallas Cowboys Stadium: ...an adroitly glamorous exercise in how to balance muscle and lightness...Not many of the architectural features of the new stadium are groundbreaking in themselves. The best of them are smart adaptations, well deployed.](#) By [Richard Lacayo](#) -- [HKS Architects](#) [images]- [Time Magazine](#)

[Reopened Museum Tells Chinese-American Stories: ...Museum of Chinese in America...a warm and inviting new space...despite the museum's considerable achievement it also harbors a tension that reveals some of the problems with the identity archetype.](#) By [Edward Rothstein](#) -- [Maya Lin](#); [Matter Architectural Practice](#); [mgmt. design](#) [slide show]- [New York Times](#)

[Maya Lin's Big Dig: Her new Museum of Chinese in America becomes Chinatown's culture hub.](#) By [Justin Davidson](#)- [New York Magazine](#)

[Lake|Flato, Kell Muñoz and Ellerbe Becket named design team for U.S. Courthouse in downtown San Antonio.](#) - [San Antonio Business Journal](#)

[In Rome, buildings that send a shiver of ecstasy: ...an intense immersion in art and architecture can provoke a rush of warm feelings...Where have you found moments of ecstasy within the architecture of Canada? My list is long and rambling and far from finished.](#) By [Lisa Rochon](#) -- [Frank Gehry](#); [Arthur Erickson](#); [Dan Hanganu/Provencher Roy](#); [Douglas Cardinal](#)- [Globe and Mail](#) (Canada)

[Moving Beyond the "Smackdown" Towards an Architecture of Place: Our recent debate with architectural giant Frank Gehry shows the public's desire for design that fosters great places...Good architecture and design, broadly defined, must be at the heart of all these efforts.](#) By [Fred Kent](#) [images]- [Project for Public Spaces \(PPS\)](#)

[At the Julius Shulman memorial: ...it was nearly impossible...not to think that it wasn't just Julius Shulman who was being eulogized and laid symbolically to rest. It was also a certain attitude about what Los Angeles means...and how photographers and architects alike ought to frame life in the city.](#) By [Christopher Hawthorne](#)- [Los Angeles Times](#)

[Diverse set of speakers discuss how to regenerate cities and communities at 2009 ASLA Annual Meeting: Nature Can Coexist with a Large City/Chicago Mayor Daley; Cities in the Era of Climate Change/Alexandros Washburn, NYC Urban Design Chief; Kermit Baker, Harvard/ AIA Economist, on Market Outlook; Can London's Olympic Games Regenerate a Troubled Community?/EDAW AECOM; Vancouver's Green Streets \[links to reports\]-](#) [The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects \(ASLA\)](#)

[A Ride on New Dubai Metro Rail System: Christopher Corbett, an American planner who's been living and working in Dubai, takes us on a visual tour...crowds were downright civil, even jovial...It will be interesting to see if that mood lasts... \[images\]-](#)

PLANetizen

2009 MIPIM Asia Awards Nominees Unveiled Today: Singapore and China feature strongly in the list of 24 nominees... -- Aedas; Samoo Architects; Kohn Pedersen Fox (KPF); Mark Lintott; Ong&Ong; TEH-JE Architects; Woods Bagot/NHArchitecture; WOHA; RSP/Cox Richardson; Callison/GF and partners; DP Architects; Architects 61; HOK; Bjarke Ingels Group (BIG); SPARCH Design; etc. - PR Newswire

The best in design from the 7th London Design Festival [images, links]- The Architects' Journal (UK)

Call for votes: Greensburg, Kansas/FreeGreen Chain of Eco-Homes Competition: public vote will help to determine the form and function of Greensburg, Kansas, America's first green town; deadline: September 30- FreeGreen & Greensburg GreenTown

Call for entries: 2010 Rieger Graham Prize: 3-month Classical Design Fellowship at The American Academy in Rome; deadline: November 2 (U.S. citizens) - Institute of Classical Architecture & Classical America (ICA&CA)

Book Review: "Urban Design for an Urban Century: Placemaking for People," by Lance Jay Brown, David Dixon, and Oliver Gillham: To the credit of the erudite authors, their sketch of urban design brings levels of political, sociological, and architectural analysis together in a readable synthesis. By Norman Weinstein - ArchNewsNow



-- Gehry Partners, LLP: Counseling Center (Hejmdal), Danish Cancer Society, Aarhus, Denmark
-- Sparch: Vision City, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

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