Today's News - Wednesday, October 14, 2009

- Rybczynski weighs in on design for new Barnes Collection home: he finds some troubling aspects.
- Patience pays: three years - and many revisions - later, Foster's Parke-Bernet addition wins approval.
- Kamin cheers "at least a temporary victory" for preservationists re: a Chicago Art Deco treasure.
- Populous picks a 30-member team to help design Birmingham, Alabama's new domed stadium.
- University of South Australia researchers to take on Reynolds' "earthships.
- Calatrava gives court-awarded €30,000 in damages for Isozaki's "add-on" to his Bilbao bridge to a local charity.
- Maya Lin's sculpture for Aria at Las Vegas CityCenter is "elegant, graceful" and "a tricky piece."
- Kudos to NZIA Auckland Architecture Awards winners; and an eyeful of one of the winners.
- A new ploy to encourage exercise: a subway station in Stockholm has commuters preferring to "play" the stairs instead of riding the escalators (courtesy of VW, no less).
- Some major corporate folks get behind proposal to add light rail and eliminate cars for NYC's 42nd St. (cut the city remains mum).
- Kansas City's public library parking garage is a real page-turner.
- St. Louis 30-day test run of a new streetscape design is so successful that the city may leave it in place.
- In Siberia, some parking lots have a second purpose: storage for radioactive waste (yikes!).
- One we couldn't resist: architects (or their relatives) take on shoe design (with pix to prove it).

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Careful With That Matisse: The Barnes Collection is moving. Does its new Philadelphia home measure up? ...troubling aspect of ...otherwise attractively low-key design is the opaque glazed box...gratuitous gesture...intended to provide the "wow" factor...reduces the importance of the gallery building, which should be the star. By Witold Rybczynski -- Tod Williams Billie Tsien; Laurie Olin [images, links]- Slate

Crowning glory: Madison: Foster and Aby Rosen finally win approval to top off Parke-Bernet gallery...after the further elimination of one story and certain important cosmetic changes that the addition a lighter feel, the Landmarks Preservation Commission finally approved the project... -- Foster + Partners [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

New life for once-threatened Art Deco landmark: Zell's Equity Group renovating old Chicago Daily News Building: A recession, it's often said, is a historic preservationist's best friend...is not a full-fledged historic restoration...at least a temporary victory by staving off either a demolition or defacement of 2 North Riverside. By Blair Kamin -- Holabird & Root (1929); Solomon Cordwell Buenz [images, slide show]- Chicago Tribune

Lead architect for Birmingham's dome stadium unveils design team: Populous has assembled a 30-member team to help design the $530 million facility that boosters say will reshape downtown's fortunes. -- Charles Williams & Associates; Cohen Carraggio Reynolds; Donsey Architects; Formworks Architects; Giattina Aycock Architecture Studio; Hoskins Architecture; Margret D. Jones Interiors; NHB Group; TRI Architecture; Williams-Blackstock Architects [image]- The Birmingham News (Alabama)

Setting sail in an ecological 'Earthship': Could sustainable architecture address pollution, climate change and resource depletion by helping us build self-sufficient, off-grid, housing from 'waste'? That's the question researchers at the University of South Australia hope to answer in the International Journal of Sustainable Design. -- Martin Freney; Michael Reynolds - Science Centric

Valencian architect donates damages to charity: Santiago Calatrava has donated the €30,000 damages he was awarded by the courts for having another architect's work added to his Zubi-Zuri bridge in Bilbao...the walkway, designed by Arata Isozaki that was tacked on to the end of [his] bridge...was an infringement of his intellectual property rights. [image]- ThinkSpain

Sculpture at CityCenter's Aria designed to provoke thought about water: "Silver River..." hangs from steel cables, slants horizontally and swells at two points of its winding journey...Elegant, graceful and floating before a panoramic window, it is a tricky piece. -- Maya Lin; Pelli Clarke Pelli [slide show]- Las Vegas Sun

Auckland's best architecture named: New Zealand Institute of Architecture's [NZIA] Auckland Architecture Awards 09/10...Kudos going to the best of sustainable buildings, the most impressive commercial projects and best refurbishment of a heritage landmark... -- RTA Studio; Jasmax; Mitchinson Simiona Limited/Gascoigne Associates; Peddle Thorp Architects; Gerrad Hall; Yellow Architects; Noel Lane Architects; Cohen Carnaggio Reynolds; Dorsey Architects; Formworks Architects; TRA Studio; Jasmax; Mitchinson Simiona Limited/Gascoigne Associates; Peddle Thorp Architects; Gerrad Hall; Yellow Architects; Noel Lane Architects [images]- National Business Review (New Zealand)

Ironbank, a mixed-use project in Auckland, New Zealand by RTA Studio [images]- The Architectural Review/AR (UK)

Scaling new heights: Piano stairway encourages commuters to ditch the escalators...Volkswagen has come up with a nifty way of encouraging people to exercise more...transformed the stairs leading out of the Odenplan subway in Stockholm, Sweden, into a giant functioning piano keyboard...66% more people than normal chose the musical stairs over the escalator. [images, video]- Daily Mail (UK)

Sustainable Streetscape: St. Louis tests green road design: A 30-day test run of a new streetscape design has been so successful that the city may leave it in place...project aims to change the way area communities view streets,
making them safe and appealing for all modes of transportation... -- Design Workshop - The Architect's Newspaper

Without Cars, a Different Sort of 42nd St.: With parts of Times Square converted into a pedestrian mall, at least temporarily, some people say they believe the city should take an even more radical step: close 42nd Street to car traffic and build a light rail system to run the width of Manhattan. -- Vision 42 - New York Times

Big buzz about those big books on downtown garage: ...larger-than-life "Community Bookshelf" covering the Kansas City Public Library parking garage...south façade looks like a giant's book shelf, with 22 nearly 30-foot tall book spines sandwiched between glass-surrounded stairwells made to look like bookends. -- 360 Architecture, BNIM Architects [image]- Kansas City Star

Recycling Atomic Waste: Nuclear Materials Stored In Siberian Car parks: ...radioactive materials from nuclear power plants are being being stored in containers in a Siberian parking lot. - Der Spiegel (Germany)

Architects Tread in New Territory: Shoe Design: "Architecture offers really great preparation for all sorts of careers. It's nice to know you have options." -- Frank Gehry; Alejandro Gehry; Bernard Rudofsky; Zaha Hadid; Rem D. Koolhaas; Annie Mohaupt [slide show]- Architectural Record

Eclectic Tech: Facebook Headquarters in Palo Alto, California: Employees were hands-on in designing the new HQ for the social media giant - and not everything is "Facebook blue." -- Studio O+A [images]- ArchNewsNow

-- Morphosis / Gruzen Samton: 41 Cooper Square, Cooper Union, New York, NY
-- EASTERN design office: Slit Court, Sumizome, Fushimi, Kyoto, Japan

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