Today's News - Thursday, October 15, 2009

- Gretes’ Market Research Strategies in Uncertain Times #4: Client research puts you in an informed position to project confidence and earn trust.
- Ouroussoff reports from Dallas: two very different performance spaces, yet “together they give the area the cultural stature” the city “has long been craving.”
- Russell is only slightly less sanguine (a “likably odd theater” that “reads like a cute chemical plant” next to “what could become the city’s liveliest civic space”).
- Indianapolis has high hopes for what could become the first of a new breed of urban renewal projects designed to turn the city’s brownfields green.
- Perhaps they should also look into the latest developments in Germany’s new “energy revolution.”
- Phyllis Lambert and others launch a new think tank to act as conscience for Montreal’s mayor (whoever that may be come Nov. 1).
- Rosenbaum raises questions re: the Whitney’s “forging ahead” with High Line branch.
- Some Helsinki officials and residents not at all happy with H&deMs waterfront hotel project.
- Dyckhoff goes back to school to find out why anyone would want to be an architecture student these days.
- Q&A’s (in high-def, no less) with the architects behind the Stirling Prize contenders (come Saturday, we’ll know who came out on top).
- urbanSHED competition finalists offer some very different solutions to NYC’s ugly sidewalk sheds.
- NYC Planning Commissioner Amanda Burden takes ULI’s Nichols Prize For Visionaries In Urban Development; her winnings donated back to establish another prize to honor “transformative and exciting public open spaces around the world.”
- Call for entries from ICFF: for product prototypes and design schools.
- An eyeful of Berlin’s Festival of Lights that puts the city’s monuments in the limelight.
- To subscribe to the free daily newsletter click here

Market Research Strategies in Uncertain Times #4: Client Research - The Secret to Turning Prospects into Clients: If you carry on a dialog from an informed position, you will project confidence and immediately earn a position of trust. By Frances Gretes - ArchNewsNow

Cool or Classic: Arts District Counterpoints: Wyly Theater and the Winspear Opera House...one coolly experimental, the other a traditional take on civic architecture cloaked in a modern wrapper. Yet together they give the area the cultural stature Dallas has long been craving. By Nicolai Ouroussoff -- Koolhaas/OMA; Prince-Ramus/REX; Foster + Partners [slide show] - New York Times

Dallas Bets $392 Million on World Class Theater, Opera: The Winspear canopy, with its blessed shade, could become the city’s liveliest civic space...Wyly...a likably odd theater...reads like a cute chemical plant...allows the drama to star. Unfortunately, the money ran out...How could Dallas go so far, then not let us see this brainstorm flop or flourish? By James S. Russell -- Foster + Partners; Koolhaas/OMA; Prince-Ramus/REX; Bloomberg News

Urban renewal project focuses on sustainability: From dilapidated to destination? A vision of jobs, shops, energy-efficient construction and public transit...could become the first of a new breed of urban renewal projects designed to turn Indianapolis’ brownfields green. - Indianapolis Star

Hive Electricity: Germany is on the verge of an energy revolution...the latest developments in the smart grid and how it will change the relationship between consumers and energy suppliers. - Der Spiegel (Germany)

New think tank will act as conscience for mayor: Megaproject proposals put Montreal at ‘major crossroads’: founder Phyllis Lambert...Institut de politiques alternatives de Montréal will act as an independent forum...for people interested in pressing city hall on a range of municipal issues... - Montreal Gazette

This is “Forging Ahead”? Whitney Must Cough Up $18 Million for City-Owned Site...at the entrance to the High Line...“Five years to begin construction of the building”? This project was supposed to have begun construction last spring and opened in 2012. By Lee Rosenbaum -- Renzo Piano [links] - ArtsJournal

City official does not back down from controversial Katajanokka waterfront hotel project: The exterior...is said to be ugly...in contrast with the surrounding Empire-style architecture. This is precisely the idea...“Aivar Aalto already did it” pointing to Aalto’s Enso headquarters next door. The Enso building is, it must be said, not overly popular with Helsink residents. -- Herzog & de Meuron [link to animation] - Helsingin Sanomat (Finland)

Who would want to be an architecture student? Bad pay, few jobs and an uncertain future? On the plus side it fosters resilience. On the minus, architects live in a world hermetically sealed from the rest of us...“We teach students to be flexible, and optimistic”...By Tom Dyckhoff - The Times (UK)

Stirling Prize time this Saturday: Interviews of the architects behind the six shortlisted schemes -- Tony Fretton; Eric Parry; Paul Monaghan/Alford Hall Monaghan Morris (AHMM); Graham Stirk and Will Wimshurst/Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners; Terry Davenport/BDP (Vimeo HD); - The Architects' Journal (UK)

Sidewalk Shed Design Competition Finalists Announced: More than 160 entries...from around the world were narrowed down to three finalists from the U.S. [in] urbanSHED International Design Competition -- KNEStudio; Young Hwan Cho; XChange Architects [link to images] - The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

New York City Planning Commissioner Amanda M. Burden Is The 2009 Laureate Of The ULI J.C. Nichols Prize For Visionaries In Urban Development: Burden will donate the $100,000 prize money to ULI to create a yearly award
Call for entries: ICFF/Bernhardt Design ICFF Studio: submit product prototypes in the product categories exhibited at the ICFF; deadline: January 15, 2010 - ICFF/International Contemporary Furniture Fair

Call for entries: Design Schools: submit a topic, a singular concept with original products and prototypes, designed by students to be exhibited at the 22nd annual ICFF; deadline: January 15, 2010 - ICFF/International Contemporary Furniture Fair

Bright Lights, Big City: Nocturnal Festival of Lights Puts Berlin Monuments in the Limelight...through October 25...[slide show]- Der Spiegel (Germany)

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