

Today's News - Wednesday, October 28, 2009

- Gripes rather than glee surround Auckland's Queens Wharf design competition: the "process was more about politics, money and egos than about good design."
- Just the opposite in Vancouver, Washington, where it's the "dawn of a golden age" in winning design for waterfront redevelopment that "will light the pathway to the future."
- A Parisian team wins competition for a former scrap-metal site in Louisville, but is it "a fabulous opportunity for some developer and for the city," or will it create "expectations that cannot be met"?
- The Winspear and Wyly may be "remarkable additions to the Dallas Arts District," and the city should be proud, "but the movers, shakers and builders must get serious about urban life."
- Calatrava wows the crowd in Florida with his master plan for new USF Polytechnic campus.
- Ditto for Beyer Blinder Belle's unveiling of University at Buffalo master plan.
- RIBA opens its first Gulf chapter in the UAE to change the perception that tends to see architecture as "a sub-branch of engineering" - it "deserves to have a higher place on the building totem pole."
- BIG wins big in Sweden: gets the job to design a women's sports 'village' in Malmö; and joins an impressive international shortlist to design a new crematorium at Stockholm's famous Woodland Cemetery.
- East London mega-mosque project still stuck.
- Why mosques don't need minarets: "Instead of proclaiming commonality, the orientalised mosque immediately announces foreignness."
- King meets up with the green-haired French designer with big plans for a green wall that is "sure to turn heads" in San Francisco.
- Could Maya Lin's latest memorial designed for the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco be her last?

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Wharf design contest fails to win over public: Design professionals and Aucklanders are unimpressed with the designs for Queens Wharf and predict another mediocre development for the city..."Opening the Red Gates"...problem...was not the designers' ambition and imagination, but the stingy budget of \$47 million and impoverished project brief. -- Dushko Bogunovich; Kevin Clarke; Mario Madayag; Tasman Studio; Moller Architects [slide show, links]- New Zealand Herald

Good things happening in Vancouver: The dawn of a golden age is breaking for America's Vancouver. Waterfront redevelopment and the "Community Connection" freeway lid will light the pathway to the future. -- Gustafson Guthrie Nichol; Allied Works - The Columbian (Vancouver, Washington)

Competition produces designs for rehabbing Irish Hill: ...a 30-acre former scrap-metal site...could become a neighborhood transit center and mixed-use area..."concern is that it creates expectations that cannot be met"...a fabulous opportunity for some developer and for the city"... -- Michael Espanan/Dan Delongchamp/Patrick Henry; Tetsuya Kawano/Julien Boulley; FARM Architecture and Research; Environs Inc./Jones Design [images]- Courier-Journal (Louisville, KY)

New Kids on the Block: The Winspear Opera House and Wyly Theater are remarkable additions to the Dallas Arts District. But what's needed there is a vibrant urban life, as opposed to a lifestyle...Dallasites have every right to be proud...but the movers, shakers and builders must get serious about urban life. -- Foster + Partners; Koolhaas/OMA; Prince-Ramus/REX [slide show]- Wall Street Journal

Calatrava Unveils Vision for Polk's University of South Florida (USF) Polytechnic new Lakeland campus...It's an undeveloped site whose first building [he] will design and whose master plan he's redone. [images]- The Ledger (Florida)

A vision for the future: UB 2020's comprehensive plan unveiled...to propel the University at Buffalo into the 21st century...with an ultimate goal of uniting all three of Buffalo's campuses. -- Beyer Blinder Belle [images, videos]- The Spectrum (University at Buffalo)

Design community: The idea that a city should be more than just a collection of landmarks...is one that that we can expect to hear more of in the UAE now that the Royal Institute of British Architects has opened its first Gulf chapter...architecture tends to be seen as a sub-branch of engineering...Architects...deserve to have a higher place on the building totem pole. -- Simon Crispe/Atkins UAE; Peter Jackson- The National (UAE)

BIG wins competition for women's sports 'village' in Sweden: Architect sees Malmo sports centre as a 'town within a town' -- Bjarke Ingels Group [images]- Building (UK)

Anonymous Swedish competition draws big names: ...five architectural teams invited to enter a competition to design a new crematorium at Stockholm's famous Woodland Cemetery. -- Gunnar Asplund/Sigurd Lewerentz (1917); Caruso St John; White arkitektur; BIG/Topotek 1; Johan Celsing arkitektkontor/Müller Illien Landschaftsarchitekten; Tadao Ando/KacicLidén Landscape Architect [images]- BD/Building Design (UK)

East London mega-mosque project still stuck in sidings: £300 million project...now two years behind schedule, with a planning application not expected until at least 2010 -- Magera Yvars Architects; Allies and Morrison [images]- The Architects' Journal (UK)

Op-Ed: Mosques don't need minarets: It's sad that Tower Hamlets is creating a minaret project for Brick Lane...The result is the exoticisation of a faith that tries hard to stress...its desire for openness and links...Instead of proclaiming commonality, the orientalised mosque immediately announces foreignness.

[\[links to images\]](#)- Guardian (UK)

Botanist's green walls take plants to new level: The new wing for San Francisco's Drew School...is sure to turn heads, what with the vegetated wall...covering the streetside wall of a 14,500-square-foot assembly hall...fashioned by a French designer who favors all manners of green, including a bright green dye for his hair. By John King -- Patrick Blanc; Roma Design Group; Rana Creek- San Francisco Chronicle

Headed for Extinction: Could Maya Lin's latest memorial be her last? ..."What is Missing?" - a tribute to extinct animal species...commissioned for the Renzo Piano-designed California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco - raised a nagging question. [\[images\]](#)- The Architect's Newspaper



-- Ricardo Bofill Taller de Arquitectura: W Barcelona Hotel, Barcelona, Spain
-- Cox Rayner + Arup: Kurilpa Bridge, Brisbane, Australia

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