

Today's News - Thursday, May 27, 2010

EDIOR'S NOTE: An abbreviated late edition posted from London (so we're not too backed up with news when we return Tuesday, June 1st)...

- Perhaps because we spent yesterday with Renzo Piano at his colorful Central ST. Giles (we like it!):
- Ouroussoff on Piano's addition to the Kimbell Museum: first, was he sane when he accepted the challenge; the result shows the "respect for Kahn's masterwork, in which one can feel Piano reworking Kahn's ideas over and over in his head, is obvious."
- Piano's expansion "offers something of an olive branch to critics."
- His Whitney expansion near the High Line gets final go-ahead.
- Still in a London state of mind: the U.K. government scraps regional development agencies and the Infrastructure Planning Commission - but many question the wisdom (even if it is an effort to cut budget).
- Saffron gets our gold star of the day in her reporting on Philly's planned Family Court building - the judge pulls the plug.
- Digging deep into the landscape design of CityCenter in Las Vegas (and its "whopping budget").
- Rochon has an imaginative late-night conversation with FLW at Fallingwater.
- Winner selected to design on-site cottages near the master's masterpiece.
- "Fellowship: 75 Years of Taliesin Box Projects" shows off FLW's proteges' tokens of appreciation to their master so many years ago.
- Moore finds Sudjic's Foster biography "explains how Foster has helped to transform his profession," but it "lacks a sense of revelation."
- Banned in Beijing, but see it now: "New Beijing: Reinventing a City."
- Call for entries: Crafting Excellence: Create the official logo for the UNESCO Award of Excellence for Handicrafts.

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Two Architects Have a Meeting of the Minds at a Texas Museum: It's fair to ask if Renzo Piano was fully sane when he agreed to design the addition to Louis Kahn's Kimbell Art Museum...has managed to find that magical and elusive balance between respecting a great work and adhering to one's own aesthetic convictions. By Nicolai Ouroussoff [images]- New York Times

Kimbell addition aims to preserve Fort Worth museum's open space: \$125 million expansion by Renzo Piano offers something of an olive branch to critics: The design preserves the integrity of the Louis Kahn original...has been generous in keeping the focus on the original building..."...the first thing you see when the door opens is the Kahn. I like that little homage to the master."- Fort Worth Star-Telegram (Texas)

Whitney Museum Plans New Building Downtown: ...museum's board voted to begin construction next year in Manhattan's meatpacking district...six-story, 195,000-square-foot metal-clad building...near the High Line..."will have one of the largest column-free spaces to show art in New York." -- Renzo Piano- New York Times

Government to scrap regional development agencies: ...laid out plans for a Decentralisation and Localism Bill which, as well as scrapping the housing targets held within regional spatial strategies, will also see the Infrastructure Planning Commission, set up to drive planning of major projects, abolished.- Building (UK)

Family Court deal canceled: After nearly two years and more than \$10 million, state Supreme Court Chief Justice Ronald D. Castille has killed the no-bid development deal on a new Family Court building...he never knew [developer and lawyer] were partners until it was reported last month by Inquirer architecture critic Inga Saffron.- Philadelphia Inquirer

Urban Strip: The gargantuan new CityCenter breaks the mold of the typical Vegas development...The most visible sign of MGM's commitment to establishing a sustainable built environment is the landscape architecture at CityCenter, which had a whopping budget of \$260 million. By Alex Ulam -- The Office of James Burnett; James Corner Field Operations; D.I.R.T. Studios; Martha Schwartz; Hargreaves Associates; Meléndrez; David Rockwell- Landscape Architecture Magazine

Getting in bed with Frank Lloyd Wright: On a visit to Fallingwater, Lisa Rochon imagines a late-night chat between the architectural master and one of his long-ago clients.- Globe and Mail (Canada)

Fallingwater Announces Winner of Design Competition for On-Site Cottages: ...has chosen Patkau Architects...of its first-ever design competition for on-site cottages that will support residential educational programming at the Frank Lloyd Wright masterwork in Fayette County. -- Wendell Burnette Architects; Marlon Blackwell Architect; MacKay-Lyons Sweetapple Architects; Olson Kundig Architects; Saucier + Perrotte Architectes - Western Pennsylvania Conservancy

Wright proteges' work to be shown: "Fellowship: 75 Years of Taliesin Box Projects": It was a twice-a-year tradition at the studios where aspiring architects studied under the legendary Frank Lloyd Wright...would create special works to be presented to Wright as tokens of appreciation...on display Friday at the Price Tower Arts Center in Bartlesville. -- William Wesley Peters; John DeKoven Hill; Edgar Tafel; Kenneth Lockhart; Ling Po; Allen Davison- Tulsa World (Oklahoma)

"Norman Foster: A Life in Architecture" by Deyan Sudjic: ...Norman Foster is a fascinating character, but this isn't quite the biography he deserves...explains how Foster has helped to transform his

profession...What it lacks is a sense of revelation. It touches on some of the more sensitive issues in Foster's career, but it accepts the official version. By Rowan Moore- Observer (UK)

Better take a photo now before it's gone is one of the objectives of Australian filmmaker Georgia Wallace-Crabbe's film: to capture old Beijing before it's demolished. "New Beijing: Reinventing a City" will be screened at the Sydney Film Festival June 6 where it is likely to receive a better reception than it did at the Guangzhou film festival, where it was banned earlier this year. - Inside Film (Australia)

Call for entries: Crafting Excellence: Create the official logo for the UNESCO Award of Excellence for Handicrafts – UNESCO's flagship program for supporting craft producers; cash prizes; deadline: September 7 - DESIGN 21: Social Design Network

Move the Farnsworth House: Mies built the Farnsworth in spitting distance of the mighty Fox River, and the house is paying a price for his hubris. By Fred Bernstein [images]- ArchNewsNow



Shigeru Ban/Jean de Gastines: Centre Pompidou-Metz, Metz, France

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