

## Today's News - Tuesday, June 1, 2010

- ArcSpace brings us an eyeful of Lynn's "Fountain" of prefabricated plastic whale and shark teeter totters.
- Hume has nothing but high praise for the Aga Khan's Ismaili complex in Toronto: "Considered simply as an act of city-building, it is unprecedented" (with Maki and Correa at the helm, would you expect anything else?).
- Webb waxes with wonderful words re: Las Vegas Ruvo Center: "After two decades, Gehry still finds ways to keep his wrapped steel facades fresh" with "a joyful exuberance and geometric invention."
- Glancey finds Cape Town's Green Point stadium "stunning": it's "enormous, with a delicacy and grace that belies its bulk"; but could it become a white elephant? (great slide show of other World Cup stadiums, too, though nary an architect named).
- One of these days soon, Astana, Kazakhstan, will have an indoor city of 20,000 (sun bathing and gondola rides included).
- A de Portzamparc-designed \$1.3 billion skyscraper headed for Manhattan's West 57th Street ("as brokers keep their fingers crossed").
- Bernstein on a small handful of starchitects' protégés finding fame on their own.
- Hawthorne reports on Eli Broad narrowing his shortlist down from six to two for L.A. Grand Ave. museum (now all he needs is site approval).
- Rochon on the "stunning overhaul of the long-abandoned podium roof" of Toronto's City Hall + Kuitenbrouwer declares it "a triumph...a new public park in the city's heart, environmentally sound and breathtakingly beautiful."
- An eyeful of San Francisco's ultimate urban mixed-use project in the Presidio: architects, artists design nests, domes, and towers for the birds (and the occasional bat or garter snake).
- Kamin's "architectural face-off" between Chicago and Philadelphia (never mind the Stanley Cup showdown).
- At the Shanghai Expo, "Spirit of Innovation" pavilion showcases Sweden's creative way to improve the urban environment (it's reusable, too).
- What Gen Y's want in their workplace: to "see and feel the greenness...mere compliance isn't enough."
- "AIA Guide to New York City" updated for the first time in 10 years: "like the previous editions, it is a witty, informative and delightful critique" (book launch tomorrow at the Center for Architecture).
- A good reason to spend some time in Madrid in July: AAIE Madrid Summer School: "Bleaching Green" will explore the relation between architecture and energy use in dense cities.
- Di Paola's suggestion for BP re: oil spill: it "should welcome and try every proposal, offer of help and cocktail-napkin drawing they receive. With the oil leak so out of control...now might be the time for desperate measures."

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Exhibition: Greg Lynn: Fountain of Toys - Hammer Museum, Los Angeles -- FORM

New Ismaili complex: Of all the gifts ever given to Toronto, none is more beautiful than the Aga Khan's...there can be no doubt the Wynford complex will marshal the considerable powers of art, architecture and landscape in a way not seen before in Toronto. Considered simply as an act of city-building, it is unprecedented. By Christopher Hume -- Fumihiko Maki; Charles Correa; Vladimir Djurovic- Toronto Star

Crit: Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health: Gehry Partners teaches Las Vegas, that ephemeral city, the importance of permanence...there's a joyful exuberance and geometric invention...a rare instance of an architect exercising total control over a project...the star of the show is the interior of the activity center, which is a true original, radically different in form and effect from anything that has come before. By Michael Webb [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Perfect pitch: Cape Town's stunning Green Point stadium is the jewel in South Africa's World Cup crown. Will it be a sure-fire winner -- or an expensive own goal? Occupying a site the size of six city blocks, the 4.4bn rand (£391m) stadium is enormous, with a delicacy and grace that belies its bulk. By Jonathan Glancey -- GMP Architekten [slide show]- Guardian (UK)

Kazakhstan plans giant indoor city: The temperature in Astana can drop to -40F (-40C), but Kazakh residents could soon be able to sun themselves on a beach, go for a gondola ride or use a waterslide thanks to plans for an indoor city capable of housing 20,000 people. -- Foster + Partners; Manfredi Nicoletti; Kisho Kurokawa- Telegraph (UK)

Building a Tower of Luxury Apartments in Midtown as Brokers Cross Their Fingers: ...about to start construction of a \$1.3 billion, 1,005-foot skyscraper on West 57th Street...the tallest residential building in the city. -- Christian de Portzamparc [image]- New York Times

Leaving the Nest, Protégés Find Fame: A small group of foreign-born architects have broken away from Pritzker Prize-winning mentors to work on their own in the United States. By Fred A. Bernstein -- Marko Dochantschi/Studio MDA; Zaha Hadid; Kulapat Yantrasast/wHY Architecture; Tadao Ando; Florian Idenburg/SO-IL Solid Objectives Idenburg Liu; Kayuzo Sejima/Ryue Nishizawa/SANAA [images]- New York Times

Two architectural firms are finalists for Broad museum project: ...field of six architects...has been narrowed to Rem Koolhaas and Diller, Scofidio & Renfro. By Christopher Hawthorne -- Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA); Herzog & de Meuron; Christian de Portzamparc; Nishizawa/Sejima/SANAA; Foreign Office Architects (FOA)- Los Angeles

Times

An oasis at the top of Toronto City Hall: Public garden is a stunning overhaul of the long-abandoned podium roof...provides a badly needed template of built credibility for the city's recently introduced green roof by-law... By Lisa Rochon -- PLANT Architects; Shore Tilbe Irwin & Partners; Adrian Blackwell; Peter Schaudt [image]- Globe and Mail (Canada)

City Hall's green roof is a triumph: ...a new public park in the city's heart, environmentally sound and breathtakingly beautiful. By Peter Kuitenbrouwer -- Vijo Revell; PLANT architects [image]- National Post (Canada)

The Presidio in San Francisco installs animal habitat art project: Artists create nests, domes, towers and other works aimed at accommodating local wildlife and luring back some critters to the national park..."Presidio Habitats"... -- For-Site; Peter Good; Ai Weiwei; CEBRA; Don Chadwick; Taalman Koch; Jensen Architects; Ogrydziak/Prillinger; Fritz Haeg; Mark Dion/Nitin Jayaswal [slide show]- Los Angeles Times

Architectural face-off: Chicago puts Philadelphia on ice, but don't go trashing Philly - our architects designed many of its icons. By Blair Kamin -- Helmut Jahn; Daniel Burnham/D.H. Burnham & Co.; Graham, Anderson, Probst and White; Solomon Cordwell Buenz; Louis Sullivan; Frank Furness [images]- Chicago Tribune

Swedish spirit inspires visitors: As a reusable structure the design of the Sweden pavilion emphasizes the concept of recycling..."Spirit of Innovation" showcases Sweden's creative way to improve the urban environment. -- Johannes Tull/Sweco [images]- People's Daily (China)

Gen Y's Green Demands for the Workplace: Wants to be able to "see and feel the greenness in their workplace and mere compliance isn't enough" - GreenBiz.com

The AIA Guide to New York City, Updated: ...like the previous editions, it is a witty, informative and delightful critique of thousands of buildings and spaces in the five boroughs. It is also richly updated with new material... -- Fran Leadon; Norval White; Elliot Willensky- New York Times

AA/IE Madrid Summer School: "Bleaching Green": explore the relation between architecture and energy use in dense cities in the near future; July 9-17- Architectural Association (London) / IE School of Architecture (Madrid)

Kevin Costner Leads Pack of 23,500 With Gulf Oil Cleanup Ideas: I have a suggestion for BP - and the U.S. government. Both should welcome and try every proposal, offer of help and cocktail-napkin drawing they receive. With the oil leak so out of control that we can't even estimate the rate at which it is growing, now might be the time for desperate measures - all of them. By Mike Di Paola- Bloomberg News

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

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