

Today's News - Tuesday, June 15, 2010

- Planners in China are urged to stop building look-alike cities.
- The down economy has "masterpieces" on hold and the potential to lose a generation of architects.
- Hume fumes about "the architecture of paranoia" as Toronto prepares for the G20 gathering of world leaders: "one can't help but wonder if the point of all this effort and expenditure is to keep them in or us out."
- In the U.K.: Grimshaw is aglow about the Royal Academy's Summer Exhibition, and grumbles about Prince Charles's interference in public planning.
- Dyckhoff on Nouvel's Serpentine pavilion: it "demonstrates the best and the worst of his ideas...It's very plastic and very, very red" (and what makes the architect so "endearing").
- Moore marvels at Caruso St John's new café in Chiswick House Gardens: it's a "whitish, squarish, nice stone building" that is "simplified classical, but with nuances and twists"; and a Japanese master "celebrating altogether humbler dwellings" at the V&A.
- Space Needle owners make second try for approval of a Chihuly museum for Seattle Center - this time to include an "art playground" (but critics still abound).
- Starck expounds on his new Alhondiga building in Bilbao as a place to "work, play, love, hate, and have a kiss" - and why he's proud to call himself "a modern autist."
- Kamin minces no words when it comes to the new Toyota sign at Wrigley Field and why it's "a wart on the face of baseball's grand dame."
- Dunlop x 2: a small Lapidus exhibition is "a jumping-off point for reflection on how far Miami has come in a half century or so" + two new Miami Beach parks by Jungles and West 8 "show us the enormous potential of landscape architecture to make our cities civilized and pleasurable."
- King cheers empty city lots being transformed from blight to bounty - an experiment in "a sort of ad hoc urbanity" (fava beans included).
- The first phase of Kapoor's giant "butterfly net" in Teesside nets high praise (pix included).
- NYC's Governors Island now sports a pavilion with a green roof turned inside-out.
- Q+A with Rios Clementi Hale re: how they build vertical, horizontal, and material, and how it helps in a downturn: "You can float along, but you still should know where the waves are."
- National Trust for Historic Preservation names Meeks as Moe's replacement.
- Call for entries: EOI for ARC, International Wildlife Crossing Infrastructure Design Competition; Living City Design Competition to transform an existing city anywhere in the world.

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City planners urged to stop building look-alike cities with "identical faces": "The Cultural Revolution mainly destroyed relics in the form of objects. Dismantling buildings is something happening today" -- Ruan Yisan - People's Daily (China)

"Masterpieces" on hold, waiting for better times: ...the emphasis today is on value..."you tend to see less creativity in that environment, less exciting designs, less upscale materials being used"...we're afraid that we're going to lose a generation of architects. There are going to be fewer of us around to do the work that really needs to be done in the future." [slide show]- CNN

G20 and the architecture of paranoia: Judging from the preparations now under way...the world is no longer safe for the leaders of the planet's largest economies...one can't help but wonder if the point of all this effort and expenditure - \$1.3 billion and counting - is to keep them in or us out. By Christopher Hume- Toronto Star

Sir Nicholas Grimshaw: 'It's quality that matters more than anything else': ...president of the Royal Academy, tells John Walsh what makes its Summer Exhibition so special -- and why Prince Charles should stop 'interfering' with public planning- Independent (UK)

Jean Nouvel's Serpentine pavilion paints the park red: ...Kensington Gardens commission demonstrates the best and the worst of his ideas...It's very plastic and very, very red...What's always endearing about Nouvel is this capacity to fail, to try things out. By Tom Dyckhoff- The Times (UK)

Chiswick House: And the caff's pretty classy too: A grand Palladian villa is reborn in west London, while at the V&A, a Japanese master is celebrating altogether humbler dwellings. By Rowan Moore -- Caruso St John; Terunobu Fujimori [images]- Observer (UK)

Space Needle owners roll out new Chihuly proposal for Seattle Center: In a second attempt to sell the city and the public on a Dale Chihuly glass exhibit...the Space Needle Corp. is proposing to add an art-inspired playground for kids and develop a partnership to bring more art to Seattle Public Schools. [image]- Seattle Times

A luxurious modern monk: The prolific Philippe Starck tells Fiona Govan why his vast new Alhondiga building in Bilbao is a place to "work, play, love, hate, and have a kiss"...he paints himself as an enfant terrible fighting to overturn established concepts in society. - Telegraph (UK)

New Toyota sign at Wrigley: As ugly as the Cubs' season: ...uglier than expected. The controversial sign...is a wart on the face of baseball's grand dame... By Blair Kamin [images]- Chicago Tribune

Morris Lapidus: an architect's journey from scorned to revered: "A Question for Emotion and Motion in Architecture" [at Artcenter/South Florida] a jumping-off point for reflection on how far we've come in a half century or so...The profession and the universities need to...bring architecture into the public arena as a source of discussion and an incentive...The country's architects last came to Miami at a time when we seem to have been almost embarrassed by it. Now, we exult. By Beth Dunlop -- Deborah Desilets; Alfred Browning Parker; Igor Polevitzky; Robert Bradford Browne- Miami Herald

Common ground: Two new Miami Beach parks confirm landscape's power to transport us...show us the enormous potential of landscape architecture to make our cities civilized and pleasurable. By Beth Dunlop -- Raymond Jungles; Herzog & de Meuron; Adriaan Geuze/West 8; Fran Gehry; Morris Lapidus; Roberto Burle Marx; Dan Graham; Laurinda Spear/ArquitectonicaGeo; James Corner Field Operations; Hargreaves Associates; William Lane; William Lyman Phillips [images]- Miami Herald

Crops dot fallow S.F. spots until backhoes come: ...prove there's a way to revive empty city lots - even ones where buildings are scheduled to rise...shows blight can be turned to bounty...experimenting with a sort of ad hoc urbanity - and shaping models that, if successful, can be replicated elsewhere. By John King- San Francisco Chronicle

Anish Kapoor sculpture nets high praise: Giant 'butterfly net' Temenos unveiled as first of five Teesside sculptures that aim to become biggest artwork in world -- Cecil Balmond [slide show]- Guardian (UK)

Green on the Inside: A summer installation on New York's Governors Island turns the green roof inside-out...winner of this year's City of Dreams Pavilion Competition...Living Pavilion will be on display...until October 3 -- Figment NYC; Behrang Behin/Ann Ha; A|ANY Emerging New York Architects (ENYA) [images, links]- Metropolis Magazine

Q+A: Rios Clementi Hale: The LA designers discuss how they build vertical, horizontal, and material, and how it helps in a downturn..."we were careful to always reinvent the wheel...You can float along, but you still should know where the waves are."- The Architect's Newspaper

Stephanie Meeks Named 8th President of National Trust for Historic Preservation: ...outgoing President Richard Moe said he shares the excitement and enthusiasm surrounding Stephanie's election...- National Trust for Historic Preservation

Call for entries/Expressions of Interest (EOI): ARC, International Wildlife Crossing Infrastructure Design Competition: create the next generation of wildlife crossing structures for North America's roadways; cash prizes; deadline: July 30- Western Transportation Institute/Montana State University / Woodcock Foundation

Call for entries: Living City Design Competition: select an existing city anywhere in the world and conceptually transform it through photo-realistic three-dimensional modeling and renderings; cash prizes; deadline: February 1, 2011- International Living Building Institute / National Trust for Historic Preservation

Book Review: Shedding Light on Concrete: "Tadao Ando: Complete Works 1975-2010" by Philip Jodidio: Photographic presentation of a poet of light and concrete triumphs over lackluster commentary. By Norman Weinstein [images]- ArchNewsNow



Expansion: OMA/Office for Metropolitan Architecture: MNBAQ, Québec City, Canada

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