

Today's News - Monday, July 19, 2010

EDITOR'S NOTE: Just a reminder that we're three hours behind home base for the rest of this week, so newsletter will be arriving a bit later than usual.

- Lui looks at Hadid's museum in Rome and sees "a reminder that here is a woman at the top of the field - and a testament to the fact that women build, and build well."
- Koolhaas and Shinohara (posthumously) land Biennale's Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement.
- "No Bingo here" as NYC (and other cities) takes major steps to make it easier to grow old in urban centers.
- A look at DS+R/Rockwell's NEA grant-winning Culture Shed.
- But it raises Rosenbaum's hackles as "as an inappropriate diversion of federal art funds" that should go towards cultural programming, not its design and construction.
- Studies indicate we can link green buildings with improved productivity, but...
- A call for more LEED verification.
- Moore marvels at the Wales Institute for Sustainable Education that is "more than just a checklist of green materials and practices. It is also a triumph of modernism and minimalism."
- Bernstein x 2: the (once stalled) Houses at Sagaponac Modernist development in East Hampton turns to designers of prefabricated buildings.
- He finds the U.S. pavilion at World Expo a "flop" - a "bland tribute to 'community'" with "all the appeal of a suburban multiplex" (designed by a Canadian, no less).
- The Shanghai Expo is a spectacle that puts a spotlight on the "changing drama of urban China" that is both "plausible and fallible" (Ai Weiwei calls it "a fake smile").
- Merrick on the V&A's "hopes to leave the past behind" in another try to expand - next step: another competition; meanwhile, design studies on view range from "easily buildable" to "blingtastic."
- Glancey reports from atop London's Strata (amidst the wind turbines): is it "a green gimmick - or the future?" - time will tell, but he does seem to like it.
- Hawthorne is a bit more iffy about L.A.'s newest (and very, very expensive) school: certain elements "show initiative and strength," but the "final result wraps both ham-handed reverence for history and naked disdain for it inside a single architectural package" (it's not all the architect's fault).
- A look at key trends in airport design hints at what we can expect in the airport of 2030.
- Hess calls San Jose airport's new Terminal B "stunning - but also a missed opportunity for originality": for all "its sleek, shape-shifting form," it "also resembles other air terminals the world over."
- Londonderry to be the first British City of Culture in 2013.
- AIA 2010 Small Project Awards (apologies for incorrect link in Friday's newsletter).
- We couldn't resist: luscious eye-fuls of P.S.1 and Serpentine Pavilions.
- Call for entries: Richard L. Blinder Award for the best proposal exploring preservation.

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Veni, Vidi, Vici: Museo MAXXI by Zaha Hadid Architects: Rome, Italy: The ancient city's newest museum is a reminder that here is a woman at the top of the field - and a testament to the fact that women build, and build well. By Ann Lui- ArchNewsNow

Rem Roars With Golden Lion Win: Koolhaas wins top award at Venice Biennale, along with a special posthumous prize for Kazuo Shinohara -- Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA) - The Architect's Newspaper

Creating Safer and Kinder Districts to Grow Old: Efforts to make it easier to grow old in New York City were born of good intentions as well as economic strategy...plans to incorporate the results of the focus groups into two pilot aging-improvement districts...somewhat akin to business-improvement districts..."No bingo played here" - New York Times

West Side Project Wins Grant for Urban Design: The National Endowment for the Arts has given \$100,000 for work on a new cultural building...planned as part of the redevelopment of the railyards...a kind of combination museum and rental exhibition space...Culture Shed...bordering the High Line... -- Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Rockwell Group [image]- New York Times

National Endowment's City Design Grants: The Fallacy of "Great Outcomes": I regard this as an inappropriate diversion of federal art funds. NEA grants should appropriately go to the new facility's cultural programming, if and when it's actually up and running, but not for its design and construction. By Lee Rosenbaum -- Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Rockwell Group; Mary Miss; András Szántó [links]- ArtsJournal

Linking Green Buildings, Productivity and the Bottom Line: Can promoting green initiatives and certifying a green workplace increase productivity? And if so, what is the impact to the bottom line? Studies indicate the answer is yes on productivity, but...objectively measuring productivity is difficult. - GreenerBuildings.com

LEED needs more verification: Building operators will ultimately be held accountable for formulating and implementing sustainability procedures...for far too many, the process is viewed as uncertain, inconvenient or unnecessary....all indications are that building operators who wish to remain on top of the market need to document their continuing efforts toward the objectives of sustainability. - Daily Journal of Commerce (Oregon)

The Wales Institute for Sustainable Education, Machynlleth: A new building at a centre devoted to eco awareness is more than just a checklist of green materials and practices. It is also a triumph of modernism and minimalism...it's not spectacular, or fanatical, but it shows one way of doing sustainable architecture in the fullest sense: not just a pile of box-ticking, but making spaces. By Rowan Moore -- Pat Borer; David Lea - Observer (UK)

Reviving a Modernist Development: The owners of Houses at Sagaponac in East Hampton are working with designers of prefabricated buildings. By Fred A. Bernstein -- Zaha Hadid; Philip Johnson; Richard Meier; Tsao & McKown; Resolution 4: Architecture; Keenen/Riley; hanrahanMeyers Architects; Stephen Kanner - New York Times

A World Expo flop by the U.S.: Our pavilion at the 2010 World Expo in Shanghai is a huge disappointment, failing to showcase the best of the United States...its bland tribute to "community," says little about what makes America, and Americans, special...has all the appeal of a suburban multiplex. By Fred A. Bernstein -- Clive Grout- Los Angeles Times

Full exposure: Shanghai Expo is a spectacle. But so is a lot of Shanghai itself...the changing drama of urban China's physical landscape unfolds into a story at once plausible and fallible...it's like "a fake smile"... -- He Jingtang; Thomas Heatherwick; Mass Studies; Rem Koolhaas; Norman Foster; Paul Andreu; Steven Holl; I.M. Pei; Herzog & de Meuron; Ai Weiwei - Business Standard (India)

V&A hopes to leave the past behind as it plans extension: Daniel Libeskind's Spiral design crashed and burned spectacularly...was never mentioned again. Until now...will hold a design competition this autumn...Are the Boilerhouse Yard design studies, currently exhibited...any good? By Jay Merrick -- Tony Fretton; Sutherland Hussey; Snohetta; Dixon Jones; Jamie Fobert; Francisco Mangado; Office for Metropolitan Architecture/OMA [slide show]- Independent (UK)

Spin city: It is the world's first skyscraper with built-in wind turbines. But is London's Strata a green gimmick -- or the future?

...Elephant and Castle is undergoing a massive, if slow, transition...hopes will be a £1.5bn model of inner-city regeneration. By Jonathan Glancey -- Ian Bogle/BFLS (formerly Hamiltons Architects) [slide show]- Guardian (UK)

L.A. Unified's faulty vision for schools on Ambassador site: Though the overall design meshes well as a public campus...final result wraps both ham-handed reverence for history and naked disdain for it inside a single architectural package. By Christopher Hawthorne -- Myron Hunt; Paul R. Williams; Gordon Kaufmann (1921); Gonzalez Goodale Architects; Tetra Design [slide show, links]- Los Angeles Times

Exploring the airport of 2030: ...the evaluation of a number of key trends can help to give an insight into what we can expect. -- Fentress Architects; Pascall + Watson Architects; 3DReid- Airport Business / Airports Council International (ACI)

Mineta San Jose airport's new Terminal B is stunning - but also a missed opportunity for originality: ...its sleek, shape-shifting form seems to morph from solid to transparent...But unfortunately for those dreaming of a unique icon, the new structure also resembles other air terminals the world over. By Alan Hess -- Fentress Architects; Gensler; Steinberg Group [images]- Mercury News (California)

Londonderry to be the first British City of Culture in 2013: ...Northern Ireland's second city had been competing against Birmingham, Norwich and Sheffield...was awarded the title because of the "strong cultural programme put forward and the way it draws on the city's past" - Telegraph (UK)

AIA 2010 recipients of the Small Project Awards: include Architecture in the Public Interest, Small Project Objects and Small Project Structures -- Tonic Design; PLY Architecture; mark ryan studio; Eskew+Dumez+Ripple; slade architecture; jordan parrass digital architecture; Johnsen Schmalig Architects; Intrinsic Architecture; Griffin Enright Architects - American Institute of Architects (AIA)

P.S. 1 and Serpentine Pavilions Are Design Destinations of the Summer -- SO-IL/Solid Objectives - Idenburg Liu; Jean Nouvel [slide show]- AIArchitect

Call for entries: Richard L. Blinder Award for the best proposal exploring the preservation of an existing structure, complex of buildings or genre of building type through addition, renovation or other means; deadline: September 15- James Marston Fitch Charitable Foundation

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