

## Today's News - Wednesday, September 1, 2010

- More musings on the Venice Biennale: Heathcote finds it "good to look at but also unsettlingly light on ideas"...People may meet in architecture but what happens once they've met?"
- McGuirk, on the other hand, says it "puts the human experience back at the heart of architecture."
- Long sees Britain's Villa Frankenstein "a triumph" that "represents London at its critical and reflective best." (we liked it, too!)
- Four "powerhouse teams" in the running to re-shape Seattle's central waterfront, each headed by an international star; "How could we possibly miss? In theory we shouldn't," says Hinshaw.
- Libeskind tapped to design Halifax memorial to mark Canada's refusal of Jews in 1939.
- Hatherley takes on density and urban squalor: the solution is not "draconian immigration caps, but rather something terribly unfashionable - town planning."
- Cairo sees two mega-cities as a haven for the city's overcrowded working class, but there's a catch: "the overwhelming majority of new residents come from Egypt's uppermost economic strata."
- Russell x 2: Brad Pitt's Make It Right project in New Orleans mixes "insightful designs by local architects with adventurous work by rising stars and big names from around the world...to fit the city's post-Katrina reality."
- Perhaps if "a few cowardly members of Congress" visited the Empire State Building's uber-green makeover, they would see "proof that reducing energy and carbon emissions is good for the bottom line."
- Hawthorne hails a bold new landmark along L.A.'s Expo Line by Eric Owen Moss that seems to have "captivated the architect just enough to keep him, at least in this one compelling project, from chasing his own tail."
- Rinaldi revels in two very different Denver projects (a museum and an FBI building - of all things) that "brilliantly break infill rules."
- Q&A with DS+R's Renfro re: how and why the firm has never had it better; but advice to a student thinking of becoming an architect? "Go into law."
- BIG's "baby-faced starchitect" Ingels on how designing for a dictator can actually be virtuous and saving Brazil from the Olympics curse.
- Glancey cheers an initiative that aims to stir a revolution in university design now that "now that politicians and educators have finally realized that the brutal, roller-coaster ways of global capitalism are no friends to learning."
- Eyefuls of I.D. Annual Design Review winners - "from the iconic to the obscure" (terrific presentation).

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Venice Architecture Biennale: Kazuyo Sejima...has returned the Biennale to architecture, to the object...attempts to build and create real experiential space rather than merely to represent it...good to look at but also unsettlingly light on ideas. Politics has been purged, experience privileged over intellect...People may meet in architecture but what happens once they've met? By Edwin Heathcote - Financial Times (UK)

This year's Venice Architecture Biennale is about people, not plans: Too many design exhibitions are big on architectural theory, but miss what really matters: human beings. This one is different...much more about what should happen inside buildings...puts the human experience back at the heart of architecture. By Justin McGuirk -- Kazuyo Sejima/SANAA; Tetsuo Kondo/Transsolar; Junya Ishigami; Olafur Eliasson - Guardian (UK)

The house that Muf built: ...British pavilion...brings together people and ideas in a rich and complex exchange between London and Venice, and between architecture, science and education...Villa Frankenstein riffs on Ruskin's verdict on suburban London and the strange things that happen when architectural styles travel...a triumph...represents London at its critical and reflective best... By Kieran Long [images] - Evening Standard (UK)

Four powerhouse teams named finalists in central waterfront design: All teams have substantial local involvement by architecture and landscape architecture firms...Each is headed by a firm or person with international recognition...How could we possibly miss? In theory we shouldn't. By Mark Hinshaw -- Gustafson Guthrie Nichol/Foster + Partners/Jones & Jones/Weinstein A/U; Michael Van Valkenburgh/Ken Greenberg/James Carpenter/Peter Steinbrueck; James Corner Field Operations  
Wallace Roberts & Todd (WRT)/Atelier Dreiseitl/SRG Partnership - Crosscut (Seattle)

Daniel Libeskind memorial to mark Canada's refusal of Jews in 1939: Crafted from steel and carved in a never-ending circle, a monument...will be the first Canadian tribute to the MS St. Louis..."Wheel of Conscience" will have a permanent home...at Pier 21, Canada's Immigration Museum, in Halifax, where the ship would have docked had it been allowed to do so. [image]-Globe and Mail (Canada)

A disdain for urban planning is the problem, not overcrowding: Lack of planning has given us urban squalor, where, with a bit of regulation, dense populations could live in comfort...doesn't necessitate draconian immigration caps, but rather something terribly unfashionable -- town planning. By Owen Hatherley -- Richard Rogers; Ricky Burdett - Guardian (UK)

To Catch Cairo Overflow, 2 Megacities Rise in Sand: ...government's original plans...conceived of 6 October City...and New Cairo...as havens for working-class Cairenes. So far, however, the overwhelming majority of new residents come from Egypt's uppermost economic strata...highlight Egypt's already striking imbalance between rich and poor, and could sow the seeds of future troubles. -- Abdelhalim Ibrahim Abdelhalim - New York Times

Brad Pitt's Architects Give New Orleans Safer, Snazzier Homes: ...Make It Right has mixed insightful designs by local architects with adventurous work by rising stars and big names from around the world...All of the architects have rethought traditional architectural elements to fit the city's post-Katrina reality... By James S. Russell -- Steven Bingle; GRAFT; Morphosis - Bloomberg/BusinessWeek

King Kong's Perch Goes Green for \$20M as Earth Roasts: Perhaps a few cowardly members of Congress could stop by the Empire State Building to see how Malkin has created jobs...proof that reducing energy and carbon emissions is good for the bottom line. By James S. Russell - Bloomberg/BusinessWeek

A bold landmark by the Expo Line: Eric Owen Moss' Samitaur Tower in Culver City will display video and artwork visible to transit riders on the light-rail line...Part monument and part building...It looks like a work in progress, a gathering spot and something of a ruin at the same time. By Christopher Hawthorne [image] - Los Angeles Times

Waking up their neighbors: Two structures...brilliantly break infill rules: The first commandment in the book of urban infill is "honor thy neighbor"...But what if your neighbors aren't so honorable in the first place? That's when the second commandment kicks in: "No matter what, build something beautiful." By Ray Mark Rinaldi -- Brad Cloepfil/Allied Works Architecture; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM)/Anderson Mason Dale [images] - Denver Post

Architecture's 2010 Hot Shop Wins A Billionaire Patron: Plenty of architecture's biggest names have been laid low by the Great Recession...One partnership has never had it better, however: New York-based Diller Scofidio + Renfro...What would advice would you give to a student who is thinking of becoming an architect? Renfro: "Go into law." - Bloomberg/BusinessWeek

Can Designing for a Dictator Actually Be Virtuous? Baby-faced starchitect Bjarke Ingels sits down with Co.Design to discuss

[a controversial commission and saving Brazil from the Olympics curse. By Cliff Kuang -- BIG/Bjarke Ingels Group \[images, links\]- Fast Company](#)

[University architecture shapes up for a revolution: Learning Landscapes in Higher Education, a research project into the relationship between students, lecturers and researchers and the buildings they use, aims to bring a new creativity to campus design. By Jonathan Glancey -- Mike Neary; David Chiddick; Rick Mather; DEGW; MacCormac Jamieson Prichard; SANAA \[links\]- Guardian \(UK\)](#)

[I.D. Annual Design Review winners: ...the best in product, furniture, graphic, and environment design, from the iconic to the obscure. -- Clive Wilkinson Architects/Woods Bagot/Fitzpatrick + Partners; Jane Hutton/Adrian Blackwell; Pentagram/Thom Mayne/Morphosis; Hoberman Associates; Studio O+A; MUMA \(McInnes Usher McKnight Architects\); Grimshaw; Rogers Marvel Architects; etc. \[links to images, info\]- I.D. magazine](#)

[The Art of Ennobling Communities: Interview with Sara Caples and Everardo Jefferson: These architects have proven time and time again that architecture can transform reality and change attitudes. By Vladimir Belogolovsky \[images\]- ArchNewsNow](#)



[KK Letter: Work and time off in Beijing: ...working on the installation of the first Frank Gehry exhibition in China...an opportunity to combine work with a short vacation...We will be back on September 6th. -- Foster + Partners; Kengo Kuma; Arata Isozaki; Paul Andreu \[images\]](#)

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