

Today's News - Tuesday, September 7, 2010

- ArcSpace returns from hiatus with a triple: OMA in Venice; Andreu in Beijing; and Chris Bosse "re-loves" Verner Panton classic at the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney.
- James Sanders revisits his 2003 NYT piece re: What does it mean to call Ground Zero "hallowed ground"?
- Meanwhile, Dunlap on the current (and dizzying) pace of construction going on at the WTC site (great slide show, too).
- Kotkin on the latest urban plight: the "unique link between urbanism and upward mobility is under threat."
- 20 years after it was squatted by a group of artists, a battle for Berlin's Tacheles arts center "has reignited a long-running debate about...who has the right to shape the urban environment" (lots of potential buyers who want to keep the building - "but no one wants the artists").
- Aspen hopes to save Harry Weese's 1972 Given Institute, though University of Colorado has been offered big bucks for the property - sans Weese.
- Some may complain about New Zealand's strict standards for building construction, but they sure paid off in the latest earthquake.
- Moore melts in delight at this year's Biennale: it "shows what architects should spend much of their time doing. Which is to make spaces. With people in them."
- Local talent scores win in competition to design the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk.
- Three teams shortlisted for one of the U.K.'s most ambitious regeneration projects (original team strikes out, it seems).
- Soleri's Arcosanti may "remain more dream than reality. But the ideas born there are no longer on the fringes" (the master's quips make this an excellent read).
- Q&A with Kristina Hill re: what landscape architects can do to help manage the effects of climate change: "get involved in local politics to shape major investments of public funds...Policy debates are messy and volatile...We need to be bold..."
- Merrick meets up with Hadid who mulls over new projects, urban design, and Iraq: "Going back to Baghdad will be very difficult."
- Cheers for the Royal Shakespeare Company's major facelift: "better seating and more ladies' loos" (definitely worth cheering!).
- Bozickovic cheers Toronto's new Sugar Beach, "Throw in the sights of the lake (boat! seagull!) and you have a winning park experience."
- We're very pleased to hear that an architecture scholarship has been set up in honor of the late critic (one of our faves), David Dillon.
- Holl to receive RIBA's Jencks Award: Visions Built 2010.
- Eyefuls of the 2010 SCUP Award winners in architecture, landscape architecture, and planning + AIA Maryland 2010 Design Awards (both excellent presentations!).
- We couldn't resist: pundits weigh in on the re-do of the Oval office, Obama style: from "The audacity of taupe" to "If Obama leaves a mark on his presidency, I don't think it will be through his fabric choices."

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-- OMA/Office for Metropolitan Architecture: The Fondaco dei Tedeschi, Venice, Italy
-- Exhibition: "Re-loved" - Chris Bosse/LAVA, Powerhouse Museum, Sydney, Australia
-- Paul Andreu Architecte: National Centre for the Performing Arts, Beijing, China

Hallowed Ground, Worldly City: Ground Zero and the Struggle for Lower Manhattan: The current controversy over the proposed construction of an Islamic community center and mosque...has intensified the question: What does it mean to call Ground Zero "hallowed ground"? ..."the challenge of creating a memorial in a city that, for most of its history, has abhorred the very idea of memorials." By James Sanders - Places Journal

World Trade Center Complex Is Rising Rapidly: Two years ago, it was difficult to imagine how...could ever finish the eight-acre memorial in time for the 10th anniversary of the attack, on Sept. 11, 2011. Today, it is difficult to imagine what would stop them (though, given the site's tortured history, the possibility shouldn't be completely dismissed). By David W. Dunlap [slide show] - New York Times

Urban Plight: Vanishing Upward Mobility: Boosters still maintain that big cities remain unique centers for social uplift, but evidence suggests this is increasingly no longer the case...unique link between urbanism and upward mobility is under threat. By Joel Kotkin - The American (American Enterprise Institute)

Counterculture Vs. Capitalism: Iconic Berlin Squat Fights Its Last Battle: ...legendary Tacheles arts center faces the threat of closure...has reignited a long-running debate about the future of the city and who has the right to shape the urban environment...There are 10 potential buyers...All of them want to keep the Tacheles building - but no one wants the artists. [slide show] - Der Spiegel (Germany)

In Aspen, Demolition Looms for Modernist Building by Harry Weese: ...1972 Given Institute is a small concrete-block conference center owned by the University of Colorado School of Medicine...School officials are negotiating with a potential buyer, who has offered \$15 million for the property - provided Weese's building is torn down..."To tear it down would be an act of cultural vandalism." -- Robert Bruegmann [images] - Architectural Record

Building standards make difference in quake deaths: New Zealand's system of standards and quality control for building construction may have saved the affected areas from the death and devastation endured by the people of Haiti... -- Andrew Charleson/Earthquake Hazard Center; Graeme McIndoe - CNN

Venice Architecture Biennale 2010: From shimmering water sprays to a walk in the clouds, this year's biennale is a delight, thanks to the inspired curatorship of Kazuyo Sejima...shows what architects should spend much of their time doing. Which is to make spaces. With people in them. By Rowan Moore -- SANAA; muf; R&Sie(n); Olafur Eliasson; Tetsuo Kondo Architects/Transsolar; Noura Al-Sayeh/Fuad Al-Ansari; Anton García-Abril/Ensamble Studio; Mark Blaschitz/SPLITTERWERK; Studio Mumbai [slide show] - Observer (UK)

The Museum of the Second World War Competition in Poland winner announced: 1st Prize and will design the new museum in Gdan'sk, the city where the war broke out. -- Studio Architektoniczne Kwadrat; Piotr Plaskowicki & partnerzy Architekci BETAPLAN [images] - Museum of the Second World War/Muzeum II Wojny Światowej

Greenwich Millennium Village shortlist revealed: ...one of the country's most ambitious regeneration projects...comprising 1,850 homes...represents a blow to Broadway Malyan...had been lined up by the joint venture to design the scheme -- the last part of a masterplan by the late Ralph Erskine. -- Feilden Clegg Bradley/Alison Brooks/S333/Proctor & Matthews; Maccleanor Lavington/Aecom/Karakusevic Carson; Jestico & Whiles/Peter Barber/Studio 54 Architecture - BD/Building Design (UK)

Clinging to a vision: Architect's 40-year endeavor to erect Earth-friendly city inspires ideas to come. Arcosanti has spent 40 years on the fringes of relevancy...remains more dream than reality. But the ideas born there are no longer on the fringes. --

Paolo Soleri- Arizona Republic

Interview with Kristina Hill on Managing the Effects of Climate Change: "...what landscape architects can do now is...get involved in local politics to shape major investments of public funds...Policy debates are messy and volatile, but our vision as a profession is needed now more than ever in that arena. We need to be bold, and share our ideas in public - every day."
Chair of the Landscape Architecture department at the University of Virginia.- The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Zaha Hadid: 'Going back to Baghdad will be very difficult': Jay Merrick meets the Iraqi-born architect whose latest project means an emotional return to the city of her upbringing...commissioned to design the new headquarters of the Central Bank of Iraq..."Cities are really the ultimate project for architects - to apply your mind, your ideas, to a big area, in one go."
Independent (UK)

Royal Shakespeare Company prepares to open theatre after £112.8m revamp: Royal Shakespeare Theatre will open after three and a half years with major facelift, better seating and more ladies' loos. -- Elisabeth Scott (1930s); Bennetts Associates- Guardian (UK)

Sweet times at Sugar Beach: The newest park on the waterfront is a playful two acres of landscape design...Throw in the sights of the lake (boat! seagull!) and you have a winning park experience...Toronto, thanks to the waterfront agency and the city, is keeping up with both cultural changes and the latest currents in park design. By Alex Bozikovic -- Claude Cormier; The Planning Partnership [images, links]- No Mean City (Toronto)

Architecture Scholarship Set Up: "David Dillon Memorial Scholarship" in Honor of Late Critic -- Dallas Architecture Forum; AIA Dallas; Dallas Center for Architecture Foundation- D Magazine (Dallas)

Steven Holl to Receive Jencks Award: Visions Built 2010 at the RIBA: ...given annually to an individual (or practice) that has recently made a major contribution simultaneously to the theory and practice of architecture internationally.- ArtDaily.org

2010 SCUP Excellence in Planning, SCUP Excellence in Landscape Architecture and SCUP/AIA-CAE Excellence in Architecture Awards -- Venturi, Scott Brown/Andropogon Associates; Taylor & Burns Architects/Reed Hildebrand Associates; Diller Scofidio + Renfro/FXFowle Architects; Allied Works Architecture/Integrated Design Solutions; Ahed Associates; Goody Clancy; Boora Architects/Hargreaves Associates; etc. [links to info, images]- Society for College and University Planning (SCUP)

AIA Maryland Celebrates Design Excellence at its 2010 Design Awards -- SmithGroup; David Jameson Architect; Cunningham | Quill Architects; Kuhn Riddle Architects; Hord Coplan Macht; McInturff Architects; RM Sovich Architecture; Robert M. Gurney, FAIA, Architect; etc. [images, info]- AIA Maryland

The Audacity of Taupe: The Oval Office has been tweaked...seemed to produce a collective yawn: too brown, too dowdy, too ho hum...It is a subtle redo..."If Obama leaves a mark on his presidency, I don't think it will be through his fabric choices."
Michael Smith [images]- New York Times

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