

Today's News - Wednesday, September 22, 2010

EDITOR'S NOTE: Our apologies for not posting yesterday - the technology gods were not kind to us, but all's well now (stuff happens).

- Van Valkenburgh's (very impressive) team has been picked for the planning phase of St. Louis's City+Arch+River 2015 Competition.
- CCA announces the winner of the 2010-2011 James Stirling Memorial Lectures on the City Competition.
- Museum of Tolerance in Jerusalem taps local talent for new (and much less expensive than Gehry's original) design "founded on conspicuousness, rather than concealment" (Frank says "No" to incorporating some of his design into the complex).
- Some think museum's "glassy" new plans by Chyutin Architects will "reflect badly on the nearby environment."
- Hume muses about whether a Gehry could make Hamilton, Ontario, "a city that has inflicted on itself every planning mistake in the book," into the next Bilbao.
- Deborah Gans sees the future of Haiti as "a verdant landscape dotted with regional hubs connected by a web of transportation lines to restructured and enhanced port cities."
- King has high hopes for San Francisco's waterfront if the city wins the 2013 America's Cup: it could "leave something more profound than yacht sightings in its wake."
- Iovine cheers Foster's new gallery on NYC's Bowery: he "has risen so brilliantly to the challenge of designing small that perhaps he should do less more often" (great pix).
- Hume cheers Toronto's new TIFF Bell Lightbox/Festival Tower as a "marvelous hybrid creation" that "shows exactly where urbanism is headed...it is complexity given form...the building is a triumph."
- Koshalek has big plans for DS+R's Hirshhorn Museum bubble (Bloomberg LP's \$1 million gives it naming rights, but the name could be "problematic: 'Bloomberg Bubble' is probably not going to work").
- Gardner likes most of what DS+R has done at Lincoln Center, but finds a touch of "cruel irony" in their "need to draw clamorous attention to their own creativity" in "one of their most ill-advised maneuvers."
- Pittsburgh's plan to raze its 1971 Civic Arena (the first stadium with a retractable roof) called a "sham process"; to re-use The Igloo would require developers "to come up with something more imaginative than the brick and stucco boxes that pass for commercial architecture these days."
- Scully's departure from Yale's History of Art Department now has the School of Architecture trying to fill the gap in architectural history offerings.
- London-based Archial goes into administration.
- A town steps up to the plate, offering to accept designation as "Scotland's most dismal place" - hoping the Plook on the Plinth award will help push redevelopment in their area.
- Call for entries for students: International Museum of Volcanoes (Canary Islands, Spain); and a Vienna House of Music; for the rest of us (in U.S. and Canada): Lucite's Carry Me! Handbag Design Competition.

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MVA Team Moves Forward in City+Arch+River 2015 Competition:

...multidisciplinary team introduced as experts in "urban renewal, preservation, commemoration, social connections and ecological restoration" have been picked for the planning phase... -- Michael Van Valkenburgh; Steven Holl; Greenberg Consultants; Uhlir Consulting; Guy Nordenson; Arup; Ann Hamilton Studio; James Carpenter Design Associates; Cooper Robertson & Partners; etc. [images, flythrough]- CityArchRiver 2015 Foundation

CCA announces the winner of the 2010-2011 James Stirling Memorial Lectures on the City Competition: Gerald Frug's proposal "The Architecture of Governance" will analyze the problems facing the organization of cities around the world and will attempt to describe the design of the governance system in a way that makes it recognizable to architects and other designers. - Canadian Centre for Architecture (CCA)

Wiesenthal Center unveils new Jerusalem museum design: Museum of Tolerance will cost \$150 million less than originally planned; Chyutin Architects design replaces one by Frank Gehry..."The overreaching message of tolerance manifests itself in the building's dialogue with its surroundings - one which is founded on conspicuousness, rather than concealment" - Jerusalem Post

New Design Approved For Jerusalem's Giant Glass Museum Of Tolerance: ...glassy new plans...reflect badly on the nearby environment. -- Frank Gehry; Chyutin Architects [images, links]- Green Prophet (Middle East)

Frank Gehry, Daniel Barenboim join Ariel boycott campaign: ...in support of the Israeli actors' refusal to perform in the new cultural center of Ariel..."architects and planners are the key implementers of the Israeli policy of taking and brutally occupying Palestinian land...For Gehry to take such a moral stand once and for all ends the mythical firewall between architecture, policy, and human rights. We hope Israeli architects will be inspired..." - Ha'aretz (Israel)

Is Hamilton ready for Frank Gehry? ...it's far from certain Hamiltonians would support such a scheme; after all, this is a city that has inflicted on itself every planning mistake in the book - and then some. And who can say for sure that Hamilton grasps the power of art and architecture? Don't hold your breath, but a little heavy breathing is allowed. By Christopher Hume- Toronto Star

Haiti and the Potential of Permaculture: The future map of Haiti could appear a verdant landscape dotted with regional hubs connected by a web of transportation lines to restructured and enhanced port cities. By Deborah Gans/Gans Studio [images]- Places Journal

America's Cup would reshape waterfront: ...if you're a fan of San Francisco, you should root for the city's bid to host the 2013 America's Cup...can leave something more profound than yacht sightings in its wake. We can get a reimagined waterfront that celebrates 21st century urbanity even as it defers to our timeless natural setting. By John King -- Craig Hartman/Skidmore Owings & Merrill (SOM) [slide show]- San Francisco Chronicle

Foster's Big Move on the Bowery: At the new Sperone Westwater gallery, Norman Foster makes the most of small spaces...The so-called "moving room" at...is the major move at the eight-story gallery and office jimmied onto a 25-by-100-foot building footprint...Far from gimmicky, it feels exhilarating, new,

and essential to the space...Foster has risen so brilliantly to the challenge of designing small that perhaps he should do less more often. By Julie V. Iovine -- Foster + Partners [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Lightbox illuminates city's future: TIFF Bell Lightbox/Festival Tower...marvellous hybrid creation shows exactly where urbanism is headed — or at least, should be headed — in the 21st century. Cosmopolitan, connected, coherent and, above all, accommodating of a variety of uses, it is complexity given form...the building is a triumph... Christopher Hume -- Kuwabara Payne McKenna Blumberg (KPMB) [side show, links]- Toronto Star

A Bubble Bursting With Ideas: ...who would build a translucent, inflatable bubble there, protruding from the doughnut-shaped Hirshhorn Museum and looking, from renderings, like a giant jellybean colored robin's egg blue? And why? That would be Richard Koshalek...plans to convene forums in the bubble...that will insert art into the dialogue of national and world affairs. -- Diller Scofidio + Renfro- Wall Street Journal

Fashion Week's style not reflected in look of Lincoln Center entrance: ...there is a cruel irony to its dramatic appearance...has been fundamentally transformed by Diller Scofidio + Renfro, much of it for the better. But one of their most ill-advised maneuvers was to repave almost the entire complex...in their desire to leave their mark, they have unnecessarily altered a key component... By James Gardner- The Real Deal (NYC)

A sham process to destroy the Civic Arena: ...decision-making process has been, shall we say, far from transparent and complete...but for them...to knowingly choose, to end up like Cleveland? Have they no pride?...Would the re-use of the arena present a challenge to developers? Yes, in the sense that they would be required to come up with something more imaginative than the brick and stucco boxes that pass for commercial architecture these days... -- Mitchell and Ritchey (1961); Rob Pfaffmann/Reuse The Igloo- Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Architecture history moves out after Vincent Scully: ...the History of Art Department is letting architecture walk out. With the departure last year of iconic Yale professor...the department was left with a void in its architectural history offerings...To fill this gap, the School of Architecture is offering a two-semester architectural history sequence this year. -- Robert A.M. Stern; Daniel Sherer; Eeva-Liisa Pelkonen- Yale Daily News

Archial goes into administration just days after it suspended trading of its shares: The London-based practice, previously known as SMC, last week said it was seeking "clarification of the company's financial position"...- BD/Building Design (UK)

Residents of Denny volunteer to accept 'Scotland's most dismal place' award: ...after the original recipients refused to receive the trophy...John O'Groats was named the winner of this year's Carbuncle Award...But some people living in Denny...which had also been nominated for the Plook on the Plinth award, wanted the prize to help push redevelopment in their area.- Daily Record (Scotland)

Call for entries: International Museum of Volcanoes (IMoV) Lanzarote (Canary Islands, Spain) Academic Competition: open to all students of architecture worldwide; cash prizes; early registration deadline (save money!): October 15- Arquideas / Editorial Pencil / Future Architectures

Call for entries: Vienna House of Music (VHOM): open to all undergraduate students; cash prizes; early registration deadline (save money!): November 15- ArchMedium

Call for entries: Carry Me! Handbag Design Competition; open to U.S. and Canada residents only; cash prizes; deadline: October 29- Lucite International



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