Today's News - Tuesday, September 28, 2010

- Jenkins minces no words about what he thinks London planners and architects are getting wrong: "We are not correcting but replicating the mistakes of London's post-war renewal...The gods of modern architecture/planning don't want to lose their jobs. Their monuments take precedence over the London they have destroyed. By Simon Jenkins - Evening Standard (UK)

- What Happens in Vegas: Can you bring architectural virtue to Sin City? ...underlying risk...is that good buildings next to outlandish ones will look quiet and bland. Caesars Palace and its progeny are crass but iconic...CityCenter buildings are sophisticated, but you wonder, finally, if they are all that memorable. By Paul Goldberger - Daniel Libeskind; Rafael Viñoly; Helmut Jahn; Pelli Clarke Pelli; Kohn Pedersen Fox (KPF); Norman Foster; aPeter Marino; Lewis.Tsukumaki; Lewis; Bertel and Bertel; Crook; David Rockwell; Ehrenkrantz; Eckstut and Kahn - The New Yorker

- S.F. needs to create permanent public spaces: ...it's impossible not to cheer on recent efforts to create experimental public spaces...But bootstrap urbanism goes only so far...Pavement to Parks has relied too much on the city getting something for (almost) nothing...The fact they're as good as they are should be celebrated. But this is as far as we go, then we haven't gone far enough. By John King - Rebar Group; RG Architecture; Studio Upwall; Boor Bridges Architecture; Shift Design Studio [images] - San Francisco Chronicle

- Architects' prize: Emeryville Center for Arts: ...the prize in what may prove to be the Bay Area's most intriguing architectural competition in memory...competition is confined to emerging local architects..."We like wild ideas, as long as those ideas are achievable." That's what makes this effort so refreshing. By John King -- Aidlin Darling Design; Edmonds + Lee Architects; Envelope A+D; Jensen Architects; Ogrydziak Prillinger Architects; Schwartz and Architecture - San Francisco Chronicle

- 'Outstanding' designs for new Dundee museum are unveiled: It has already been billed as Scotland's answer to Bilbao's Guggenheim, and the six designs unveiled today for the new V&A at Dundee prove the vast scale of the project's ambition. -- Delugan Meissl; REX; Steven Holl; Sutherland Hussey; Sinhetta/Gareth Hoskins; Kengo Kuma [images] - The Herald (Scotland)

- To some architects, beauty is not a concern: A panel of Frank Gehry, Thom Mayne, Eric Owen Moss, Peter Cook claims a lack of interest in the subject. But they may protest too much...why the panel didn't include architects such as Richard Meier and John Pawson, whose work is refined and precise to the point of elegance..."I didn't include them because I find their work boring"...By Christopher Hawthorne -- Hernan Diaz Alonso; Greg Lynn; Yael Reisner; Ehrenkrantz, Eckstut and Kuhn - Los Angeles Times

- Listening There: Scenes from Ghana: ...the legacy of tropical modernism...a complex story. In contemporary Ghana the social ideals of mid-century have given way to an ethos that promotes either signature forms or a mundane corporate aesthetic. By Mibel O. Wilson/Studio 6Ten and Peter Tolkin/Peter Tolkin Architecture -- Fry, Drew, Drake and Lasdin (1957); Nickson and Borys (1962–65); Kenneth Scott Associates (1961); Harry Weese & Associates (1956); James Cubitt and Partners (1953); COMTEC/Renato Severino (1964–67); Lokko Associates (2005–06) [slide show] - Places Journal

- Giving a modernist spin to holiday homes: Alain de Botton's Living Architecture offers an uplifting alternative to the Landscape Trust's traditional holiday lets...touched by what I call Serpentinism, after the Serpentine gallery's annual pavilion...a belief in the special magic of the singular architectural object...A downside of Serpentinism is that it can act as an inadvertent alibi for

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London planners must embrace civilised living: We are not correcting but replicating the mistakes of London's post-war renewal...The gods of modern architecture/planning don't want to lose their jobs. Their monuments take precedence over the London they have destroyed. By Simon Jenkins - Evening Standard (UK)
Junk elsewhere; it concentrates quality in an exotic enclave. By Rowan Moore - MVRDV; Jarmund/Vigsnæs; Nord; Michael and Patty Hopkins; Peter Zumthor - Observer (UK)

Have a holiday in modern architecture: Suspicious of ‘architect-designed’ houses? ... Alain de Botton invites you to take a break in one...There is no doubting that de Botton and Living Architecture have their work cut out...stepping into the middle of an often heated, bitter and particularly British debate between traditionalists and modernists... By Dominic Bradbury -- Hopkins; Peter Zumthor; MVRDV/Jurgen Bey; Nord Architects; Mole Architects - Telegraph (UK)

Wanted: Artsy illuminated Jakarta skyline: ...many contractors and developers, as well as the city administration, had little awareness of the benefit of contributing to an aesthetically pleasing skyline...worsening the situation was the absence of a lucid regulation on building aesthetics and poor city planning. -- Abdi Ahsan; Ariani Mandala; Aulia Muhammad Ihrom; Andy Bexlim/Litac Consult- The Jakarta Post

A Storied Symbol of Jazz Age Shanghai, Replayed: The Cathay Hotel, which spun open its revolving doors on Aug. 1, 1929, was the city’s deco masterpiece...Renamed the Peace Hotel in 1956, the property withered...becoming a sagging monument to a lost era. But no longer...In July the newly polished and pampered property threw open its doors as the renamed Fairmont Peace Hotel... -- Palmer & Turner (1929); Hirsch Bedner Associates; Peter Hibbard- The Jakarta Globe

Building a house of peace: The house where Gandhi developed the concept of satyagraha a century ago is being restored, expanded and transformed into a unique B&B – a haven of peace in a busy Joburg suburb...Designed by the architect Hermann Kallenbach – Gandhi’s great friend and supporter. -- Hermann Kallenbach; Rocco Bosman [images]- City of Johannesburg (South Africa)

Archial bought by Canadian company Ingenium: Collapsed architectural giant has been sold to Canadian-based multi-disciplinary outfit...The newly created behemoth will be called Ingenium Archial. - The Architects’ Journal (UK)

AA Selects Four Projects for National Healthcare Design Awards: Examples showcase the best of healthcare building design and health design-oriented research -- Duda/Paine Architects; OWP/P | Cannon Design; ZGF Architects; Gresham Smith & Partners- American Institute of Architects (AIA)

Interview with Fritz Haeg, Author of “Edible Estates: Attack on the Front Lawn”: "Certain 19th century planners and developers were promoting the front lawn as a well-intentioned common green that would connect us all – but ironically it also perpetuated the illusion of the single family home as a refuge for complete independence...which is not connective at all, but quite isolating."- The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

New club appreciates neglected architecture: Kevin Adkisson’s ‘12 architecture tour of Yale does not include Sterling Memorial Library, Harkness Tower or Louis I. Kahn’s Yale University Art Gallery...one of Yale’s newest organizations, the Architecture Appreciation Club for Underappreciated Architecture. - Yale Daily News

Fall 2010 SMPS Foundation Think Tank: “Wake Up, Recover, and Grow in 2011!” - October 11–12, Washington, DC - Society for Marketing Professional Services (SMPS)