

Today's News - Monday, October 11, 2010

- ArcSpace brings us an eyeful of Piano's new Resnick Pavilion at LACMA.
- Moore has "seen the Olympic future and it works...The essential ingredients are more realism, less greed, more patience and more thought (though it's not without problems to be resolved) + Burdett "warns against Olympic middle-class ghetto" (though he's feeling more confident with the newly amended master plan).
- Davidson on the Park51 Islamic cultural center in Lower Manhattan: "the pictures are not encouraging...a decorative distraction...to adorn a fund-raising brochure...just another developer's mirage" - a very different take than Kennicott's (see ANN 10.07.10).
- Prince Charles "drafted" to work with DPZ in Haiti - a good thing or a political ploy, depending on who's speaking.
- UNDP launches a knowledge sharing platform to help fight poverty (housing and construction included).
- Hadid offers an interesting (and quite amusing) interview: why she's "happy to be on the outside," and why she will never play golf.
- Pawson explains how Calvin Klein inspired Trappist monks: "They saw the two tables on which sweaters were displayed as being altars."
- Bernstein cheers Bing Thom's Arena Stage in D.C., in a city that "takes itself too seriously," he loosened things up a bit - actually, a lot (and Weese never looked better - great pix).
- Preservationists still trying to save Rudolph's Orange County Government Center: does the county have an obligation to preserve his legacy, even if its "beautiful" brutalism leaks?
- Menking reports from the Biennale: "Amid expansive displays of derring-do and clever acts of interpretation, a silent question hangs in the air" + the sad fate of the floating Croatian pavilion: it really isn't - as has been claimed - "the biggest fiasco...in the history of Croatian architecture."
- Meanwhile, Venice in Peril is still fighting gigantic ads on the city's most famous buildings that were supposed to bring in big bucks for restoration - they're not (we saw them...pretty ghastly stuff!).
- Mayslits Kassif Architects' Tel Aviv Port wins European Biennial of Landscape Architecture award.
- An eyeful of L.A. Cleantech Corridor competition winners (very cool).
- This year's jurors of the AIA Fort Worth awards bucked tradition and did not pass out awards "like after-dinner mints."
- Winners of the 72 Hour Urban Action Competition livened up Israel's "crummy" city Bat Yam.
- Some amazing winners in the CoolClimate Art Contest - now, "help get the word - and the images - out."
- Among the James Dyson Award 2010 winners: a "buoyancy bazooka" and the "seakettle."

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[Renzo Piano Building Workshop: Resnick Pavilion, LACMA Expansion - Phase II, Los Angeles](#)

I have seen the Olympic future and – this may surprise you – it works: The plans for Stratford promise better times for East Enders. If only they could be rolled out across Britain...The essential ingredients are more realism, less greed, more patience and more thought....There are other outbreaks of sanity...there are still problems to be resolved. By Rowan Moore - Observer (UK)

Ricky Burdett warns against Olympic middle-class ghetto: ...the Olympic Park Legacy Company's design guru...said he was confident the amended masterplan...aimed to create different neighbourhoods just like the rest of the city, but he admitted: "It's not going to be easy to make this a normal piece of London." - BD/Building Design (UK)

Dream Mosque: The sleek, generic new renderings of Park51 don't tell us anything about why it should be built there...as a statement of architectural ambitions, the pictures are not encouraging. Rather than use the opportunity to battle paranoia with precision...has proffered a decorative distraction, a picture to adorn a fund-raising brochure. And so an ideal of ecumenical enlightenment is starting to look like just another developer's mirage. By Justin Davidson -- Soma Architects [image]- New York Magazine

Prince Charles drafted in to help rebuild quake damaged Port-au-Prince: Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment will restore part of Haiti's historic capital. By Robert Booth -- Hank Dittmar; Duany Plater-Zyberk & Company; John McAslan and Partners - Guardian (UK)

UNDP launches a knowledge sharing platform to help boost efforts by companies to fight poverty: ...allows business leaders, policy makers, development practitioners, and academia to connect with successful enterprises across the globe, helping them build, replicate or scale up core business initiatives that contribute to human development. [links]- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Zaha Hadid: 'I'm happy to be on the outside': [Her] spectacular buildings were once dismissed as the work of a fantasist. Last week she won the Stirling prize. But despite the belated recognition she says she will never be a schmoozer - Guardian (UK)

Calvin Klein Store Designer Works for Trappist Monks: "Architecture is one thing, what happens inside is another," says John Pawson. "They saw a space which they thought could be used as a church. They saw the two tables on which sweaters were displayed as being altars." - Bloomberg News

Washington's Fresh Coat of Greasepaint: "I came here thinking: 'Washington takes itself too seriously. It has to loosen up a bit,' " Bing Thom said...And open up a bit: [he] conceived of the new Arena Stage building as "a shortcut for the community." By Fred A. Bernstein -- Harry Weese (1961) [slide show]- New York Times

[Architect's legacy in Goshen's Orange County Government Center has its defenders: 'Beautiful' brutalism leaks: County Executive \[would\] like to swing a wrecking ball at the 40-year-old complex... fans of the unique design and its famous architect have posed another question. Does the county have an obligation to preserve the legacy of Paul Rudolph? -- Andrew Dolkart \[slide show\]- Times Herald-Record \(Middletown, NY\)](#)

[How Real is Real? Amid expansive displays of derring-do and clever acts of interpretation at this year's 12th International Architecture Exhibition, a silent question hangs in the air: Is this really what architecture means?...unless architectural solutions arise out of real-world problems and issues, how does it differ from art? By William Menking -- Kazuyo Sejima; Transsolar/Tetsu Kondo Architects; Anton Garcia-Abril/Ensamble Studio; Smiljan Radic/Marcela Correa; Studio Mumbai; Rem Koolhaas \[images, links\]- The Architect's Newspaper](#)

[Croatian Fiasco? No way! "The biggest fiasco…in the history of Croatian architecture?" Well, not really, but there seem to be some architects in Croatia who are angry that their floating pavilion built for the current Venice biennale was destroyed before it reached its intended mooring at the Giardini. By William Menking -- Leo Modrcin \[images\]- The Architect's Newspaper](#)

[Ads of Sighs: The huge ads proliferating in Venice, now also lit up by night, are not bringing in huge money and stretch the application of the law to the point of illegality...An appeal launched by Venice in Peril... \[image\]- The Art Newspaper \(UK\)](#)

[Tel Aviv Port wins best design award in Europe: Mayslits Kassif Architects honored in European Biennial of Landscape Architecture held in Barcelona, after competing against 470 European projects. \[images\]- Ynetnews \(Israel\)](#)

[LA Cleans Up with Downtown Green District Designs: A self-sustaining city revealed as AN and SCI-Arc announce Cleantech Corridor competition winners \[images\]- The Architect's Newspaper](#)

[North Texas architects honored at awards ceremony: Jurors don't like much, but they love 4 local projects...A reluctance to acknowledge anything but the best was long overdue. For years, AIA Fort Worth has passed out awards like after-dinner mints. -- VLK Architects; Lee Hill; Gideon Toal; Richard Wintersole- DFW.com \(Texas\)](#)

[Students Redefine Urban Spaces In Three Days and Three Nights: With too much brilliance to choose from, judges of last week's 72 Hour Urban Action Competition in Israel awarded two first prizes...tasked 120 architectural students from 19 countries with the formidable task of livening up Israel's "crummy" city Bat Yam. \[images, links\]- Green Prophet \(Middle East\)](#)

[No Pollution Please: The winners of the CoolClimate Art Contest have been declared...help get the word – and the images – out. \[images, links\]- Metropolis Magazine](#)

['Buoyancy bazooka' wins James Dyson Award 2010: ...a pneumatic gun that lifeguards can use to fire a foam ring to a person struggling in water...Runner up was the "seakettle"...uses natural sunlight to desalinate water in a ship's life raft... \[links to info, images\]- New Scientist](#)

[Flex Space: AECOM Design + Planning has a New York office that's as flexible as its corporate style - and LEED Gold to boot. -- Michielli + Wyzetner Architects \[images\]- ArchNewsNow](#)

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