

Today's News - Monday, September 19, 2011

- ArcSpace brings us eyefuls of Isozaki & Kapoor's planned ARK NOVA, a traveling concert hall in Japan (it's - um - interesting); and H&deM's stadium in Bordeaux.
- The NEA coordinates ArtPlace, a grand new initiative to help fund "groundbreaking work in creative placemaking" (and time to submit for next grant cycle).
- Research shows brains of city dwellers function differently from their country cousins, which "could help city planners determine which design features would provide the most solace" (and add fodder to grant submissions for ArtPlace?).
- Nobel takes a look what new architectural openings are on the horizon, but "the biggest metaphorical event in the year ahead may be the implosion" of Foster's never-completed Las Vegas tower, "sure to spark talk about the state of architecture today."
- Glancey's review of the week includes his take on the high-voltage shortlist of RIBA's pylon competition (and lots more).
- It's a starchitect kind of day: Denver hopes losing two starchitects in five years won't "hinder future efforts to attract the best in the business" + Calatrava makes first comments re: his Denver International Airport divorce.
- Heathcote has a hearty conversation with Viñoly re: past and current projects (he thinks Battersea and the Domino refinery "could be disposed of...what the buildings do to a forward-looking plan is enormously detrimental").
- Moore wants to like Viñoly's Firstsite in Colchester, but it leaves him puzzled: "There is a pattern to his projects. They have whoosh and sparkle" that appeals to "the glitter-loving magpie inside us...But the closer you look...the less sense they tend to make."
- An eyeful of Piano's controversial expansion at Corbu's Ronchamp Chapel: if a different architect had been hired for the job, "I would probably be worried, so I can understand."
- Gopnik sits down with Zaha as she hits a "high Z" (and "lambastes" those who wish she'd "damp down her work's irrational exuberance" since others have been hit hard by the recession with a fitting retort: "We are in a period of economical decline - so we should give them bad buildings?")
- She'll be the latest star in Miami Beach's crown of starchitect-designed parking garages.
- Corbu to be grandly feted during Chandigarh College of Architecture's 50th anniversary, with Pritzker winner Souto de Moura kicking things off October 7.
- Australia to help bring the memorial Bali Peace Park design closer to reality.
- We don't usually cover products, but who knew Heathcote heads a hardware company - celebrating its 10th anniversary of working with some of the best and the brightest!
- Woodman cheers the "inspired appointment" of de Rijke at the Royal College of Art as "a welcome shift towards closer links between teaching and practice"; his RCA "looks like it is going to sport notably muddier boots."
- Holcim Awards 2011 European winners announced (great presentation!) + GRAFT Architects win European Prize for Architecture 2011.
- Call for entries: [re]stitch TAMPA International Ideas Competition + "Design of the ground public space - University Parking: Technical Project" in Bucharest.

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-- Arata Isozaki & Anish Kapoor: ARK NOVA, A Tribute to Higashi Nihon, Japan
-- Herzog & de Meuron: Stade Bordeaux Atlantique, Bordeaux, France

Making creative places: The new initiative, ArtPlace, brings major foundations, big financial institutions, and federal agencies to the aid of building creative places...with coordination through the National Endowment for the Arts...announced its first grants comprising 34 initiatives...now accepting letters of inquiry to consider for their next grant cycle, through November 15. [links to details]- ArtsJournal

The Stress of Crowds: City dwellers may handle pressure differently from those who live in less populated areas...do the brains of city dwellers function any differently from those of rural folk? Studies are showing that they do...could help city planners determine which design features would provide the most solace.- Scientific American

The New Season: The Future, Retrenched: Even as a handful of new architectural openings are anticipated, the biggest metaphorical event in the year ahead may be the implosion of Norman Foster's building in Las Vegas...sure to spark talk about the state of architecture today. By Philip Nobel -- Foster + Partners; Preston Scott Cohen; Daniel Libeskind; Renzo Piano; MoMA; Canadian Center for Architecture; Center for Architecture; AIANY- New York Times

Constructive criticism: the week in architecture: The design world hits high-voltage this week, with flash openings at historic houses, electric cars racing to the future and RIBA unveiling the British pylons of tomorrow. By Jonathan Glancey -- Ian Ritchie Architects/Jane Wernick Associates; Bystrup Architects; Gustafson Porter/Atelier One/Pfisterer; AL_A/Arup [images, links]- Guardian (UK)

Experts hope Denver's loss of another star architect won't hurt future projects: ...city has lost two so-called starchitects in five years because of differences over vision, a trail of disappointments that could hinder future efforts to attract the best in the business...courting and retaining world-renowned architects on landmark projects has lately proved as complex and intricate as the eye-catching designs that have brought them fame. -- Santiago Calatrava; Steven Holl; Daniel Libeskind; Michael Graves; David Adjaye; Brad Cloepfil; Curtis Fentress- Denver Post

Santiago Calatrava makes first comments since DIA divorce: The final agreement is expected to identify what designs and "concepts" Denver International Airport can use from Calatrava's work, and what design elements the architect retains rights to. -- Festina Lente- Denver Post

Rootless ambition: Rafael Viñoly reflects on his past career and current projects: ...his two biggest schemes, Battersea and the Domino refinery...I can't help asking whether he wouldn't rather just demolish the old buildings and start again. "Honestly?" he asks. "I think they both could be disposed of...what the buildings do to a forward-looking plan is enormously detrimental." By Edwin Heathcote- Financial Times (UK)

Firstsite: I'm puzzled. I am standing in...a new building in Colchester, designed...to display and communicate visual art...yet the more I look, the more it seems designed to make it unusually difficult to mount an exhibition...My puzzlement is a cousin of a mystification prompted by the extraordinary success of its architect, Rafael Viñoly...There is a pattern to his projects. They have whoosh and sparkle and make direct appeal to the glitter-loving magpie inside us...But the closer you look...the less sense they tend to make. By Rowan Moore [image, links]- Guardian (UK)

A Grand Opening for Renzo Piano's Controversial Expansion at Ronchamp Chapel: Le Corbusier's chapel of Notre Dame du Haut...Opponents feared the addition would distract from the power of Corbusier's 1954 sculptural masterpiece..."He made one of the most beautiful places of meditation in the world." If a different architect had been hired for the job, "I would probably be worried, so I can understand." -- Michel Corajoud [slide show]- Architectural Record

Design Diva Hits a High Z: In cities around the world and at a splashy show in Philadelphia, Zaha Hadid is exciting eyes and teasing minds: Her firm has been growing nonstop, even as other architects have been hit hard by the recession. And she lambastes those who wish she'd have registered its impact too, at least in terms of damping down her work's irrational exuberance. "We are in a period of economical decline — so we should give them bad buildings?" By Blake Gopnik - [Newsweek](#)

Zaha Hadid the Latest Starchitect to Design a Miami Beach Parking Garage: In other cities, starchitects are hired to build skyscrapers, theaters, stadiums, or art museums. In Miami Beach... they're given parking garages...the latest in a long series of famous architects and firms to be selected to create a new parking structure. -- Frank Gehry; Herzog & de Meuron; Arquitectonica; Enrique Norton/TEN Arquitectos; Perkins+Will - [UnBeige](#)

A grand salaam to Le Corbusier: While in 1961 Swiss-French master architect designed the building of Chandigarh College of Architecture for future architects, 50 years later the college is going to dedicate its inaugural day to the memories of this modern architect during its upcoming golden jubilee celebrations from October 7 to 9...2011 Pritzket Prize winner Eduardo Souto de Moura to deliver a special lecture... - [Times of India](#)

Bali Peace Park design steps closer to reality: Project plans to turn the Bali bomb site which was Kuta's Sari Club into a memorial park for the victims of terrorism have been boosted as the federal and state governments pledge financial contributions. -- [Made Wijaya/P.T. Wijaya Tribwana International \[images, links\]](#) - [Architecture & Design \(Australia\)](#)

Architectural hardware company Izé: ...decade-long collaboration with architects and designers has given ironmongery the attention it deserves...Edwin Heathcote, the Financial Times architectural critic and founder of Izé..."Handles matter because they are the first part of the building you touch and set up your whole experience of the building"... -- David Chipperfield; Eric Parry; Kenneth Grange; Sebastian Bergne; Aldo Bakker; 6a Architects; David Kohn; Schmidt Hammer Lassen; Patrick Lynch; Zaha Hadid; Amanda Levete [images] - [BD/Building Design \(UK\)](#)

Putting it into practice: Alex de Rijke's appointment at the Royal College of Art/RCA heralds a welcome shift towards closer links between teaching and practice...It is an inspired appointment...De Rijke's RCA looks like it is going to sport notably muddier boots than the one over which Nigel Coates presided. By Ellis Woodman -- [DRMM- BD/Building Design \(UK\)](#)

European winners of Holcim Awards 2011 competition announced -- realities united; Carlos Arroyo Arquitectos; Philippe Rizzotti Architects/Samuel Nageotte Architecture/Off Architecture; De Stuurlui Stedenbouw/Atelier Gras; Gramazio & Kohler/Architektur und Digitale Fabrikation – ETH Zurich; Barkow Leibinger Architects/Schlaich Bergermann and Partner/TRANSOLAR; Sauerbruch Hutton/Arup/Experientia; AA School of Architecture; etc. [links to images, info] - [Holcim Foundation](#)

GRAFT Architects win European Prize for Architecture 2011: The European Centre for Architecture Art Design and Urban Studies and The Chicago Athenaeum: Museum of Architecture and Design...recognised [the German firm] for a deep commitment to humanitarian concerns...prize to be formally presented...at the XIII BA11- International Biennial of Architecture in Buenos Aires, October 11-15 [images] - [Architecture & Design \(Australia\)](#)

Call for entries: [re]stitch TAMPA International Ideas Competition for urban public spaces and the waterfront in downtown Tampa, Florida. Utilizing Landscape Urbanism as a lens...to refocus the river as a spine for the city; cash prizes; registration deadline: October 31; submission deadline: December 12- University of South Florida / National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)

Call for entries: "Design of the ground public space – University Parking: Technical Project" in Piata Universitatii, Bucharest; open to architects in Romania, the European Union and Switzerland; cash prizes; deadline: October 26- Architects Chamber of Romania / Ordinul Arhitecților din Romania

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