

Today's News - Tuesday, August 19, 2008

- As some London tower plans are put on hold (including Rogers Stirk Harbour's "Cheesegrater"), Glancey thinks this might be a good time "to pause and to think of what the city might appear to be in a decade's time."
- King on the strong reactions to his review of Saitowitz-designed synagogue: "offers backhanded proof of its architectural power"; and his picks for S.F.'s upcoming "eclectic, freewheeling" Architecture and the City Festival.
- Two developers call on two big guns to vie for big New Haven redevelopment project.
- Russell on a British Columbia development that comes as close as possible to being carbon-neutral "without using unproven technologies or promising to plant trees in Brazil."
- Glancey takes his telescope to the Kielder Observatory and finds it one of a "cluster of unpretentious, low-cost British buildings by intelligent architects that offer something way beyond what money can buy."
- Gunts on Baltimore's new convention hotel: views are great, but Camden Yards fans will probably give it a Bronx cheer.
- Gustafson Porter wins in Woolwich to redesign two squares (paddling pool included).
- Meier makes a case for minimalism, and muses: "Minimalism is not the only style, but it's my style."
- Eames's Case Study House #8 "looks better now, when viewed in our age of architectural pomposity, than perhaps ever before."
- Rotterdam's Club Watt to generate energy from dancers, while a similar club in London "has raised some green hackles."
- London is a new playground for alternative cars to avoid congestion fees (great pix, too).
- Deadlines loom: Call for EO: Pennine Lancashire Squared International Landscape Architecture Competition. - Call for entries: Re:Construct: Sustainable building materials and practices. - Call for registration: Schools and Engineer-Mentors for 2008/2009 Future City Competition.
- Heathcote finds a small RIBA show on Modernism in China to be "a revelation."
- He likes a new tome on 20th century icons, but hopes the next might be about "buildings you hardly notice but make the city a little bit better. Now that would be radical."
- In King's Wood, Kent, show homes for animals based on dictators' palaces.
- Winners all: SMPS Annual National Marketing Communications Awards.
- Brad Pitt is back with season 3 of e2 design - premiering online this week.

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London buildings: Grate expectations: Although the "Cheesegrater" is among the better looking of the latest wave of London skyscrapers, many people...will breathe something of a sigh of relief that the recent high-rise boom has been curtailed by the current downturn...Here is a time to pause and to think of what London might appear to be in a decade's time. By Jonathan Glancey- *Guardian* (UK)

Strong reactions indicate building's success: My Aug. 11 review of the new Congregation Beth Shalom synagogue...designed by Stanley Saitowitz...drew nearly 400 comments...which offers backhanded proof of the synagogue's architectural power...Today's half-pipe may be tomorrow's touchstone, funny nicknames and all. By John King -- *Natoma Architects*- *San Francisco Chronicle*

Developers Northland, Archstone Have Plans For New Haven Site: ...two upscale developers vying for a chance to recast the site of the Veterans Memorial Coliseum...as a dense urban neighborhood where people live, work, shop and watch plays at a new Long Wharf...both have recruited giants of contemporary American architecture... -- Pelli Clarke Pelli; Robert A.M. Stern- *Hartford Courant* (Connecticut)

Green Project in Victoria, British Columbia, Burns Sawdust, Treats Sewage in Backyard: Dockside Green is no architectural hair shirt...Experts argue about what truly constitutes "carbon neutral," though Dockside Green certainly comes close without using unproven technologies or promising to plant trees in Brazil. By James S. Russell -- Busby Perkins & Will [images, links]- *Bloomberg News*

A view with a room: Northumberland's glorious new timber observatory fits beautifully into its forest surroundings...Kielder Observatory joins a growing cluster of unpretentious, low-cost British buildings by intelligent architects that offer something way beyond what money can buy... By Jonathan Glancey -- Charles Barclay; Sutherland Hussey Architects; Tony Fretton [image, link]- *Guardian* (UK)

Another Opening Day: When the new Hilton opens to guests this week, the views from the inside may win the most raves...hotel is likely to rekindle an old debate that Baltimore planners never seem to resolve: How much building can you pack into one location before you begin to destroy the very place you wanted to strengthen? By Edward Gunts -- RTKL; Daroff Design [slide show]- *Baltimore Sun*

Gustafson Porter follows Diana Memorial with paddling pool in Woolwich: ...winner of competition to redesign General Gordon Square and Beresford Square. [image]- *Building* (UK)

Why Less Is More...The master architect behind L.A.'s Getty Center and Barcelona's Museum of Contemporary Art makes a case for minimalism By Richard Meier [slide show]- *Esquire* magazine

Modernism for the Masses: One of Charles Eames's utopian model homes: ...(officially known as Case Study House #8)...The transparent rationality of the Eames House, its utter lack of conceit or affectation, looks better now, when viewed in our age of architectural pomposity, than perhaps ever before. By Richard B. Woodward [images]- *Wall Street Journal*

Dutch Club to Recycle Dancers' Energy: ...Club Watt in Rotterdam...will be among the first in the world to give back some of what dancers leave on the floor...Club Surya opened in London...has raised some green hackles... -- Enviu; Sustainable Dance Club (SDC); Döll- *Der Spiegel* (Germany)

London's Electric Avenues: New Playground for Alternative Cars: Since the introduction of stringent congestion fees, London traffic has loosened up and cleaned up. Britons are now increasingly cruising their capital in cars running on alternative energy to avoid the charge. [slide show]- *Der Spiegel* (Germany)

Call for Expressions of Interest (EOI): Pennine Lancashire Squared International Landscape Architecture Competition to develop six unique, high-profile public spaces in former mill towns now undergoing a renaissance through regeneration; deadline: August 22- *Landscape Institute* (UK)

Call for entries: Re:Construct: Sustainable building materials and practices - inventive ways to create new types of structures and techniques - or renovate old ones; cash prizes; deadline: September 15- Urban Re:vision

Call for registration: Schools (7th and 8th grades) and Engineer-Mentors for 2008/2009 Future City Competition for National Engineers Week; deadline: October 15- National Engineers Week Foundation

Magic mountains of brick and stone: "Modernism in China"...A small exhibition at London's RIBA documents China's first manifestation of modernism and it is a revelation...during this extraordinarily fecund and little-covered period, architects found significant freedom and used it to great effect. By Edwin Heathcote -- Laszlo Hudec- Financial Times (UK)

Book review: Definitive building: "Icons of Architecture: The 20th Century" edited by Sabine Thiel-Siling...These are, almost without exception, terrific buildings, presented in an accessible manner. The next volume...might be about everyday architecture of the 21st century - buildings you hardly notice but make the city a little bit better. Now that would be radical. By Edwin Heathcote- Financial Times (UK)

Totalitarian architecture is strictly for the birds: If you go down to the woods this autumn, be sure of a big surprise. Architect Ed Holloway of Consarc has worked with artists Bruce Gilchrist and Jo Joelson on the creation of 'show homes' for animals based on dictators' palaces, that will open in King's Wood, Kent on 21 September. [images]- The Architects' Journal (UK)

2008 recipients of the 31st SMPS Annual National Marketing Communications Awards -- RAND Engineering & Architecture; Mancini Duffy; Busby Perkins + Will Architects; RATIO Architects; ADD Inc.; SmithGroup; Street Dixon Rick; HNTB; HDR; Reilly Communications/The Freelon Group; Hoffmann Architects; etc.- Society for Marketing Professional Services (SMPS)

Season 3 of e2 design, narrated by Brad Pitt: New episodes from the series will premiere online on August 22; rolls out on PBS stations this fall- PBS



- 3XN: The Blue Planet Aquarium, Copenhagen, Denmark
- Massimiliano Fuksas Architetto: Zenith Music Hall, Strasburg, France
- Studio Nicoletti/Hijias Kasturi Associates: Putrajaya Waterfront, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

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