

Today's News - Tuesday, June 9, 2009

- Ouroussoff minces no words over bait-and-switch for Atlantic Yards arena: "a shameful betrayal of the public trust" with a "low-budget, no-frills design."
- On a brighter note for NYC, the High Line opens today, and Russell, Pogrebin, and Fast Company couldn't be happier (lots of great pix, too!).
- Meanwhile, Greer bemoans that while there are public outcries over trees being cut down, Britain's monuments of its recent industrial past are being demolished without a word of protest.
- Results are in on a study of smart growth policies: Does smart growth measure up? Not across the board.
- ASLA Florida offers "Visions of Smart Growth and Sustainability" as a study model for others (for free).
- Can holding community meetings in Second Life really transform the planning process?
- Glancey visits Munich's new Brandhorst Museum by Sauerbruch Hutton and really, really likes what he sees: its "polychromatic playfulness...manages to be both flamboyant and modest...a jewel of a building."
- Swed visits Snohetta's opera house and Nouvel's concert hall: "In Oslo, architecture comes first; in Copenhagen, music. Each town probably got what it needed most."
- Design revisions for London 2012 Olympic media center finally wins CABE over (with caveats).
- In the Adirondaks, the Wild Center is "a rare model of man coexisting with nature...you'll want to linger in this glorious place."
- Lubell takes on a new gas station in L.A.: it's "a reminder of why architect-designed stations can improve a staple of the American landscape. But it could have swooped us off our feet."
- It looks like San Francisco 49ers are heading to Santa Clara for a new stadium that, "from a distance will resemble one of the area's office complexes...but that could be to its advantage" (oh, really?!?!??).
- Morgan marvels at a Modernist home by St. Florian: "one of the most unabashedly modern statements seen in Providence in years" (the one Brussat bashed last week).
- Carmody Groarke's 7/7 memorial in Hyde Park is "a fine balance of simplicity and power" (and a model of consensus-building).
- Fast Company's 10 Most Creative People in Architecture (with some amusing observations).
- Architectural Association & IE School of Architecture launch the AA/IE Summer School in Madrid.

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Battle Between Budget and Beauty, Which Budget Won: In assessing a design for a Nets arena by Ellerbe Becket...the developer's decision to scrap Frank Gehry's plan...is a shameful betrayal of the public trust...low-budget, no-frills design embodies the crass, bottom-line mentality that puts personal profit above the public good...It is the kind of logic that kills cities — and that has been poisoning this one for decades. By Nicolai Ouroussoff [images]- New York Times

High Line's Secret Garden Grows Where Cows Took Last Journey: In its transformation from private wonder to public park, there are so many ways the High Line could have gone wrong...design team changed much about the railroad to accommodate people, yet dodged every pitfall. By James S. Russell -- James Corner Field Operations; Diller Scofidio & Renfro; Piet Oudolf [slide show]- Bloomberg News

Renovated High Line Now Open for Strolling: ...project is something of a New York fairy tale...has helped to further something of a renaissance in the neighborhood; more than 30 new projects are planned or under construction nearby. by Robin Pogrebin -- Field Operations; Diller Scofidio & Renfro [slide show, video]- New York Times

Visiting the High Line: An Amazing New Park Opens in Manhattan...Great news for New Yorkers and design fans alike... -- Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Field Operations [images, link to slide show]- Fast Company

Why save trees? You can always grow more. Let's save our fabulous cooling towers instead: All over Britain monuments of the recent industrial past are being demolished...These will not come again from seed. When they are gone, they are gone for ever. By Germaine Greer- Guardian (UK)

Crafting the Next Generation of Smart Growth Policies: The Lincoln Institute of Land Policy spent two years looking at smart growth policies in a number of states to see how well they've achieved their goals. Gregory K. Ingram, President of the Institute, explains the results...Does smart growth measure up? Not across the board.- PLANetizen

Visions to Share: "Visions of Smart Growth and Sustainability" from the Florida chapter (FLASLA) offers a model for others...150-page-plus publication is available as a free download... [link]- LAND Online / American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Q&A: Eric Gordon on Community Planning with Second Life...how holding community meetings in Second Life transforms the planning process. [images, links]- Metropolis Magazine

Do not adjust your art gallery: This is the dizzying facade of Munich's new Brandhorst Museum...While the architecture is clearly an advertisement for what goes on inside its enticing walls...for all this polychromatic playfulness...manages to be both flamboyant and modest...a jewel of a building, one that will greatly bolster Munich's growing cultural significance... By Jonathan Glancey -- Sauerbruch Hutton [image]- Guardian (UK)

Oslo's new Opera House and Copenhagen's newer Koncerthuset: In Oslo, architecture comes first; in Copenhagen, music. Each town probably got what it needed most. By Mark Swed -- Snohetta; Jean Nouvel; Yasuhisa Toyota [images]- Los Angeles Times

CABE finally happy with Olympic media centre plans: ...has been won over by the designs for London 2012's media centre following a series of revisions to the scheme. -- Allies and Morrison; RPS Group [images, links]- The Architects' Journal (UK)

Where the Wild Things Are: ...the Wild Center was designed to celebrate and explicate the natural wonders of Adirondack Park...a rare model of man coexisting with nature...you'll want to linger in this glorious place... -- HOK [images, links]- Wall Street Journal

Crit: United Oil Gas Station: ...elevates the gas station to the realm of architecture, although it doesn't push it quite as far as it could...a reminder of why architect-designed stations can improve a staple of the American landscape. But it could have swooped us off our feet... By Sam Lubell -- Kanner Architects [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Santa Clara 7, SF 0: San Francisco 49ers on track to get Silicon Valley stadium...plans envision the stadium as more of a multipurpose space...With the clubhouse forming its façade, the stadium from a distance will resemble one of the area's office complexes. It might not be the most distinctive structure, but that could be to its advantage... -- HNTB [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

A new house on College Hill: ...one of the most unabashedly modern statements seen in Providence in years. This spare composition brings real design confidence to a neighborhood that has struggled to find appropriately compatible styles, too often by employing pastiches of 19th Century motifs. By William Morgan -- Friedrich St. Florian [image]- Providence Journal

(Rhode Island)

How these men will honour the 7 July dead in this royal corner of London: Designing a memorial to the 7/7 bomb victims was never going to be easy, but Kevin Carmody and Andrew Groarke's Hyde Park project is a fine balance of simplicity and power. -- Carmody Groarke- Guardian (UK)

The 10 Most Creative People in Architecture -- Will Alsop; Yansong Ma/MAD architects; Insuk Cho/Kisu Park/MASS Studies; Koolhaas/Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA); Winy Maas/Jacob van Rijs/Nathalie de Vries/MVRDV; Shigeru Ban; Herzog & De Meuron; Thom Mayne/Morphosis; Zaha Hadid; Foster + Partners [images, links to slide shows]- Fast Company

Architectural Association & IE School of Architecture Launch the AA/IE Summer School in Madrid: ...intensive 10-day studio-based design workshop July 16-25..."Urban Endurance & Hybrid Spaces: Rethinking the AZCA District"- AA/IE Summer School

Book Review: A Subversive Book Every Architect Needs: "Architect's Essentials of Negotiation" by Ava J. Abramowitz: Supposedly architects don't need negotiating skills along with other communication skills because great design "sells itself." How lovely that an AIA legal counsel created this definitive book to shatter that thin myth. By Norman Weinstein- ArchNewsNow



-- Álvaro Siza: Iberê Camargo Museum (ICM), Porto Alegre, Brazil
-- Zaha Hadid: Lacoste Footwear Capsule Collection

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