

Today's News - Friday, June 19, 2009

- Moore's take on the trials and tribulations surrounding WTC redevelopment: "It is a Babel of egos...when political grandstanding gets in the way of common sense."
- Much better news at Cornell: it looks like the epic 12-year drama surrounding Milstein Hall is finally at an end (fab slide show, too!).
- Becker offers an eyeful of "Zaha's web" and "Ben's incredible ice cream suit" - a.k.a. Burnham pavilions - in Millennium Park (maybe they should leave the web - it's pretty spectacular as is!).
- A few surprising places where public transit is gaining speed (and even some style).
- A look at HOK's high-speed rail hub planned for Anaheim - a LEED Platinum landmark that could transform the region.
- Are engineers given enough credit for their work? A yes and a no.
- New report says the world is warming faster than thought: "The forecast for the year 2100 probably needs to be revised at least by a meter or more" (yikes!).
- An interesting discussion re: ASLA's Sustainable Sites Initiative: "How do you develop urban areas without compromising the ecology and degrading existing ecosystem services?"
- Q&A with Schmitz re: Yale researchers' findings that most polluted ecosystems can recover (see also ANN June 1, '09).
- On the left coast, FLW's Ennis House is up for sale; yours for only \$15 million - and a few more to finish restoration (great slide show!).
- On the right coast, FLW models - and the firm that created them - are attracting as much attention as the Guggenheim exhibition itself.
- Weekend diversions: Gwathmey Siegel gets its first solo show in a museum it designed.
- "Design for a Living World" at the Cooper-Hewitt: "witness the often-messy story of production" (only gripe: you're not allowed to touch).
- Page turners: "I Am a Monument" is an "admirable, deep analysis" of why "Learning From Las Vegas" is relevant today.
- "Closing the Gap" focuses on information modeling technologies and their impact on architecture and design.
- "Globesity" connects obesity and climate change; rethinking neighborhoods would help on both fronts.
- "Builders of the Pacific Coast" offers inspiring handmade homes (worth the slide show).
- Two good reasons to head to L.A. next week: Dwell on Design and CA Boom Design Show share the spotlight for the first time ("share" might not be the right word).

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What a site: trouble at the World Trade Center: It is a Babel of egos... a classic example of what happens when symbolic aspirations and commercial practicalities collide, and when political grandstanding gets in the way of common sense. By Rowan Moore -- Beyer Blinder Belle; Daniel Libeskind; Foster + Partners; Rogers Stirk Harbour; Childs/Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Fumihiko Maki; Michael Arad [images]- Evening Standard (UK)

At Cornell University, Milstein Hall Groundbreaking Could Mark the End of 12-Year Saga: ...perhaps marking the end of an epic drama that has involved a large cast of characters...and the looming threat of academic decertification...has faced a fair amount of opposition, survived the last stretch of the approval process with its Miesian box not only intact but extravagantly cantilevered. -- Koolhaas/Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA) [slide show]- Architectural Record

Zaha's Web, Ben's Incredible Ice Cream Suit - the Burnham Pavilions in Chicago's Millennium Park: A photo essay... By Lynn Becker [images, videos, links]- Repeat (Chicago)

The best U.S. transit systems you never knew existed: As cities big and small rethink how their residents get around, new systems are taking shape... Here are a few surprising places where public transit is gaining speed... [images, links]- Grist Magazine

High-Speed Victory: HOK to design Anaheim's ARTIC transit center... envisioned as a hub for California's future high-speed rail network..."I don't think we're talking about replacing the automobile, but maybe it's not every trip." [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Are engineers given enough credit for their work? Yes, they are the session musicians to architecture's pop stars, says Mark Whitby/Ramboll UK; no, counters Andrew Best/Buro Happold, the best engineers share in the creative process- BD/Building Design (UK)

New Report Says World Is Warming Faster than Thought: Respected geo-researchers have presented a new prognosis for the global increase in temperature. Yesterday's worst-case scenario is becoming today's reality..."The forecast for the year 2100 probably needs to be revised at least by a meter or more"- Der Spiegel (Germany)

Innovations in Sustainable Site Technology: The National Building Museum held a session on the Sustainable Sites Initiative: "How do you develop urban areas without compromising the ecology and degrading existing ecosystem services?" -- Jose Alminana/Andropogon; Susan Olmsted/Mithun [image, links]- The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Q&A with Oswald J. Schmitz, School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, Yale University: Was there one particular case of a recovered ecosystem that led you to think other ecosystems could recover with sustained restoration effort? [images, links]- American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Frank Lloyd Wright home in Los Feliz is for sale to the right buyer: The Maya-inspired 1924 Ennis House is being offered by a foundation that has been restoring it...largest of the architect's experimental 'textile block' houses...being offered for \$15 million...new owner would face a projected bill of \$5 million to \$7 million to return the house to its former grandeur... By Martha Groves [slide show]- Los Angeles Times

Frank Lloyd Wright | The Re-Model: ...currently on view at the Guggenheim Museum, the models of Wright's designs are attracting as much attention as the exhibition itself...seem to grow out of the Guggenheim's curving parapet, or cantilever off its walls... -- Situ Studio [images]- New York Times

Architecture exhibit features buildings by pair that designed Cameron Art Museum: "Gwathmey Siegel: Inspiration and Transformation"...the first museum exhibition dedicated to the work of the prolific and prominent architecture firm...takes a detailed look at five buildings that mark turning points in the architects' careers, which span more than 40 years. - Star-News (North Carolina)

Material Matters: "Design for a Living World" at the Cooper-Hewitt...developed by the Nature Conservancy, presents ten products by ten top-flight international designers...Each product is a response to a particular natural material and a particular locale where the conservancy works...we get to witness the often-messy story of production: the experiments undertaken, the successes, and the failures. [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Book review: Of Ducks & Sheds: A new assessment of "Learning From Las Vegas" claims the book has relevance for today's critical issues..."I Am a Monument" by Aron Vinegar...an admirable, deep analysis... By John Hill -- Venturi, Scott Brown; Steven Izenour- Architect Magazine

"Closing the Gap: Information Models in Contemporary Design Practice": New volume of influential architectural design by NJIT architects...focuses on information modeling technologies and their impact on architecture and design. -- Richard Garber/GRO Architects; Urs Gauchat; Douglas Gauthier; Coren Sharples/SHoP Architects; Scott Marble/Marble Fairbanks; Dennis Shelden/Gehry Technologies- EurekAlert

Book review: "Globesity: A Planet Out of Control?": How climate change and obesity draw from the same roots...The problems of obesity and climate change may be connected, but so are many solutions. Rethinking neighborhoods to encourage bicycling and walking (and walking school buses), for example, would help on both fronts. - Grist Magazine

Inspiring Handmade Homes: It's a land of blue and green...along the Pacific Coast of North America, from San Francisco up to Vancouver Island, British Columbia...featured in my new book, "Builders of the Pacific Coast." By Lloyd Kahn [slide show]- Mother Earth News

Dwell on Design 09: Design conference, continuing education classes for design pros, exhibitions, home tours, special events, Los Angeles, June 26-28- Dwell

CA Boom Design Show 2009, now in the former Robinsons flagship Department Store, Beverly Hills, June 26-28- CA Boom



-- Allied Works Architecture: University of Michigan Museum of Art (UMMA), Ann Arbor
-- Competition winner: BIG & Michel Rojkind: Museo Tamayo, Atizapan, Mexico

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