

Today's News - Monday, June 22, 2009

- ArcSpace brings us a green architecture exhibition at Denmark's Louisiana Museum, and Moss's Art Tower in L.A.
- Philadelphia (finally) approves "Civic Vision" plan for riverfront, but not all are pleased - and good news for the city's historic interiors.
- Saffron cheers Philly putting City Hall Dilworth Plaza re-do on the fast track, but even with "much to admire...the design still has some miles to go."
- Anderton chats it up with Hawthorne, Lehrer, Fisher, and others about L.A.'s newest public spaces.
- Speck offers Oklahoma City ways to make downtown a more vibrant place, but his "report challenges several initiatives under way."
- Oxford offers up new visions for its city streets.
- Can IQuilt scheme for Hartford's downtown weave its parts into a whole?
- Crosbie crows about Pelli's Science Center: a "dazzling jewel...filled with uplifting spaces and be sensitive to its urban context" and a "civic gift" to Harford.
- Rochon makes a pilgrimage to the land of Aalto: "The Finnish approach to architecture is a sobering yet exhilarating antidote to a world gone mad for excessive and absurdly expensive design."
- Bayley's opinion re: the battle for Chelsea Barracks: "The fabulous absurdity of the media 'debate' between Prince Charles and Richard Rogers is that each is a historical relic" (and both sides should lose the argument).
- A new generation of British architects finds the debate "an irrelevance"; their watchword "is not modernity but modesty...well suited to straitened times."
- Tschumi's Acropolis Museum may "never become a landmark building like Utzon's Sydney Opera House or Gehry's Guggenheim Bilbao," but once you're inside, his "vision is clear."
- New design for Nets Arena hopes to create a "Brooklyn brand" by "embracing its historical image as a working-class industrial hub" (we think that's meant as a compliment).
- An eyeful of OMA/Urbanus winning design for Shenzhen Crystal Island - to be a focal point for the city's creative industries.
- KPMB tapped for a (majorly-scaled-back) facelift for Hardy's 1974 Minneapolis Orchestra Hall.
- Norton's new luxury rental tower in Manhattan has all the bells and whistles (and your downstairs neighbors will love munching apples).
- And eyeful of one of three shortlisted proposals for Berlin's Tempelhof Airport.
- Glancey goes to the shore: "it looks as if the seaside pier, that odd marriage of playful architecture and ingenious engineering, is staging a comeback."
- Call for entries: 2009 Carbuncle Cup the "most hideous new building" in the U.K. (this should be fun).
- We couldn't resist: Rainbow Room is closing its doors - and views (we're so sad - our favorite place in its pre-Cipriani days).

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-- Exhibition: [Green Architecture for the Future, Louisiana Museum, Humlebæk, Denmark](#)
-- [Nearing completion: Eric Owen Moss Architects: Art Tower, Los Angeles](#)

Council approves bills to alter city's look: ...establishing a vision for waterfront development and protecting historic buildings' interiors...The "Civic Vision" for the central Delaware River...would require property owners to devote the first 100 feet of the river's edge to green space...coalition of developers and real estate professionals...said the 100-foot setback is essentially an illegal taking of land. -- PennPraxis-Philadelphia Inquirer

'Final' Dilworth Plaza plan shouldn't be: The transit portion is dictating the design of the public space in ways that are good for neither...There's certainly much to admire in the plaza's renderings...But peek below the surface...and this \$45 million design still has some miles to go. By Inga Saffron -- KieranTimberlake; Olin [images] - Philadelphia Inquirer

DnA/Frances Anderton: Public Space Is the Happening Place in L.A. Design: new parks, the Annenberg Beach House, bright new future for Santa Monica's public conveniences, and LA from 1000 feet. -- Christopher Hawthorne; Mia Lehrer; Frederick Fisher; Karen Ginsberg; Benny Chan [images, links] - KCRW (Los Angeles)

Designer takes walk into Oklahoma City's future: ...offers opinions about...how to make downtown a more vibrant place to work, live and play...report challenges several initiatives under way...if recommendations are implemented, they could dramatically alter downtown development for several years to follow. -- Jeff Speck - The Oklahoman

Architects offer a vision of how city streets could look: Images of how Oxford streets could look if imagination was given a free rein are to go on show this week..."Dreaming Spires: Dreaming Spaces" is part of the South East Festival of Architecture. -- Berman Guedes Stretton-Oxford Mail (UK)

IQuilt: Corridors Of Culture: Connecting City Arts, Culture With Walking, Cycling Routes: Downtown Hartford is compact and generally attractive, but it doesn't feel that way. It feels disconnected and confusing, not woven together...The parts don't equal the whole...Can the iQuilt solve both problems? -- Doug Suisman - Hartford Courant (Connecticut)

Hartford's Connecticut Science Center Is A Dazzling Jewel: ...in 2004, I speculated...that it would be filled with uplifting spaces and be sensitive to its urban context. It delivers on both counts...Such urban spaces are

a civic gift — places to gather in cities that are often bereft of welcoming public realms. By Michael J. Crosbie -- Pelli Clarke Pelli-Hartford Courant (Connecticut)

Finland's simple, spare and classic design: Lisa Rochon makes a pilgrimage to the land of Alvar Aalto, one of Frank Gehry's mentors...The Finnish approach to architecture is a sobering yet exhilarating antidote to a world gone mad for excessive and absurdly expensive design. - Globe and Mail (Canada)

Stephen Bayley's opinion: What does the architecture critic make of the battle for Chelsea Barracks? Frankly, he wouldn't mind if both sides lost the argument: The fabulous absurdity of the media "debate" between Prince Charles and Richard Rogers is that each is a historical relic. - Guardian (UK)

The young generation with a new vision to build Britain: As Prince Charles and Richard Rogers squabble over Chelsea Barracks, Geraldine Bedell meets a new generation of architects for whom the row is an irrelevance as they forge a fresh approach to planning for the 21st century...The watchword of the moment is not modernity but modesty...well suited to straitened times. -- Griffiths/FAT/Fashion Architecture Taste; Emerson/6a; Lynch Architects; Shearcroft/AOC/Agents of Change; Carmody Groarke; Fior/MUF Architects - Guardian (UK)

Athens builds a home for Parthenon's marbles: The new Acropolis Museum will never become a landmark building. It will not be like Joern Utzon's Sydney Opera House...or Frank Gehry's Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao...three-storey angular structure...austere enough to have made Stalin proud...enter the building...Suddenly Bernard Tschumi's vision is clear. - The Australian

Nets envision a 'Brooklyn brand' for new arena: Critics say Brooklyn will be the poorer without Gehry's futuristic, glass-clad design...but [CEO] Yormark says that the new design will further the borough's brand by embracing its historical image as a working-class industrial hub..."Simpler sometimes is better"... -- Ellerbe Becket - SportsBusiness Journal

OMA wins Shenzhen Crystal Island competition: a focal point for the city's creative industries...builds on Shenzhen's newly acquired status of 'city of design', awarded by UNESCO in 2008... -- Koolhaas/Scheeren/Office of Metropolitan Architecture; Urbanus Architecture and Design [images] - VisitCHN (China)

\$40 million face-lift for the 35-year-old Orchestra Hall: In a scaled-back project, a Toronto firm was hired to update the 1974 building's exterior and open up its cramped lobby...a significant telescoping of a project envisioned two years ago as a \$90 million endeavor. -- Hugh Hardy (1974); Kuwabara Payne McKenna Blumberg (KPMB) - Minneapolis Star Tribune

The Neighbors Just Love Carrots: Clinton Park, a 29-story luxury rental proposed for 770 11th Avenue, will include a spacious ground-level home for 22 horses belonging to the New York City Police Department. -- Enrique Norton/TEN Arquitectos [image] - New York Times

First Look: Gross Max's proposals for Berlin's Tempelhof Airport: ...Landscape architect is one of three firms shortlisted to regenerate the Columbia quarter -- Buro Happold/Chora Architecture & Urbanism; Graft Architekten/Büro Kiefer Landschaftsarchitektur; Urban essences Architektur/Lützwow 7 Landschaftsarchitektur [image] - The Architects' Journal (UK)

The return of the seaside pier: They had their glory days in the 1950s. But then Britain's magnificent seaside piers were allowed to fall into disrepair...it looks as if the seaside pier, that odd marriage of playful architecture and ingenious engineering, is staging a comeback. By Jonathan Glancey -- Niall McLaughlin; Eugenius Birch; Foster + Partners - Guardian (UK)

Entries open for the 2009 Carbuncle Cup [for] the most hideous new building completed in the UK in the last 12 months...High profile monstrosities, value-engineered shockers, buildings so ugly they freeze the heart - crap architecture continues its march across our towns and cities. - BD/Building Design (UK)

A Farewell to Glamour Atop the Rock: ...the Rainbow Room will close its doors...pretty much came to an end, or at least prepared for a long pause, on Friday, with hardly any pomp or circumstance. - New York Times

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