

Today's News - Monday, June 29, 2009

- ArcSpace brings us eye-fuls a new museum in China and another take on Piano's Modern Wing.
- Lewis hopes the U.S. can find an "official champion of architecture" a la Moynihan: "is thoughtful design advocacy by U.S. leaders and citizens also improbable, now and in the future? Let's hope not" (at least the Brits are worrying and talking about design).
- Russell to Atlanta: just because you're not getting a concert hall by Calatrava: "a new site and a new architect should not be a license to lowball."
- Pearman visits the new Acropolis Museum and likes what he sees - on the inside, anyway.
- San Francisco rethinks its Transbay Transit Terminal plans: a gamble that might - or might not - pay off.
- Some ideas on how to green a city without tearing it down.
- Does the disabled lobby have too great a say in planning? Yes, says Allford; no, argues RNIB's Winyard.
- Kamin gives a hearty thumbs-up to Chicago's new Riverwalk: "combines engineering muscle and architectural élan" (don't expect San Antonio - and that's a good thing - great pix, too).
- Rochon finds "there's no war being waged between cars and bikes" as she cycles around Copenhagen; the city offers some serious lessons for Toronto's planners.
- Meanwhile, California could be in for an interesting architect-designed bike storage system (an added plus: it won't be easy to steal wheels).
- Twisting, turning towers in Dubai take a "turn for the worse" (not all are so pessimistic).
- As India modernizes its airports, will they lose their uniqueness?
- O'Donnell & Tuomey beats out an impressive shortlist for LSE student center commission.
- A new museum in Germany turns the world's climate zones into an experience (alas, no mention of architect).
- "Dresden will survive" losing UNESCO World Heritage Site status for Elbe Valley (but Germany gains another site).

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-- Studio Pei-Zhu: Xixi Wetland Art Museum, Hangzhou, China
-- Renzo Piano Building Workshop: The Modern Wing, Art Institute of Chicago

In Search of an Official Champion of Architecture: America needs more Moynihans...to enunciate and support aesthetic aspirations for all types of public- and private-sector projects...no matter how Britons feel, at least they are worrying and talking about design...is thoughtful design advocacy by U.S. leaders and citizens also improbable, now and in the future? Let's hope not. By Roger K. Lewis - Washington Post

Concert hall design worth investing in: Santiago Calatrava's design for the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra might have become the emblem of Atlanta...In moving to a new site with more modest aspirations, should the ASO...have given up on its world-class dream? ...a new site and a new architect should not be a license to lowball. By James S. Russell - Atlanta Journal-Constitution

A rock and a hard place: the New Acropolis Museum, Athens: ...it's good inside, disappointing outside...does achieve grandeur, through manipulation of light and space. By Hugh Pearman -- Bernard Tschumi [images, links] - HughPearman.com (UK)

Transbay Gamble: Seeking stimulus funds, SF revamps Transbay Transit Terminal plans...If San Francisco's gamble doesn't pay off, \$15 million in design and engineering work would be wasted...The debate over the train station's changes has also played out against a tussle over its size. -- Pelli Clarke Pelli [images] - The Architect's Newspaper

Urban retrofits: How to make a city green - without tearing it down: ...engineers, urban planners, and entrepreneurs have come up with imaginative new ways to take what we now know about living more energy-efficiently, and grafting that technology onto cities without clearing away what's already there. Here are some ideas... - Boston Globe

Does the disabled lobby have too great a say in planning? Yes, the 'shouting down' brigade can be harmful, says Simon Allford/Allford Hall, Monaghan Morris (AHMM); no, everyone is entitled to be safe in public, argues Steve Winyard/Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) - BD/Building Design (UK)

City's second waterfront: Riverwalk improved, but hurdles remain: ...planners wisely are not aiming to create a Frost Belt version of San Antonio's famous yet heavily commercialized River Walk...combines engineering muscle and architectural élan to make a more welcoming waterfront... By Blair Kamin -- Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Carol Ross Barney/John Fried [images] - Chicago Tribune

A city made for cyclists (Hint: it's not Toronto): Copenhagen...has beaten back the car. Now, the city exudes the pleasures of urban life...there's no war being waged between cars and bikes...Toronto planners need to understand that bicycling in itself should not be the goal. The goal should be creating a great city to live in. By Lisa Rochon - Globe and Mail (Canada)

[Curve Your Wheels: Architect-designed bike storage system rolled out in California...Bike Arc...new modular rack is flexible and compact enough to be a contender for widespread use...an added bonus, the design makes it more difficult to steal the bike's wheels. -- Bellomo Architects \[images\]- The Architect's Newspaper](#)

[Towers take turn for the worse: ...projects have come under pressure and it is unclear when, or if, Dubai will see one of these wonders. -- David Fisher/Dynamic Tower; 3sixty Technology- The National \(UAE\)](#)

[As India's Airports Modernize, Will They Lose Their Uniqueness? Grand architecture is well and good. Yet traveling...should always convey a definite and unique sense of place. It should be palatable from the architecture... -- Foster & Partners; Richard Rogers; Paul Andreu- Wall Street Journal](#)

[O'Donnell & Tuomey wins competition for LSE student centre: Leading Irish practice has won the RIBA's design competition for a new £21.5 million student centre at the London School of Economics. \[image\]- BD/Building Design \(UK\)](#)

[Around the World in a Kilometer: Deserts, ice sheets, oppressive humidity: A new museum in Bremerhaven has turned the world's climate zones into an experience...Klimahaus \(Climate House\) is a spectacle...show how people in different places are exposed to the happenings of nature...partnering with some of the most prestigious addresses for climate research in Germany- Der Spiegel \(Germany\)](#)

['Dresden Will Survive' UNESCO's Decision: Dresden's Elbe Valley lost its status as a UNESCO World Heritage Site on Thursday and many in Germany are upset. Commentators, though, say that some of the blame lies with the World Heritage Committee itself. On Friday, UNESCO added another German site to the list...the Wadden Sea tidal flats... \[images\]- Der Spiegel \(Germany\)](#)

["Avenue of Light" as Urbanism: Soaring, illuminated sculptures by Cliff Garten Studio anchor major redevelopment efforts in the Ft. Worth's historic district \[images\]- ArchNewsNow](#)

[Market Research Strategies in Uncertain Times #1: Now More Than Ever: Why market research is so critical to a firm's success. By Frances Gretes- ArchNewsNow](#)

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