Today's News - Thursday, October 8, 2009

- · Ouroussoff on plans for the Barnes Foundation's new home: "Can a design convey an institution's feelings of guilt? The answers...are not reassuring."
- · Hawthorne on Dallas's new performing arts center: it feels somewhat "stuck in something of a time warp" (not the fault of the architecture).
- · Projects waiting in wings of the Dallas Arts District: they have plenty of the right location, but, sadly, lousy timing.
- · Kamin calls for Gropius's Reese complex to be spared now that Chicago's Olympic Village plan is "an instant relic."
- Brussat isn't thrilled with the Gazprom tower, but its location is better than "13 squat Gazproms scattered within St. Petersburg's historic center."
- · Preservationists still concerned about Dept. of Homeland Security HQ plans for historic psychiatric hospital campus.
- · Controversy swirling around \$60 million renovation of Paris's Hôtel Lambert could lead to the princely purchaser to abandon his plans.
- It looks like NYC's Moynihan Station plans might be moving forward (again), but will any of the previous station designs survive in this latest iteration?
- Starchitecture is alive and well in Middle East, with clients moving "beyond thinking iconic" to "wanting the architecture to have meaning."
- Saffron cheers Philadelphia's first green hotel with "just the right amount of bling."
- Crosbie cheers a New Haven magnet school that weaves "arts education and the life of the city together at a single street corner, celebrating both."
- · Public schools across the U.S. are beginning to use art in their buildings to inspire and teach.
- · Glancey on Pei's RIBA Gold Medal win: "The quiet geometries of this...architect make him an unfashionable but deserving recipient."
- · Foster funds a Yale professorship.
- Report from World Habitat Day 2009: "Will we shape the forces driving people to cities or let these forces drive us?"
- · CUF report "Building New York City's Innovation Economy" (perhaps lessons for other urban centers?).
- Good reasons to head to New Zealand and Toronto: Auckland Architecture Week; and Explore Design '09, an education fair for youth dedicated to design, art and technology.
- · Call for entries: 24th Annual EDGE Award for Exhibit Design and Graphic Excellence.

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Architects Reimagine the Barnes Collection: Can a design convey an institution's feelings of guilt? The answers...are not reassuring...Almost every detail of the designs for the new Barnes Foundation seems to ache from the strain of trying to preserve the spirit of the original building in a very different context. By Nicolai Ouroussoff -- Tod Williams Billie Tsien [slide show]- New York Times

Strangers in Dallas' arts scene: The Wyly Theatre and the Winspear Opera House are marked by contemporary forms but feel detached from the city and one another...\$354-million AT&T Performing Arts Center...feels stuck in something of a time warp...It's not the architecture...What feels dated here, instead, is the district's organizing principle... By Christopher Hawthorne -- Foster + Partners; Prince-Ramus/REX; Koolhaas/Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA); Michel Desvigne [images]- Los Angeles Times

Dallas Arts Districts projects wait in the wings: Completion of the AT&T Performing Arts Center and the start of construction on the deck park over Woodall Rodgers Freeway have given the Arts District plenty of location, location, location. What it doesn't have for commercial development is timing, timing, timing. Dallas Moming News

With Chicago's Olympic bid dead, it's a whole new ballgame -- Reese landmarks must be spared...With the Olympic Village plan an instant relic...why rush in and tear down the Gropius buildings now? ...cities work best when they mix and match buildings of different uses from different eras. A lively jumble is invariably preferable to bland uniformity. By Blair Kamin-Chicago Tribune

Please, Vlad, smash the Gazprom! Notwithstanding (as usual) the wishes of its citizens, St. Petersburg has invited modern architecture to destroy its beauty...Better 1,322 feet of Gazprom beyond the edge of St. Petersburg's classical civitas than 13 squat Gazproms scattered within its historic center. By David Brussat -- RMJM- Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

Mental State: D.C. psychiatric hospital to become homeland security headquarters...172-acre west campus of St. Elizabeths...will include 6.2 million square feet of historic preservation and adaptive reuse as well as new building...a cause of concern for preservationists [for] the National Historic Landmark. -- Thomas U. Walter (1852); HOK; Clark Design Build; Perkins+Will [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Palace Overhaul, Treading on French Heritage: The planned renovation of Hôtel Lambert, a crumbling 17th-century palace, has French preservationists seeing a cultural threat where some are seeing xenophobia...prince plans to spend about \$60 million to renovate the place...controversy could lead Mr. Khalifa al-Thani to abandon his plans. [images]- New York Times

Farley Bound: Amtrak move gives Moynihan Station and its designers a new lease on life...stage set for a new round of design work, and possibly a new dawn for the reincarnation of New York's legendary rail station...Still unknown...is whether any of the previous station designs...will survive in this latest iteration. -- Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); James Carpenter Design Associates- The Architect's Newspaper

Sexy architecture alive and well in Middle East: ...innovation is alive and well..."They've moved beyond thinking iconic is just a funny-shaped building...They're wanting the architecture to have meaning, whether for the place, its use, or the environment..." -- Foster + Partners; I.M. Pei; Frank Gehry; Jean Nouvel; Tadao Ando; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) [images]- CNN

Proving green can be gorgeous: Philadelphia's soon-to-open Hotel Palomar is luxe and stylish - without the toxic fumes...Everything has just the right amount of bling. By Inga Saffron -- Paul Philippe Cret (1929); Powerstrip Studio; Gensler-Philadelphia Inquirer

A Magnet School In Artful Harmony: Downtown New Haven Academy Fits In Beautifully: ...Cooperative Arts & Humanities High School...I can't think of a better example of weaving arts education and the life of the city together at a single street corner, celebrating both. By Michael J. Crosbie -- Pelli Clarke Pelli-Hartford Courant (Connecticut)

Schools Adopt Art as Building Block of Education: A growing number of newly built or renovated public schools across the country are incorporating art in their buildings to inspire and teach...turn plain brick-and-mortar walls into show-and-tell lessons...challenge long-accepted notions dating back to the 1950s of school buildings as no-frills projects. -- Svigals + Partners [images]- New York Times

IM Pei wins Royal Gold Medal for Architecture: The quiet geometries of this...architect make him an unfashionable but deserving recipient of RIBA's 2010 Royal Gold Medal...has produced powerful buildings, designed to outlive passing fads...The best of Pei's designs boil down complex functions to monuments of quietly arresting simplicity. By Jonathan Glancey -- Pei Cobb Freed; Pei Partnership- Guardian (UK)

Norman Foster establishes Yale professorship in his name: The first Norman R. Foster Visiting Professor will be Alejandro Zaera-Polo, co-founder of London-based Foreign Office Architects (FOA).- BD/Building Design (UK)

World Habitat Day 2009: Planning Our Urban Future: "Will we shape the forces driving people to cities or let these forces drive us?"- The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Report: Building New York City's Innovation Economy + 2009 Index of the NYC Innovation Economy...that show where New York stands compared to other cities and regions on a broad range of indicators...- Center for an Urban Future

Mobile Architecture Convoy, School Workshops And International Exhibitions Planned For Auckland Architecture Week, October 11-18 -- New Zealand Institute of Architects (NZIA)- Scoop (New Zealand)

Explore Design '09 - Toronto, October 14 & 15: North America's only education fair for youth dedicated to design, art and technology.- MMPI Canada

Call for entries: 24th Annual EDGE Award for Exhibit Design and Graphic Excellence honoring the world's best trade show exhibit designs; deadline: November 20, 2009- Exhibitor Magazine

WORDS THAT BUILD Tip #19: Choose words and phrases that depict your architecture as a mysterious promise, as well as a known product. By Norman Weinstein- ArchNewsNow

Atelier Bow-Wow: Four Boxes Gallery, Krabbesholm College, Skive, Denmark

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