

Today's News - Tuesday, October 27, 2009

- We are saddened to report the passing of a master of urban landscapes; King offers up a gracious tribute to Halprin, the Olmsted of our times (in our humble opinion).
- AECOM swallows up Ellerbe Becket.
- Terry Riley leaves Miami Art Museum to go back to being an architect; Iovine finds out why.
- In tough times, it would be nice if San Francisco's Bureau of Architecture would share even the small jobs with local talent.
- In Chicago, roofers and landscaper in a turf war over the city's green roof jobs.
- Asymptote's Yas Hotel in Abu Dhabi may be its most monumental project yet, but even its smaller projects can have a similar impact.
- Moore and Glancey are amused - and concerned - about London mayor's Piffle Tower plans: instead of building an "iconic knick-knack" and a "daft 'Eiffel tower' plan," perhaps he should pay as much attention to buildings that really matter.
- Glancey is more than impressed with Mather's "thrilling revamp" of the Ashmolean museum.
- Geller visits a Tiny House Movement neighborhood and likes what he sees.
- An eyeeful of Bexhill-on-Sea windshelter finalists (worth a look).
- A traffic island in NYC hosts a robot building a very complex brick wall.
- Call for entries: Mark of Dreams: UNESCO's DREAM Center Logo Competition.

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Obituary: Lawrence Halprin, landscape architect, 93: ...pushed the design of America's urban spaces in new directions over a career that spanned 60 years..."He was the single most influential landscape architect of the postwar years...He redefined the profession's role in cities." By John King [slide show]- San Francisco Chronicle

AECOM acquires Ellerbe Becket, plans no job cuts: Health care and sports are "a couple of areas of expertise they did not have that we bring to their team"- Finance and Commerce (Minneapolis)

Miami Art Museum chief steps down, leaves unfinished business: ...has decided to step down and return to architecture...there are a few things he will not miss...keeping some of the best parts of the job by remaining as a consultant for MAM's new \$220 million home... -- Terrence Riley/Keenan/Riley Architects - Miami Herald

Riley on the Move: As the Miami Art Museum unveils new home, director Terence Riley moves on...eager to return to his architecture practice, Keenan/Riley..."I have been AWOL from the office for 18 years, which I never intended"... By Julie V. Iovine - The Architect's Newspaper

Inside Job: Will San Francisco's Bureau of Architecture share the work? In tough times, even small jobs are worth fighting for...an ongoing debate about who gets to design city buildings..."There's contention [about public work allocation] during downtimes...When everyone's busy, no one cares." - The Architect's Newspaper

Roofers, landscapers in a turf war over Chicago's rooftop gardens: Roofers union feels pushed out of green roof pastures...n the booming market to install green roofs on public and commercial buildings...conflict is a sign of how tough the recession has been on the building trades. - Chicago Tribune

The future is now: ...Abu Dhabi's Yas Hotel...the most monumental and public of the completed buildings designed by Asymptote...But the firm's smaller and less public projects...have a similar impact...through the use of ground-breaking technology that is winning the firm much critical acclaim. -- Hani Rashid; Lise Anne Couture [images] - The National (Abu Dhabi)

Why London is filling up with towers of piffle: Mayors and towers go together...each one helping the other to look and feel good...It's hard to escape the feeling that the iconic knick-knack is a dwindling currency, a Noughties fad...I wish Boris the best of luck with his Piffle Tower, but respectfully request him to apply the same standards to the buildings that really matter. By Rowan Moore [image] - Evening Standard (UK)

Boris Johnson's daft 'Eiffel tower' plan: The London mayor wants to build an enormous monument in Stratford. It sounds like a folly of Olympic proportions. You need to pinch and punch yourself to be sure this isn't 1 April. By Jonathan Glancey [image] - Guardian (UK)

On the up: the Ashmolean museum strides into the 21st century: It's Britain's oldest museum -- and it's just had a thrilling revamp...a magical combination...all its elements have been brought together with a lightness of touch...every last inch is hard at work, while giving the opposite impression. By Jonathan Glancey -- Charles Robert Cockerell (1845); Rick Mather [images] - Guardian (UK)

Size matters: apartments getting bigger, houses getting smaller: Attitude, too, matters: less was once acceptable and on Whidbey Island we can see its return...the "Tiny House Movement", which promotes smaller, detached single-family homes... By Michael Geller -- Ross Chapin Architects - Vancouver Sun

First look at Bexhill-on-Sea windshelter and kiosk finalists -- Michael Tite & Tom Ebdon; ROEWUarchitecture; John Pardey Architects; Don Orike Architects; Jameson & Kerr; Superfusionlab; Rayner Davies Architects; Richardson Architecture; K2 Architects; Duggan Morris [slide show] - The Architects' Journal (UK)

[Robot Builds Brick Wall In New York City: ...an industrial robot uses innovative technology to transform the traditional material into a complex infinite loop -- the "Pike Loop" ...will remain on the traffic island until the end of the year. -- Fabio Gramazio/Matthias Kohler/ETH Zurich; Storefront for Art and Architecture \[image\]- ScienceDaily](#)

[Call for entries: Mark of Dreams: UNESCO's DREAM Center Logo Competition: A competition to increase the visibility of the UNESCO/Tribute 21 Fund arts education program for children, DREAM: Dance, Read, Express, Art, Music; cash prize; deadline: November 17, 2009- DESIGN 21: Social Design Network](#)



-- [Ricardo Bofill Taller de Arquitectura: W Barcelona Hotel, Barcelona, Spain](#)  
-- [Cox Rayner + Arup: Kurilpa Bridge, Brisbane, Australia](#)

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