

Today's News - Thursday, October 7, 2010

- AECOM's NYC office is as flexible as its corporate style - and LEED Gold to boot.
- It looks like Gehry's Ground Zero Arts Center might actually happen after all (with help from federal funds).
- Kennicott on NYC's Park51 Islamic center: the design shows "a literally enlightened building...part of a sophisticated, international language of the global cool, technologically savvy, alert to history, but floating free across national and historical boundaries."
- Q&A with Park51's architect: "I think the location of the center has been overexposed and overrated."
- New design for the Museum of Tolerance in Jerusalem may be "a welcome departure from Frank Gehry's 'tiresome' design" for some; not for others.
- Litt on Cleveland's new vision for the downtown Mall: a great vision, but the current budget "won't buy much more than trees, turf and concrete."
- Chipperfield's consolation prize for not winning the Stirling: a RIBA Gold Medal (though he's disappointed Rykwert was overlooked again).
- Glancey cheers Chipperfield finally being recognized in his home country "where he has sometimes struggled to fit in."
- We cheer an impressive list of Hon. RIBA's!
- King on Gwathmey Siegel's new wing for the Crocker Art Museum: the "light is even and the sounds are soft," but "there's no promise of wonder."
- Safdie steps into the spotlight, no longer "overshadowed by superstars": "an aggressive kind of architecture is not part of what I do."
- Lifson has a lively conversation with Piano re: LACMA, his new Resnick Pavilion (and Gehry).
- Pearman gives a thumbs-up to Theis + Khan's 22 Bateman's Row: it "shows what can happen when architects are in full control of every aspect of the process."
- Q&A with "light artist" Schwendinger: How do you light smart growth? "My job is to remind people of the nighttime and say 'look at this as a canvas of darkness.'"
- Why passive homes are often hard to find in the U.S. (but there are some in the pipeline).
- 2010 World Monuments Fund/Knoll Modernism Prize goes to the "exemplary restoration" of "a little-known but iconic modern structure" in the Netherlands.
- An impressive winners list for the Cityscape Awards for Architecture in the Emerging Markets.
- Call for entries: SCUP Excellence in Planning, Landscape Architecture, and SCUP/AIA-CAE Excellence in Architecture.
- We couldn't resist: in Las Vegas, CityCenter is dealing with the "Vdara death ray."

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[Flex Space: AECOM Design + Planning has a New York office that's as flexible as its corporate style - and LEED Gold to boot. -- Michielli + Wytznar Architects \[images\]- ArchNewsNow](#)

[Fund of \\$100 Million Set for Ground Zero Arts Center: Frank Gehry's firm will design the center. The Joyce Theater, primarily a venue for modern dance, will be its main resident...principal construction won't begin for several years...final budget hasn't been set, but the cost may reach more than \\$400 million...- Bloomberg News](#)

[Designs for NYC's Park51 Islamic center show a literally enlightened building: ...part of a sophisticated, international language of the global cool, technologically savvy, alert to history, but floating free across national and historical boundaries. One couldn't ask for a more assertive statement of where the organizers of Park51 say they want to take Islam. By Philip Kennicott -- Michel Abboud/SOMA Architects, - Washington Post](#)

[Newsmaker: Michel Abboud: Amid the controversy surrounding Park51...labeled the "Ground Zero Mosque" by its opponents, the young New York-based firm SOMA Architects last week quietly unveiled designs for the new 15-story building. "I think the location of the center has been overexposed and overrated"...- Architectural Record](#)

[New design, same old problems: Recently released renderings of the Museum of Tolerance in Jerusalem show a welcome departure from Frank Gehry's 'tiresome' design. But..."no architectural talent can manage to create a proper solution for the problematic situation at this site." -- Chyutin Architects \[images\]- Ha'aretz \(Israel\)](#)

[Cleveland's new Group Plan Commission has a year to build a new vision for the downtown Mall: The problem is that the basic budget for the project...includes \\$21.5 million for the Mall, an amount that won't buy much more than trees, turf and concrete. By Steven Litt -- LMN Architects; Gustafson Guthrie Nichol \[images\]- Cleveland Plain Dealer](#)

[RIBA Gold Medal eases David Chipperfield's Stirling pain: ...admitted it didn't wholly "take the sting out of the Stirling", partly because of his deep concern over the secret ballot used to decide the RIBA's best building of the year...also admitted his disappointment that...Joseph Rykwert, had been overlooked again...- BD/Building Design \(UK\)](#)

[David Chipperfield wins Royal Gold Medal for architecture: ...achieves recognition in home country where he has sometimes struggled to fit in...In the course of a singularly determined career, \[he\] has not only gone his own way \(and found clients\) but has also found original ways of reconciling historic and contemporary design...still finds it hard to understand why his discipline is so often treated so dismissively in Britain. By Jonathan Glancey- Guardian \(UK\)](#)

[RIBA announces 2011 honorary and international fellowships -- Clive Birch; Lucy Bullivant; Tony Chapman; Mike Gazzard; Moira Gemmill; Andrew Grant; James Lovelock; Gwyn Miles; Dan Pearson; Chris Twinn; Ed Vaizey; Susan Weber; Abdel Wahed El-Wakil; MVRDV/Winy Maas/Jacob van Rijs/Nathalie de Vries; Snøhetta/Kjetil T. Thorsen/Craig Dykers; Ma Yansong/MAD Architects; Edouard François - BD/Building Design \(UK\)](#)

[Crocker Art Museum a lesson in 1st impressions: ...new wing is a clean, almost clinical counterpart to the ornate originals...but there's no promise of wonder...a deflating start to the museum-going experience...A museum must stand up to the same scrutiny that artwork endures, and the Crocker's addition is up to the task. But it also must convey imagination and delight... By John](#)

[King -- Gwathmey Siegel \[images\]](#) - San Francisco Chronicle

Master Builder: With his U.S. Institute for Peace set to open in Washington, Israeli-born Moshe Safdie takes his place among the world's leading architects...has been singularly responsible for shaping his native country's modern landmarks...But in the United States...he remains almost unknown, overshadowed by superstars... [\[images\]](#) - Tablet Magazine

Q&A with Renzo Piano: ...why bother with all this glass and the fancy skylight system? "I like to give the possibility, the flexibility"...Gehry said of your building, "I like the galleries; Renzo's getting better!" What do you say to him?... "Tell him I am getting better. Tell him he is getting better too!" By Edward Lifson [\[images\]](#) - Metropolis Magazine

Whole in one: Theis + Khan's plans for a new family home became a complete development including their office and rentable commercial and residential space. It works for everyone, even the planners. Small does not have to mean simple...22 Bateman's Row...shows what can happen when architects are in full control of every aspect of the process. By Hugh Pearman [\[images\]](#) - RIBA Journal (UK)

Q&A with Leni Schwendinger, Light Artist and Designer: How do you light smart growth? "My job is to remind people of the nighttime and say 'look at this as a canvas of darkness.'" -- Leni Schwendinger Light Projects; Snohetta; Claude Cormier; Janet Rosenberg; Gustafson Guthrie Nichol; LMN Architects [\[images\]](#) - The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Can We Build in a Brighter Shade of Green? ...the market remains minuscule, and the materials and expertise needed to build passive homes are often hard to find. While some 25,000 certified passive structures...have already been built in Europe, there are just 13 in the United States, with a few dozen more in the pipeline. -- Steven Landau; Passive House Institute-U.S.; Passivhaus Institut [\[slide show\]](#) - New York Times

2010 World Monuments Fund/Knoll Modernism Prize to Bierman Henket Architecten and Wessel de Jonge Architecten for their exemplary restoration of the Zonnestraal Sanatorium, a little-known but iconic modern structure in Hilversum, the Netherlands. -- Johannes Duiker/Bernard Bijvoet/Jan Gerko Wiebenga (1931) [\[images\]](#) - World Monuments Fund

Cityscape Awards for Architecture in the Emerging Markets winners announced -- Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Aedas; Tabanlıoğlu Architects; Perkins+Will; EAA - Emre Arolat Architects; Barton Willmore International; nabil gholam architects; RSP Architects; Aezad Alam; Klingmann Architects; FXFowle; Draw Link Group;Bothe Richter Teherani - Cityscape Global (Dubai)

Call for entries: SCUP Excellence in Planning, SCUP Excellence in Landscape Architecture and SCUP/AIA-CAE Excellence in Architecture; deadlines: January 21, February 25, 2011- Society for College and University Planning (SCUP)

"Death ray" scorched hair: The tall, sleek, curving Vdara Hotel at CityCenter on the Strip is a thing of beauty. But the south-facing tower is also a collector and bouncer of sun rays, which - if you're at the hotel's swimming pool at the wrong time of day and season - can singe your hair and melt your plastic drink cups and shopping bags...pool employees call the phenomenon the "Vdara death ray." - Las Vegas Review-Journal



Steven Holl Architects: Glasgow School of Art, Glasgow, UK: The new design complements its neighbor, but moves forward using a new language of light.

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