

Today's News - Monday, July 9, 2007

Three days away...and much catching up to do! — ArcSpace takes us to Manhattan, the Republic of Tatarstan, and Second Life (ANN is there, too!). - Architects snapping up land in SL. - RTKL dons a Dutch accent. - Boddy brings home an urban lesson from Hamburg: HafenCity proves design and forethought is better than "manic building binges." - Russia wins the 2014 Winter Olympics, but at what cost and who's to profit; and a terrific slide show (but no mention of architects). - Gehry gets go-ahead in Hove. - In London, Piano's "Baby Shard" disappoints, but gets green light anyway. - King talks to fans and foes of San Francisco's futuristic Federal Building. - For Russell, Libeskind - and the exhibit designers - have run amok at ROM. - And yet again, Holl gets "delirious praise" for Nelson-Atkins. - A very interesting shortlist for London's 2012 footbridge. - British Museum has big plans to make room for blockbusters (and a starchitect to go along). - A domed Jurassic Park to bloom in the Saudi desert. - British architects call for bigger, better homes (we get the better, but bigger?). - A rather poetic Ouroussoff on Johnson and his Glass House: "a testament to someone who, for all his weaknesses, could always make architecture feel wonderfully alive." - Hawthorne visits "Design for the Other 90%" and wonders if "humanitarian design movement can reach its full potential without stars." - Between "Global Cities" and Zaha the superstar, Pearman feels somewhat oppressed by "fancy the big business of world architecture." - Rybczynski sees a missed opportunity in Corcoran Gallery Modernist show. - 9/11 memorials rising.

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-- [Construction start: Asymptote Architecture: 166 Perry Street, New York, NY](#)
-- [Competition winner: Erick van Egeraat: Tatarstan National Library, Kazan, Republic of Tatarstan](#)
-- [Announcement: arcspace + Second Life](#)

[Buy! Buy! Buy! Why are so many architects snapping up 'land' in Second Life, the virtual world with almost eight million residents? Steve Rose signs up to find out-](#) Guardian (UK)

[Dutch firm ARCADIS buys RTKL: ...engineering and consulting company...bought the privately held Baltimore firm for an undisclosed sum.-](#) Baltimore Sun

[Lessons from Hamburg: Trevor Boddy begins a month-long tour of European and Japanese cities to explore new ideas shaping urban planning and architecture...HafenCity, proof that developer's profit, public interest, and high quality dwelling spaces are better achieved through design and forethought, rather than manic building binges.-](#) Globe and Mail (Canada)

[Who Will Benefit from the Sochi Olympics? Russia is celebrating its victorious bid to host the 2014 Winter Olympic games...but the country must still invest billions in order to equip the city...In the end, critics fear, the richest will profit.-](#) Der Spiegel (Germany)

[Virtual images of Sochi-2014 Olympic facilities \[slide show\]-](#) RIA Novosti (Russia)

[Gehry towers set to get go-ahead: Planning permission for 290 million King Alfred development in Hove is expected to be finalised..."With hindsight I believe more openness and transparency at the earlier stages of this scheme may have prevented such a high level of suspicion locally..."-](#) The Argus (UK)

[New design for "Baby Shard" gets green light: Councillors were unimpressed by the revised scheme...new design was "very disappointing"...Despite their misgivings, committee members resolved to grant planning permission. -- Renzo Piano \[images\]-](#) London SE1

[The View from Inside: Futuristic Federal Building wins fans, foes among workers with its innovative features...some design details have been tweaked. By John King --](#) [Mayne/Morphosis; SmithGroup \[images\]-](#) San Francisco Chronicle

[Libeskind Runs Amok in Royal Ontario Museum's Crystal Palace. By James S. Russell --](#) [Bregman & Hamann; Haley Sharpe Design-](#) Bloomberg News

[A work of art: ...Holl's addition in Kansas City...deserves such delirious praise. Its quirkiness possesses a classic inevitability. After experiencing it, no other design seems desirable or even possible...The Bloch Building is not merely a container for art, but a work of art in itself. By David Bonetti-](#) St. Louis Post-Dispatch

[Six shortlisted teams for 2012 footbridge spanning the River Lea in the Olympic Park --](#) [McDowell+Benedetti/Jane Wernick/Craft Pegg and Sutton Vane; Heneghan Peng \(Hparc\)/Adams Kara Taylor; Ron Arad/Buro Happold/BBUK Studio; Softroom/Eckersley O'Callaghan; Future Systems/Adams Kara Taylor; Tonkin Liu/Atelier One/Grant Associates/BDP Sustainability-](#) Building (UK)

[British Museum plans £100m complex for blockbusters: Shortage of space sent Tutankhamun to Dome...new 1,000 sq metre space...will, it is expected, be situated in...now "either empty or occupied by buildings of secondary importance --](#) [Rogers Stirk Harbour and Partners-](#) Guardian (UK)

[Eden blossoms in Saudi desert: King's super-dome to hold a prehistoric 'garden'...will cover more than 24 acres...will re-create the 400-million-year-old history of our planet's plants, trees and flowers.](#) -- Barton Willmore- Guardian (UK)

[Architects call for bigger, better homes: ...calling for an end to "shoddy" and too small new homes and the introduction of minimum space standards.](#) -- Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA)- About Property (UK)

[Through a Glass, Clearly, a Modernist's Questing Spirit: ...the Glass House...as imposing as it is as a historical landmark, it is as telling about his \[Philip Johnson\] weaknesses as a designer as about his influence as an advocate for architecture.](#) By Nicolai Ouroussoff [slide show]- New York Times

[At Cooper-Hewitt, 'Design for the Other 90%' thinks globally: ...showcases socially conscious projects. But where is the green Rem Koolhaas? The main question...is whether the humanitarian design movement can reach its full potential without stars...](#) By Christopher Hawthorne -- Public Architecture; Eisenman; Hadid; Sinclair/Architecture for Humanity; Shigeru Ban; William McDonough- Los Angeles Times

[Zaha Superstar! And the relentless growth of global architectural branding...There are days when I just don't much fancy the big business of world architecture.](#) By Hugh Pearman -- Gehry; Hadid; Nigel Coates; Koolhaas; Libeskind; Nouvel; Foster; Piano; Herzog; Vinoly; Ando; Rogers [images, links]- HughPearman.com (UK)

[Cars, Chairs, and Teapots, Oh My! An impressive exhibition of Modernist objects, and a missed opportunity to say something about Modernism, at the Corcoran Gallery.](#) By Witold Rybczynski -- Breuer; Aalto; Slutzky; Mies van der Rohe; Ernst May; Grete Lihotzky; J.J.P. Oud; Raymond Loewy; Le Corbusier; Richard Neutra [slide show essay]- Slate

[Victims of Terrorist Attacks Memorialized: As the sixth anniversary of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, approaches, memorials are rising...](#) -- Moskow Architects; Stamberg Aferiat Architecture/Ghiora Aharoni; Estudio F.A.M.- Architectural Record

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