

Today's News - Wednesday, June 18, 2008

- Sad news day (to us, anyway): It looks like Rudolph's Riverview High is destined to be paved over for parking (a most pathetic fate).
- A grumpy news day: Architects pitted against architects re: Piano's plan for Corbu's Rochamp chapel ("I'm not new to this sort of battle," he says).
- Russell has some good things to say (and a few disappointments) re: Piano's Whitney project on the High Line.
- Tom Wolfe is displeased with Foster's revised plan for Parke-Bernet addition (why are we not surprised?).
- Dyckhoff can't say enough about Beijing's Bird's Nest, but the rest of the Beijing Olympics buildings are a total "flop."
- A new documentary about the H&deM stadium is "thought-provoking discourse on the nature of urban architecture," but "light on visual human drama."
- A first look at H&deM's redesign of Portsmouth stadium: an "urban park" with low-carbon waterside housing.
- The mile-high tower wars: "You don't need a lot of technology...Just a lot of money."
- Suburbs a mile too far, making New Urbanism and other "smart-growth" concepts harder to execute.
- Norten's Brooklyn library to morph into mixed-use project.
- Manhattan's South Street Seaport's failed "festival marketplace" to morph as well.
- Merrick finds Hadid's Zaragoza bridge "a bundle of trajectories that are pure virtuosity."
- "Madagascar!" migrates to the Bronx (and NYC's newest must-see in our book).
- Jeanne Gang does "what young architects rarely and female architects almost never have done."
- Q&A with RISD's Mandle, who's off "to build a new breed of cultural institutions in Qatar."
- Arieff ponders: "How green is your brand?"
- An eyeful of ASLA 2008 Professional Awards winners.
- In case you were wondering, Shigeru Ban's pavilion sale is yet another architecture-as-art disappointment.

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[School Board votes 3 to 2 to raze Paul Rudolph's Riverview High School: ...ending a two-year-long effort by local activists to save it...plan calls for demolishing the original building and paving the site with a parking lot. -- Diane Lewis- Herald- Tribune \(Florida\)](#)

[Piano's Plans for Corbu Landmark Incite Fierce Debate: Construction plans for the site of Le Corbusier's chapel of Notre Dame du Haut \(1954\) in Ronchamp, France, have ignited a vigorous debate, pitting leading architects against each other... \[slide show\]- Architectural Record](#)

[Piano Designs \\$435 Million Tugboat for Downtown Whitney Museum: ...looks poised to steam purposefully toward the nearby Hudson River...design seems poised between warehouse rawness and Piano's usual bespoke elegance. Its ambivalence reflects a vagueness in the Whitney's sense of place in the New York museum ecosystem. By James S. Russell -- Renzo Piano Building Workshop/Cooper, Robertson & Partners \[images\]- Bloomberg News](#)

[Writer Tom Wolfe Is Displeased With Developer's New Plan: At a public hearing at the Landmarks Preservation Commission yesterday, Wolfe criticized Aby Rosen and Norman Foster's latest plan for a residential tower to be built above the Parke-Bernet Gallery at 980 Madison Ave. - New York Sun](#)

[An Olympic nightmare in Beijing: China's high-profile stadium is stunning, but the other buildings in its new park in Beijing don't deserve any medals...Architecturally at least, the Beijing Olympics are a flop. By Tom Dyckhoff -- Herzog & de Meuron; PTW; Arup; Pei Zhu; Gloeckner; Sasaki Associates; Schürmann; Zhuang Weimin- The Times \(UK\)](#)

[Documentary: "Bird's Nest: Herzog & de Meuron in China": The cat-and-mouse relationship between the Chinese government and the Swiss firm...Though full of thought-provoking discourse on the nature of urban architecture and the importance of avoiding Western ideas in favor of Chinese cultural traditions, pic is light on visual human drama.- Variety](#)

[The first images of Herzog & de Meuron's redesign of the proposed new 36,000-seat stadium for Portsmouth Football Club...new waterfront home...will form the centrepiece of an "urban park"...facing a long line of low-carbon waterside residential developments. \[images\]- BD/Building Design \(UK\)](#)

[Mile-high tower wars: How tall is too tall? The Burj Dubai will soar 800m above the Arabian desert, but a new mile-high tower is set to dwarf it..."You don't need a lot of technology to create it. Just a lot of money." -- George Efstathiou/Skidmore, Owings & Merrill \(SOM\); Hyder Consulting; Magnusson Klemencic; David Scott/Arup/Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitats \(CTBUH\)- Independent \(UK\)](#)

[Suburbs a Mile Too Far for Some: Demographic Changes, High Gasoline Prices May Hasten Demand for Urban Living: ...a boon to New Urbanism and other "smart-growth" planning concepts, in practice such mixed-use projects often are harder to execute...challenges for cities are considerable...- Wall Street Journal](#)

[Mixed-Use Facility Planned For Brooklyn Cultural District: ...originally slated to be an Enrique Norten-designed public library will be developed instead...as a mixed-use facility. -- TEN Arquitectos- New York Sun](#)

[New Look Planned for Pier at South Street Seaport: Conceding the failure of the...pier as a "festival marketplace," its owners plan to replace it with a mixed-use project including an apartment and hotel tower. -- Gregg Pasquarelli/SHoP Architects \[image\]- New York Times](#)

[Bridge over troubled water: Zaha Hadid's latest architectural creation: ...a graceful and dynamic wonder that spans a political controversy...270m-long Bridge Pavilion across the Ebro river \[for Expo Zaragoza\] in Spain...\(theme: "Water for Life"\)...metaphorically liquid form...a bundle of trajectories that are pure virtuosity.](#) By Jay Merrick [image, links]- Independent (UK)

[Bronx Zoo Lion House Goes Green as Cockroaches, Crocs Move In: "Madagascar!"...retains its ornate charms...while incorporating some very 21st-century ideas for green design. -- Heins & La Farge \(1903\); FXFowle Architects \[images\]-](#) Bloomberg News

[Jeanne Gang: The Art of Nesting: Whether it's a condo tower or community center, \[her\] approach to materials and construction remains bold and ingenious...making a leap to what young architects rarely and female architects almost never have done—building on a scale that will have a major impact on their city. \[images, videos\]-](#) Metropolis Magazine

[Castles in the Sand: RISD's \[Rhode Island School of Design\] outgoing president prepares to build a new breed of cultural institutions in Qatar...Roger Mandle talks about the new job, identifying young architects, and the role of museums. By Martin C. Pedersen-](#) Metropolis Magazine

[How Green Is Your Brand? ...sure, there was a little greenwashing going on at SB08...But what I came away with after hearing about these companies' myriad sustainable missions, goals and platforms is: \(1\) Finally! Glad they are paying attention. \(2\) Wow. The green envelope needs to be pushed further. By Allison Arieff-](#) New York Times

[ASLA 2008 Professional Awards Winners Announced -- Gustafson Guthrie Nichol; Michael Van Valkenburgh; Floor Associates/Weddle Gilmore; Van Atta; MSI Design; Andrea Cochran; Grupo De Diseño Urbano; Olin Partnership; Michael Vergason; Mossop + Michaels; SWA Group; Ken Smith/Mia Lehrer; Hargreaves Associates; ahbe landscape architects; SCAPE; Peter Walker, etc. \[images, links\]-](#) American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

[Prefab Shelter Disappoints at Auction: Artek Pavilion...by Shigeru Ban...sold for a disappointing \\$602,500 on Saturday, well short of Sotheby's low estimate of \\$800,000.-](#) New York Sun



[-- Ground broken: Arquitectonica: Trinity Place, San Francisco](#)
[-- Under construction: Reiser + Umemoto: O-14, Dubai.](#)

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