

Today's News - Friday, June 20, 2008

- Simon Jenkins is brutal when it comes to Robin Hood Gardens: "Never have the rich been robbed to dump so much concrete ugliness on the heads of the poor."
- Richard Rogers begs to differ.
- Meanwhile, he will join a small panel of "up and coming" architects to advise London mayor.
- Heathcote has high hopes for Battersea, calling Viñoly's grand vision "among the most extraordinary proposals I have ever seen for the city" (with lotsa "chutzpah," too) + details and images.
- Saffron finds Philadelphia mayor's speech "a pitch-perfect vision" and "a vindication for those who believe that planners should lead" development discussions.
- But she's totally taken aback by lack of green plans for convention center expansion that will leave the city with "a sprawling 18-acre urban desert" roof.
- Russell and Lacayo almost swoon over Ando's Clark Art Institute project in Massachusetts: it's his best work in the U.S.; elegant, superb, "and, from most angles, pretty splendid."
- Kamin reports on Wright house that might be lost to Iowa floods.
- Weekend diversions (o.k., so we wish we were in London): Dyckhoff on London Festival of Architecture: "Buildings don't do festive very well" and there's "little curatorial gravitas," but there are still highlights and good times to be had.
- As "Sust-Dane-able" opens at the Danish Embassy, Spring offers an eyeful of socially sustainable developments that make København cool.
- "Upshot: Photographs by Alan Williams" offers a rare glimpse of some of London's hidden spaces.
- Further afield, Searle finds the inaugural Folkestone Triennial "witty, thoughtful and definitely worth a day at the seaside" + A.J.'s eyeful of what you'll see.
- "Madagascar!" at the Bronx Zoo "is not an assertion of mastery or power; it is an assertion of care and conservation."
- "Museums in the 21st century" at Denmark's Louisiana Museum offers an "anticlimactic vision of the future," revealing that "museums need more humanity, more ideas, and fewer white cubes."
- Coming up next week: Bucky takes on NYC: Dymaxion Study Center, "Fly's Eye Dome," and lots of programs at the Center for Architecture, and "Buckminster Fuller: Starting with the Universe" at the Whitney.
- Page turners: Nobel says ""Spaced Out" offers "surprisingly fresh lessons for today's designers." - "A+D Wejchert and Partners" shows why the team is still a winner after 44 years. - "Washington Burning" is a "mavelous new history" on L'Enfant and his troubled life.

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[Op-Ed: This icon of 60s New Brutalism has its champions. So let them restore it. Architects and developers who want to save Robin Hood Gardens should put their money where their mouths have boldly gone...Never have the rich been robbed to dump so much concrete ugliness on the heads of the poor. By Simon Jenkins -- Peter and Alison Smithson-](#) Guardian (UK)

[Estate of the art: The real mistake - in our view - was to use Robin Hood Gardens as a sink estate practically from the time it was completed and thereafter to fail dismally to maintain the beautifully designed buildings and the magnificent landscape around them. It was also appallingly managed. By Richard Rogers/Rogers Stirk Harbour & Partners-](#) Guardian (UK)

[Richard Rogers to help Mayor Boris realise his vision for London: ...will join a small panel of 'up and coming' architects...could be the final nail in the coffin for any plans of Terry Farrell becoming London's next design tsar...](#) - The Architects' Journal (UK)

[Battersea Power Station: Sustainability is at the heart of Viñoly's grand vision...outstrips any of the others for ambition...The architecture is pure Viñoly, a blend of simple concept, grand public space and striking execution. It is among the most extraordinary proposals I have ever seen for the city and has chutzpah enough to compete with one of London's most familiar and eccentric structures. By Edwin Heathcote-](#) Financial Times (UK)

[Battersea Power Station: Plans for an immense 300m high chimney and 'eco-dome' form part of the redevelopment...£4 billion mixed-use scheme...involves bringing back Giles Gilbert Scott's Grade II*-listed power station itself into use through renewable sources as opposed to coal... - Rafael Vinoly \[images\]-](#) BD/Building Design (UK)

[Mayor Nutter speech inspires city planners: ...a pitch-perfect vision on a subject that rarely gets people's hearts racing: planning and zoning...amounted to a vindication for those who believe that planners - not developers and their lawyers - should lead the discussion of how new buildings are sited, designed and woven into the city's fabric. By Inga Saffron-](#) Philadelphia Inquirer

[Convention Center should be growing far more green: ...expansion expects to incorporate some green features...its most conspicuous design element, the vast barrel-vaulted roof, will be left bare, a sprawling 18-acre urban desert. By Inga Saffron-](#) Philadelphia Inquirer

[Tadao Ando Sets Pristine Clark Art Wing in Sublime Landscape: ...Stone Hill Center of the Clark Art Institute exudes a severe solitude...so small that it could seem more a landscape folly than a museum extension. Yet it is Ando's best U.S. work. By James S. Russell -- Reed Hilderbrand: Annabelle Selldorf \[images\]-](#) Bloomberg News

[Tadao Ando's Elegant Simplicity: ...Stone Hill Center...at the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute, the superb small museum and art-study center in Williamstown, Mass. It's exactly what you would expect from him. It's pale, gray, serene, economical, subdued and, from most angles, pretty splendid. By Richard Lacayo -- Reed Hilderbrand-](#) Time Magazine

[Frank Lloyd Wright house in Charles City, Iowa hit by flood: ...historic preservationists are hoping that the damage to the Miller Residence \(1946\) turns out to be cosmetic, not structural. By Blair Kamin \[links\]-](#) Chicago Tribune

[The London Festival of Architecture is raising the roof: There is, however, one problem. Buildings don't do festive very well...most buildings just sit there, arochily...immovable](#)

[in gruff stone, stubbornly refusing to perform to the crowd...There are highlights, and seemingly bottomless enthusiasm...have little curatorial gravitas...But we need to support it... By Tom Dyckhoff \[links\]- The Times \(UK\)](#)

[København cool - Socially sustainable Danish architecture: Martin Spring looks at four developments that typify the city's fresh approach to sustainability...Two appear in an exhibition of sustainable Danish architecture, snappily named Sust-Dane-able, at the Danish embassy as part of the London Festival of Architecture. -- PLOT \(now JDS Architects\); Bjarke Ingels Group; Aart: 3XN \[images\]- Building \(UK\)](#)

[Hidden spaces: "Upshot: Photographs by Alan Williams" at the National Theatre...a rare glimpse of some of London's highest vantage points \[slide show\]- Guardian \(UK\)](#)

[Witty, thoughtful and definitely worth a day at the seaside, the inaugural Folkestone Triennial, curated by Andrea Schlieker, reflects both the town's past and its run-down present. By Adrian Searle- Guardian \(UK\)](#)

[Folkestone Triennial in pictures and video: ...replica of a Lubetkin kiosk from Dudley Zoo...- The Architects' Journal \(UK\)](#)

[Critters of a Wondrous Isle. Meet Your Friend and Foe: ...the Bronx Zoo has been completely refashioned into a prime example of the contemporary zoo's altered vision..."Madagascar!"...The display of animals is not an assertion of mastery or power; it is an assertion of care and conservation. -- FXFowle Architects- New York Times](#)

[Is museum design lost in space? "Museums in the 21st century" at Denmark's Louisiana Museum of Modern Art tackles the notion of architecture for art...It's an anticlimactic vision of the future...reveals...that museums need more humanity, more ideas, and fewer white cubes. By Hugh Aldersey-Williams -- Sanaa; Tadao Ando; Shigeru Ban; Steven Holl; Jean Nouvel; etc. - BD/Building Design \(UK\)](#)

[Buckminster Fuller Dymaxion Study Center and Fly's Eye Dome + Dialogues, Film Series, and Dymaxion Map Intergenerational Workshops at NYC's Center for Architecture beginning June 23- Center for Architecture \(NYC\)](#)

["Buckminster Fuller: Starting with the Universe": Landmark exhibition explores the legacy of visionary American inventor, designer, environmentalist, and humanitarian; on view June 26 - September 21- Whitney Museum](#)

[Book review: "Spaced Out: Crash Pads, Hippie Communes, Infinity Machines and Other Radical Environments of the Psychedelic Sixties" by Alastair Gordon...book on '60s architecture provides surprisingly fresh lessons for today's designers. By Philip Nobel- Metropolis Magazine](#)

[Why Wejchert's still a winner after 44 years: ...a new book, "A+D Wejchert and Partners," celebrating four decades of often remarkable work...book shows what the Wejcherts have given back to their adopted country, and to Poland. By Frank McDonald- Irish Times](#)

[Book review: Broken dreams: Dramatic tale of architect's dream to build the capital city and his ruinous demise..."Washington Burning: How a Frenchman's Vision for Our Nation's Capital Survived Congress, the Founding Fathers, and the Invading British Army" by Les Standiford... -- Pierre Charles L'Enfant- Miami Herald](#)



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

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