Today's News - Monday, June 23, 2008

- ArcSpace brings us Foster's Copenhagen Elephant House, and Hadid's Guggenheim Hermitage Museum in Lithuania.
- Why there probably won't be a Guggenheim in Guadalajara.
- Pogrebin probes the ethical debate re: architects working for autocrats.
- Goldberger ponders Beijing's new architecture: "has gone in one generation from emanating an ancient spirit to feeling like Houston."
 Heathcote Arabia via Vegas (with a touch of Disney): the "lingering insecurity about identity and place is proving one of the most enthralling features of the ongoing explosion."
- Next Gen20 could be the turning point for Taiwanese architecture
- Does Malaysia have an architectural identity? Yes, says Tajuddin, but as things stand now, it's the wrong one.
- Booth reveals the bitter row over BBC's revamp.
- Ferguson minces no words about what he thinks of Viñoly's Battersea Power Station plans.
- Hume sees civic cowardice in "backward" Gardiner Expressway plan.
- Two takes re: Rudolph's Riverside High (both with a touch of optimism).
- High hopes for Hoboken (once "density" stops being a dirty word).
- H&deM tapped for new museum in Calcutta.
- Two "paragons of the avant-garde" tapped for Burnham Plan centennial pavilions in Chicago: how they "will come to terms with a committed classicist is anybody's guess," says Kamin.
 A look at how Heathrow's Terminal 5 is faring (the elevators are cool if you can find them).
 Campbell finds Ando's Clark Institute gallery "a wonderful piece of architecture" and "worth the climb."

- Sydney might finally be catching on to green roofs.
- A LEED-certified home might be "a Prada label for some, for others, it is a prickly hair shirt."

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-- Foster + Partners: Elephant House, Copenhagen Zoo, Copenhagen, Denmark -- Zaha Hadid Architects: Guggenheim Hermitage Museum, Vilnius, Lithuania

Why the Guggenheim won't open a branch in Guadalajara -- Enrique Norten/TEN Arquitectos- The Art Newspaper (UK)

I'm the Designer. My Client's the Autocrat: A recent speech by Daniel Libeskind has reanimated a debate among architects over the ethics of working in countries with repressive leaders or shaky records on human rights. By Robin Pogrebin -- Mayne; Gehry; Koolhaas; Barry Bergdoll; Robert A.M. Stern; Eric Owen Moss; Steven Holl; Herzog & de Meuron; Sudjic; Andreu; Eisenman; Tschumi; Nouvel; Hadid; Ando; Tod Williams Billie Tsien [slide show] - New York Times

Forbidden Cities: Beijing's great new architecture is a mixed blessing for the city...towers are sprinkled all over the place. Most of them are mediocre, and some are ridiculous...but a handful are among the most compelling buildings going up anywhere in the world. By Paul Goldberger -- Scheeren/Koolhaas; Steven Holl; Paul Andreu; Wang Jun; Neville Mars- The New Yorker

Arabia via Vegas: The Gulf is trying hard to set out a vision of why people should go there and, at the heart of that vision, is architecture...Arab aspirations are being concretised in building. By Edwin Heathcote -- IM Pei; Isozaki; Hadid; Nouvel; Pawson; Foster- Financial Times (UK)

A 'turning point' for Taiwanese architecture? A cutting-edge vacation home development on the northeast coast is making waves in the international design world...Next Gene20...to "explore the concept of 'next generation' lifestyles and the relationship between architecture and landscape"... -- Toshiko Mori; Liu Yu-tung; Halim Suh; Kung Shu-chang; Julien de Smedt [images]- Taipei Times

Can buildings be Malaysian? Yes! But it reflects a top-down feudal culture that tries too hard to copy past nostalgia or foreign grandeur. Can our buildings become more democratic, people-friendly and multi-cultural? ...with universities and PAM playing their supporting roles as grovelling servants, the architectural landscape of congested and polluted cities will prevail. By Prof Dr Mohamad Tajuddin [images]- The Star (Malaysia)

Revealed: bitter row over BBC's £800m revamp that left architect out of a job: Media Corporation accused of turning cathedral of news into ordinary office block..The row is the latest evidence of the BBC's fraught buildings policy. By Robert Booth -- Richard MacCormac; Sheppard Robson; David Chipperfield; Foreign Office Architects (FOA)-Guardian (UK)

Ferguson: Vinoly's Battersea Power Station design is a menace to London: " While he can be touched by brilliance at the smaller scale he seems to lose it on the London skyline."- BD/Building Design (UK)

Civic cowardice fuelling backward Gardiner Expressway plan: ...we should look to cities - New York, Seoul, San Francisco, Boston, Oslo and Paris - that have taken down their Gardiners and lived to tell the tale. By Christopher Hume- Toronto Star

Preservation or Parking? There may yet be hope for Paul Rudolph's modern masterpiece despite a recent vote against it...contrary to local media reports. Riverview's fate is not yet sealed. — Diane Lewis [images, video]- Metropolis Magazine

Time Is Running Out for a Celebrated Building: Sarasota County School Board cleared the way for the demolition of Paul Rudolph's Riverview High School at the end of the 2008-9 school year..."those promoting the new plan started too late"..."The people who want to save Rudolph's building will not give up" -- Diane Lewis/RMJM Hillier- New York Times

Hoboken: Improved infrastructure, landscaping, historic preservation ... what's the catch? Density. Residents...said they don't think the density is worth the promised improvements, which, at any rate, might not come through as promised...But others said the plans looked pretty good. — FXFowle Architets- Hoboken Now (New Jersey)

Herzog & de Meuron to design new museum of modern art in Calcutta: ...chosen from a shortlist which included Frank Gehry and David Adjaye...The new 300,000 sq. ft Kolkata Museum of Modern Art (KMoMA) will rise in Rajarhat, a suburb of the city.- The Art Newspaper (UK)

Zaha Hadid, Ben van Berkel to design Burnham Plan centennial pavilions in Millennium Park: How these two paragons of the avant-garde will come to terms with...Daniel Burnham, a committed classicist who sought to transform rough-edged Chicago into a civilized Paris on the Prairie, is anybody's guess. By Blair Kamin -- UNStudio- Chicago Tribune

Taking Terminal 5 to another level: HOK and Rogers' lifts from the Tube station to the departures hall have passengers soaring long before their flight is called — if they can find them. Three months after its troubled opening...how Heathrow's Terminal 5 is faring. — HOK International; Rogers Stirk Harbour; Pascall & Watson; Chapman Taylor; Speirs & Major; YRM [images]- BD/Building Design (UK)

An art center worth the climb: Clark Institute gallery interacts with landscape: ...the new Stone Hill Center...is like a white temple in a green forest...as if an enormous origami crane had touched down in Williamstown. By Robert Campbell -- Tadao Ando; Reed Hilderbrand; Annabelle Seldorf; Cooper, Robertson; Gensler [image]- Boston Globe

Green skins: Garden roofs and leafy walls could be crucial steps in the fight against global warming. If all goes to plan, Sydney will have its own verdant towers, too... -- Nouvel: Foster: Green Roofs Australia- The Australian

The New Trophy Home, Small and Ecological: But if a LEED platinum ranking is a Prada label for some, for others, it is a prickly hair shirt. -- David Hertz; Melinda Gray; LS3P Associates; Michael Lehrer; Maria Chao- New York Times

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