

Today's News - Thursday, September 25, 2008

- Is a south London suburb the right model for Le Grand Paris? ("Parisians can only shudder.")
- A call for Prague to reconsider "exclusionary practices" in planning its public spaces.
- Farrelly looks at what London is doing right that Sydney didn't: 'an intelligent, strategic approach to the morning after' the Olympics.
- More on the slaughter of Moscow's architectural heritage.
- Helsinki opens a permanent gallery to display development plans, and a call for more transparency in making those plans.
- Rose on the "Arabian Dream" that is Dubai.
- Princeton campus plans set to bloom oh so green.
- An eyeful of Gehry's green dreams for 85 acres in Utah.
- Hawthorne wonders if Cloepfil has "been foiled by the ghost of Edward Durell Stone" in the "re-cloaked austerity" of NYC's new Museum of Arts.
- A Q&A with Cloepfil about the historical questions raised by the MAD project.
- Rybczynski ponders the 9/11 Pentagon Memorial: it "tells us more than we need to know - and, at the same time, not enough."
- Brussat minces no words about RISD's "abominable new box" (a.k.a. Moneo's Chace Center).
- An impressive shortlist for Glasgow Athletes Village for 2014 Games.
- Ellis Island Museum has big plans to expand to touch on other eras of immigration.
- New West Point library is thoroughly modern - but fits with its past.
- Glancey goes through the looking glass on a tour of Kapoor's home.
- Bernstein visits a penthouse that redefines garden apartment: "part home and part testing ground for how architecture and nature can interact."

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Op-Ed: Croydon in the spring: Le Grand Paris urgently needs reshaping. But is the south London super-suburb the right model? ...with Sarkozy looking to Croydon for inspiration, Parisians can only shudder. They will have to hope that the French President doesn't plan to make Le Louvre into a shopping mall. By Agnès Poirier - Guardian (UK)

Op-Ed: Uncommon ground: Prioritizing profit can undermine civic interaction...development of city-center shopping complexes...only reinforces exclusionary practices...spectacular reminders of who is in and who is out...Our spaces should not be put at the service of the economy, cranking out pseudo-common experiences for the lucky insiders... By Benjamin Tallis - The Prague Post

London takes aim at the post-Games hangover: At first glance London's Olympics looks a lot like any other...But one quality sets London 2012 apart. Legacy; an intelligent, strategic approach to the morning after. By Elizabeth Farrelly -- Ricky Burdett; Hadid; Hopkins; Make - Sydney Morning Herald

Moscow's historic buildings under threat: Hundreds of them have been torn down or allegedly "restored" with replicas ...About 400...have been demolished...The State, the legal owner of all listed historical properties, cannot afford maintenance and real estate developers show little regard for preservation laws. - Russia-InfoCentre

Laituri, a new exhibition space for Helsinki: ...permanent exhibition is one of the wide development plans being undertaken and shows how the new Helsinki will look in a few years....Helsinki City planning also criticised...is there a true openness and transparency in contemporary city planning? -- Herzog & de Meuron; Finnish Association of Architects (SAFA) - Agenda Magazine (Finland)

Towering ambition: As another huge resort opens in Dubai, Steve Rose marvels at the world's biggest building site...This is the Arabian Dream...Whether or not the rest of the world can afford to buy into this dream, Dubai shows no signs of waking up from it. [links to images]- Guardian (UK)

Princeton's Campus Plan Comes Into Full Bloom: 10-year plan...calls for adding 2 million square feet of built space. It dovetails...sustainability initiative, which aims to reduce, by 2020, greenhouse gas emissions to the levels they were in 1990. -- Beyer Blinder Belle; Harry Cobb; Frederick Fisher; Steven Holl; Hopkins Architects/Payette Associates; Frank Gehry; Michael Van Valkenburgh [slide show] - Architectural Record

Plans for The Point in Lehi are unveiled: ...\$2.1 billion eco-friendly, 85-acre development...more than 1 million square feet of retail space, nearly 2,500 residential units and a man-made lake...an arena to house the Utah Flash as well as a 450-foot-tall, five-star hotel. -- Frank Gehry [slide show] - Salt Lake Tribune (Utah)

N.Y. facade spells trouble: The once romantic Museum of Arts and Design building is re-cloaked in austerity...At 2 Columbus Circle, has Brad Cloepfil been foiled by the ghost of Edward Durell Stone?...Cloepfil's designs look crisp and impressively sure of themselves. But when they're...pulled tightly over -- an older building with a gregarious sense of humor or history, they begin to seem clinical and rigid, even schoolmarmish. By Christopher Hawthorne -- Allied Works Architecture - Los Angeles Times

A conversation with Brad Cloepfil. His new home for the Museum of Arts and Design in Manhattan...Design that completely reworks a prominent late-Modernist building...talks about the historical questions raised by the project and how his design works with the institution's program. -- Edward Durrell Stone (1964); Allied Works Architecture [images] - Architectural Record

The Pentagon Memorial: It tells us more than we need to know -- and, at the same time, not enough. ...Moving as the ensemble is, the overall effect is also oddly unresolved, almost nihilistic...seems more like an art installation than a monument for the ages. By Witold Rybczynski -- Julie Beckman/Keith Kaseman/KBAS [images] - Slate

RISD's abominable new box: The new wing of the RISD Museum of Art, called the Chace Center...lacks the stylistic exclamation aficionados yearn to see...is boxy and unimaginative...not about the city but about the ego. By David Brussat -- José Rafael Moneo [image] - Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

Four consortiums bidding for £245m Glasgow Athletes Village: ...winning bidder will build up to 1,500 homes...will house 8,000 athletes during the 2014 Games, and provide a mixture of private and affordable homes after the Games end. -- Broadway Malan/Arup; RMJM; Ian Simpson/Reiach and Hall/Elder and Cannon/Nord Architecture; Gordon Murray + Alan Dunlop - Building (UK)

Ellis Island Museum to Expand, Touching on Other Eras: \$20 million museum expansion, to be known as the Peopling of America Center...will follow archetypal families, past and present, through the stages of immigration... -- Edwin Schlossberg/ESI Design - New York Times

West Point Gives Cadets a New Hall of Learning: The new library on the campus of the United States Military Academy is

meant to show a commitment to modernization...many details, large and small, tie the library to its surroundings. -- STV Group; Holzman Moss Architecture- New York Times

Through the looking-glass: A passageway through a nondescript block of flats leads Jonathan Glancey to the artist Anish Kapoor's new home: a quiet oasis filled with sculpture, light and green spaces - Guardian (UK)

In the Penthouse, a True Garden Apartment: ...part home and part testing ground for how architecture and nature can interact. By Fred A. Bernstein -- Joel Sanders; Diana Balmori [slide show]- New York Times

A Treasure Reborn: The Currier Museum of Art: An important cultural resource reopens its doors after a thoughtful renovation and expansion. -- Ann Beha Architects [images]- ArchNewsNow



-- Renzo Piano Building Workshop: California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco
-- Rafael Viñoly Architects: Brooklyn Children's Museum, Brooklyn, New York

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