

Today's News - Monday, June 15, 2009

- ArcSpace brings us eyefuls of Allied Works' UMMA in Ann Arbor, and BIG/Michel Rojkind's Museo Tamayo in Mexico.
- Ouroussoff digs deep into plans for Grand Paris: the "project represents a critical shift in how we think of urbanism...and that architecture is essential to that transformation."
- In Melbourne, a call to beware "those who wish to impose grander, more outlandish schemes, designed to make this city something it isn't."
- Only a couple of highlights from barrage of Chelsea Barracks coverage: the Rogers team is "shell-shocked"; and a "thanks" to "our Puissant Prince" for meddling (comments galore).
- Not much better news for Foster in Moscow: his Russia Tower scrapped - site will become a parking garage instead (what else?).
- One of the best analyses of the Waxman-Markey climate and energy bill: whether you think it's something to fear or promote, it will "definitely require major changes in how buildings in the U.S. are designed and built."
- NYT Magazine takes on "Infrastructure! (It's more exciting than you think, actually)" - prisons, bridges, and dead malls - oh my! (definitely worth spending some time)
- A look at how Tysons Corner wants to transform itself from being a "hotbed of suburban gridlock into a green, walkable city" (a model for us all?).
- Hawthorne delves into why the prefabricated movement needs to rethink its model: "taking on a multifamily mind-set could be a new beginning" after "foundering again...in some depressingly familiar ways."
- Rawsthorn revisits the Eames's own prefabricated on its 60th anniversary; it "remains a model of economy and creativity," and is "still beguiling."
- How some architecture firms are positioning themselves overseas.
- How other firms are using evidence-based design for a bevy of different uses (and keeping themselves in business).
- Chicago continues to take its "fifth facades" seriously with the Red Line Green Roofs Initiative.
- In L.A., TreePeople's conference center has a soaring roof that "multitasks to green effect."
- Hess cheers the bold use of a Neo-Classical Revival style that creates "an eloquent urban vocabulary" for Santa Cruz, CA - "a rare thing in an era when architects have largely forgotten history."
- Call for entries: Architectum Architecture Competition: Paris 2009: a new dance school for the Moulin Rouge; and eVolo 2010 Skyscraper Competition.
- We couldn't resist: more details on the Rubble Club (it hopes to go international).

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-- Allied Works Architecture: University of Michigan Museum of Art (UMMA), Ann Arbor
-- Competition winner: BIG & Michel Rojkind: Museo Tamayo, Atizapan, Mexico

Remaking Paris: President Nicolas Sarkozy has called for a post-Kyoto urban plan that re-envision the old city...may be the beginning of one of the boldest urban planning operations in French history...the Grand Paris project represents a critical shift in how we think of urbanism...and that architecture is essential to that transformation. By Nicolai Ouroussoff -- Rogers Stirk Harbour; Nouvel; Djamel Klouche; Roland Castro; de Portzamparc; Bernardo Secchi; MVRDV [+ audio slide show] - [New York Times](#)

Op-Ed: Melbourne is a landmark city, but not a city of landmarks: Look deeper into the city...and there are countless joys to behold. These reveries are not, alas, shared by those who have other ideas of Melbourne; those who wish to impose grander, more outlandish schemes, designed to make this city something it isn't. -- Foster + Partners - [The Age \(Australia\)](#)

Rogers team "shocked" after Chelsea Barracks withdrawal: Sources close to architect blame intervention by Prince Charles for decision..."The rug has been pulled from under us. After the positive planning report, we were confident of getting approval. This decision has left us shell-shocked." -- Rogers Stirk Harbour - [Building \(UK\)](#)

Chelsea Barracks: Thanks to Prince Charles for meddling: Charles has no powers, yet he makes important things happen all the time...When in the future we walk along the north side of the River Thames in Chelsea...we will thank our Puissant Prince, and his willingness to use "his privileged position." By Andrew Roberts - [Telegraph \(UK\)](#)

Foster's tallest tower in Europe dream comes down to earth: The site of Foster + Partners' 612m-tall Russia Tower in Moscow -- hailed as the highest naturally ventilated skyscraper in the world -- is to be used instead as a car park [image] - [The Architects' Journal \(UK\)](#)

Better Buildings Soon? Energy And Climate Bill Would Set National Energy Codes...Something to Fear, or Promote? Change can be frightening, and this Waxman-Markey Bill will definitely require major changes in how buildings in the U.S. are designed, built, and possibly financed. - [WorldChanging](#)

Infrastructure! (It's more exciting than you think, actually): Bridging the Gap: In well-designed infrastructure, function is never separate from form; Repurpose-Driven Life: America's shopping infrastructure is vast and abundant. That's the problem; Behind Bars...Sort Of: The design of Austria's Leoben prison is not universally accepted, but not easily ignored; Bridge to Somewhere; etc. -- Josef Hohensinn; Jeff

[Goodale/HDR \[images, slides shows\]](#)- New York Times Magazine: The Architecture Issue

[A \(Radical\) Way to Fix Suburban Sprawl: Some 120,000 people work in Tysons Corner, Va., but only 17,000 live there. To transform this hotbed of suburban gridlock into a green, walkable city, a soon-to-be-adopted plan...is a model of public-private partnership...as suburbs and exurbs...look for ways to repair the damage from five decades of outward, rather than upward, expansion. By Lisa Selin Davis \[images\]](#)- Time Magazine

[Prefab movement needs to rethink its model: Firms find themselves without a toehold even as the any-architecture-goes building boom ends. Taking on a multifamily mind-set could be a new beginning...if prefab is foundering again, it is doing so in some depressingly familiar ways...the age-old gap between ambition and the bottom line has grown wider than ever. By Christopher Hawthorne -- Michelle Kaufmann; Marmol Radziner; Taalman Koch Architecture; Lazor Office; Ray Kappe-](#) Los Angeles Times

[A Prefab House That Dazzles Still: The Eames House in southwestern California, which turns 60 this month, remains a model of economy and creativity...is still beguiling. By Alice Rawsthorn \[images\]](#)- New York Times

[Differing Strategies Architecture Firms Are Using to Position Themselves Overseas: ...capturing emerging markets against a colonial backdrop...The paradox of working in developing countries as a foreign expert is that you may begin to facilitate your own redundancy. By Gideon Fink Shapiro -- Perkins Eastman; Perkins+Will; Coloco-](#) AIArchitect

[The Evidence Is In: Research-intensive practice has been around for decades...Five firms are on the leading edge of creating purpose-driven, evidence-based design for a bevy of different uses. -- Auerbach Pollock Friedlander; SmithGroup; HMC Architects; RicciGreene Architects; Perkins Eastman \[images, links\]](#)- The Architect's Newspaper

[Green Roofs on Chicago's Red Line: Red Line Green Roofs Initiative...an effort to create 50,000 square feet of green roofs is about more than stormwater management. Improving the environment, public health, and the perception of uses of roofs themselves are all on the list of goals..."demonstrates the principle that you want to be thinking about the fifth façade of your building" ... -- Hampton-Avery Architects-](#) AIArchitect

[Function Follows Form: A conference center's soaring roof multitasks to green effect...for TreePeople, an organization that plants trees and promotes water conservation and sustainability throughout Los Angeles. By David Sokol -- Marmol Radziner \[slide show\]](#)- GreenSource Magazine

[New building artfully fills last gap left by Loma Prieta quake on Pacific Avenue in Santa Cruz: Rittenhouse Building...has created a confident presence on the street by boldly using a Neo-Classical Revival style to achieve a balance with the surroundings...an eloquent urban vocabulary — a rare thing in an era when architects have largely forgotten history. By Alan Hess -- Baldauf Catton Von Eckartsberg Architects-](#) Mercury News (California)

[Call for entries: Architectum Architecture Competition: Paris 2009: a new dance school for the Moulin Rouge; cash prizes; early bird registration deadline: June 29 \(final registration: July 30\)](#)- Architectum

[Call for entries: 2010 Skyscraper Competition: examine the relationship between the skyscraper and the natural world, the community, and urban living; cash prizes; early registration deadline: November 17-](#) eVolo Architecture

[Support for 'bereaved' architects: A support group has been set up to help architects through the "trauma" of seeing one of their creations demolished in their own lifetime. The Rubble Club aims to draw attention to the number of buildings it believes are being torn down unnecessarily. -- Reiach and Hall; Hodder Associates; Gillespie Kidd and Coia-](#) BBC News

[Engaging Students in Smart-Building Design: Illinois Institute of Technology New Student Residence Halls: Performance-calibrated building design and student-centric spaces will give students control over their environment and generate performance data to be shared with university and architectural communities beyond the IIT campus. -- Dirk Denison Architects \[images\]](#)- ArchNewsNow

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