

Today's News - Thursday, July 16, 2009

- Lewis says the new Office of Urban Affairs "has its work cut out for it," but with wise leadership from the White House, it can proactively help manage and shape metropolitan growth.
- A new approach to urban malls in NYC: will it make them "at least palatable"? (depends on who you ask).
- Becker minces no words about the architectural component of the Burnham centennial tribute: "A band of devoted Europhiles would have us believe that the glory of Chicago architecture is delusional bunk."
- Kamin on the Burnham Memorial: "Design stirs spirits, but location stirs questions - a classic case of top-down planning."
- West 8 replaces Gehry for park design on his New World Symphony's campus.
- Moore reports from Moscow: "Why have real history when you can have a glamorous make-believe version of the past?"
- Carbone wanders Golden Gate Park, "anticipating a delicious serving of world-class architecture" (for the most part, he was not disappointed).
- Ouroussoff is enthralled with Ito's Taiwan stadium: it "is just as intoxicating" as H&deMs Bird's Nest.
- At a Las Vegas crossroads (that includes a "typical Gehry WTF? crushed can of titanium-faced curving forms") are the "makings of either the most interesting block of architecture in city, or a train wreck."
- A new green building at Ithaca College occupants "are warming up to the idea of working in an environment that requires a little interaction" (well, most of them, anyway).
- A new hotel in Cambodia is creating a buzz in architectural circles: was it really designed by Cambodia's "most remarkable modern architect and engineer" (and will it actually be completed)?
- Aravena of Chile takes this year's (very generous) Marcus Prize for Architecture.
- Will the 3D printer be the production-manufacturing model of the future?
- 2009 Best Firms To Work For.
- Despite the current downturn, things are looking up for ASLA convention in September.
- We couldn't resist: Thailand Creative & Design Center wants to give the iconic noodle cart a makeover.

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District Is the Perfect Lab for Office of Urban Affairs: ...thought is rarely given to developing long-range federal policies and programs to proactively help manage and systematically shape metropolitan growth...With wise leadership from the White House, undertaking projects and programs regionally rather than locally might actually save money. Roger K. Lewis - Washington Post

Mall City: Does a new approach to malls that incorporates going vertical, adaptive reuse, and density make these mega-retail projects more attractive - or at least palatable - in urban settings...Alex Ulam wonders if this new generation of retail is for real. -- GreenbergFarrow; BBG-BBGM; Ehrenkrantz Eckstut & Kuhn (EE&K); SLCE [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

An Odd Way to Honor Daniel Burnham: The man behind the Plan of Chicago was a doer, a pragmatist, a builder of consensus. The folks behind the architectural component of his centennial tribute must've been thinking of someone else..A band of devoted Europhiles would have us believe that the glory of Chicago architecture is delusional bunk... By Lynn Becker -- John Wellborn Root; Louis Sullivan; Edward Bennett; Charles McKim; Graham, Anderson, Probst & White; David Woodhouse; van Berkel/UNStudio; Zaha Hadid; Jeanne Gang; Krueck & Sexton; John Ronan [images, links]- Chicago Reader

Daniel Burnham Memorial: Design stirs spirits, but location stirs questions: A memorial to a great planner should arise from an exemplary planning process. But that is not so here...It's a classic case of top-down planning...It's a tweaking of an already-fine public space..."ike gilding the lily"... By Blair Kamin -- David Woodhouse [images]- Chicago Tribune

Dutch firm picked for Lincoln Park project: West 8 will replace Frank Gehry as the designer of a park to complement New World Symphony's new Lincoln Road campus.- Miami Herald

Russia's new revolution: To get one idea of modern Moscow, go to the Ritz Carlton Hotel. A brand new version of a fin-de-siècle luxury hotel...it makes Philippe Starck look like a minimalist...Why have real history when you can have a glamorous make-believe version of the past? By Rowan Moore- Evening Standard (UK)

Architecture in Golden Gate Park: A Matter of Life and Lifeless: I can't help but appreciate the de Young's bold attempt to be brash and aggressive. The California Academy of Science's success is in being correct, like a well-tailored suit, with technical innovations built into the very fabric of the building. By Ken Carbone -- Herzog & de Meuron; Renzo Piano [images]- Fast Company

Stadium Where Worlds Collide, Humanely: ...the World Games' main stadium in Taiwan is not only magnetic architecture, it is also a remarkably humane environment, something you rarely find in a structure of this size. By Nicolai Ouroussoff -- Toyo Ito [images]- New York Times

Design at the crossroads: The visual chaos—and possibility—at Vegas' most arresting intersection: ...we have the makings of either the most interesting block of architecture in Las Vegas, or a train wreck..It would be a fascinating and welcome irony if it were the modest size of the Ruvo building, and not the extravagance of its design, that did the most to push Las Vegas in a new direction. Maybe call it dazzle on a human scale. -- Frank Gehry [images]- Las Vegas Weekly

A Green Building at Ithaca College Demands Help From Its Occupants: ...people in the Williams Center will have to work with their thermostat "partner" to compromise on a comfortable temperature and agree on times to open the windows...people are warming up to the idea of working in an environment that requires a little interaction. -- Holt Architects - The Chronicle of Higher Education

Building on the shoulders of a giant: New hotel...has created a buzz in architectural circles because listed as architect is none other than the iconic Vann Molyvann, recognised as Cambodia's most remarkable modern architect and engineer of an enlightened national social development policy...Few examples of the influential architect's work remain in Siem Reap. -- Darryl Collins [images]- Phnom Penh Post (Cambodia)

Chilean architect awarded Marcus Prize for Architecture: ...recognizes emerging global talents...chosen because of "his remarkable commitment to a socially driven agenda combined with an almost lyrical appreciation of architectural craft and form. There was unanimous agreement that Alejandro is on a trajectory to greatness..." -- Alejandro Aravena/Elemental S.A. [images]- University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM)

The Desktop Manufacturing Revolution: The end of the current production-manufacturing economic model may be on the horizon. But what if nothing's ready to replace it? ..."3D Printing" (the older name, "rapid prototyping"...). While the process has been around since the mid-1980s, the cost of 3D printers has been dropping quickly...- Fast Company

2009 Best Firms To Work For -- JMZ Architects and Planners; TAYLOR; TowerPinkster; etc.- ZweigWhite

Record Numbers Registering for American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) Meeting in Chicago September 18-21: Pace one-third ahead of 2008 meeting, could set all-time record- BusinessWire

Noodle cart 2.0: Bangkok's legendary street food gets a makeover. Thailand Creative & Design Center...is analyzing the ingenuity of street vendors and attempting to redesign the iconic noodle cart.- GlobalPost

Market Research Strategies in Uncertain Times #2: Finding Leads that one can act on right away is a difficult task, especially during tough economic times, but these strategies can help. By Frances Gretes- ArchNewsNow

-- Bernard Tschumi Architects: New Acropolis Museum, Athens, Greece
-- Competition winner: Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA)/Urbanus: Shenzhen Creative Center, Crystal Island, Shenzhen, China

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