

## Today's News - Thursday, March 4, 2010

- Sydney's \$6 billion Barangaroo redevelopment plans by Rogers Stirk Harbour breach height limits, says Thalís (on the original competition-winning team) - and he produces images to prove it.
- Rogers pens a strike-back: "Boldness is needed now for Barangaroo...I have seen media coverage of the proposed building that seriously misrepresented what we have designed."
- Moore cheers a team of planners who "aren't supposed to look like this" and their plans to revive Croyden (still striving "to find an inner Manhattan") + "Why the new-look US embassy is a green, well-dressed, diplomatic lump."
- Piccadilly Circus gets £14m pedestrian-friendly revamp (not all are convinced).
- Zukin takes on "St. Jane" in a tour of Greenwich Village "not as a pilgrim but to wax sardonic."
- An eyeful of Warsaw's new Chopin Museum: the "most modern biographical museum in Europe" (in a palace, no less).
- An eyeful of the four finalists' master plans for the 70ha Meridian Water development in north London.
- Tacoma's Cheney Stadium to get a \$30 million remodel, but will it lose its "festive feel"?
- The battle against Asian carp invasion could lead to closing the Chicago River, which could be "catastrophic" for the iconic tour boats and be "a civic blow to the redeveloping riverfront."
- Groves finds whimsy in - and hopefully salvation for - the few orange-shaped juice stands that have landed on the first Falling by the Wayside list.
- Q&A with MAD's Ma Yansong about Beijing's courtyard houses, his vision of new Asian architecture, and his collaboration with Eliasson.
- Rockwell's 2010 Oscar set aims "to create a fostering environment for the natural levity and drama of the show."
- Housing of the future: abandoned mental hospitals "transformed from creepy relics of the past" (and where the "views are insane") + an eyeful of one firm's plan to turn one of Sweden's old, ugly mental hospitals into a sustainable apartment complex.
- RAIC gives Architectural Firm Award 2010 to Bing Thom Architects, and the Gold Medal to George Baird.
- Call for entries: Evergreen Awards competition for excellence in building design and environmental performance (U.S., Canada, Mexico).
- We couldn't resist: for the billionaire with everything - a \$160 million, 36,600-sq.-ft. floating island yacht - with fashion house Hermès name attached (ya gotta see it to believe it!).

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Barangaroo towers breach height limits, says design architect: The drawings, prepared by the architect Philip Thalís, who was part of a team that won the original design competition...show the hotel planned for construction on a public pier will be about 10 storeys higher than allowed...other buildings will be wider and closer to the foreshore. [images]- Sydney Morning Herald

At Barangaroo, a concrete backyard becomes a visionary portal: Cities are the grandest physical expressions of our humanity and are at the heart of our culture...A lack of confidence risks mediocre outcomes...Boldness is needed now for Barangaroo...I have seen media coverage of the proposed building that seriously misrepresented what we have designed. By Richard Rogers/Rogers Stirk Harbour - Sydney Morning Herald

Suburban regeneration: Croyden gave the world Kate Moss, but can it ever be sexy? An exciting team of young planners are set to revive the south London suburb and blaze a trail for all British towns...Planners aren't supposed to look like this + Why the new-look US embassy is a green, well-dressed, diplomatic lump. By Rowan Moore -- KieranTimberlake - Observer (UK)

Piccadilly Circus gets £14m pedestrian-friendly revamp: ...will see the area go back to what it looked like in 1963, as more than one kilometre of railings are uprooted. -- Atkins [image]- BBC (UK)

A Contrarian's Lament in a Blitz of Gentrification: Sharon Zukin had come to Greenwich Village and the Shrine of St. Jane not as a pilgrim but to wax sardonic...if Jane Jacobs is much hailed as an urban prophet, Zukin is a heretic on her canonization...“Jacobs's values...became the gentrifiers' ideal...[her] social goals, the preservation of classes, have been lost.” - New York Times

The most modern biographical museum in Europe: Following a complete modernisation, a new Frederic Chopin Museum was inaugurated in Warsaw...Based at the Ostrogski Palace... -- Grzegory and Partnerzy architecture studio; Migliore + Servetto Architetti Associati [video]- Polish Market

Enfield announces Meridian Water finalists: ...contest to masterplan the huge 70ha Meridian Water development in north London...will eventually house 5,000 homes -- almost half the 11,000 homes the borough plans to build over the next 15 years...has not ruled out further architectural competitions... -- AECOM; Broadway Malyan; LDA Design; Urban Practitioners/Stock Woolstencroft [images]- The Architects' Journal (UK)

A bold look for redesign of Tacoma's Cheney Stadium: \$30 million stadium remodel...imparts a "Pacific Northwest feel"...prominent grandstand...a modern-looking, boxy structure with timbered siding and stunted roof overhangs, the design drew both warm and tepid responses. -- Mortenson; Populous; Belay Architecture [slide show]- The News Tribune (Tacoma, Washington)

Asian carp fight may close Chicago river: The battle against the invasive species could shut down tour boats and all boat traffic up to four days a week...would be "catastrophic" for the iconic tour boats...would be a civic blow to the redeveloping riverfront... - Chicago Tribune

California's main squeeze: Orange-shaped juice stands recall state's simpler days...By putting them on its first Falling by the Wayside list, the Society for Commercial Archeology...aims to raise awareness of once-popular but faded attractions... By Martha Groves [image]- Los Angeles Times

[Q&A with Ma Yansong/MAD about Beijing's courtyard houses, his vision of new Asian architecture, and his upcoming collaborative exhibition with artist Olafur Eliasson. \[slide show\]](#)- Artinfo

[David Rockwell opens curtain on 2010 Oscar set design: ...aims to create an atmosphere both intimate and dramatic. Look for a reappearance of last year's 60,000-pound crystal curtain...the designer hopes to create a fostering environment for the natural levity and drama of the show. \[slide show\]](#)- Los Angeles Times

[Would You Live in These Abandoned Mental Hospitals? \(The Views Are Insane!\): Some people already are - albeit in buildings transformed from creepy relics of the past into modern housing developments. \[slide show essay\]](#)- Fast Company

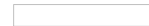
[Would You Live in an Abandoned Mental Hospital? Kjellgren Kaminsky Architecture plans to turn one of Sweden's old, ugly mental hospitals into a sustainable apartment complex. Dubbed Parkour, it offers a sense of community to residents. \[images, links\]](#)- Fast Company

[RAIC Architectural Firm Award 2010: Bing Thom Architects: Bing Thom, FRAIC, and Michael Heeney, MRAIC, share a fundamental belief in the transformative power of architecture to improve, not only the physical, but also the economic and social conditions of a community. \[link to details, images\]](#)- Canadian Architect

[George Baird announced as recipient of the 2010 RAIC Gold Medal -- Royal Architectural Institute of Canada; Baird Sampson Neuert Architects \[link to details, images\]](#)- Canadian Architect

[Call for entries: Evergreen Awards competition for excellence in building design and environmental performance \(U.S., Canada, Mexico\); deadline: July 1, 2010](#)- Eco-Structure magazine

[Meet the yacht that doubles as an island: For the billionaire with everything ... Abu Dhabi unveiling for the boat with a beach built in...\\$160 million Wally Hermès floating island yacht WHY 58x38...total guest surface area of 3,400sq metres...Frugal fuel consumption will enable it to cross the Atlantic four times without refuelling... \[slide show, video\]](#)- Guardian (UK)



-- Competition winner: Steven Holl Architects: Shan-Shui Hangzhou, Hangzhou, China

-- Anmahian Winton Architects: Community Rowing Boathouse, Cambridge, Massachusetts

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