

Today's News - Monday, May 17, 2010

- ArcSpace brings us an eyeful of Gehry's New World Symphony in Miami.
- Bernstein begs to differ with Szenasy's take on Gehry's grumblings about green design.
- A big win for Woods Bagot in China.
- Big plans (with big names attached) for 369 acres of Chicago's South Side waterfront.
- Kamin rhapsodizes about Chicago architects transforming "prosaic terraces into visual poetry" (with a few clunkers mixed in).
- Moore finds KPF's Heron Tower "like a city suit: bespoke, well made, but with a hint of aggression"; he's less kind to Ban's Pompidou Metz, which "cross-bred with the concept of a civic monument, has become ponderous and confused."
- Heathcote finds the Pompidou Metz "an eccentric and frankly ugly building on the wrong side of the tracks" that "conspires to make its grim post-industrial surroundings even less attractive (but it "will be good for the city").
- de Monchaux, on the other hand, finds Phifer's North Carolina Museum of Art "a manifesto for movement between nature and architecture" so that "when you arrive, you belong."
- Phoenix's new Musical Instrument Museum is a "rhapsody in sage" that's "less about architecture and more about variety and rhythm."
- Haworth Tompkins unveils its proposal for £50 million transformation of Denys Lasdun's 1976 National Theatre.
- Gardner finds an "infallible sense of proportion" in the newest condo on the High Line that is able "to reawaken in the stale idiom of early modernism an unexpected richness and inventiveness."
- Construction of Syracuse's three "From the Ground Up" green homes enters the home stretch, with hopes to replicate elsewhere.
- An architect offers up "two excellent examples of neighborhood planning and architectural design that are informed by the two most influential components of New Urbanism."
- A Virginia Tech student wins competition to design Wyclef Jean's Yéle Music Studio in Haiti.
- Iran is invited to Venice Biennale of Architecture for the first time.
- A variety of reports from Shanghai Expo: "serious business with a side of campy fun (a strand of van Gogh's hair, anyone?); the Expo is big, and "not surprising that the standout art form is the biggest one of all: architecture"; and low attendance leaves some worried (free tickets in the offing?).

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[Under construction: Gehry Partners: New World Symphony, Miami, Florida](#)

[An Open Letter to Susan Szenasy re: Frank Gehry: Susan, I love and admire you. But I think you are wrong... By Fred Bernstein-ArchNewsNow](#)

[Woods Bagot Wins Xixi Wetland Development: ...region of rural parkland, located within the heart of Hangzhou...will be adapted into an epicentre for cultural and eco tourism, including hospitality facilities, public space and a vast expanse of wetlands. \[images\]- otto](#)

[Make No Little TIFs: Public infrastructure money clears the way for large South Side Chicago development...covers 369 acres, approximately 120 of which have been reserved for lakefront parks...built out over a 20- to 45-year period... -- SOM Chicago/Sasaki Associates; Antunovich Associates \[images\]- The Architect's Newspaper](#)

[Balcony wars: As the great building booms ends, Chicago architects finally transform the prosaic terraces into visual poetry...not all balconies are created equal...deliver eye candy or eyesores... By Blair Kamin -- Bertrand Goldberg; Valerio Dewalt Train; Lucien Lagrange; Jeanne Gang/Studio Gang Ralph Johnson/Perkins+Will; Eckenhoff Saunders Architects; Anthony Belluschi/Jim Loewenberg \[images, slides show\]- Chicago Tribune](#)

[Heron Tower; Centre Pompidou-Metz: London's new tallest building may trigger tower mania, but at least it's tasteful -- unlike the Pompidou's offshoot...like a City suit: bespoke, well made, but with a hint of aggression...Pompidou...cross-bred with the concept of a civic monument, it has become ponderous and confused. Different materials...collide in unappetising ways. By Rowan Moore -- Kohn Pedersen Fox \(KPF\); Shigeru Ban; Jean de Gastines; Philip Gumuchdjian- Observer \(UK\)](#)

[Shattered grace in a hard city: Pompidou Metz...an eccentric and frankly ugly building on the wrong side of the tracks...Any grace that the impressive canopy might have had is smashed by a trio of bulky rectangular containers that periodically slice through it...creates a disharmony that conspires to make its grim post-industrial surroundings even less attractive. By Edwin Heathcote -- Shigeru Ban; Jean de Gastines; Philip Gumuchdjian- Financial Times \(UK\)](#)

[Crit: North Carolina Museum of Art: Thomas Phifer offers a manifesto for movement between nature and architecture...architecturally-conveyed message that the museum's primary occupants are not its artifacts, but its visitors, and that when you arrive, you belong. By Thomas de Monchaux \[images\]- The Architect's Newspaper](#)

[Rhapsody in Sage: Phoenix's new Musical Instrument Museum harmonizes with its desert landscape..."less about architecture and more about variety and rhythm"... -- Rich Varda; RSP Architects; Ten](#)

[Eyck Landscape Architects; Gallagher & Associates \[images\]- The Architect's Newspaper](#)

[Curtain up on National Theatre proposals: Haworth Tompkins has unveiled detailed proposals for its £50 million transformation of Denys Lasdun's 1976 National Theatre... \[image\]- BD/Building Design \(UK\)](#)

[Tamarkin's new High Line condo maintains the look of another era: ...sits directly on the High Line...What stands out...is its infallible sense of proportion...the sense of respect \[for\] the historical texture of Chelsea itself, all the while being able to reawaken in the stale idiom of early modernism an unexpected richness and inventiveness. By James Gardner -- Cary Tamarkin \[image\]- The Real Deal \(NYC\)](#)

[Construction of three Near West Side 'green' homes enters the home stretch: Home Headquarters hopes to finish building..."From the Ground Up" green home construction by the end of June...intends to replicate the innovative designs in other vacant city lots... -- Cook + Fox Architects/Terrapin Bright Green; ARO/Della Valle Bernheimer; Onion Flats \[images\]- The Post-Standard \(Syracuse, NY\)](#)

[Old has become the new sustainability: ...two excellent examples of neighborhood planning and architectural design right here in Muncie that are informed by the two most influential components of New Urbanism... By Tony Costello/Costello + Associates -- James Marsten Fitch; Duany Plater-Zyberk; ARMONICS; Ball State University Muncie Urban Design Studio \(MUDS\)- The Star Press \(Muncie, Indiana\)](#)

[John McAslan picks design for Wyclef Jean's Haiti studio: ...Yéle Music Studio in Cité Soleil will help local people learn about the music business. -- Christopher Morgan/Virginia Tech; Tak Kei Yip/Foster + Partners; Christopher Bradley/Norton Mayfield Architects \[image\]- Building \(UK\)](#)

[Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art invited to Venice Biennale of Architecture: ...this is the first time Iran will be taking part in the biennale...- Tehran Times \(Iran\)](#)

[Shanghai World Expo: Serious Business with a Side of Campy Fun...The Netherlands pavilion has a strand of Vincent van Gogh's hair \(how exactly do you get that?\)... -- Buchner Bründler Architects/Element; John Körmeling; Clive Grout \[links\]- PBS](#)

[Form and substance: ...everything about Shanghai Expo is big...arts component to date has been an eclectic mix of East and West, classical and kitsch...With the likes of Lord Foster and I.M. Pei represented, it's not surprising that the standout art form is the biggest one of all: architecture.- The National \(UAE\)](#)

[Designing a sustainable future: As visitors to World Expo in Shanghai began to experience the diversified concepts of building a better future last week, many of the world's leading architects and designers behind the concepts gathered in Beijing to share their visions of creating a low-carbon sustainable world. -- He Jingtang; Eugenia Muraldo; Xiao Wei; Giampaolo Imbrighi; Ouyang Kunlun/Beijing Fanghe Architecture and Design; Gregor Hoheisel/Graft Lab- Global Times \(China\)](#)

[Low Attendance Worries Shanghai Expo Organizers: Hot weather and rumors of exceedingly long waits are playing a part...Expo is meant to cast Shanghai as a modern cultural center - a sort of global coming-out party - and organizers have suggested they may give away free tickets to boost attendance. \[video\]- New Tang Dynasty Television/NTDTV \(NYC\)](#)

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