

Today's News - Monday, June 14, 2010

EDITOR'S NOTE: Apologies for this morning's late posting after being offline for so long - flight delay from Miami got us back to home base in the wee hours of the morn (a malfunctioning alarm clock didn't help)...there's so much catching up to do...we'll do our best (throughout the week).

- We are truly saddened to return home to the news that MIT's Bill Mitchell has left us much, much too soon.
- ArcSpace brings us OMA's first foray into Canada.
- McGuigan on "the end of excess" and why "the trophy building is so over."
- Or is it? Mumbai and Dubai go head-to-head in a race to build the world's tallest residential tower.
- A fairly in-depth look at architectural biomicry and its champions who "hope that their gold standard may eventually become simply standard - however quixotic that hope may now appear."
- King succumbs to "the allure of audacious design" for a Bay Bridge Gateway Park: "the potential here is remarkable - and we'll only have one chance to make the most of it."
- Betsky responds to critics of his comments about Gehry's Ruvo Center in Las Vegas.
- Dublin's Glasnevin Cemetery has a new museum and heritage building "made of glass - and underground, which is particularly appropriate given what it aims to remind us of."
- A performing arts center in Bellevue, Washington, gets \$25 million, a new name - and it's "shovel-ready."
- A new synagogue in Scarsdale, NY, balances intimacy and community in an existing temple complex already adorned by some very notable names.
- Giovannini finds Barnard College's Diana Center innovatively addresses urbanism, architecture, landscape, and social life.
- How could we resist a spectacular slide show of Shanghai Expo pavilions that "put on quite a show" (with nary a peek at their "lackluster neighbors").
- A great presentation of Canada's 2010 National Urban Design Awards.

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Obituary: William J. Mitchell, former dean of MIT's School of Architecture and Planning, 65: ...an outspoken advocate for radically transforming infrastructure to create responsive sustainable cities...considered one of the world's leading urban theorists...pioneered new approaches to integrating design and technology to make cities more responsive to their citizens and more efficient in their use of resources. -- Smart Cities; MIT Media Lab- MIT News

Expansion: OMA/Office for Metropolitan Architecture: MNBAQ, Québec City, Canada

Starchitecture: A Modest Proposal: The trophy building is so over. Welcome to the era of design on a diet...What shapes new buildings will take in the next decade isn't yet clear, but fresh visions are beginning to emerge from the downturn. By Cathleen McGuigan -- Rogers Marvel; Renzo Piano; Herzog & de Meuron; James Carpenter; Rem Koolhaas/OMA; Zaha Hadid; Neutelings Riedijk; Toyo Ito; Dominique Perrault; ARO/dlandstudio; SANAA; Sasaki and Partners; Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Adjaye Associates; Snøhetta; Foster + Partners; Gehry; Nouvel; Zaera-Polo/Foreign Office Architects (FOA); Calatrava; Tom Phifer; Libeskind; Renzo Piano [slide show]- Newsweek

Mumbai, Dubai in Race to Build the Tallest Residential Tower: Lodha Developers said its 442-meter (1,450 feet) World One property...will be the tallest when completed in 2014. Trident International Holdings said the same day that its delayed 516-meter Pentominium tower in Dubai will be finished by 2013. -- Pei Cobb Freed & Partners; Andrew Bromberg/Aedas - Bloomberg/BusinessWeek

It's alive! How closely can a building emulate nature? ..."biomimetic" or "regenerative" architecture...applies insights from nature to the built environment, and seeks to blur the distinction between the two. -- International Living Building Institute; Living Building ChallengeMick Pearce; Janine Benyus/Biomimicry Guild/Biomimicry Institute; HOK; Michael Pawlyn; Ginger Krieg Dosier; Alberto Estévez; Rachel Armstrong- Boston Globe

Bay Bridge Gateway Park a chance for big ideas: Landscape architecture at its audacious best can shape our urban world...The thread linking the three concepts is that...they exalt the journey as well as the destination...the potential here is remarkable - and we'll only have one chance to make the most of it. By John King -- Perkins+Will; PWP Landscape Architecture [images]- San Francisco Chronicle

The Gehry Effect: One sure way to get the architecture community riled up is to write something about the work of Frank Gehry...I should have expected the vehemence of the comments when I wrote about the Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health in Las Vegas...I am glad to argue the merits of the building with anyone. By Aaron Betsky- Architect Magazine

Fitting addition to national necropolis: Most of the €11 million museum and heritage building at Glasnevin Cemetery is made of glass - and underground, which is particularly appropriate given what it aims to remind us of. -- AD Wejchert [image]- Irish Times

Bellevue's PACE gets \$25 million - and a new name: Performing Arts

Center Eastside has officially renamed the future 2,000-seat Concert Hall and 250-seat Cabaret...the Tateuchi Center...is in "shovel-ready" status and recently filed for building permits from the city. -- Norman Pfeiffer/Pfeiffer Partners [image]- Bellevue Reporter (Washington)

Rogers Marvel Architects brings a strong sense of identity to a new synagogue within an existing temple complex: ...Westchester Reform Temple campus...a hodgepodge of religious structures...Balance was key in inspiring the sense of intimacy and community, without losing the impression of grandeur. By Suzanne Stephens -- Marcel Breuer (1959); Percival Goodman (1964); Peter Gisolfi (1998) [slide show]- Architectural Record

Diana Center: A new, innovatively clad student center reinvigorates and reconnects the Barnard College campus...The architects have created a gesamtkunstwerk, a design addressing urbanism, architecture, landscape, and social life. By Joseph Giovannini -- Weiss/Manfredi [slide show]- Architect Magazine

Shanghai's Explosive Expo Pavilions: The United Kingdom, South Korea, and Spain put on quite a show in China, despite some lackluster neighbors -- Thomas Heatherwick; Mass Studio/Ik-joong Kang; Miralles Tagliabue/EMBT; Foster + Partners; JKMM Architects; BIG/Bjorke Ingels Group [slide show]- The Architect's Newspaper

2010 National Urban Design Awards -- Groupe Cardinal Hardy/Urban Soland : paysages urbains; Kuwabara Payne McKenna Blumberg (KPMB)/Smith Carter Architects/Transsolar KlimaEngineering; Dub Architects; GSP Group/Somfay Masri Architects; E.R.A. Architects; Office for Urbanism/The Planning Partnership; etc. [links to images, info]- Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC) / Canadian Institute of Planners / Canadian Society of Landscape Architects

Book Review: Shedding Light on Concrete: "Tadao Ando: Complete Works 1975-2010" by Philip Jodidio: Photographic presentation of a poet of light and concrete triumphs over lackluster commentary. By Norman Weinstein [images]- ArchNewsNow

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