

Today's News - Thursday, June 2, 2011

- Glancey is enthralled with Hadid's "triumphant" transport museum: "a quietly charismatic affair" that is not "Glasgow's Guggenheim" - in a good way (great slide show, too) + A video tour.
- Davidson minces no words about what he thinks of Piano's Whitney: it's "a missed opportunity of majestic proportions...even if it performs all the multifarious tasks...it still has the makings of a dud" (ouch!).
- Higher hopes in the wind at Virginia Commonwealth University which has tapped Holl to design its new Institute for Contemporary Art.
- Moore bemoans the sad state - and fate - of much of Britain's Modernist masterpieces (with terrific slide show/essay).
- Portland architects lead efforts to have Graves's 29-year-old Portland Building listed as a national historic landmark: the nomination "like the building itself, is a little more complicated than it appears" + Q&A with Graves re: architecture, product design, and legacies.
- High hopes that the "ugly duckling" plan for Lexington, KY's CenterPointe project "could be replaced by a swan" now that Gang's on board.
- After 25 years, the unrealized possibilities of a Maryland transit hub/TOD get a second chance (hopefully minus the corruption this time around).
- Kamin considers the hits - and misses - made in renovating Tigerman's Anti-Cruelty Society building (at least the puppies and kittens don't broil in the windows anymore).
- Dubai-based Land Art Generator Initiative gets the nod from NYC to launch LAGINYC 2012 design competition for a "beautiful, renewable energy public artwork" for Freshkills Park.
- We couldn't resist: a Q&A with developer who demolished Great Gatsby mansion to make way for five \$10 million manses: just how do you begin to do damage control? (pix, but no architects, included).

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Zaha Hadid's Riverside Museum: All aboard! ...a triumphant transport museum for Glasgow...A quietly charismatic affair...has been dubbed Glasgow's Guggenheim. Well, it's not. This is not a building that seems to have been dropped down into an alien setting...[it] blends into the climate and culture...feeling like part of [the city's] great flow of architecture and history. By Jonathan Glancey [slide show] - Guardian (UK)

Inside Glasgow's new Riverside Museum: From the south bank of the River Clyde, it is fronted by the famous Tall Ship Glenlee; from the Clydeside Expressway, the most obvious feature is Zaha Hadid's stunning architecture. [video] - The Herald (Scotland)

An Out-of-Tune Piano: The new downtown Whitney is a monumental lost opportunity: ...needed to live up...to the array of 21st-century architecture clustered around the High Line...it has misperceived its future neighborhood...The result is MoMA South, a thoroughly corporate museum...utterly sterile...even if it performs all the multifarious tasks that fall to a major museum these days, it still has the makings of a dud. By Justin Davidson -- Renzo Piano Building Workshop; Cooper, Robertson & Partners - New York Magazine

Steven Holl Architects in collaboration with BCWH Architects to Design New Institute for Contemporary Art at Virginia Commonwealth University: ..."will become the gateway and symbol of the creative energy of the city of Richmond".... - ArtDaily.org

How Britain is failing its modernist masterpieces: Preston bus station is just the latest landmark of 1960s and 1970s architecture to face demolition because it does not have listed status...it is a great work about to be destroyed just before its period comes to be fully appreciated and just when the functional justification for its existence seems weakest. By Rowan Moore -- Building Design Partnership (1969); Johnson-Marshall and Partners; Alison and Peter Smithson; Ahrends, Burton and Koralek; Arup Associates/Peter Foggo; GLC Architects Department; John Madin; Richard Rogers and Partners; Norman and Dawbarn [slide show] - Observer (UK)

Tokyo museum's World Heritage hopes shaken: An advisory body to UNESCO has counseled against registering 19 buildings designed by Le Corbusier, including the National Museum of Western Art...recommendation was made by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)...official decision is to be made...in June, and it is seen as unlikely that the buildings designed by Le Corbusier - located in six countries - will be registered. - Daily Yomiuri (Japan)

Love it or hate it, the Portland Building has a date with history: Architects hope national listing will prod city into action...Possible nomination of the 29-year-old building to national historic landmark status is, like the building itself, a little more complicated than it appears. -- Michael Graves; Zimmer Gunsul Frasca/ZGF (1982); Peter Meijer Architect; - Portland Tribune (Oregon)

Bull's eye: Artist helps Target hit the mark: Q&A with Michael Graves: "Lasting gratification comes from the way people interact with our designs, and this is pretty similar for architecture and products"...What is the one thing you would like to design that you haven't done yet?... "since my paralysis, I think health care design can become my greatest legacy." - Las Vegas Business Press

Will the saga of CentrePointe have a fairy-tale ending? There seems to be a real possibility that the ugly duckling proposed for that vacant lot downtown could be replaced by a swan...one of the world's best up-and-coming architects to rethink the design...She also wants help from Kentucky architects to give the block variety and local flavor. -- Jeanne Gang/Studio Gang Architects [images] - Lexington Herald-Leader

(Kentucky)

Transit Hub in Maryland Gets a Second Chance: ...New Carrollton seems to have everything a far-sighted developer could want...And yet this prime piece of real estate has lain fallow, full of unrealized possibilities, for nearly 25 years..."This is not a black-white issue. It's a green issue, it's about money, and developers are going to move in that direction. And it's the greenest kind of development there is..." - New York Times

Dogged attempt: Renovation of Tigerman's Anti-Cruelty Society building improves function and, in some cases, form - at a price: ...a design that's more earnest than edgy. While the iconic image has been retained, many key supporting details have been lost...But the surprising thing...is that the building has also gained something: A new sense of depth and texture. By Blair Kamin -- Stanley Tigerman (1981); Interactive Design [images]- Chicago Tribune

Ground Zero Rubble Site to be Adorned by Arab-Based Design Team: Freshkills Park will be the largest prettified landfill in the U.S...NYC mayor's office has given the go ahead to the Dubai-based Land Art Generator Initiative to solicit ideas for beautiful, renewable energy public artwork...LAGINYC 2012 design brief will be released via landartgenerator.org in early 2012... - Green Prophet (Middle East)

A Chat With the Developer and Marketer of the Gatsby Property: Lands End...said to have inspired Daisy Buchanan's grand estate in F. Scott Fitzgerald's The Great Gatsby was razed to make room for five luxury homes priced at \$10M a piece...Seagate at Sands Point...many folks are none to pleased, and vocally so, that Lands End was torn down. How do you begin to do damage control...? [images, links]- Curbed

INSIGHT: Collaboration and Compromise: A Misunderstood Aspect of the Design Process: True collaboration is a symbiosis between the architect's design ideas, a project's setting, and the intentions of its users. By Peter Gisolfi, AIA, ASLA, LEED AP - ArchNewsNow

Book Review: Wake-up Calls for Color-Challenged Architects: Two recent books point the way to advanced imaginings of color: "Light Color Sound: Sensory Effects in Contemporary Architecture" by Alejandro Bahamon and Ana Maria Alvarez, and "Color Moves: Art & Fashion by Sonia Delaunay" edited by Matilda McQuaid and Susan Brown. By Norman Weinstein - ArchNewsNow



-- Expansion: Snøhetta: San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA)
-- The Camera: Duccio Malagamba: Brasilia -- Lucio Costa; Oscar Niemeyer

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