

THE ARCHITECTS NEWSPAPER

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The Academy's eight-acre site south of Sunset Boulevard.

COURTESY ACADEMY OF MOTION PICTURE ARTS AND SCIENCES

PORTZAMPARC TO DESIGN ACADEMY'S FILM MUSEUM

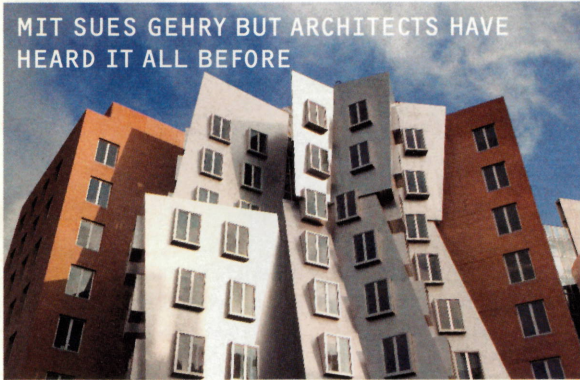
LEADING MAN

On November 8 the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced its selection of Paris-based Christian de Portzamparc to design its new movie museum in Hollywood.

The museum, described by the Academy as "a place for watching and learning about film and filmmaking, for exploring film's relationship with the greater world, and for listening to stories told by filmmakers," will be located just north of its existing Pickford

Center for Motion Picture Study, south of Sunset Boulevard. Designs have not yet been developed, but Bruce Davis, the Academy's Executive Director, said that the museum will sit on an 8-acre campus that will likely be divided among different buildings.

Davis said the Academy, which hosts the Academy Awards and has a membership of about 6,500 filmmakers, began thinking about the museum five years ago, and that it began the search for **continued on page 3**



MIT SUES GEHRY BUT ARCHITECTS HAVE HEARD IT ALL BEFORE

PETER AARON/ESTO

SHOCKED, SHOCKED ABOUT LEAKS

Officials from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology went to Boston's Suffolk County Courthouse on October 31 to file a lawsuit against architect Frank Gehry and contractor Skanska. The claim: Gehry's design—for which he was paid \$15 million—of the Ray and Maria Stata Center was defective and caused the university considerable damage.

The building, which opened in the spring of 2004, featured Gehry's characteristic flourishes and unconventional angles, and was meant to support **continued on page 6**



© JOHN EDWARD LINDEN

THEATER IS FIRST BUILDING COMPLETED AT L.A. LIVE

NOKIA CALLING

No matter where you were in Los Angeles on the night of October 18, it was difficult to miss the opening of the Nokia Theatre. Not only did the building glow brighter than every other building in downtown, but dozens of lights spun deliriously into the sky, putting any klieg-lit premiere in Hollywood to shame. The sleek building is the first completed building at L.A. Live, the massive residential and entertainment corridor taking shape in the blocks adjacent to the Staples Center, in the South Park neighborhood.

When completed in 2010, the 4-million-square-foot L.A. Live will also include the 2,400-seat Club Nokia venue, corporate office space for **continued on page 6**



GREENING GRACEFULLY

ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES BECOMING MORE COMPLEX PAGES 16-20

CONTENTS

08 WHY IN GRAND RAPIDS

26 MIKE DAVIS ON FIRE

05 EAVESDROP
11 AT DEADLINE
21 DIARY
22 REVIEWS
24 MARKETPLACE

TWO OF THREE BY MORPHOSIS AT LA DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT

HEARST CASTLES

On November 6, Los Angeles City Council upheld the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the redevelopment of the 1913 Herald Examiner building on the southern end of downtown. **continued on page 5**

IMAGE BUILDING: MURALS GET A NEW LOOK IN LA. SEE PAGE 10



April Greiman's mural in Koreatown.

COURTESY MADE IN SPACE

SUNSET PLAZA RESIDENCE (2008)



THE RESERVE (2009)



Assembledge+, founded in 1998 by Hollywood-born, Tulane-trained architect David Thompson, combines minimal but warm, edgy, and sophisticated architecture, with a nose for real estate that's rare in the business.

That shrewdness came rather by accident, thanks to one very interesting project. Back in 2005, Thompson's wife, Jamie, a real estate broker at Prudential, tipped him off that one of her clients was going to sell a house in Larchmont Village, where the Thompsons live. They wondered if they should buy it and try to develop a multi-family

condominium on the site. They did just that, with their friend Thomas Harp, an MBA at Wharton who was vice president of principal investments for Buchanan Street Partners, a California-based real estate investment bank. They are now developing a seven-unit building in Larchmont Village that should be completed by next summer. Meanwhile Harp now works with the firm as a partner, finding properties throughout California for the firm to turn around or build from scratch, and Thompson remains committed to having at least one major development project in process at

any given time. "It's definitely become a big part of our office," said Thompson. "We don't have a ton of time to look for projects. It takes a lot to be a developer and a lot to be an architect. Having Tommy as a partner makes it doable."

Meanwhile the firm is assembling an impressive architectural portfolio that includes condo buildings, single-family houses, a library, and even a resort in Costa Rica. "It's been like wildfire," said Thompson of the firm's success. "Really amazing."

SL

COMMERCE LIBRARY (2009)



RIDGEWOOD RESIDENCE (2006)



COURTESY THE ARCHITECTS

SUNSET PLAZA RESIDENCE (2008)

Located on a flat site above the Sunset Strip in the Hollywood Hills, this 5,000-square-foot house opens up to the landscape, with spacious balconies, large glass walls, and impressive views of Hollywood. The house's simple, interlocking forms, L-shaped plan (arranged around a long pool), and warm material palette evoke a clean, rational approach reminiscent of the early modernist homes in the area by Schindler, Neutra, and other architectural legends. Most of the first floor is glazed, making the timber and concrete-clad upper floor appear light, as if it were afloat.

THE RESERVE (2009)

The Reserve is an eco-friendly development of 24 single-family units within the lush jungle overlooking the Pacific Ocean in the small town of Santa Teresa, Costa Rica. The developer is Los Angeles-based Dan Nathanson. The development will use natural, local materials for building and pervious materials for surfacing. Low-lying and dug into the ground, the building will "try to make a minimal impact on the landscape," says Thompson. The community will likely rely on electric vehicles, says Thompson. Like the Ridgewood house, the open floorplan along with the full wall of sliding glass will allow the jungle terrain and the inside living spaces to blend together.

COMMERCE LIBRARY (2009)

In renovating the City of Commerce's Central Library, situated in a 1960s warehouse, the firm uncovered a series of three north-facing sawtooth skylights that had been covered up and left unused. The firm's design exposes and highlights these apertures, using their form, as well as that of the warehouse's trusses, for inspiration. The minimal design will maximize natural light and open space, celebrating the form of the original building. "We want to keep it pretty simple and pretty clean," says Thompson of the library, on which the firm is working with Dallas-based Providence Architecture. The scheme will play with color and art and will be open and flooded with light.

RIDGEWOOD RESIDENCE (2006)

The Ridgewood Residence, in Larchmont, somehow fits perfectly into a block full of Craftsman houses. The modernist-inspired house was built using an interesting combination of natural, local materials, dynamic patterning, a blur in the distinction between outside and inside, and creative space-maximizing. Materials include sustainably-harvested cedar and smooth plaster, while the garage is made of a combination of colorful, medium density overlay panels, creating a sense of movement. Large glass doors slide past solid walls to allow the interior spaces to transition to the outside. A second-floor deck stretches out over the garage and spills into the yard, and other decks project out from the master bedroom and a bedroom for the couple's daughter.

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