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BY BLAIR KAMIN

August 17, 2009

Coming Wednesday: An inside look at Zaha's 'Pod' in Millennium Park



If you want to know more about Zaha Hadid's Burnham Plan Centennial pavilion--a.k.a. "The Pod"--I've got just the thing for you: This Wednesday at 5:30 p.m., two members of the design and construction team that worked on the project will join the dean of the Illinois Institute of Technology's architecture school to discuss the pavilion's creation.

This "Talk with the Team" session, which is open to the public and free of charge, features Marco Alvarez, president of Elgin-based Fabric Images, the company that completed the pavilion after the first contractor couldn't; Tracey Dear, the lighting designer who has bathed the pavilion in dazzling, extraterrestrial hues of orange, blue, green, red and purple; and Donna Robertson, dean of the architecture school at IIT.

Emily Harris, the executive director of the Burnham Plan centennial committee will moderate after offering an introduction. The session will be held at the pavilion.

Meanwhile, it looks as though Ben van Berkel's Burnham Plan pavilion has been patched up after climbers young and old made a mess of its lovely scoops. I'm trying to find out what the Burnham Plan people have cooked up to prevent another public art fiasco.

Posted at 10:33:31 AM in Burnham Plan Centennial

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Ask them why they needed to weld 7,000 pieces of aluminum for this instead of sending the CAD file off to whoever makes Walmart/Kmart/Target/Whatmart tents to design the fibercord struts needed and cut the fabric. Or would that have been too high tech for such a short-lived structure (though my camping tent is pushing a decade old now and has held up to major storms and sun exposure)?

Why exactly did they need to make it so complicated?

Posted by: JMO | August 17, 2009 at 07:03 PM

That is like comparing a cardboard box fort to the Sears Tower.

Posted by: scott | August 18, 2009 at 09:08 AM

Kindly advise if the Wednesday August 19th 5:30 PM event at the Zaha Hadid "POD" will be broadcast for distant participants?

Osman Khan
Atlanta

BK: So sorry, but I don't think so. Maybe you can catch a plane from Atlanta. There's still time.

Posted by: Osman Khan, PhD PE | August 19, 2009 at 07:55 AM

Why does the headline refer to "Zaha's" pod? Would refer to the Pritzker Pavillion as "Frank's"? The headline is sexist.

BK: Give me a break. "Frank" is generic; no one would know who you were talking about. There is only one Zaha. And this is a blog, which is less formal than a newspaper. So I don't always go by the custom of identifying architects by their last names.