Today's News - Friday, March 7, 2008

Filler on "the rise of the Quiet Museum" and "architectural post- traumatic-stress syndrome" (a.k.a. "Bilbao Fatigue"). — Boddy on Gehl's two-wheel solution for Vancouver. — With all its good intentions, Saffron says it's not too early for Philadelphia to start fretting about the details of a major Center City development. — U.K.'s architecture minister called on the carpet for her attitude toward Mid-Century Modern. — Meanwhile, demolition of Pimlico School begins. — Cleveland gives thumbs-up to demolition of one of its last Art Deco buildings (to make way for a parking lot, what else?). — Russell ruses the loss of "Eloise" charm in Plaza Hotel rehab: NYC "icon feels embalmed rather than enlivened." — Experts claim U.K.'s call for zero-carbon homes 2016 target is "too unrealistic." — Glancey looks at how politics may play in the difference between Spain's growing home-grown talent and Italy's slow bloom. — Architects in Atlanta and Pittsburgh tum gritty into great for their own offices. — Call for entries: 11th annual BusinessWeek/Architectural Record Awards. — Portland, OR, announces winners of "Integrating Habitats: A Design Competition." — Shortlist announced for Geoffrey Bawa Architecture Award. — Weekend diversions: "Glass House Openings" film debuts (watch them here). — GLASHAUS_07 goes NYC opens at DAZ — King on former San Francisco mayor's autobiography proves "winners are those who use the most brazen tactics." — Heathcote reviews "an unusual and stimulating exploration of craft." — "City by Design" series starts with Dallas. — An in-depth exploration of the Golden Section in the architecture of King's College, Cambridge.

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Debunking a myth about museums that pay for themselves: ...the rise of the Quiet Museum...Today's architectural post- traumatic-stress syndrome—call it Bilbao Fatigue—was brought on by a glut of increasingly outré museums... By Martin Filler — Gehry; Moneo; Gluckman Mayner; Herzog & de Meuron; Calatrava; Libeskind; Randall Stout; SANAA; Renzo Piano; Coop Himmelb(l)au- Architectural Record

A two-wheel solution to a more livable city: ...Jan Gehl had some straight advice about how to increase the proportions of [Vancouver] street space and transportation budgets to bicycling. "You have do things gradually, so that motorists don't realize what has been taken away from them." By Trevor Boddy- Globe and Mail (Canada)

East Market developer has a big chance to keep it real: ...considered Center City's last big redevelopment site...Doyle started by hiring Blackney Hayes Architects to figure out how much stuff could be physically piled onto the block. The answer is 3.5 million square feet...it's sure not too soon for Philadelphia to fret about the details. By Inga Saffron -- Blackney Hayes Architects- Philadelphia Inquirer

Pressure on Hodge to rethink listing stance: Architecture minister faces near-unanimous opposition to proposals...[she] has argued that other criteria, not just not a building's architectural merit, should inform listing...will shortly decide on the listing of Eero Saarinen's US Embassy and Richard Rogers' Lloyd's building, as well as Smithon's Robin Hood Gardens...criticised her for dismissing modernist buildings as "concrete monstrosities"...- BD/Building Design (UK)

Demolition of Pimlico School begins: ...brutalist landmark in Westminster has been the centre of a long-running listing battle. -- John Bancroft (1970); Twentieth Century Society, Richard Rogers; John McAslan; Sunand Prasad [images]- BD/Building Design (UK)

Cleveland Clinic wins approval to demolish Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine building: ...did a thorough job explaining...why it wants to tear down the building to make way for a parking lot...one of the few remaining examples of the Art Deco style in the city... By Steven Litt- Cleveland Plain Dealer

Plaza Hotel, Once a Legend, Goes to Rehab, Loses `Eloise' Charm: ...historic exterior and grand public rooms have been impeccably restored, yet the New York icon feels embalmed rather than enlivened...mixes a stiff formality with Walt Disney whimsy. By James S. Russell — Henry Janeway Hardenbergh (1907); Walter B. Melvin; Gal Nauer Architects- Bloomberg News

Government's 2016 zero-carbon homes target 'too unrealistic': Architects, housing developers and engineers have branded the government's aim...as 'high risk' and 'unrealistic'...unless radical changes are made. — Good Homes Alliance (GHA); Edward Cullinan Architects; Sheppard Robson-The Architects' Journal (UK)

Streets ahead: Spain has become a byword for home-grown architects who have transformed cities - yet Italy lags far behind. Is politics to blame, asks Jonathan Glancey -- Foster; Hadid; Piano; Ponti; Magistretti; Mendini,; Sottsass; Bellini; Oriol Bohigas; Moneo; Calatrava; Bofill; Miralles/Tagliabue; Foreign Office Architects (FOA)-Guardian (UK)

Second Life: One man's ramshackle repair shop is a young architecture firm's dream office. By Pilar Viladas — David Yocum/Brian Bell/bldgs [slide show]- New York Times Magazine

Architects feather their own green nest in Strip District: "If as a small business we can pull off a LEED-Gold, we could be an example for other small businesses." By Patricia Lowry -- Rothschild Doyno Architects; Maya Design; EDGE studio- Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Call for entries: 11th annual BusinessWeek/Architectural Record Awards; deadline: May 15- Architectural Record

Metro announces winners of "Integrating Habitats. A Design Competition": International

jury deliberates over 107 designs, chooses top 13...sought building designs that made waterways, trees and wildlife habitat the focus of development instead of an impediment... [link to images]- Portland Metro (Oregon)

Geoffrey Bawa Trust shortlists 9 Architects for coveted award: Sri Lanka's first-ever one million rupee Architecture award -- Lalyn Collure; Architects Co-Partnership (ACOP); Sunil L. Gunawardena; Shyamika Silva; M M G Samuel; PWA; Prasanna Jayalath; Palinda Kannangara; Nela de Zoysa- Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

Glass House Openings: a film project that captures the responses from guests of the 2007 Inaugural Gala Picnic, directed by Rafael Esquer of Alfalfa Studio. — Kurt Anderson; Paul Goldberge; Julius Shulmanr- The Philip Johnson Glass House

Exhibition: GLASHAUS_07 goes NYC (GH_07 GOES NYC) / Berlin - New York Dialogues: Young Architecture from NYC meets Young Design from Berlin; March 7 — May 2 — Architecture in Formation;

G TECTS LLC; Gage/Clemenceau Architects; Interboro Partners; WORK AC; Zakrzewski Hyde Architects [images, links]- DAZ / Deutsches Architektur Zentrum

Book review: "Basic Brown" reveals a brazen mayor: Da Mayor...chortles about how he surreptitiously demolished a building to outflank a neighborhood group...! pass along this florid tale because it demonstrates...basic insight into how San Francisco and other cities evolve...winners are those who use the most brazen tactics. By John King-San Francisco Chronicle

Book review: Make or break: "The Craftsman" by Richard Sennett...an unusual and stimulating exploration of craft as a means of doing a single thing well... By Edwin Heathcote- Financial Times (UK)

Coffee-table book series on architecture starts with Dallas: "City by Design – An Architectural Perspective of Dallas"...features 59 Dallas-Fort Worth area projects -- Rees Associates; RTKL; Three; HKS; Brown Reynolds Watford Architects- Dallas Morning News

Cambridge Decoded: The Golden Section in the Architecture of King's College, Cambridge, UK. By John Devlin [images]- Rédaction Journal3

-- Steven Holl Architects: Sliced Porosity Block, Chengdu, China -- Neil Denari Architects: HL23, New York City

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