

## Today's News - Thursday, December 4, 2008

- Glancey takes on Duany's rant (we ran yesterday): "British postwar architects have nothing to repent - it is his bland new urbanism that we must be saved from."
- Farrelly reflects on Utzon's death, and hopes Sydney doesn't make the same mistake twice, calling for "something breathtaking for Barangaroo."
- Rykwert reflects on Utzon's Opera House: he "never quite loved it," but has changed his mind.
- A Vermont town turns to college students to help steer development hoping "the collaboration could be a model for planning in rural towns around the country."
- Renzo Piano gets a thumbs-up to return to Valletta's City Gate project - 20 years later.
- A call to beautify Chandigarh in the spirit of Corbu et al.
- Q&A with landscape architect Tom Oslund re: the making of I-35W bridge memorial, his Zen time, and ecology vs. aesthetics.
- Behnisch Architekten's David Cook explains what green architecture really means.
- Hospitals are buying in to biophilic design to help patients heal.
- Glancey is totally impressed by Perrault's EU Court of Justice: it shows us "how a rational, highly organized and seemingly matter-of-fact building can be dazzling, even romantic."
- Hawthorne is totally unimpressed by phase two of L.A. Live.
- Thumbs-up for Australia's new National Portrait Gallery: it's "welcoming, full of natural light, and human in scale."
- A green light for Hadid's Hoxton Square project in London.
- FOA pulls the plug on its involvement in Madrid's City of Justice; his budget didn't match others': "It is a question of professional reputation."
- Nadel on why the Mumbai attacks now requires a different response from the buildings industry.
- The Taj Mahal hotel will, as before, survive the threat of destruction, says historian Allen.
- High-profile hotels everywhere re-evaluate their security strategies in the wake of the Mumbai.
- The Dutch simulate their demise - climate change "is making the scenario more and more likely."
- We couldn't resist: NY Daily News "steals" the Empire State Building (and it wasn't even hard to do).

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Thou shalt not follow Duany's architectural gospel: British postwar architects have nothing to repent - it is Andres Duany's bland new urbanism that we must be saved from...[his] message is confused because it conflates inventive contemporary architecture with the worst of modern urban planning. By Jonathan Glancey [links] - Guardian (UK)

Let's not make the same mistake twice: Joern Utzon's death reminds us not only of the Opera House and our part in its downfall, but that it could happen again...buy into something breathtaking for Barangaroo...and maybe a world-class landscape act like Beijing's Kongjian Yu or New York's Emilio Ambasz. By Elizabeth Farrelly - Sydney Morning Herald

Joseph Rykwert on Utzon's Opera House: It may all have been very thrilling, but I never quite loved the Sydney Opera House...the hero is a building, rather than its architect. Though struggling and wounded, it has towered above misfortunes, stifling some of our doubts, comforting old admirers and even awaking the love of this old curmudgeon. -- Richard Johnson/Johnson Pilton Walker - The Architects' Journal (UK)

Vermont Town Turns to College in Bid to Guide Change: Hoping to avoid conflict that often stymies planning, officials in Starksboro, Vt., are asking Middlebury College students to help steer development...hoping the collaboration could be a model for planning in rural towns around the country. - New York Times

Chamber of Architects backs Renzo Piano return to City Gate project: ...also urged the government to consider the status of the Guidelines for the Regeneration of Valletta drawn up by Piano himself in his previous commission..."has brought about the unexpected opportunity, 20 years later, to renew its commitment to an architect whose commission was suspended once the project was shelved." - Times of Malta

Beautifying Chandigarh: ...the boldest experiment in town planning and architecture is now almost 60 years old...new leisure valleys will be the greatest tribute to the builders of Chandigarh like Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, P S Kairon, M S Randhawa, Le Corbusier, Pierre Jeanneret, Jane Drew and Maxwell Fry. - Indian Express (Chandigarh)

The Work of an Outsider: Landscape architect Tom Oslund discusses the making of a memorial, his Zen time, and ecology vs. aesthetics. [images] - Metropolis Magazine

David Cook — No, Not the American Idol — Explains What Green Architecture Really Means: Increasingly misused in architecture, the term sustainability is in danger of becoming a mere label...However, we now appear to be gaining a common understanding of the urgency of these matters. -- Behnisch Architekten - Flavorpill

Hospitals employ nature to help patients heal: Hospitals are jumping on a trend that aims to infuse nature into the way buildings are designed and constructed...biophilic design — hinges on a belief that people feel better and heal more quickly when exposed to more natural settings. -- Rocky Mountain Institute; Stephen Kellert; Cannon Design; Roger S. Ulrich - St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Let there be light: The EU Court of Justice is a shining beacon in grey old Luxembourg - and for €500m, so it ought to be...has shown us how a rational, highly organised and seemingly matter-of-fact building can be dazzling, even romantic. The law has never looked quite so colourful. By Jonathan Glancey -- Dominique Perrault - Guardian (UK)

L.A. Live: The massive development beside Staples Center has no sense of place...architecture is fundamentally...an extensive series of armatures on which...hang logos, video screens...When we trap the energy of an urban crowd inside this sort of self-contained world...we help keep the rest of our blocks underused and, as pieces of the city, undernourished. By Christopher Hawthorne -- RTKL; Rios Clementi Hale; ELS; Gensler [slide show] - Los Angeles Times

Seeing double in a tailor-made space: The nation's best portraits are given room to breathe in the spacious halls of the new National Portrait Gallery...welcoming, full of natural light, and human in scale, to match the portraits. -- Graeme Dix/Johnson Pilton Walker - Sydney Morning Herald

Hadid's Hoxton Square project wins approval: ...gallery and residential scheme in Shoreditch, east London, has won planning permission from Hackney Council despite strong objections from English Heritage. [image] - BD/Building Design (UK)

Architect quits Spanish project in budget row: ...Norman Foster, Richard Rogers and Zaha Hadid were reportedly being offered generous budgets for their buildings at Madrid's exciting new Campus of Justice, Alejandro Zaera Polo said he was getting short-changed..."It is a question of professional reputation." His building would struggle to compete in quality with its better-funded neighbours, he said. -- Foreign Office Architects (FOA) [image, links] - Guardian (UK)

Mumbai Aftermath: A Hard Look at Soft Targets and Tactics: ...raise many issues about public safety in open spaces and private venues. But, if the latest U.S. intelligence reports are correct, biological and nuclear attacks are likely by 2013, requiring a different response from the buildings industry. By Barbara A. Nadel, FAIA- Buildings.com

The Taj Mahal hotel will, as before, survive the threat of destruction: This much-loved landmark has inspired the people of Mumbai for over a hundred years...it is much more than a question of wealth and glamour. By Charles Allen -- Sitaram Khanderao Vaidya; WA Chambers (1903)- Guardian (UK)

NY hotels take stock after Mumbai terror: High-profile hotels in New York City and other metro areas re-evaluated their security strategies in the wake of the Mumbai attacks that claimed dozens of lives.- Crain's New York Business

The Dutch Simulate their Demise: Last week the Dutch conducted a dress rehearsal of a scenario that could spell the country's downfall -- a storm surge with many deaths. Climate change is making this scenario more and more likely.- Der Spiegel (Germany)

It took 90 minutes for Daily News to 'steal' the \$2 billion Empire State Building...And it wasn't that hard...massive ripoff illustrates a gaping loophole in the city's system for recording deeds, mortgages and other transactions. [[links]- NY Daily News

WORDS THAT BUILD: Tip #9: Work with your clients' contradictions to discover possible solutions. By Norman Weinstein- ArchNewsNow



-- Jørn Utzon 1918 - 2008: "I think back on my life with my father with great joy and love. To be allowed to spend so much time together with such a remarkable man, father and architect, has been a great privilege indeed." -- Jan Utzon

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