

## Today's News - Tuesday, December 16, 2008

- A look at the first Make It Right homes completed in New Orleans.
- King's observations on his road trip between Biloxi and New Orleans: "This isn't the languid South of shotgun shacks and small talk. Except that it is."
- Moore on OMA's plans for the Commonwealth Institute: a "series of wonky decisions could lead to the creation of an intriguing corner of Kensington."
- Kamin on Chicago Olympic venue "switcheroo": some are pleased, some not.
- A West Bank development is "hailed as the first Palestinian planned community" (integrates sustainability and "appropriate" architectural expressions, too).
- A Frankfurt symposium offers lessons in "the impact of architecture and design on the future of library service" - and an in-depth round-up of '08's 213 U.S. projects (architects included - what a concept!).
- Meanwhile, efforts in Philadelphia to keep four Carnegie libraries from shutting their doors - if they do, what's to become of the buildings?
- Santa Fe Indian School razes 18 buildings (some historic), raising the "occasionally uncomfortable discussion about sovereignty, history, and preservation on Native American lands."
- Williams queries Eisenman in depth re: what makes great architecture?
- LeBlanc is intrigued by an architect's own house: Corbu "could live here...But so, too, could an earthy, 21st-century hippie."
- A round-up of the best - and overrated careers for 2009: good news for landscape architects and urban regional planner; alas, architecture has "a mystique that outstrips the reality."
- Call for entries: CNU 2009 Charter Awards.
- More end-of-year reviews: Bayley hails a "new modesty."
- Davidson x 2: his pick of 10 best NYC designs; and the #3 reason to love New York: "Because Robert Moses Would Have a Coronary If He Were to See Our Streets Now" (other reasons are a fun read, too).

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In New Orleans, Brad Pitt's First "Make It Right" Homes Complete: ...represent not only fresh starts for homeowners, but also blueprints for affordable, storm-resistant, and sustainable housing designs. -- John Williams; Biles Architecture; Concordia; KieranTimberlake; Graft; Shigeru Ban; BNIM; Eskew+Dumez+Ripple; Constructs of Accra, Ghana [slide show]- Architectural Record

Scars, survival on the road to New Orleans: This isn't the languid South of shotgun shacks and small talk. Except that it is. By John King [images]- San Francisco Chronicle

Fresh designs on a modern monument: The building that used to house the Commonwealth Institute is a 1960s Millennium Dome...proposal includes three blocks of flats beside the old building...series of wonky decisions could lead to the creation of an intriguing corner of Kensington. By Rowan Moore -- Robert Matthew Johnson-Marshall (RMJM); Koolhaas/de Graaf/Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA) [images]- Evening Standard (UK)

Chicago Olympic venue switcheroo: Right for the city's bid, but right for its historic parks? ...some activists prefer to keep historic park landscapes intact...Yet, not all park activists share the preservation ethic. By Blair Kamin- Chicago Tribune

West Bank development to reconnect Palestinians to their land: ...to house 30,000 people is being hailed as the first Palestinian planned community...a master plan that integrates sustainable planning principles, 'appropriate' architectural expressions, and delivery flexibility. -- Aecom; Faber Maunsell- New Civil Engineer (UK)

The Lessons from Germany: Technology has given us a smaller world...8th Frankfurt Scientific Symposium on "21st Century Libraries" ...the lessons we learned were manifold...understanding of the impact of architecture and design on the future of library service to any campus, city, or town. -- Jeff Hoover/Tappé Associates; Jürgen Engel- Library Journal

Library Buildings 2008: Keeping the "ECO" in Economy: Public and academic buildings combine for 213 projects in 2008...Managing our library environment this past year showed distinct signs of going green and saving green as design ramped up sustainability elements. [images, links]- Library Journal

Shield sought for libraries: Carnegie four could be labeled "historic." ...Nutter administration has proposed closing 11 branch libraries, including four of the original Carnegie buildings...Preservation Alliance...is pushing forward with an application to have the four...certified as historic by the Philadelphia Historical Commission. - Philadelphia Inquirer

Santa Fe Indian School Razes 18 Buildings: Preservation groups decried the decision, noting that the buildings — some dating to the 1800s — were eligible for listing on the National Register. And so began a public and occasionally uncomfortable discussion about sovereignty, history, and preservation on Native American lands. - Preservation magazine

Peter Eisenman: What makes great architecture? In discussion with Austin Williams, Peter talks in depth about the state of contemporary architecture, what makes great architecture and how theory and culture has always, and continues to, inform great design. [link to video]- theNBS (UK)

Granola-moderne: A house of contrasts in Hamilton's North End: Architect and his wife...pick up a bargain fixer-upper, gut the one-time rooming house and create a home with a mash-up of styles - one part modern, one part cottage...Le Corbusier could live here...But so, too, could an earthy, 21st-century hippie. By Dave LeBlanc -- Bill Curran/Thier + Curran Architects [slide show]- Globe and Mail (Canada)

- Best Careers 2009: offer strong outlooks and high job satisfaction: engineer, landscape architect, urban regional planner  
- Overrated Careers: have a mystique that outstrips their reality: architect  
- Ahead-of-the-Curve Careers: viable now and poised for future growth: green-collar specialist- U.S. News & World Report

Call for entries: CNU 2009 Charter Awards: recognize the best of New Urbanism and Smart Growth; deadline: January 20, 2009- Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU)

Hail the New Modesty: 2008 in design: A year ago, leading architects and designers were still doing their pimp rolls, chasing celebrity and accumulating false lustre; now there's a New Modesty in the air. By Stephen Bayley -- Coop Himmelb(l)au; Feilden Clegg Bradley; Frank Gehry; Rafael Viñoly; John McAslan, Cesar Pelli, Piers Gough et al; Philippe Starck- Observer (UK)

The Top Ten Designs: The Year in Architecture: World Trade Center Memorial and Museum, Eldridge Street Synagogue, Bronx County Hall of Justice, and more. By Justin Davidson -- Snøhetta; Koolhaas/Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA); Herzog & De Meuron; Anish Kapoor; Neil Denari; Walter Sedovic; Rafael Viñoly; Polshek Partnership; Work Architecture Company/WORKac; Ian Mahaffy/Maarten De Greeve; Buckminster Fuller [slide show]- New York Magazine

Reasons to Love New York 2008: #3. Because Robert Moses Would Have a Coronary If He Were to See Our Streets Now:

...people on foot are wresting control of the asphalt from those behind the wheel. By Justin Davidson -- Janette Sadik-Khan; Jan Gehl - New York Magazine

Traditional Brick: A Contemporary Solution at University of New Hampshire: New forms and expressions with traditional materials create a forward-looking contemporary building that expresses the engineering disciplines it houses. -- Anshen+Allen [images] - ArchNewsNow



-- Competition winner: MVRDV: Gwanggyo Power Centre, Seoul, South Korea  
-- Exhibition: Iwan Baan Recent Works: Contemporary Architectural Photographs, AA Gallery, London, UK

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