

Today's News - Tuesday, January 6, 2009

- We lose two masters: one who left his mark on Denver and the nation (and gone much too soon); the other shaped the U.N. logo.
- Walljasper on how solutions to our global ills can be found in our own neighborhoods.
- Green for All aims to find a remedy for both global warming and poverty.
- Scientists dabble in urban design to find out how cities hurt our brains: mainly, a "stark lack of nature" to "provide a mental break from the urban roil."
- The U.K. bulldozes rural housing curbs: protecting the environment should no longer be the overriding consideration in allowing development of affordable homes (a new definition of "sensitive development"?).
- Despite criticism, American-style suburbs are sprouting up overseas.
- Kaplan doth protest Palazzo Westwood Village: rather than "accessible urbanity," it's an "economically isolating banality...more boorish than Moorish."
- How the recession is changing our tastes in housing: will McMansions turn into multi-family homes? "It will be fascinating to see how our new neighborhoods change as a result."
- High hopes that modular weeHouses catch on.
- Massie's America House 08: art object or machine for living in (depends on if it actually finds a buyer).
- Prefab pioneer closes its doors - with hopes it will revive.
- Dickinson on starchitecture vs. street cred, and a checklist of what the profession can do to have more relevance.
- King on why three projects "still turn my head, years after they were built."
- Cheek on four new high-rises that "stroke civic egos, with style" (well, for the most part).
- Campbell on Thayer Academy's new arts building: it "will please the traditionalists without alienating the modernists."
- Hess on a new building for low-income housing and homeless services that proves "good architecture isn't reserved for luxury condos anymore."
- Fayetteville in the throes of museum debate doesn't bode well for Norton's "tall, beautiful and stark vision," but he "could certainly come back and take another go at it."
- Shortlist announced for U.S. Marshals Museum in Arkansas.
- Boggs & Partners gets the nod to design National Sailing Hall of Fame & Sailing Center in Annapolis.

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Obituary: Peter H. Dominick, Jr., 67, left imprint on nation: Denver architect who designed for Disney was 'one of best' -- 4240 Architecture- Rocky Mountain News (Denver)

Obituary: Oliver Lincoln Lundquist, 92...architect and industrial designer who led the team that created the United Nations logo... - New York Times

Op-Ed: Down on the Corner: Solutions to our global ills can be found in your local neighborhood. Great examples can be found in communities from South Bend, Indiana to Mississauga, Ontario. By Jay Walljasper - PLANetizen

Greening the Ghetto: The goal of Green for All is to broaden the appeal of the environmental movement and, at the same time, bring jobs to poor neighborhoods...Can a remedy serve for both global warming and poverty? -- Van Jones - New Yorker

How the city hurts your brain...And what you can do about it: One of the main forces at work is a stark lack of nature...Even fleeting glimpses of nature improve brain performance...provide a mental break from the urban roil...research is also leading some scientists to dabble in urban design... - Boston Globe

Gordon Brown to bulldoze rural housing curbs: ...government has concluded that protecting the environment should no longer be the overriding consideration when decisions are made about whether to allow development in areas where locals are struggling to afford homes. - The Times (UK)

Architects create American-style suburbs overseas: An emerging affluent class abroad is drawn to suburbs with U.S. names that mimic the American ideal...Despite criticism, suburban communities are sprouting in Latin America, North Africa, South Asia and Eastern Europe. -- Andy Feola/F+A Architects; Bassenian Lagoni [images] - Associated Press (AP)

Protest: Palazzo casts a pall on Westwood Village: ...points to a disturbing drift in the design world, where heralded mixed-use projects do not necessarily translate into accessible urbanity as promised, but rather into economically isolating banality...more boorish than Moorish. By Sam Hall Kaplan -- Van Tilburg Banvard & Soderburgh [image] - The Architect's Newspaper

Recession Should Change Tastes: Already we've started to see new homes being simplified compared with those built during the go-go years...some large suburban houses might get turned into multi-family homes...It will be fascinating to see how our new neighborhoods change as a result. - Washington Post

The not-so-weeHouse: Geoffrey Warner hopes to make factory-built housing more popular by focusing on sustainability and smart design with his modular weeHouses. -- Alchemy Architects [slide show] - Minneapolis Star Tribune

Massie Produced: Art object or machine for living in? William Massie's personal prefab project takes the mass out of mass customization to create a one-of-a-kind wonder...But the America House 08 still faces a much longer and yet to be determined journey: to its eventual client. -- Cranbrook Academy of Art [images] - Dwell

Prefab pioneer folds: Court receiver takes over Empyrean after financial woes close the Acton-based builder...It is a sad and stunning turn for a firm that helped popularize a modern-postwar style by delivering high quality versions of it to the masses...But given the company's history and standing in the industry...hopeful Empyrean will revive...several prospective buyers have already come forward. - Boston Globe

Op-Ed: Architect, Heal Thyself! Starchitecture vs. Street cred: One practitioner urges his colleagues to get real...There are some ways that any (or all) of us can affect how the world perceives our profession and make what we do have more relevance... By Duo Dickinson, AIA- Connecticut Business News Journal

Why Zampa Bridge, 101 Second St., Target work: ...three Bay Area structures that still turn my head, years after they were built. As different as they are...they demonstrate how the passage of time brings out qualities that weren't as obvious at the start. By John King -- Opac; Craig Hartman/Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); RSP Architects [images] - San Francisco Chronicle

Four new high-rises stroke civic egos, with style: ...the early 21st century is shaping up as a happier time for skylines...There persists a nagging worry here that our increasingly dense quivers of skyscrapers may ultimately do more bad than good. By Lawrence W. Cheek -- Mulvanny G2; Gluckman Mayner; NBBJ; Weber Thompson; GBD [images] - Seattle Post-Intelligencer

New center nods to a school's past: At Thayer Academy, arts building pays tribute to history...creating architecture for an old institution that will please the traditionalists without alienating the modernists...thoughtful, modest approach makes eminent sense - at least, if school politics permit it. By Robert Campbell -- Eck | MacNeely Architects - Boston Globe

Palo Alto's Midpeninsula Opportunity Center — model for future urban projects: Good architecture isn't reserved for luxury condos anymore. In fact, excellent architecture can now be seen in a building for low-income housing and homeless services...takes advantage of quirky opportunities to create great spaces...there's no excuse for any building not to reach this level of quality. By Alan Hess -- Rob Wellington Quigley [images] - Mercury News (California)

Museum's grand design gets lost in compromise: ...also left for dead in the plan is architect Enrique Norten's tall, beautiful and stark vision..."genius design"...What Norten intended to do with the space is breathtaking and would surely have been a talked-about attraction...[he] could certainly come back and take another go at it. -- TEN Arquitectos - Fayetteville Observer (North Carolina)

U.S. Marshals Museum Board To Consider Design Firms: ...to design and oversee construction of the planned 50,000-square-foot national museum. -- Christopher Chadbourne; Wilcox Group/EHDD; Randall Stout/Witsell Evans Rasco; Polk Stanley/Cambridge Seven; Overland Partners/MAHG; Centerbrook Architects/Terry Burrus; John Mott/John Milner Associates - Fort Smith Times Record (Arkansas)

Boggs & Partners Architects Selected To Design National Sailing Hall of Fame & Sailing Center...on Annapolis City Dock. [image] - Art Daily



-- Expansion and renovation: Gehry Partners: Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO), Toronto, Canada
-- Robert Wilson: VOOM Portraits and Chairs

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