

Today's News - Thursday, January 29, 2009

- ASCE gives U.S. dismal grades on infrastructure report card.
- An in-depth report on Norway's "environmental piety" (it's not as green as they'd like to think).
- After Katrina, New Orleans is going green: "We're a little behind the curve...But we're catching up."
- An eyeeful of Madrid's new convention center with a façade made entirely of solar panels (Death Star or golf ball?).
- Saudi Arabia's Knowledge Economic City: "To the surprise of all those involved, the initial conceptual design process was, by industry standards, extremely efficient."
- Good architecture is a growing focus in affordable housing.
- Ballard, WA, Googie Denny's may be gone, but not all are pleased with what's set to replace it.
- Saffron chimes in on plans to float Venturi's Lieb House to New York.
- Preservationists won't forget Beta House.
- Brussat wants Obama to reappoint traditionalist Thomas Gordon Smith: it "could do more to change the direction of architecture in America than Prince Charles has done in Britain."
- Krueck + Sexton takes D.C. with its first speculative office project.
- Musicians hear heaven in Tully Hall's new sound: "It was playtime in the nice new sandbox."
- The Carbuncle Awards 2009; Alan Dunlop resigns from Prospect magazine editorial board in a row over the judging.
- Steven Holl wins the BBVA Foundation Frontiers of Knowledge award in arts.
- Astroland Rocket finds a new home - on Coney Island (where it always belonged).
- Interior Design Show a good reason to head to Toronto next week.

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State of Disrepair: Once again, U.S. gets dismal grades on civil engineers' infrastructure report card -- American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)...gave the most powerful nation in the world an overall grade of D, and stated that it would take a five-year investment of \$2.2 trillion to bring the U.S. up to par with the rest of its class — the world's major postindustrial nations. - The Architect's Newspaper

Binge and purge: Home to a green-minded people and government, Norway exports the dirty stuff to the rest of the world. The result is a contradiction...for all its environmental piety...its greenhouse-gas emissions have grown 15% since it adopted the carbon tax. They are still rising...It is not easy being an environmental pioneer. - The Economist (UK)

After Katrina, New Orleans is going green: Before Katrina, government officials rarely talked about renewable energy or "green building"...Environmentalists were shut out of Louisiana politics for decades..."We're a little behind the curve...But we're catching up." [links]- MSNBC

Death Star? Golf Ball? Nope, an Iconic Solar Building: Spain has quietly become a giant in solar energy...Madrid is investing in a massive symbol for its solar boom...recently broke ground on a cavernous new convention center whose facade will be made entirely of solar panels. -- Mansilla+Tunon [images]- Fast Company magazine

The joy of knowledge: Jeff Roberts talks to the various architectural teams behind Saudi Arabia's Knowledge Economic City...To the surprise of all those involved, the initial conceptual design process was, by industry standards, extremely efficient. -- Creative Kingdom; HOK- ConstructionWeekOnline (Dubai)

Ann Arbor companies focus on role of architectural design in affordable housing..."It basically gets back to how to replicate a traditional neighborhood design"...moving away from...traditional "cookie-cutter" approach to low-income housing. -- Kadushin Associates; Damian Farrell Design Group- Ann Arbor Business Review (Michigan)

Condo to replace Denny's still needs work, says city design board: ...still unsatisfied with how the design of a new condo treats an iconic corner in Ballard. -- Freiheit and Ho Architects [images]- Ballard News-Tribune (Washington)

Classic cottage may soon sail away: ...if ocean winds and human whims cooperate, this much-admired early design by Philadelphia's most important living architect could soon leave its familiar moorings and set sail...to Glen Cove, N.Y. - all in an effort to save the [Lieb House] from a developer's wrecking ball. By Inga Saffron -- Robert Venturi (1967); Frederic Schwartz [images]- Philadelphia Inquirer

Born and razed: Preservationists won't forget Beta House: ...demolished by the Jefferson Scholars Foundation and VMDO Architects to make way for a new 25,000 square-foot, \$21 million headquarters (more than \$800 per square foot!). -- Eugene Bradbury (1913)- The Hook (Virginia)

Obama's architectural agenda: The first metrosexual in the Oval Office...If [he]...seeks real change, let him reappoint Thomas Gordon Smith and use the predictable firestorm to publicize his change agenda in architecture...could do more to change the direction of architecture in America than Prince Charles has done in Britain. By David Brussat- Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

Krueck + Sexton Defies Conventions in Washington, D.C.: ...well known for projects like Millennium Park's Crown Fountain or the Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies on Michigan Avenue, the 18-year-old architecture firm is designing its first speculative office project just now. [image]- Architectural Record

Musicians Hear Heaven in Tully Hall's New Sound: It was playtime in the nice new sandbox...With giddiness and glee, musicians tested the acoustics... -- Diller Scofidio + Renfro; FXFowle Architect; JaffeHolden [slide show]- New York Times

The Carbuncle Awards 2009: Glenrothes has been named the most dismal place in Scotland...infamous Plook-on-the-Plinth is now destined for the Fife New Town...Donald Trump's scheme to build a £1 billion golf resort...was voted the Worst Planning Decision. [images, links]- Architecture Scotland/Prospect magazine

Architect quits in Carbuncle row: Alan Dunlop has resigned from the editorial board of Prospect magazine in a row over the judging of its annual Carbuncle Awards. -- Gordon Murray + Alan Dunlop/gm+ad architects - BBC News

Steven Holl wins the BBVA Foundation Frontiers of Knowledge award in arts - EurekAlert

After 6-Ton Donation, Astroland Rocket Sets a Course for Re-entry to Coney Island: ...will become a permanent and iconic part of the 27-acre redeveloped amusement district... - New York Times

Interior Design Show offers inspiration: Designers motivated by range of sources - from music to architecture, fashion and much more...Feb. 5 to 8 in Toronto- Toronto Star

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- SMC Alsop: Stratford DLR Station, London, UK
 - Grimshaw Architects/Arcadis Architecten: Bijlmer ArenA Station, Amsterdam, The Netherlands - ArcSpace

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