

Today's News - Wednesday, February 18, 2009

- Kamin pays tribute to Holabird, who was "a living link to architects who shaped some of the Chicago's renowned early skyscrapers."
- An insightful look at what the New Deal did for America 75 years ago; will the new stimulus bill "match the monumental vision?"
- A list of highlights of the bill earmarked for construction-related spending (estimated).
- Study says NYC will have to adapt to a hotter and wetter climate.
- U.K.'s Waste2tricity turns garbage into electricity; world: take heed.
- Hume x 2: one thumbs-up to Canada for taking on "blowhard NIMBYists"; and other for Toronto mayor's plans to transform bureaucracy that, in turn, will transform the city's inner suburbs.
- Litt on Cleveland's debate over where to build a medical mart and a new convention center: there's hope for a good result despite the "lousy process."
- Viñoly's "Walkie Talkie gets "more curvaceous" (in plans, anyway; actual building will begin "when the commercial property market returns to good health" - we're hearing that a lot these days).
- Bertrand Goldberg's "voluptuous hospital designs" now creating a "particularly thorny preservation dilemma."
- Move over, controversy re: Mack Scogin Merrill Elam's Buckhead library (no final word on that yet); Atlanta's urge for (another) trendy library may mean curtains for a masterful Breuer.
- They can all find lessons for revival and re-use in the makeover of a London church.
- Anderton talks to Rockwell about how he'll make the Oscar show sparkle; a creator of fantasy cities who also likes building the real thing; and friends of Gehry pay tribute to his 80th birthday.
- Landscape architects shortlisted for Libeskind's Imperial War Museum North.
- A green building consultant gives himself a green education.
- A Winnipeg architect takes the \$34,000 Prix de Rome for his interest in "the making of a citizen-architect."
- An eyeeful of DESIGN 21's Wood, Paper, Checkmark winners.
- Two we couldn't resist: Rose on the sometimes good, sometimes bad results of architects designing cars and buses (and some things on wheels that defy definition).
- Wal-Mart's glow-in-the-dark mystery: exit signs contain radioactive gas (what makes your exit signs glow?).

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Obituary: John Holabird, 88, architect and connection to legendary Chicago firms...a living link to architects who shaped some of the city's renowned early skyscrapers and such Art Deco landmarks as the Chicago Board of Trade... By Blair Kamin -- Holabird & Root - Chicago Tribune

Built for the People: Seventy-five years ago, gripped by the Great Depression, America launched an audacious program of public works that left a proud legacy...will an economic jolt tied to shovel-ready spending and familiar funding formulas match the monumental vision of the New Deal? By William Menking and Aaron Seward [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

The Final Stimulus Bill, Sector by Sector: While difficult to tally, it is estimated that roughly \$130 billion of the bill is earmarked for construction-related spending...a list of highlights - Architectural Record

Bloomberg: Global warming to impact NYC: Study commissioned by mayor's office says city will have to adapt to a hotter and wetter climate...Water levels around New York City could rise by 2 feet or more in the coming decades and average temperatures will likely go up 4 to 7.5 degrees...- Crain's New York Business

Waste2tricity - turning garbage into electricity: ...aims to kill two environmentally damaging birds with one stone by taking carbon based waste...and converting it into clean electricity, thereby reducing the amount of rubbish going to landfill and potentially making a significant contribution to the UK electricity supply. [images]- Gizmag (Australia)

Premier rightly targets blowhard NIMBYists: ...the province will limit the endless NIMBY wrangling that accompanies its every attempt to introduce environmental measures is great news for this city...The NIMBY response has become a given...a cliché...whether we're talking about highrise condos...or trying to slow global warming to save the planet and this sorry ass of a city. By Christopher Hume - Toronto Star

To rebuild a tower, first tear down a silo: The mayor is betting a project to revitalize Toronto's brutal inner suburbs will transform its bureaucracy...Tilting at windmills, or in this case silos, is never easy, but the prize - a more flexible, responsive and holistic bureaucracy, not to mention improved quality of life in inner suburbs - justifies the effort. By Christopher Hume - Toronto Star

Medical Mart presentation makes convincing case for the Mall: The biggest question raised by the protracted and largely secretive debate over where to build a medical mart and a new convention center in Cleveland is this: Can a good result can come from a lousy process? ...the answer might be "yes." By Steven Litt -- Valerio Dewalt Train [images]- Cleveland Plain Dealer

New Walkie Talkie designs 'more curvaceous': Revised design for Rafael Viñoly's controversial City of London scheme given backing by mayor's office [image]- Building (UK)

The Goldberg Remedy: In a string of voluptuous hospital designs, Bertrand Goldberg rejected boxy patient floors in favor of elegant, intimate clusters. But can his curvaceous forms meet the demands of contemporary health care? Hospitals present a particularly thorny preservation dilemma...Prentice is even trickier than most. [images]- Metropolis Magazine

Overdue! Atlanta's urge for a trendy new central library may mean that time is up for Marcel Breuer's final building...a world-class piece of architecture. -- Ai3 [images, links]- Metropolis Magazine

Power Cone, Cafe, Salsa Transform London Church: ...it is encouraging to discover a place in London where architects have created a multifaith space at the heart of a culturally diverse community...There are a lot of lessons here for the revival and re-use all of those 1960s school and church buildings that are to be found in every city. By Colin Amery -- Theis and Kahn Architects [image, links]- Bloomberg News

DnA/Frances Anderton: David Rockwell talks about how he'll make the Oscar show sparkle; creator of fantasy cities George Lucas also likes building the real thing; Frank Gehry friends pay tribute to his 80th birthday -- Joseph Giovannini; Elyse Grinstein; Michael Maltzan; Cindy Pritzker [audio]- KCRW (Los Angeles)

Imperial War Museum North - landscaping shortlist: ...images of the five designs shortlisted for the exterior spaces surrounding the Daniel Libeskind-designed Manchester landmark -- KLA; White Arkitekter; Patel Taylor; Topotek 1; Field Operations [slide show]- The Architects' Journal

Green building consultant gives himself a green education: ...what happens when your field's so new that higher degrees

and even classes are elusive? Create your own syllabus - or, in Patrick Hendry's case, itinerary. [images] - San Francisco Chronicle

Kelly Nelson Doran wins \$34,000 Canada Council for the Arts' Prix de Rome in Architecture for Emerging Practitioners: ...interest in collecting information about society, economy and environment..."essential to the making of a citizen-architect."
-- 70°N Arkitektur - Canadian Architect

DESIGN 21's Wood, Paper, Checkmark Winners: A Design Competition to Help Preserve the World's Forests by Promoting FSC-Certified Products - DESIGN 21: Social Design Network

For architects, cars are the stars: Norman Foster's redesign of the Routemaster bus is the latest example of an architect turning his hand to automobile design. Let's hope this one stays on track. By Steve Rose -- Foster + Partners; Capoco; Kaplicky/Future Systems; Zaha Hadid; Adolf Loos; Frank Lloyd Wright; Buckminster Fuller - Guardian (UK)

Wal-Mart's glow-in-the-dark mystery: Retail giant can't account for 15,800 of its exit signs that contain a potentially dangerous radioactive gas - Toronto Star



-- BIG: Zira Island Master Plan, Baku, Azerbaijan

-- Under construction: Gehry Partners: Counseling Center, Danish Cancer Society, Aarhus, Denmark

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