

Today's News - Thursday, March 26, 2009

- Atlanta picks team for new Center for Civil and Human Rights (from an impressive shortlist - worth linking to images!).
- MacDonald looks at Ireland's "built legacy of the boom years": in "a countryside littered with vulgar McMansions" he finds some "outstanding architecture."
- An architect bemoans Halifax's deteriorating physical environment: the "problem is not the density" of developments, but the urban forms they take.
- In London, Simpson and Wilkinson Eyre South Bank towers approved ("It's a massive weight off my mind," says Simpson).
- Hodges gives thumbs-up to UMMA \$42 million makeover: "It's a tale of art marrying architecture in a bid to plant the university's flag in the museum world" (great slide show).
- Price tag for Montreal's new concert hall balloons, but hopes are high that it will go forward.
- Tulsa stadium design approved: brick, zinc, and art deco details (gone is the FLW influence). - A plans to renovate a mid-century architectural gem of a synagogue in New Jersey comes under fire.
- Hawthorne's take on L.A.'s Great Signage Debate: "billboards and supergraphics - if properly conceived and regulated - can add life and spirit to the cityscape" (that "if" is the big issue).
- A recent graduate talks about how the profession (especially in a recession) mistreats its young: "we have to reflect on and question the value of the training that makes graduates so disposable."
- CNU 2009 Charter Award winners announced (with great back-up material).

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Architect Named for Atlanta's Center for Civil and Human Rights: ...winning design is inspired by "the simple yet powerful image of interlocking arms"...with sustainability as a primary consideration -- The Freelon Group; HOK; Gallagher & Associates [[link to images](#)] - BusinessWire

Celtic Tiger era earned some architectural stripes: The built legacy of the boom years has left us with a number of buildings worthy of the term "outstanding architecture"...housing estates all over the place...a countryside littered with vulgar "McMansions", big-box retail sucking the life out of town centres... By Frank MacDonald -- Roughan O'Donovan; Des McMahon; HOK Sport; Scott Tallon Walker; McGarry Ni Éanaigh; Howley Harrington; Cyril O'Neill; Calatrava; Kevin Roche; Libeskind; Martha Schwartz; Ian Ritchie; Mitchell + Associates; Bucholz McEvoy/BDP; ABK; McCullough and Mulvin; O'Donnell + Tuomey; Benson and Forsyth; Grafton; BKD - Irish Times

Op-Ed: The last best place? Halifax's physical environment deteriorating...while we smugly hang on to our marketing rhetoric of the good city...The problem is not the density or even the height of these developments, but the urban form they take...The second problem with much of this development is the poor quality of its architectural design. By Brian MacKay-Lyons/MacKay-Lyons Sweetapple Architects - The Chronicle-Herald (Halifax)

Ian Simpson and Wilkinson Eyre South Bank towers approved: "proposals are in appropriate locations for tall buildings...high quality, inclusive and sustainable design which would improve the character of the area and produce attractive public spaces"; Simpson: "It's a massive weight off my mind." [[images](#), [links](#)] - BD/Building Design (UK)

University of Michigan Museum of Art's \$42M makeover: It's a tale of art marrying architecture in a bid to plant the university's flag in the museum world, and seduce students inside with treats from a hip cafe to late-night activities..."It's not your father's museum." By Michael H. Hodges -- Cloepfil/Allied Works [[slide show](#)] - Detroit News

MSO concert hall has price tag of \$267M: Project was pegged at \$105 million in 2006: Organized as a public-private partnership, the hall at the vacant northeast corner of Place des Arts will be finished in the summer of 2011... -- Diamond + Schmitt; Aedifica - Montreal Gazette

Stadium design approved: It will use brick, zinc and art deco details...\$60 million ONEOK Field...Even though the appearance strays from the tradition of all-brick ballparks, "it's unique with a warm and inviting feel"... -- HOK Sport [[link to slide show](#)] - Tulsa World

A complex edifice: The economy is only one hurdle when a shul aims to renovate an architectural gem: Undertaking a multi-million-dollar synagogue renovation is complicated enough...without the added worries about tampering with architectural icons or a failing economy...Congregation B'nai Israel...in Millburn, NJ, is trying to manage all three concerns simultaneously. -- Percival Goodman (1951); Gertler & Wentz Architects [[image](#)] - New Jersey Jewish News

L.A.'s great signage debate: Billboards and supergraphics...can add life and spirit to the cityscape...the Great Signage Debate...the hyperbole on this issue...has sidetracked what might otherwise have been a productive conversation about the complex relationship between billboards and urbanism in Los Angeles. By Christopher Hawthorne

Billboards and supergraphics -- if properly conceived and regulated -- can add life and spirit to the cityscape. - Los Angeles Times

Op-Ed: How the profession mistreats its young: We may be redundant, says architecture graduate James Perry, but this generation is far from lost...While academia seems content to accept rising student numbers into the profession...we have to reflect on and question the value of the training that makes graduates so disposable. - The Architects' Journal (UK)

CNU Announces 2009 Charter Award Recipients: Demonstrate Excellence and Ambition in Putting Charter Principles into Practice -- Duany Plater-Zyberk; Torti Gallas; Sottile & Sottile; Moule & Polyzoides; Wallace, Roberts & Todd; du Toit Architects; etc. [[link to images/info](#)] - Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU)

When Your New Job is to Find Your Next Job: Some practical suggestions for opening new doors of opportunities in difficult times. By Marjanne Pearson - ArchNewsNow

-- Kengo Kuma & Associates: Shiseikan, Kyoto University of Art and Design, Kyoto, Japan
-- Splitterwerk: Frog Queen, Graz, Austria

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