

Today's News - Thursday, April 2, 2009

- Weinstein's Words That Build Tip #13: Re-invent green communication to cut fat and reduce telltale signs of greenwash.
- Win one, lose one (maybe): Gehry tapped for Eisenhower memorial on the National Mall: "a public square with a tapestry of images woven into a stainless steel wire screen" (but no pix yet).
- Dunlop bemoans possible loss of Gehry-designed park to go along with his New World Symphony campus in Miami Beach - to free up funds for a parking garage: "It has always seemed so profoundly wrong that we take so much better care of our cars than we do of ourselves."
- Glancey on SANAA's Serpentine: "enchanting...certainly the most ethereal yet."
- An eyeful of Mecanoo's Birmingham library: is it "a hit or a miss?"
- Grimshaw to give Coney Island its next icon: "picture a massive Pringles potato chip, but made of steel and translucent fiberglass."
- Is Rogers Stirk Harbour's British Museum extension delicate or dull, or just trying too hard to be all things to all people?
- An eyeful of Leeser's Helix Hotel (Abu Dhabi's other Guggenheim?).
- Japanese architects are getting a chance to build on a larger scale that demonstrates "architectural flair" and "perfect details" (with pix to prove it).
- Hume on new Niagara wineries that "are not just architectural landmarks, they're exciting and comfortable places" (sadly, no pix to prove it).
- In Maine, a condo built into the walls of a quarry - designed by Giselle Gaudi (yes, great-granddaughter): "an imposing woman 'of a certain age' and tastefully muted euro-flash" (there's lots about the architecture, too).
- Green architecture taking root in Israel; some "futuristic and conceptual," and others "green" old buildings from the inside out.
- Turquoise Mountain Foundation wants to save part of historic Kabul by establishing a craft school.
- Cheers for 2009 AAI Awards (but are they the "last hurrah of the Celtic Tiger?").
- We couldn't resist: Lightning strikes the Burj Dubai (with pix to prove it!).
- We missed it yesterday (for the first time): PPS's Faking Places: April 1, 2009: US Transportation System Revealed to be Giant Ponzi Scheme.

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WORDS THAT BUILD Tip #13: Re-invent Green Communication: Try the spectacular 2-step program to cut fat and reduce telltale signs of greenwash.
By Norman Weinstein- ArchNewsNow

Gehry picked to honor Eisenhower: The memorial commission, perhaps concerned with the controversy associated with the architect's sculptural work, would not release an image...architect described his memorial as a public square with a tapestry of images woven into a stainless steel wire screen. By Deborah K. Dietsch -- Edwin Schlossberg; EDAW; Robert Wilson- Washington Times

Park vs. parking: A Miami Beach Commission vote could sabotage an architect's vision: ...took a preliminary vote to cancel Gehry's contract for the design of a two-acre park [for] the New World Symphony campus...intended to free up additional funds needed to construct the parking garage...idea is not so much to kill the park as to find a less-expensive...designer... By Beth Dunlop -- Raymond Jungles [images]- Miami Herald

SANAA unveils enchanting Serpentine pavilion: The floating metal sunshade by Kazuyo Sejima and Ryue Nishizawa promises to be an ethereal delight. A free-form aluminium parasol. A low-flying metal cloud. A stylised pool of water as seen from the treetops. This summer's Serpentine Gallery pavilion...certainly the most ethereal yet. By Jonathan Glancey [image, links]- Guardian (UK)

First look at new Birmingham library: ...decision to demolish the existing 1974 built Central Library...has met with controversy, dividing opinion...attempts to get the building listed as a fine example of 20th century brutalist architecture...Is the proposed building a hit or a miss? -- Francine Houben/Mecanoo Architecten [images]- Birmingham Mail (UK)

Coney's New Big Top: Grimshaw-designed amphitheater to become latest Coney Island icon...Coney Center, a \$47 million amphitheater designed by Grimshaw. The project will replace a 1980s bandshell... -- Mathews Nielsen [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Delicate or dull? Rogers' design for the British Museum extension tries to be all things to all people...What will come out of it is a world-class museum facility, but a rather nondescript piece of architecture...perhaps the legacy of British high-tech...will be to prove that Rogers and Foster were always better at roofs than they were at walls. -- Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners (RSHP)- The Architects' Journal (UK)

The Other Guggenheim Abu Dhabi? The winning design for Abu Dhabi's five-star Helix Hotel includes a spiraling floor plate that looks like a cousin of Frank Lloyd Wright's famous snail-shell structure...adjacent to Zaha Hadid's dune-like Sheikh Zayed Bridge... -- Leeser Architecture; Atelier Ten [images, links]- Metropolis Magazine

Letter from Japan: ...Japanese architects [are] getting a chance to build on a larger scale...recent non-residential projects demonstrate an architectural flair for spatial and technical innovations...resulting in immaculate explorations of crystal-clear concepts finished with perfect details. -- Riken Yamamoto + Field Shop; Chiba Manabu Architects; Akihisa Hirata & Yoshihiko Yoshihara; Toyo Ito; Akira Yoneda/Architecton; Atsushi Kitagawara; Sambuichi Architects; Ryue Nishizawa; Junya.ishigami [slide show]- Wallpaper*

A modern spin on vintage art: Niagara wineries turn to today's top architects to design fresh, exciting and efficient buildings...These projects take the best of today's technology and materials and use them to great effect. They are not just architectural landmarks, they're exciting and comfortable places. By Christopher Hume -- Marianne McKenna/KPMB; Andrew Architects; Diamond

+ Schmitt- Toronto Star

Opening this fall: 'La Pedrera' [The Quarry] condominiums at Bucks Ledge... "The Ziggurat at White Heat — the longest, steepest, widest lift-serviced slab of condoleum this side of Mesopotamia" ...touted as the first of its kind in North America. (Americans of Anasazi or Hopi blood might beg to differ.) Kudos...to Giselle Gaudi (yes, great-granddaughter)...an imposing woman "of a certain age" and tastefully muted euro-flash. -- Stoss and Lee [image]- Bethel Citizen (Maine)

Building on green experience in Israel and Greece: ...there are about 20 architects scattered throughout Israel who envision sustainable building...Some develop futuristic and conceptual projects, and others...work to "green" old buildings from the inside out. -- Joseph Cory/Geotectura; Gil Peled; Elias Messinas [links]- ISRAEL21c

Regenerating Afghanistan: saving part of historic Kabul by establishing a craft school: To realise his dream of building a craft school to regenerate an ancient quarter of Kabul, Rory Stewart would have to sway sceptical officials, unite a staff of disparate ethnic groups and somehow secure international funding, all to a soundtrack of gunfire. -- Turquoise Mountain Foundation- Telegraph (UK)

The last hurrah: Architectural Association of Ireland's 2009 awards recognise more architects than ever before...there is a real sense that this year's AAI Awards represent the last hurrah of the Celtic Tiger. By Frank McDonald -- Grafton; O'Donnell & Tuomey; Boyd Cody; DTA; McCullough Mulvin; A2 Architects; Ailtireacht Architects; Aughey O'Flaherty; Bucholz McEvoy; Clancy Moore; Shay Cleary; Dermot Foley Landscape Architects; GKMP; Happy Sunshine; MacGabhann; McGarry Ni Eanaigh; Niall McLaughlin; ODOS; Zakrzewski + Hyde [slide show]- Irish Times

Lightning strike on Burj Dubai [images]- Building (UK)

Faking Places: April 1, 2009: US Transportation System Revealed to be Giant Ponzi Scheme- Project for Public Spaces (PPS)

Op-Ed: CAMP Notes: GAP Founder Don Fisher Wants To Leave His Art in San Francisco. But They Don't Want It. By Kenneth Caldwell -- Gluckman Mayner Architects; WRNS Studio [images]- ArchNewsNow



-- I.M. Pei Architect: Museum of Islamic Art, Al Corniche, Doha, Qatar
-- Experimental Urban Vision: Huaxi City Centre, Guiyang, Southwestern China
-- Atelier Manferdini; BIG; Diegues Fridman; Emergent/Tom Wiscombe; HouLiang Architecture; JDS; Mass Studies; Rojkind Arquitectos; Serie; Sou Fujimoto Architects; MAD

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