

Today's News - Wednesday, April 22, 2009

- A model shrinking city: Flint, Michigan, takes drastic measures to survive (it just might work, too).
- In Greensburg, Kansas, the first results of its eco-experiment are tangible.
- A look at 20 projects caught in the "new real estate Ice Age."
- Rochon x 2: she cheers Shops at Don Mills, "Canada's first serious shot at the urban village...that rejects the kitsch mock-ups of yesteryear"; and delights in Doug Coupland's public art projects, including Don Mills clock tower.
- In São Paulo, a new building is "a living, breathing organism whose green skin continues to grow."
- A generous gift gets Israel Museum's renovation under way.
- A call for Cornell's architecture program to get serious about cross-disciplinary study or it could lose its edge.
- Will the down market make young architects flee the profession?
- Ever the optimist, Libeskind says that in "such glum times, businesses really need to supply 'wows' to draw customers."
- On the other hand, Koolhaas sees economic woes blunting excess; but then again, his Transformer project for Prada tells a different story (lots of pix - you decide).
- An eyeful of AIA Housing Award winners.
- The shortlist for RIAI Silver Medal for housing design brims with socially, economically, and environmentally sustainable projects.
- Rochon gives a thumbs-up to a Calgary architect who's educating the public "in all that's wrong with cookie-cutter, super-sized homes."
- Calls for entries: 2009 Faith & Form/IFRAA International Awards Program for Religious Art and Architecture; and an acoustical interior for RTV Slovenia Studio S26.
- We couldn't resist: why the Empire State Building will light up green tomorrow. Why? 25th anniversary of "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" (inspired by NYC infrastructure).
- Happy Earth Day!

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An Effort to Save a City by Shrinking It: Leaders in Flint, Mich., advocate demolishing entire blocks to concentrate on healthier ones...A city built to manufacture cars would be returned in large measure to the forest primeval...becoming a model for a different era..."We have to do something drastic." - New York Times

Greensburg, Truly: Parcel by parcel, the Kansas town that was reduced to rubble two years ago is erecting a sustainable future...first results of this eco-experiment are tangible. The initial wave of green buildings has gone up. -- BNIM; Dan Rockhill/Studio 804 [images]- Architect Magazine

Who's Losing in Construction: a look at 20 ventures that have suffered setbacks, or even frozen completely, in this new real estate Ice Age. -- Calatrava; Thomas Hoepf/Teng & Associates; Woods Bagot; Rockwell Group; Nouvel; Foster + Partners; Gehry; Adache Architects/Harry Baker Smith; RMJM; Pelli Clarke Pelli/Alemparte Barreda; Herzog & de Meuron; Rogers Stirk Harbour; Philippe Starck [slide show]- BusinessWeek

The rise and shine of new Shops at Don Mills: At last a new retail, office and housing development in Toronto that makes no bones about being located in the here-and-now...Canada's first serious shot at the urban village...that rejects the kitsch mock-ups of yesteryear... By Lisa Rochon -- Ralph Giannone; Pellow + Associates Architects; Cadillac Fairview; Douglas Coupland; Giannone Petricone Associates Architects - Globe and Mail (Canada)

Doug Coupland takes Toronto: The Vancouverite who coined Generation X is shaping our city with three public-art projects. Big, playful and intelligent, they are awash in his lopsided sense of irony. By Lisa Rochon- Globe and Mail (Canada)

Growing up in Brazil: A low-rise building in São Paulo by Triptyque is a living, breathing organism whose green skin continues to grow...the guts of the building have been turned inside out, creating a living, breathing organism with pulsating tubular arteries and an ever-changing green skin. [images]- Azure magazine (Canada)

Israel Museum gets \$12 million gift to renovate Fine Arts Wing; James Carpenter Design Associates to lead design team -- Alfred Mansfeld/Dora Gad (1965); Efrat-Kowalsky Architects; Pentagram Partners; A. Lerman Architects-Building Design & Construction (BD&C)

Form Alongside Function: The architecture program at Cornell has repeatedly abandoned and ignored the need for cross-disciplinary study...its inability to think outside the walls of Rand may threaten future success. Encouraging collaboration will not only allow it to stay on the cutting edge, but also to set an example for the entire field.- Cornell Daily Sun

With Jobs Scarce, Will Young Architects Flee the Profession? While there's some worry among older architects that their younger counterparts could strike out in entirely new directions and exit the field permanently, which happened during recessions in the 1970s and early 1990s, young architects today don't seem to be fleeing architecture for good—at least not yet.- Architectural Record

'Starchitect' Libeskind Reinvents the Mall: Though the \$8.6 billion CityCenter development in Las Vegas is in trouble, architect Daniel Libeskind is optimistic...emphasizing that during such glum times, businesses really need to supply "wows" to draw customers. The businesses include, of course, his own.- BusinessWeek

Koolhaas sees economic woes blunting excess: ...believes the global economic downturn will lead to less ostentatious, more "socially responsible" buildings that better serve the public. -- Office for Metropolitan Architecture

(OMA)- Reuters

Prada Unveils its Transformer Project in Seoul -- Koolhaas/Reichert/Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA) [slide show]- Womens' Wear Daily/WWD

Winning Homes: An eco-friendly house and a series of rusted Texas 'trailers' get AIA Housing Awards -- Miller | Hull Partnership; David Jameson; Zack/de Vito; Rhotenberry Wellen; Olson Sundberg Kundig Allen; Frederick Phillips; Frank Harmon; Steven Ehrlich; Tsao & McKown [slide show]- Wall Street Journal

Shortlisted projects designed for variety of uses: ...shortlist for Ireland's premier housing design award, the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland (RIAI) Silver Medal...socially, economically and environmentally sustainable and demonstrate the benefits of architectural design in delivering quality housing and environments. By Frank McDonald -- Gerry Cahill Architects; Paul Keogh; Simon J Kelly; O'Mahony Pike [images]- Irish Times

Taking it one room at a time: With his smart new website, a Calgary architect hopes to educate the public in all that's wrong with cookie-cutter, supersized homes...a unique initiative he calls Slow Home...For too long, sloppy thinking has dominated residential design...developers have simply gotten away with architectural murder. By Lisa Rochon -- John Brown- Globe and Mail (Canada)

Call for entries: 2009 Faith & Form / IFRAA International Awards Program for Religious Art and Architecture; deadline: June 26- Faith & Form Magazine

Call for entries: RTV Slovenia Studio S26 acoustical interior for rehearsal and archive recording of Symphony orchestra; deadline: May 12- RTV Slovenia

Heroes in a Half Shell Turn the Big 2-5: The Empire State Building is being lit up green on Thursday... "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" film was also inspired by New York City infrastructure.- New York Times

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