

## Today's News - Thursday, February 25, 2010

- Russell's take on new U.S. Embassy in London: the "discreetly fortified and ambitiously, conspicuously green eco-cube" doesn't "coalesce into a persuasive statement about America."
- Some interesting facts about the embassy's nabe: "can the state department have been aware that Battersea is the last resting place of their nation's revolutionary war turncoat, Benedict Arnold?"
- Staying in the neighborhood, Vinoly's Battersea Power Station plans get two important thumbs-ups.
- Sokol scopes out 2012 Olympics: stressing "efficiency over spectacle...echoes the design decisions made in Vancouver, and foreshadows Rio de Janeiro - "Beijing's wonders may have marked the tail end of an architectural comet" (great slide show).
- L.A. has ambitious plans to cap freeways with parks.
- Big plans for Budapest Museum of Fine Arts expansion.
- The National Museum of Women in the Arts to turn D.C. corridor into sculpture alley (bathing beauties included).
- To show off local talent, the Design Museum Boston will be a nomadic museum making its home in empty storefronts around the state.
- Dyckhoff walks around Fehlbaum's "astonishing shrine to design" with the "Willy Wonka of design" himself: "Good or bad architects charge the same fees. Why not take the time to find a good one?"
- Brussat ponders: "How creative can you get in toying with traditional architecture and still be traditional?" (and why is it Stern hasn't gotten the Driehaus Prize yet?)
- Q&A with Idenburg re: "Pole Dance" at P.S.1, architectural cynicism, and striking the perfect balance between whimsy and anxiety.
- Q&A with Safdie re: his commitment to his firm's fellowship program - even in a recession. "We've shrunk the office, but not the fellowship."
- Henriquez tours the "quirky nooks and crannies" of Woodward's, and his quest for justice and equality: "Social justice issues are now very separate from what most architecture is about. That's a very unfortunate reality in our profession."
- Saskatoon moves beyond the brainstorming stage toward a blueprint that could see an architecture school built in downtown.
- Bad news for Looney Ricks Kiss tempered by expectations of a silver lining.
- TCLF releases 4th illustrated, online "Pioneers" Oral History: Lawrence Halprin.
- Obama to nominate Stephen Ayers as Architect of the Capitol (he's been doing a good job as temporary AOC).
- An interesting new direction for Domus (now we know what Storefront's Joseph Grima is up to).
- Dattner and Samton offer their tributes to Norval White, "the irrepressible champion of New York architecture" and "sharp-witted editor of the AIA Guide to New York City."
- Call for entries: All That Glitters Is Good: A Competition of Taste and Glitter (an amusing challenge).
- We couldn't resist: Rose ruminates on an amusing proposal to demolish Buckingham Palace and replace it with an eco-friendly replica (a Palace spokesperson was "bemused").

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A \$500 Million Eco-Cube Will House U.S. London Embassy in 2017: ...like the architectural face of Obama-era diplomacy...discreetly fortified and ambitiously, conspicuously green...does not coalesce into a persuasive statement about America... This ambivalent embassy perfectly sums up the extraordinarily difficult Obama moment. By James S. Russell -- KieranTimberlake; Richard Meier; Thom Mayne/Morphosis; Pei Cobb Freed- Bloomberg News

In praise of... Battersea: ...is already famous for many things...There is room for divided views about the KieranTimberlake glass cube design for the new US embassy building in London. There is less room for argument about its site...Washington's choice is interesting...can the state department have been aware that Battersea is the last resting place of their nation's revolutionary war turncoat, Benedict Arnold...?- Guardian (UK)

Battersea Power Station plans gets backing of the government's architecture and urban design agency: ...Cabe praised the "intelligent and well-resolved" design. -- Rafael Vinoly [image]- BBC News

London Zooming Toward 2012 Summer Olympics: ...stressed efficiency over spectacle...echoes the design decisions made in Vancouver, and foreshadows the investments that will be made in Rio de Janeiro...suggesting, too, that Beijing's wonders may have marked the tail end of an architectural comet. By David Sokol -- Populous; Zaha Hadid; Hopkins Architects; Lend Lease; John McAslan + Partners; LDA Design; Hargreaves Associates [slide show]- Architectural Record

Driving Green: LA flush with freeway cap park proposals: Plans to develop four so-called freeway cap parks have recently been announced in Los Angeles...has gained popularity in the last decade as an urban "greening" solution. -- AECOM [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Budapest Museum of Fine Arts to be Extended: ...or more precisely, under and in front of the Museum...The solution was much debated, but understanding the whole concept of the reconstruction, it is agreeable. -- Tamás Karácsony [images]- hg.hu (Hungary)

National Museum of Women in the Arts to turn D.C. corridor into sculpture alley: ...a fanciful and colorful trio of women in bathing suits will rise from a median on New York Avenue NW...part of a public art project...scheduled to appear in April...will bring some much-needed zing to its sector of downtown and spark interest in the 23-year-old museum. [images]- Washington Post

Out of the box: How a pair of 27-year-olds are realizing their wild dream for a traveling museum of local design...Design Museum Boston...a nomadic museum that exists in empty storefronts around the state and bring design to retail areas. - Boston Globe

VitraHaus: beauties in the backyard: Rolf Fehlbaum...collects architecture the way others gather art. He reveals an astonishing shrine to design...this Willy Wonka of design has built a factory unlike any other, a wonderland made by the greatest of architects..."Good or bad architects charge the same fees. Why not take the time to find a good one?" By Tom Dyckhoff -- Frank Gehry;

Tadao Ando; Alvaro Siza; Zaha Hadid; Nicholas Grimshaw; Jean Prouve; Buckminster Fuller; Jasper Morrison; Herzog & de Meuron- The Times (UK)

Tradition and creativity in architecture: How creative can you get in toying with traditional architecture and still be traditional? By David Brussat -- Albert, Righter & Tittmann; Robert A.M. Stern- Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

Q&A: Florian Idenburg on This Summer's "Pole Dance" in Queens: The SO-IL principal talks about about the P.S.1 installation, architectural cynicism, and striking the perfect balance between whimsy and anxiety. -- Solid Objectives -- Idenburg Liu [images]- Metropolis Magazine

Smart Fellow: By hosting two in-house researchers each year, Moshe Safdie and Associates offers real-world experience with an academic flavor...The fellowship program...instituted in 2003 is so important to him that he runs it without regard for the bottom line - even in a recession. "We've shrunk the office, but not the fellowship." - Architect Magazine

Woodward's Designer Reveals Secrets: Gregory Henriquez gives a tour of his creation's quirky nooks and crannies, and replies to his critics..."Social justice issues are now very separate from what most architecture is about. That's a very unfortunate reality in our profession." - The Tyee (Vancouver)

Architecture school sought for Saskatoon: ...moving beyond the brainstorming stage and accelerating fast toward a blueprint that could see the college built in downtown...Saskatchewan has a dearth of architects...which means out-of-province firms that are hired..."I estimate (we're losing) \$20 (million) to \$30 million per year because we have a shortage of architects" - Leader-Post (Canada)

Recession Pushes Looney Ricks Kiss Into Bankruptcy: ...allows LRK to reorganize and retool...will continue with normal business operations but will restructure its offices...Nashville office earlier this month spun off LRK to become Smith Gee Studio...Nationally, the forecast remains gloomy.- The Daily News (Memphis)

4th illustrated, online "Pioneers" Oral History: Lawrence Halprin: Creating landscapes for over 60 years, Halprin designed spaces which brought his knowledge and love of nature, movement, and social ideas into urban spaces.- The Cultural Landscape Foundation

President Obama to Nominate Stephen Ayers as Architect of the Capitol: Three years after former Architect of the Capitol Alan Hantman retired...acting architect Ayers...has by all reports done a good job...Responsible for the maintenance, development, and preservation of...more than 16 million square feet of buildings and 450 acres of land...- Architect Magazine

A New Direction for Domus? ...announced new leadership, with the reinstatement of former editor-in-chief Alessandro Mendini for an eleven-issue term...Joseph Grima...of the Storefront for Art and Architecture...has been brought on to bolster the magazine's web and international presence and will take over as editor-in-chief following Mendini's term.- The Architect's Newspaper

Norval White, 1926-2009: Richard Dattner and Peter Samton remember the irrepressible champion of New York architecture...Architect, educator, and sharp-witted editor of the AIA Guide to New York City...- The Architect's Newspaper

Call for entries: All That Glitters Is Good: A Competition of Taste and Glitter: two criteria: 1. It's a drawing of architecture. 2. It uses glitter; cash prizes; deadline: March 15- All That Glitters Is Good

Demolish Buckingham Palace ... and replace it with an eco-friendly replica: But why stop there? Atkins's...concluded that you could build a new energy-efficient replica of the palace for a knock-down £320m...a bemused Palace spokesperson...pointed out that the Royal family's green credentials were actually pretty decent already, thank you. By Steve Rose- Guardian (UK)



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