

Today's News - Tuesday, April 13, 2010

- Ouroussoff's take on big plan for NYC's Governors Island: it "offers reassuring evidence that it is possible to get the tricky balance between public good and private interests right - or at least right enough" (great slide show).
- An Indian architect has big plans to transform New Delhi's "filth-filled, age-old drains" into "scenic lakes with walkways and cycle tracks alongside."
- Q&A with Karmi: is the Holyland project Jerusalem's worst atrocity? "I think it is a very ugly project, an eyesore...those who carried it out murdered my concept and the buildings I planned."
- Winnipeg's local talent is busy creating urban gems despite the bad economy.
- An eye-ful of some Australian architects' awesome entries to the Venice Biennale: "they are all acts of willful optimism" (and then some, we'd say).
- To expand or not expand: a rift rises re: what the Whitney Museum should do.
- Smith says go for it - in an artful way; a successful expansion "hinges not on the size but the quality of the space" (and by the way, Piano's "track record for museums hasn't been too great lately" - ouch!).
- Mack is back (!) with a review of Minneapolis's new ballpark: its "stellar design" gets the details right, creating a place "people will call their own."
- Hume delights in Toronto's new Mini Cooper dealership that "fulfills its urban duties with aplomb" by being "one of the most striking structures to appear in the city in some time" (it's "elegant and fun" to boot).
- New hope for Hejduk's Kreuzberg Tower: developers now say "they will meet with the design community to take public opinion into consideration, and perhaps rethink their plans."
- Ingenhoven slams London's Orbit tower: "one immediately gets the feeling that there is simply too much."
- It's worth your time to watch Prince-Ramus talk about his "theater machine" in Dallas (and why architects are "cowards").
- Yost looks beyond just the exhibits in Yale's Saarinen show to find "a delightful irony to seeing his retrospective in buildings designed by two canon-approved modernists."
- Russell on MoMA's "Rising Currents": Bergdoll "is unleashing architectural talent in the service of issues, not just entertainment" to "open our eyes to the enormous possibilities in scandalously neglected waterfronts."
- An eye-ful of TreeHugger's Best of Green: Design and Architecture winners: they're not all the "flashiest people, products, or ideas" (some very cool surprises).
- People moves: Rosa rambles from Art Institute of Chicago to head University of Michigan's art museum; and Cary departs Public Architecture and leaves leadership in Peterson's hands.
- One we couldn't resist: NYC gets pixilated (it's bizarre).

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Governors Island Vision Adds Hills and Hammocks: ...plan that includes a 2.2-mile-long waterfront promenade and a 40-acre park, offers reassuring evidence that...it is possible to get the tricky balance between public good and private interests right...developments that flank the park will be critical to determining whether the island feels as if it belongs to all...or just to those few who can afford to pay for its upkeep. By Nicolai Ouroussoff -- West 8; Rogers Marvel Architects; Diller Scofidio & Renfro; Mathews Nielsen; Urban Design + [slide show]- New York Times

Sewage streams into scenic parks? One man's goal: Architect Mani Rastogi scurries through thick pockets of bushes along filth-filled, age-old drains [in New Delhi] that he is convinced can be transformed into scenic lakes with walkways and cycle tracks alongside. -- Morphogenesis- CNN

Q&A with Ram Karmi: is the Holyland project Jerusalem's worst atrocity? "I think it is a very ugly project, an eyesore...those who carried it out murdered my concept and the buildings I planned...when they throw away the public part, they also get rid of me...was supposed to give the people who live in the neighborhood or go there, a feeling of home." -- Tishbi-Rozin; Moshe Tzur; Spector-Amishar - Ha'aretz (Israel)

Urban gems helping city shine: Local designers thrive, inspire: ...Winnipeg's architecture community has been flourishing in recent years...local designers have seized this period of growth to do imaginative work on smaller projects that are transforming the city's neighbourhoods. By Brent Bellamy/Number Ten Architectural Group -- Syverson Monteyne Architects; Cohlmeier Architects; 5468796 Architecture; Bridgman Collaborative- Winnipeg Free Press (Canada)

Architects plan for a crowded Australia: From inter-linked megatowers to submerged cities floating like jellyfish, architects have planned for Australia's population boom and the effects of climate change for...Venice Architecture Biennale "Now and When"..."they are all acts of willful optimism" -- Ivan Rijavec; John Gollings; Tom Kvan; Edmond & Corrigan; Hassell; NH Architecture; Arup Biomimetics; John Wardle Architects/Stefano Boscutti; McGauran Giannini Soon (MGS)/Bild + Dyskors/Material Thinking [slide show]- The Age (Australia)

Rift in Family as Whitney Plans a Second Home: Museum must decide whether it can afford to build a second building downtown while continuing to operate its home on the Upper East Side...The city has allocated \$55 million toward the downtown building and remains upbeat. -- Marcel Breuer (1966); Renzo Piano- New York Times

Artful Way to Expand a Museum: The success of a plan to expand the Whitney Museum downtown hinges not on the size but the quality of the space...its 1966 Marcel Breuer building has all the disadvantages of starchitecture and few if any of the rewards...Brutalist bunker is not getting better with age...New York's recent museum debacles have taught us that space can justify the means... By Roberta Smith -- Marcel Breuer (1966); Renzo Piano- New York Times

Target Field finds the flow: The ballpark's stellar design, helped by some late-breaking add-ons, makes the most of a small, difficult urban site...getting the details right and creating a place - and places - that people will call their own. Minnesotans aren't going to just go to the ballpark. They're going to inhabit it. By Linda Mack -- Oslund & Associates; Populous (formerly HOK Sports); HGA- Minneapolis Star Tribune

Mini Cooper dealership designed for maximum effect: Building at long-neglected east-end corner fulfills its urban duties with aplomb...one of the most striking structures to appear in the city in some time. It manages to be elegant and fun at the

same time...a piece of architecture that brings new life to an area in transition. By Christopher Hume -- RAW Design [image]- Toronto Star

Letter from Baltimore: Container Corps: Two recent projects use modular structures to bring community services directly to those in need: ...what would happen if you created a DIY design center of sorts, a mobile, modular structure that could become whatever the community needed + mobile hospitals for underserved global communities. -- Parks & People; Hord Coplan Macht [images]- Metropolis Magazine

Hejduk Saves Face? After an international outpouring of angst over the developer's "renovation" of Kreuzberg Tower...building's managers, BerlinHaus, have now said they will meet with the design community to take public opinion into consideration, and perhaps rethink their plans. [image, links]- The Architect's Newspaper

German Architect Slams London's Olympic Tower: The ArcelorMittal Orbit tower is supposed to be the symbol of the 2012 Olympics and London's answer to the Eiffel Tower. But despite...assurances that it represents the city's "dynamism," not everyone is impressed..."the key thing is to build something as elegantly as possible using as little steel as possible. But here, one immediately gets the feeling that there is simply too much." -- Anish Kapoor; Christoph Ingenhoven [images]- Der Spiegel (Germany)

TEDTalks: Joshua Prince-Ramus: Building a theater that remakes itself...he walks us through his fantastic re-creation of the Wyly Theater as a giant "theater machine" that reconfigures itself at the touch of a button..."Architects need to start authoring processes, not objects." -- REX [video]- TED (Technology, Entertainment and Design)

A Corporate Architect Who Was Also An Artist: Eero Saarinen gets a fitting retrospective at Yale until May 2...there's a delightful irony in seeing his retrospective in buildings designed by two canon-approved modernists...Juxtaposed against such haute Modern gallery spaces, [his] projects distill Saarinen's importance as a transitional, even avant-garde, figure. By Carl Yost -- Louis Kahn; Paul Rudolph [slide show]- Forbes

Helpful Oysters Protect New York From Floods: "Rising Currents"...Barry Bergdoll...is unleashing architectural talent in the service of issues, not just entertainment...In exercises like these, architects never hesitate to think big...the best of this work opens our eyes to the enormous possibilities in scandalously neglected waterfronts. By James S. Russell -- Scape; ARO/Architecture Research Office; Lewis.Tsurumaki.Lewis (LTL); Matthew Baird- Bloomberg News

Best of Green: Design and Architecture: ...celebrate those who are doing the tough jobs...not always the flashiest people, products, or ideas, but in these times they are perhaps the most appropriate and interesting models for the future. -- Andrew Maynard; Interface Studio Architects; Alchemy Architects; KieranTimberlake; Hometta; Studio Dror; Ken Greenberg; Transsolar; Busby Perkins+Will; James Corner Field Operations/Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Mithun; TAM; Diébédo Francis Kéré; etc. [images, links]- TreeHugger.com

Art Institute of Chicago's architecture and design curator, Joseph Rosa, to leave; will head University of Michigan's art museum: Zoe Ryan, curator of design, will serve as the interim head of the architecture and design department... By Blair Kamin- Chicago Tribune

Public Architecture executive director John Cary to step down: John Peterson, who started the organization in 2002, will take over direction... -- 1% Program- San Francisco Business Times

Pixellating New York: ...pretty awesome video of old arcade games taking over NYC. Still can't decide whether our favorite part is the Art Deco Tetris or Block Breaker Bridge. - The Architect's Newspaper



-- David Chipperfield Architects: Neues Museum, Museum Island, Berlin, Germany
-- David Chipperfield Architects: New Entrance Building, James Simon Gallery, Berlin, Germany

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