

Today's News - Thursday, June 3, 2010

- Commissioning "may be the most effective strategy for reducing long-term energy usage, costs, and greenhouse gas emissions from buildings. So why is it so seldom used?" (and not taught in schools?)
- Merrick x 2: Nouvel is "an Ahab, strapped to his profession's mast on the high seas...eternally searching for his version of Moby Dick" + Piano's Central St Giles "is striking but bereft of joie de vivre...Are we going to see a deluge of Pantone buildings by infinitely less talented, novelty-hungry architects?"
- Long raises his own questions about Piano's London projects, but still, "Of all the starchitects, he is the one who talks most about the street life of cities, and he seems to have a passion for dense, unplanned places."
- A Q&A with Rybczynski re: "what happens in cities while the 'experts' are busy making other plans."
- Saffron bemoans the lack of a real master plan for Philly Live!: "Faux urbanism is better than no urbanism. But without a master plan, it will continue to grow by default."
- Boston developer continues his towering plans, despite roadblocks, "not least being he doesn't own the property he proposes to redesign."
- Brussat takes on the "creative class" congregating in cities; the problem: "smart people can be really dense."
- Bozikovic x 2: The Ismaili Centre and Aga Khan Museum is going to be "very fine architecture and landscape...the caliber of the design is remarkable" + Toronto City Hall's green roof is "a revelation." (great pix for both!)
- Pawson wins London's Design Museum makeover, but some warn not to be too hasty.
- Mayne's "square school for hip Emerson College entertainment interns" wins approval in L.A.
- Sustainable Sites Initiative selects 175 pilot projects.
- Seattle picks architect to design a trio of downtown parks.
- Q&A's (and great slide shows) with six of Brazil's leading architects.
- RIBA-USA establishes a beachhead in the City by the Bay.
- Preservationists up in arms about plans to demolish Pei's JFK terminal.
- If you have a couple million in your pocket, Philip Johnson's first house is on market.
- Call for entries: Architect Magazine's 2010 Annual Design Review; and how would you fix the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico?

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Energy Sleuths in Pursuit Of the Truly Green Building: The practice of "commissioning," in which an engineer monitors the efficiency of a building from its design through its initial operation, just may be the most effective strategy for reducing long-term energy usage, costs, and greenhouse gas emissions from buildings. So why is it so seldom used? By Richard Conniff- Yale Environment 360

Shock of the Nouvel: From this year's scarlet Serpentine Pavilion to a disputed tower in New York, controversy follows Jean Nouvel around – that's the secret of the architect's success...He is an Ahab, strapped to his profession's mast on the high seas of the data age, eternally searching for his version of Moby Dick... By Jay Merrick [images]- Independent (UK)

Piano hits the wrong note: London's new Central St Giles complex is striking but bereft of joie de vivre: It may be the brightest new addition to the capital's landscape, but it's far from the best...a luridly jolly prequel to his forthcoming Shard tower...Are we going to see a deluge of Pantone buildings by infinitely less talented, novelty-hungry architects... By Jay Merrick- Independent (UK)

Renzo Piano is an architect on high: Of all the "starchitects", he is the one who talks most about the street life of cities, and he seems to have a passion for dense, unplanned places... By Kieran Long [images]- Evening Standard (UK)

The Urbanist: Witold Rybczynski on what happens in cities while the "experts" are busy making other plans...recognizes the need for a larger vision - if not big plans, then at least many small ones.- Urbanite Baltimore

Haphazard plans plague Philly Live!: If it works, the developers could add more buildings and tenants over time...would grow incrementally, just like a real city...The problem is that Philadelphia has no master plan for the sports complex...Faux urbanism is better than no urbanism. But without a master plan...the only certainty is that Philadelphia's stadium complex will continue to grow by default. By Inga Saffron- Philadelphia Inquirer

Chiofaro's ambitions grow: But developer's plan to transform site near Harbor Garage faces numerous obstacles...not least being he doesn't own the property he proposes to redesign. – Goody Clancy; Kohn Pedersen Fox (KPF) [slide show]- Boston Globe

The density of the 'creative capital': A new study...is about how people with a lot of college degrees tend to congregate in cities...But smart people can be really dense...Creativity does not mean destroying the trees to save the traffic. That is not creativity but just plain old stupidity. By David Brussat- Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

The Ismaili Centre and Aga Khan Museum: ...an odd site for a museum, right on a highway, and it's big, at 17 acres. So the Aga Khan's agencies deserve much credit for how well they're treating it. The only downside of this project is what it replaces: ...the Bata Shoe company...deserved some consideration. However, the new complex is going to be...very fine architecture and landscape...the caliber of the design is remarkable. By Alex Bozikovic -- Charles Correa; Fumihiko Maki; Sasaki Associates; Vladimir Djurovic; John B. Parkin [images]- No Mean City (Toronto)

Toronto City Hall Green Roof: ...the designers have created one of the city's most remarkable public spaces...It's a revelation....This is exactly what the city is hoping for. By Alex Bozikovic -- PLANT Architect; Shore Tilbe Irwin; Adrian Blackwell [images]- No Mean City (Toronto)

John Pawson triumphs as Design Museum winner: Appointment marks the final stage for transformation of the listed Commonwealth Institute...local groups are still hoping for a public inquiry into the entire...scheme and warned the Design Museum not to be hasty. -- RMJM (1962); Hugh Pearman; OMA; West 8- BD/Building Design (UK)

Morphosis Brings Big Box School to Hollywood: Planning commission approves square school for hip Emerson College entertainment interns, the latest from SoCal star Thom Mayne [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Sustainable Sites Initiative Selects 175 Pilot Projects: ...to test a national rating system for sustainable landscape design, construction and maintenance....Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History & Culture, New Orleans' Lower Ninth Ward Sustainable Infrastructure Project and the Indianapolis Super Bowl Village join others...in employing cutting-edge guidelines and performance benchmarks outlined in the SITES Rating System. [links]- The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Seattle picks architect to design a trio of downtown parks along Issaquah Creek...Preservation rules and the parks' creekside geography will limit development to trails, picnic areas and other passive recreation uses. -- The Berger Partnership- Issaquah Press (Washington)

Born in Brazil: Interviews with Brazil's leading architects: ...fuelled by that hedonistic combination of climate and culture, a more organic Brazilian-styled modernism has emerged in which the new has been embraced without reservation, while one eye is kept firmly cocked at the country's modernist stockpile. -- Ruy Ohtake; Fernando de Mello Franco/MMBB; Marcio Kogan/Studio MK27; Marcelo Ferraz/Brasil Arquitetura; Angelo Bucci/SPBR; Marcos Acayaba [slide show]- Wallpaper*

Royal Institute of British Architects localizes: ...a little-known fact: There is a sizable number of British architects and engineers in the Bay Area. Their low profile is likely to change now that they have formed the first San Francisco chapter of the RIBA-USA... -- Chad Overway; Stephen Burrows/Arup; Michael Pattinson/Bull Stockwell and Allen- San Francisco Chronicle

Preservationists rip plans to destroy I.M. Pei-designed Terminal Six at Kennedy Airport: ...will be torn down next year for an unspecified use...distinctive Sundrome pavilion...the first airport structure to employ glass as a primary construction material. -- Docomomo- NY Daily News

Philip Johnson's First House on Market: ...first commissioned residential home is up for sale. The famed modern architect...designed and built this Bedford, N.Y., property known as the Booth House in 1946...belongs to former architect Sirkka Damora...Part of the money from the sale will go toward archiving a portion of Damora's photographs, which captured the development of mid-century modern architecture. [slide show]- Wall Street Journal

Call for entries: 2010 Annual Design Review, a juried competition celebrating the best in a year of American architecture; open to professionals practicing in the United States or non-U.S. firms entering projects built in the U.S.; deadline: July 9- Architect Magazine

Call for entries: Oil Spill in the Gulf of Mexico: consider a not-so-simple question: How do we fix this? Responses can address the mechanics of the leak, the currents spreading the oil, and/or the boundaries between oil, water, and land; deadline: June 15- Spontaneous Architecture



Exhibition: Greg Lynn: Fountain of Toys - Hammer Museum, Los Angeles -- FORM

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