

Today's News - Tuesday, December 7, 2010

- We could almost hear hopeful cheers at news that alternative locations could be considered for the much-maligned Gazprom tower in St. Petersburg (UNESCO will be watching).
- Heymann's second in "Landscape with Buildings" series takes on architecture and "nature-ization."
- Architects are challenged to take advantage of Big Oil fabricators: "All these fabricators are working for the energy industry, making really large stuff...Architecture is way behind the curve."
- Kazovsky is smitten with Piano's architecture of "vulnerability" on a Pacific Island.
- U.K.'s retail giant Tesco hopes to "shake off its reputation for poor architecture" with first store design via a competition (this should be good news, though you wouldn't know it from the comments).
- Lewis falls in love all over again with Saarinen's Dulles Airport: "Owing to the clarity of its dynamic, metaphoric geometry, its aesthetic quality also has endured, transcending shifting architectural trends."
- Five firms shortlisted to design next year's courtyard in MoMAP.S.1 Young Architects Program.
- King gets a kick out of many of the artful offerings by starchitects in a benefit auction for San Francisco's Center for Architecture and Design, and cheers AIACC award winners + Full list of winners (in a terrific presentation!).
- Critic MacCash's top five DesCours picks: the annual avant-garde architectural exhibit "lives up to its reputation as the most unpredictable of New Orleans' art outings" (wish we were there!).
- Behre cheers AIA Charleston's design competition winners.
- Call for entries: Trimo Urban Crash 3rd international student design competition (winning entry will be built in Ljubljana, Slovenia).

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Gazprom Tower May Be Moved: ...city authorities might offer state oil and gas giant Gazprom alternative locations for the company's controversial Okhta Center skyscraper...governor said that the city definitely needs projects such as the Okhta Center. "However, such projects should take into account the opinion of all St. Petersburg residents." -- RMJM- St. Petersburg Times (Russia)

Nature-ization Takes Command: New buildings rarely solve problems that were not consciously set out for them to solve...they tend to only be as good as these problems...the 2nd of a series exploring the intensifying importance of landscape for contemporary design...from architect David Heymann's "Landscape with Buildings: Essays on Site Design." -- Future Systems; Glenn Murcutt; Santiago Calatrava; Foster + Partners; Herzog & de Meuron; Philippe Rahm Architects; Olafur Eliasson; Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Mel Chin; Mies van der Rohe; etc. [images]- Places Journal

Beauty On the Cheap: Architecture Catches Up With Big Oil: "All these fabricators are working for the energy industry, making really large stuff...Architecture is way behind the curve...Now architecture is catching up." -- Andrew Vrana/METALAB; TEX-FAB; REPEAT competition; Vlad Tenu [images, video, links]- Houston Press

"Live-by-Design" Wholeheartedly: ...I started wondering if vulnerability is something that can be addressed and expressed with architecture. I had my answer the following day...Tjibaou Cultural Center in Noumea, New Caledonia, by Renzo Piano...wholeheartedly designed a building that represents Kanak culture in its vulnerability, exposed and accepted the way it is. By Alla Kazovsky [images]- Huffington Post

Mangera Yvars Architects bags £40m Nottingham Tesco design: ...tipped to be the first of a new wave of high quality schemes by the retail giant...poised to shake off its reputation for poor architecture [images]- BD/Building Design (UK)

Dulles Airport: Where the architect's legacy soars: It has proved functionally durable because of the terminal's flexibility and adaptability to changing needs. Owing to the clarity of its dynamic, metaphoric geometry, its aesthetic quality also has endured, transcending shifting architectural trends. By Roger K. Lewis -- Eero Saarinen- Washington Post

Five Young Firms Vying to Design MoMA PS1 Installation FormlessFinder; Interboro Partners; Matter Architecture Practice; MASS Design Group; IJP Corporation Architects - Architectural Record

SF Center for Architecture and Design auction: What's up for grabs is on the wall, not in the ground; American Institute of Architects, California Council (AIACC) handed out awards- a number of which have Bay Area connections. By John King [images]- San Francisco Chronicle

AIACC Design Awards 2010 -- Bohlin Cywinski Jackson; Tod Williams Billie Tsien; Morphosis; Michael Maltzan; Marcy Wong Donn Logan Architects; Lynch/Eisinger/Design; Lorcan O'Herlihy Architects/Kanner Architects; Sand Studios; Kevin Roche John Dinkeloo (25 Year Award); Moore Ruble Yudell; Suisman Urban Design [images, info]- American Institute of Architects, California Council (AIACC)

Critic Doug MacCash's top five DesCours picks: ...the annual avant-garde architectural exhibit that continues through Dec. 12, lives up to its reputation as the most unpredictable of New Orleans' art outings. -- Luftwerk; Elizabeth Chen + Arthur Terry; Gernot Riether; John Kleinshmidt/Andy Sternad; John Manaves [images]- The Times-Picayune (New Orleans)

Design winners unveiled: ...the upshot of AIA Charleston's recent design competition. By Robert Behre -- NBBJ/LS3P Associates; Glenn Keyes Architects; Cummings & McCrady; Liollio Architecture; Novus Architects; Chris Bonner, AIA; Chris Altman/Stubbs Muldrow and Herin [slide show]- Charleston Post and Courier (South Carolina)

Call for entries: Trimo Urban Crash: 3rd international competition for students of architecture and design...design »The Life Stand« - a public architectural installation for a residential neighborhood in Ljubljana, Slovenia...winning solution will be realised on location; deadline: January 31, 2011- Trimo Urban Crash (Slovenia)

Best Architecture Books of 2010; Ten books pointing the way to larger professional horizons. By Norman Weinstein -- Eric J. Cesal; Thomas Fisher; Mark Garcia; Philip Jodidio; Charles Jencks/Edwin Heathcote; Giovanni Curatola; George Ranalli; James P. Cramer/Jane Paradise Wolford; etc. - ArchNewsNow

UNStudio: UNStudio Tower, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

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