

## Today's News - Tuesday, December 21, 2010

- Maki marks the New Year with 2011 AIA Gold Medal.
- King's Top 10 in 2010: he may be "hard-pressed" to name San Francisco's 10 best buildings of the year, but he cheers the emergence of "neighborhood-scaled planning that teases us with the promise of sustainable, transit-friendly urbanity."
- On the other hand, Mongolia and Spain are plagued on their plains with brand new ghost towns.
- Meanwhile, artists of every stripe are lining up for homes in Turkey's first "artist village" because, says its architect, "they are bored of going to popular places" (will these cultured cognoscenti really love giving free classes while breaking their nails tending their own vegetable gardens, we wonder).
- Cairo's 2050 "Cleaner, Greener, Better" plan: it could displace thousands (including camels); optimism - and pessimism - abound.
- de Portzamparc's massive Riverside Center on Manhattan's Hudson River (finally) gains approval by including affordable housing, a school, and lots of public spaces ("But, it's still too big.").
- Mayne tells Melbourne we're heading towards a high-rise world, and that's good news good for architects.
- Hume x 2: Mississauga's "voluptuous " and "remarkable" and "extraordinary" Marilyn Monroe tower "redefines high-rise condo architecture...symbolic of a city seeking to establish an image of itself as innovative and forward-looking" (and so popular, they're building a sibling) + Cheers for University of Toronto's Brutalist and brutal Robarts Library finally turning a page.
- Litt lays out more details of bold visions for Cleveland's downtown: "Where others would see the tired heart of a shrinking city with chronic low self-esteem, they see big opportunities...to make it shine."
- Lange and Lamster have a lunch debate of Moneo's new (unnamed) Columbia University building: "just because a building defies expectations doesn't mean it's not good" (they both agree the upper floors are great).
- Qatar's newest museum in an old school building will focus on Arab modernity, and "will not shy away from being provocative."
- LaBarre offers an eyeful of a 1959 Paris chapel transformed into "what looks like the roominess of a small cathedral and the soul of a Vitra showroom."
- Rogers Marvel's oh-so-clever "NoGos" turntables "satisfy security imperatives without sacrificing street life."
- University of Oregon architecture students tackle a "daunting task: design Salem's 1970s-era civic center campus as an icon for the city."
- Bernstein sorts through the he-said/they-said acrimony between Norton and Heerim in failed merger attempt.
- Hopefully things will work out better for Sasaki and Hacin's "not a merger" arrangement: it's "more of a May-December romance."
- Gwathmey Siegel archives head to Yale.

To subscribe to the free daily newsletter [click here](#)

Fumihiko Maki, Hon. FAIA, Awarded the 2011 AIA Gold Medal: "He is able to articulate, through architecture, the significance of science, education, arts, music, culture, and media in our society" [images]- AIArchitect

Positive changes around S.F. and environs in 2010: ...I'd be hard-pressed to name the 10 best buildings of the year - or even 10 major structures that got built. On the bright side? The year saw neighborhood-scaled planning that teases us with the promise of sustainable, transit-friendly urbanity. By John King -- Lundberg Design; EHDD Architecture; David Baker + Partners; Mark Cavagnero Associates; Case + Abst Architects; Ogrydziak/Prillinger Architects; Arup/Donald Macdonald [images]- San Francisco Chronicle

Ghost town, Mongolia: Inside China's empty cities: They're building it, but will they come? Why China's real estate boom looks so troubling from the outside...the empty streets of Ordos in Inner Mongolia...this is not exactly the first place that comes to mind to locate a luxury hotel. It's spooky...But maybe they're creating art in the process. By Duff McDonald-Fortune magazine

Newly Built Ghost Towns Haunt Banks in Spain: ...many empty units are in areas where there is little demand for them, particularly along the southern coastal areas where hills have disappeared under vast housing developments...biggest challenge for the banks is that they are likely to end up owners of vast amounts of undeveloped land.- New York Times

Turkey's artist village draws huge interest: The Sonsuz Sükran Köyü (Village of Gratitude), which is being established in the Central Anatolian province of Konya, is claimed to be the first of its type in Turkey...Some 500 artists have applied for one of the 210 houses...will also give classes for free while also tending their own vegetables. -- Mehmet Tasdiken-Hürriyet Daily News (Turkey)

Cairo's 2050 "Cleaner, Greener, Better" Plan Could Displace Thousands: Everybody wants a greener Cairo, but residents don't trust the government's compensation plans...Some people welcome the move...Others are less optimistic.- Green Prophet (Middle East)

Council Approves West Side Apartment Towers: Riverside Center...brings to an end years of planning and dickering with community groups...were successful in getting the developer to include affordable housing, build the school and realign the public spaces so that they were more accessible to local residents. "But, it's still too big." -- Atelier Christian de Portzamparc [image]- New York Times

The future is a high-rise world: Thom Mayne is certain of one thing: city populations will continue to grow - and that will be good for architects...says the tall apartment tower is about to come into its own...For all cities, at some point, "there will be no choice...High-rise is the solution for intensification"- Sydney Morning Herald

Marilyn makes moves in Mississauga: ...Absolute complex, better known as the Marilyn Monroe...this remarkable 54-storey tower redefines highrise condo architecture...extraordinary structure was so popular with buyers a matching tower is also being built...symbolic of a city seeking to establish an image of itself as innovative and forward-looking, as well as cool and sexy. By Christopher Hume -- MAD Architects [images, video]- Toronto Star

Turning the page at Robarts Library: There's Brutalism and just plain brutal. The University of Toronto's Robarts Library is both...it's not hard to understand why a contemporary architect might want to run screaming from a project that involved refurbishing a building as recalcitrant...Not so Gary McCluskie... By Christopher Hume -- Warner, Burns, Toan and Lunde/Mathers and Haldenby (1973); Diamond and Schmitt Architects [image]- Toronto Star

LMN Architects and Gustafson Guthrie Nichol envision bold ideas for downtown's Group Plan Commission: It might be tempting to say that none of it will ever happen...that the fresh ideas should be radically and quickly winnowed to the cheapest and lowest common denominator. That would be a mistake...there are signs that, after decades in which the city paid little attention to parks and public space, the powers that be get it. By Steven Litt [images, links]- Cleveland Plain Dealer

Lunch with the Critics: Northwest Corner Building, Columbia University: This is not the building most New Yorkers were expecting from either Moneo or Columbia...But just because a building defies expectations doesn't mean it's not good...maybe the problem...is that it couldn't possibly do all that it has been asked to do. By Alexandra Lange and Mark Lamster -- Rafael Moneo; Moneo Brock Studio; Davis Brody Bond Aedas [images]- Places Journal

[A New Museum for Qatar: ...an architecturally modest museum with a far more ambitious mission is ready to open its doors for the New Year. The Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art aims to be a new pan-Arab center for culture and creativity...primarily concerned with Arab modernity...will open in a former school building...will not shy away from being provocative. -- Jean-François Bodin \[images\]- Metropolis Magazine](#)

[A Minimalist Church Designed for Maximum Tourism: ...Chapel of the Carmelites of the Assumption in Paris...transformed into a sort of pilgrims' holy land...And it totally works. It's got what looks like the roominess of a small cathedral and the soul of a Vitra showroom, which is exactly how we like our churches. By Suzanne LaBarre -- Noël Lemaire \(1959\); 3box; John Doe Studio \[slide show\]- Fast Company](#)

[Antiterror Turntables: In Lower Manhattan, Rogers Marvel Architects satisfy security imperatives without sacrificing street life...Called "NoGos"... "They're tough utilitarian things that we let become, if not objects of desire, then appreciable things in the streetscape." By Martin C. Pedersen \[images\]- Metropolis Magazine](#)

[Students draft center's future: University of Oregon architecture classes asked to submit designs for facilities...took on a daunting task: design Salem's 1970s-era civic center campus as an icon for the city...one of 14 projects that students will help plan as part of the Sustainable City Year... -- Zimmer Gunsul Frasca Architects \(ZGF\); CB Two Architects - Statesman Journal \(Oregon\)](#)

[Enrique Norton Takes South Korean Mega-Firm to Court: After merger falls through, TEN Arquitectos founder accuses Heerim Architects & Planners of breach of contract, seeks \\$3 million in damages...he sees as a warning to other American architects who try to make deals with foreign firms. They should be wary... By Fred A. Bernstein - Architect Magazine](#)

[Sasaki and Hacin + Associates Join Forces: Not a merger, the arrangement...is more of a May-December romance..."This partnership is one more level of collaboration in two already collaborative organizations. It is not fundamentally about saving money or an economy of scale, but about achieving greater design results." - Architect Magazine](#)

[Architectural Archives Donated to Yale: The materials are from the firm of Gwathmey Siegel & Associates. - New York Times](#)



[Gehry Partners: Dr. Chau Chak Wing Building, University of Technology, Sydney, Australia](#)

Note: Pages will open in a new browser window.  
External news links are not endorsed by ArchNewsNow.com.  
Free registration may be required on some sites.  
Some pages may expire after a few days.

[Yesterday's News](#)

© 2010 ArchNewsNow.com