

Today's News - Tuesday, May 3, 2011

EDITOR'S NOTE: We will not be posting the newsletter tomorrow, but we'll be back Thursday, May 5.

- McGuigan takes Ivy's top spot at Arch Record, and Czarnecki sits in Busch's seat at Contract magazine (we cheer them both!).
- Glaeser is glad to have more than one city ranking survey because they have the "power to excite passion and debate" and "generate interest in the problems and promise of urban areas far more readily than balanced discussions of the pros and cons of different places."
- Red walls vs. blue walls: scientists "focus on how architecture and design can influence our moods, thoughts and health" - and even shape how we think.
- A 15-country research study hopes to figure out why it's so difficult for architects to use solar strategies in building design.
- The "picture for young Mexican architects is buoyant once again" and an eye full of 12 projects to prove it.
- Washington, DC's downtown mega-development (with Foster and Gustafson at the helm) "looks like a people-centric design" and could be "an improved model for how to integrate sustainable design" into dense downtown areas everywhere.
- Kamin's "annual rite of spring" is a visit to Mies's Farnsworth House, where he always finds surprises.
- Boora gets how projects get done at Stanford University so that whatever the project, "everybody still talks to each other and likes each other. That's not always the norm."
- A "surrealist" Japanese architect to take two teahouses to new heights.
- Winners all: eye-fuls of AIA Las Vegas and VSAIA design awards.
- A good reason to be in NYC May 20: Reinventing Public Place in New York City: Brooklyn Bridge Park, a Harvard GSD symposium.
- Call for submissions: MONU magazine #15 - "Post-Ideological Urbanism."

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Cathleen McGuigan Named Editor in Chief of Architectural Record: ... the longtime Newsweek architecture critic and arts editor...In addition...she will serve as editorial director of GreenSource...- Architectural Record

John Czarnecki Joins Contract Magazine as Editor in Chief: He has most recently been a senior acquisitions editor at the publisher John Wiley & Sons and previously was an associate editor at Architectural Record.- Contract magazine

What Rankings Show About Cities: ...because rankings have such power to excite passion and debate, they can generate interest in the problems and promise of urban areas far more readily than balanced discussions of the pros and cons of different places. By Edward L. Glaeser [links] - New York Times

Building a Thinking Room: ...scientists have begun to focus on how architecture and design can influence our moods, thoughts and health. They've discovered that everything—from the quality of a view to the height of a ceiling, from the wall color to the furniture—shapes how we think. - Wall Street Journal

Professional Architects Face Obstacles in Employing Solar Strategies: Solar energy can be harnessed to both heat and power buildings – so why isn't it specified more often in building design? The IEA-SHC Task 41: Solar Energy and Architecture, a research project that involves 70 researchers, academics, professionals and graduate students from 15 countries, is seeking to answer this question.- Newswise

Letter from Mexico: ...the country's economy is already showing signs of recovery...the picture for young Mexican architects is buoyant once again...12 new projects that define the new wave of Mexican design, with collaboration and cooperation pushed to the fore. -- BNKR Arquitectura; FREE Fernando Romero; Productora; at103; Arquitectura 911sc; Hector Esrawe; Dear Architects; Tatiana Bilbao; Fernanda Canales; Michel Rojkind; Frida Escobedo/Jose Rojas; Richard Meier [slide show essay]- Wallpaper*

New CityCenter Brings Green Public Space to Downtown D.C.: ...the largest redevelopment project currently underway in any downtown in an American city, looks like a people-centric design...may present an improved model for how to integrate sustainable design elements into a dense downtown area. -- Foster + Partners; Gustafson Guthrie Nichol; Lee & Associates [images, links] - The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Bells atop the Farnsworth House? Yes, and more surprises inside: I always learn something new about Mies van der Rohe's Farnsworth House...in what has become a rite of spring. By Blair Kamin [images] - Chicago Tribune

Boora Architects of Portland key to Phil Knight namesake center at Stanford University..."They understand how projects get done at Stanford"... "And everybody still talks to each other and likes each other. That's not always the norm." [images] - The Oregonian

Japanese architect to raise tea drinking to new high -- literally: Surrealist Japanese architect Terunobu Fujimori unveiled a highly anticipated tea house project in Taipei...each will have a capacity of 10 people, who will have to climb 5 meters in the air to get in..."Let's look at this work as public art rather than architecture"...- Focus Taiwan

Luck of the Drawn: AIA Las Vegas Awards honor unbuilt designs: A bruising economy may have slowed new construction locally, but that hasn't kept some architects from charging ahead with epic visions. -- Tate Snyder Kimsey Architects; AssemblageStudio; YWS Architects; HMC Architects; Gensler [slide show] - Las Vegas Business Press

2011 Inform Awards: ...recognizes the best projects by Mid-Atlantic firms...began 20 years ago as an alternative for projects that would normally fall through the cracks of traditional awards programs. -- Walter Parks Architect; Group Goetz Architects; Studio 27 Architecture; Muse Architects; Nelson Byrd Woltz [images] - Inform Magazine: Architecture + Design in the Mid-Atlantic (Virginia Society of the American Institute of Architects)

Symposium: Reinventing Public Place in New York City: Brooklyn Bridge Park, May 20 -- Michael Van Valkenburgh; Mohsen Mostafavi; Anita Berzbeitia; Charles Waldheim - Harvard University Graduate School of Design (GSD)

Call for entries/submissions: MONU #15 - "Post-Ideological Urbanism": if there is a need for new or true ideologies when it comes to cities, city planning, and urban design, what should they look like? If there is no need - or no hope - what does that mean for our cities and their future? deadline: June 30- MONU magazine

Roseta Vaz Monteiro Arquitectos: Church of Senhora da Boa Nova, Estoril, Portugal

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