

Today's News - Tuesday, July 26, 2011

- RMI's Bendewald cheers Chicago as being "a shining example of how local initiatives can help grow the U.S. retrofit industry" - but is it taking full advantage (it's deep energy retrofits vs. conventional retrofits).
- A frightening number of building collapses (and deaths) spurs Kenya to crack down on "quack professionals" (i.e. architects) and "rogue developers."
- It's official - and "clears up confusion that has prevailed": RMJM "now cleared by Gazprom to design 'green' headquarters in St Petersburg" (well, not in the city precisely).
- French preservationists try to crush Gehry's "Beer Can" towers in Arles.
- Needham x 2: American traditionalists want to scrutinize how government funds were spent on the Eisenhower Memorial competition and on Gehry's design - and "whether the competition was ever truly competitive."
- He takes "a moment to acknowledge the masterful rehabilitation" of NYC's Columbus Circle subway station (something the city won't be doing again any time soon).
- Moore x 2: he doesn't have many kind words for the new Museum of Liverpool - and even fewer for what else has been developing "on what is, to use a sophisticated critical term, a godawful mess" around it (which includes reference to "a huge incontinent dog" - ouch!).
- He offers his take on the "rather drab Stirling shortlist" (and what projects might have taken it "outside the London orbit of fashion and schmoozery", but "at least there's the Carbuncle Cup to look forward to...it is not half so negative to point out bad architecture as it is to put it up in the first place."
- 3XN's Kim Nielsen is quite proud of his Liverpool museum.
- Also from across the Big Pond, Foggo's Broadgate gets immunity from listing, clearing the way for Make's "groundscraper."
- Groves x 2: it's good news/bad news for preservationists in L.A.: it looks like Yamasaki's Century Plaza hotel could be saved in a \$2-billion plan, though "opposition to the project remains" + Rumors are spreading that Neutra's Kronish House could be bound for demolition because Beverly Hills has no preservation ordinance.
- Saffron finds sweetness and delight in the rebirth of Hunting Park, "the so-called badlands of Philadelphia": it's much more than being just about planting trees.
- Jencks tries his hand at "cosmic-themed" jewelry design to raise funds for Maggie's Centres (looks pretty cool to us!).
- An eyeful of the two (very cool!) winners in the Pop-Up Chapel (pop-up) competition; construction will be complete in time for next Saturday's nuptials.
- Egypt is set to be the first African country to compete in Solar Decathlon Europe 2012 (all AUC needs now is funding).
- Call for entries//RFPs for Solar Decathlon 2013 Collegiate Teams.

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How Chicago Can Make an Even Bigger Impact with Building Retrofits: Mayor Rahm Emanuel recently announced a program to make the city's buildings more energy-efficient...a shining example of how local initiatives can help grow the U.S. retrofit industry...But, does it have enough depth to capture the full opportunity...Deep energy retrofits, when executed properly, do the following in comparison to conventional retrofits... By Michael Bendewald/Rocky Mountain Institute- GreenerBuildings.com

Kenya loses Sh1.4 billion on collapsed buildings: 24 buildings have collapsed in the country since 1996. "Forty-one lives have been lost and 47 people injured"...blamed land developers for not engaging qualified professionals...revision of the law is to empower the board to...reign on quack professionals and rogue developers. -- Board of Registration of Architects and Quantity Surveyors (BORAQS)- Daily Nation (Kenya)

RMJM now cleared by Gazprom to design 'green' headquarters in St Petersburg: ...clears up confusion that has prevailed over the status of the firm in the development...\$3 billion project on a new location...will transform a 17-hectare brownfield site at Lakhta, on the outskirts of the city, into a pioneering environmentally-friendly development...- BSR Russia

Preservationists Try to Crush Frank Gehry's "Beer Can" Towers in Southern France: ...ultramodern project in Arles, which has been in the works since summer 2010, is suddenly on hold...The best-case scenario is that the starchitect's towers for the Luma Foundation will be delayed by six months. [images]- Artinfo France

Eisenhower Memorial: Frank Gehry Design Faces Scrutiny: The question is how the \$16 million allocated by the government for both the competition that led to the selection of Gehry design and the design itself has been spent so far, and whether the competition was ever truly competitive. By Paul Needham -- Daniel Cook; Eric Wind/National Civic Art Society [images, links]- Huffington Post

Columbus Circle Subway Renovation Shows What New York Can No Longer Afford: ...it's worth taking a moment to acknowledge the masterful rehabilitation...You don't work on civic projects like this one unless you truly care about the city, and Jeff Dugan and his fellow designers surely do. By Paul Needham -- Dattner Architects; Sol LeWitt; Domingo Gonzalez Associates [slide show]- Huffington Post

Museum of Liverpool: It's part of a world heritage site, but the showy Museum fails to complement the city's proud past: How can this have happened? How could so many positive words...have led to what now stands on Liverpool's waterfront? How could so many noble titles...have been bestowed on what is, to use a sophisticated critical term, a godawful mess? By Rowan Moore -- BRC Imagination Arts; 3XN; Broadway Malyan; Hamilton Architects [images]- Observer (UK)

The Museum of Liverpool: 3XN's Kim Nielsen defends his design: The Museum opened last week to the news it had been nominated for this year's Carbuncle Cup. -- 3XN/AEW [video]- BD/Building Design (UK)

Constructive criticism: the week in architecture: The Balancing Barn would have livened up the rather drab Stirling shortlist. Oh well, at least there's the Carbuncle Cup to look forward to...it is not half so negative to point out bad architecture as it is to put it up in the first place. By Rowan Moore -- Hopkins Architects; MVRDV; Pat Borer & David Lea; Zaha Hadid; David Chipperfield; Bennetts Associates; AHMM; O'Donnell & Tuomey; 3XN; Rogers Stirk Harbour- Guardian (UK)

Broadgate gets immunity from listing: ...effectively meaning it will be torn down to make way for new headquarters buildings for Swiss bank UBS. The decision...means little now stands in the way of their demolition and replaced with a new design by Make. -- Peter Foggo/Arup [images]- BD/Building Design (UK)

Owner proposes saving Century Plaza hotel, building new condos: A \$2-billion plan calls for rehabilitating the hotel, adding condos to the Century City landmark and building two new 46-story, mixed-use towers...Opposition to the project remains. By Martha Groves -- Minoru Yamasaki (1966); Pei Cobb Freed & Partners [image]- Los Angeles Times

Neutra's Kronish House appears to be bound for demolition: ...a permit to cap the sewer line, a step that often precedes a request for a demolition permit...Rumors have spread among preservationists that a

tear-down is imminent...Beverly Hills has no preservation ordinance. By Martha Groves -- Dion Neutra; Los Angeles Conservancy [image]- Los Angeles Times

Neighbors work to restore natural beauty to Hunting Park: ...a farmers' market has come to the so-called badlands of Philadelphia...Richard Florida claims the arrival of a Starbucks outlet is a bellwether of urban change, but a farmers' market may be the next-best thing - and healthier...The landscape design isn't just about planting trees... By Inga Saffron -- Wells Appel- Philadelphia Inquirer

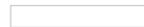
When architecture and jewellery meet: Postmodernist hero Charles Jencks has teamed up with Hamilton & Inches to try his hand at jewellery design for the first time to raise funds for charity Maggie's Centres. He tells Rachael Taylor why jewellery design is a great vacation for him and reveals plans for a whole cosmic-themed spin off. [image]- Professional Jeweller (UK)

Pop Up Chapel Winners! ...over 56 designers submitted their proposals...top 2 winners, whose designs will be constructed this Saturday, July 30, at Merchants' Gate in Central Park. -- Z-A Studio; ICRAVE [images]- Architizer / TheKnot.com

Egypt first African country to compete in Solar Decathlon Europe 2012: American University in Cairo will be the first Middle Eastern and African university team to compete in Solar Decathlon Europe 2012...designed a solar house as part of AUC's Sustainable Living Interactive Design (SLIDES)...the main obstacle right now is funding. [images, links]- Al-Masry Al-Youm (Egypt)

Call for entries: Request for Proposals/RFP: Solar Decathlon 2013 Collegiate Teams; Colleges, universities, and other post-secondary educational institutions worldwide are welcome to submit; deadline: November 10, 2011- U.S. Department of Energy

"Frank Lloyd Wright's Guggenheim Museum": Bravura Example of an Architectural Documentary - Wright's Guggenheim Done Right: A look at great architecture as the product of the dance of the designer's intellect in an architectural film that doesn't miss a beat. By Norman Weinstein- ArchNewsNow



Coelacanth K&H Architects: Kanazawa Umimirai Library, Kanazawa City, Japan

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