

Today's News - Thursday, December 8, 2011

- Israel-based architects and Palestinian planners devise border crossings that is "a fascinating case study of the challenges urban planners would face" in a potentially split Jerusalem - part of the "Is Peace Possible?" special report (all well worth checking).
- Zandberg reports on the Movement for Israeli Urbanism conference: "The time has come for an end to sprawling suburbs and for the renewal of existing neighborhoods...Ashkelon is a living laboratory embodying the MIU's arguments."
- While some closed auto plants across the country are being redeveloped, a study could help communities with vacant plants understand which approaches had been successful" (in some cases, the best use might be green space).
- Chaban on Brooklyn's Atlantic Yards prefab plans: cheerleaders and skeptics abound, but "if modular happens, it would be a miracle. But then again, so is the fact Atlantic Yards is being built in the first place."
- Copenhagen puts the kibosh on BIG's trash incinerator ski slope: the "recreational monument emphasized the hedonism of Bjarke's 'hedonistic sustainability' mantra perhaps a little too much."
- A Croatian firm wins competition to design Istanbul's first Disaster Prevention & Education Center (with simulation systems to experience earthquakes, hurricanes, liquefaction, tsunamis - oh my!).
- Kamin cheers a new Chicago charter school that proves even "in economically austere times, we don't have to build boring, unimaginative architecture" (though it's not faultless).
- Rosenbaum re: Safdie's Crystal Bridges: while it's "a 'wow' building from the outside, it is something of a problematic puzzle on the inside" (with pix to prove it).
- Wainwright is not all that impressed with London's Boxpark, and even less so by developer's attempt to sue the container shopping mall in Christchurch (to house businesses devastated by the earthquake): "Might we politely point him to the largest shopping mall in Europe," built in 1989 in Odessa and "home to 6,000 independent traders," it is made entirely of shipping containers.
- Australia selects six practices for the 2012 Venice Biennale who will aim "to provoke debate about the changing role of architects."
- RIBA Gold Medal winner Hertzberger "laments fading role" of architects who are "no longer as important as we once were...We're not buried next to the king anymore" + an interesting list of Hon. RIBA Fellows includes London mayor and Ai Weiwei.
- A radio show out of Miami (and available via podcast) makes the case every week that place matters.
- The new International Green Construction Code will be available next spring.
- HUD has \$2.5 million for the Strong Cities, Strong Communities Fellowship Program.
- Two we couldn't resist: a small "garden" in Paris is an astounding optical illusion.
- An FLW biopic on its way: it won't "whitewash him into some sort of saint"; no word yet on who will play the lead (though we've heard some good suggestions, like John Malkovich, Kevin Spacey, or Billy Bob Thornton).

If you could hand your business card to one person in the world, who would it be?

ArchNewsNow / MOO Competition (it's fun!)
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[Designs for a Divided Jerusalem: As part of Is Peace Possible? special report...a trio of Israel-based architects...have offered up a series of designs developed in collaboration with Palestinian planners that illustrate options for specialized border crossings in a potentially split Jerusalem. It's a fascinating case study of the challenges urban planners would face should a two-state solution ever come to pass. -- Karen Lee Bar-Sinai; Yehuda Greenfield-Gilat; Chen Farkas; SAYA/Design for Change \[images, links\]- The Atlantic Cities](#)

[Regeneration next: The time has come for an end to sprawling suburbs and for the renewal of existing neighborhoods...Movement for Israeli Urbanism's wide-ranging activities...have yet to percolate into the planning and decision-making process...Whose fault is it? Ashkelon is a living laboratory embodying the MIU's arguments...Complex, evolutionary planning doesn't promise to be error-free, "but it at least prevents us from making large mistakes" By Esther Zandberg -- Irit Solzi; Dror Gershon; Hillel Schocken; Zeev Posner - Ha'aretz \(Israel\)](#)

[From Vacant to Vibrant: Developers have been purchasing closed auto plants, which have helped communities regain considerable tax revenue...the study could help communities with vacant plants understand which approaches had been successful...bringing in new users was not always feasible and the best use for some sites might ultimately be green space. - New York Times](#)

[The Mod Squad: Will Bruce Ratner Transform the Way New York Builds, or Is Prefab Another Project Too Far? ...modular construction...may transform the way the entire city, even the world, builds..."It's taken us a while to get there on the architecture"...If modular happens, it would be a miracle. But then again, so is the fact Atlantic Yards is being built in the first place. By Matt Chaban -- SHoP - New York Observer](#)

[Copenhagen Denies \\$700 Million Loan for BIG's Trash Incinerator Ski Slope: It turns out that this spectacular scheme...would ultimately increase the plant's carbon dioxide emissions by as much as 30% annually...recreational monument emphasized the hedonism of Bjarke's "hedonistic sustainability" mantra perhaps a little too much...city has opted to...focus instead on implementing better ways for citizens to recycle materials... Bjarke Ingels Group \[images, links\]- Architizer](#)

[Croatian Firm to Design Istanbul's First Disaster Prevention & Education Center: ...so that the city will be better equipped to handle future disasters...It is hoped that the center will generate greater public awareness so that when the next earthquake strikes there will be fewer casualties. -- ThyssenKrupp Elevator Architecture 2011 International Design Competition; Radionika Arhitektura \[images, links\] simulation systems that will allow visitors to experience earthquake, hurricane, fire fighting, smoke, liquefaction, tsunami-Green Prophet \(Middle East\)](#)

[A shock to the system: Gage Park charter school is more than eye candy: Is this another over-the-top, "wow" building? Yes. Yet scratch beneath the surface...In economically austere times, the UNO Soccer Academy shows, we don't have to build boring, unimaginative architecture...there's a method to the madly exuberant design...Still, this is hardly a faultless performance. By Blair Kamin -- Juan Moreno; Ghafari Associates \[images\]- Chicago Tribune](#)

[Crystal Bridges Challenge: Molding Moshe Safdie's Arki-ecture into Art-chitecture: Like the two other recent additions to Safdie's American oeuvre \[Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts and the United States Institute of Peace\], Crystal Bridges is a "wow" building from the outside. But it is something of a problematic puzzle on the inside. By Lee Rosenbaum \[images, links\]- ArtsJournal](#)

[Big business plays at pop-ups in Shoreditch's Boxpark: ...represents the latest step in the appropriation of the aesthetic of informal, provisional economies by big business...the project is perhaps one of the least imaginative uses of the shipping container realised to date. By Oliver Wainwright -- Waugh Thistelton architects \[images\]- BD/Building Design \(UK\)](#)

[Six innovative Australian practices chosen for Venice Biennale: ..."Formations: New Practices in Australian Architecture" aims to provoke debate about the changing role of architects... -- Australian Institute of Architects; Anthony Burke/Offshore Studio; Gerard Reinmuth/TERROR; TOKO Concept Design; Healthabitat \(Paul Pholeros, Stephan Rainow, Paul Torzillo\); supermanoeuvre \(Dave Pigram, Iain Maxwell, Chris Duffield\); Richard Goodwin; 2112 AI \(100YR City\) \(Tom Kovac, Fleur Watson\);The Architects Radio Show \(Stuart Harrison, Simon Knott, Christine Phillips, Rory Hyde\); Archival \(Claire McCaughan, Lucy Humphrey\).- Architecture & Design \(Australia\)](#)

[Herman Hertzberger laments fading role of architect: RIBA Gold Medal winner says architects are "no longer as important as we once were...We're not buried next to the king anymore"](#) - BD/Building Design (UK)

[Place Matters: How One Radio Show Makes the Case Every Week: Katherine Loflin interviews a diverse group of people...about the importance of place...While placemaking is not a profession, it is certainly a practice that has spread across multiple disciplines, far beyond design and planning roots. By Charles R. Wolfe -- Project for Public Spaces \(PPS\) \[links\]](#) - The Atlantic

[New International Green Construction Code \(IgCC\) Development Complete: ...new 2012 Code will be available Spring 2012.](#) - International Code Council

[GMF Awarded \\$2.5 Million from HUD to Manage Strong Cities, Strong Communities Fellowship Program: Grant from U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development will be co-managed with Cleveland State University and Virginia Tech...As many as 30 fellows will be assigned to six cities...will work for 24 months...to supplement existing capacity in...economic revitalization efforts.](#) - German Marshall Fund of the United States

[Is a "Garden" the World's Greatest New Artwork? ...a remarkable garden in Paris titled Who to Believe? by Francois Abelanet...We're accustomed to the idea that paint can form an illusion. But it's a bit startling to find this effect created with grass and trees...resembles a terrestrial globe...\[brings\] together two seemingly divergent artistic traditions—the French garden and Anamorphosis. \[images, video\]](#) - Smithsonian magazine

[Bruce Beresford to Direct Frank Lloyd Wright Biopic 'Taliesin': "It doesn't cover his whole life, just a small section of it, and it doesn't whitewash him into some sort of saint"...Who would play the lead? "We have someone in mind, but I can't tell you yet."](#) - Hollywood Reporter

[Call for entries: 21st Annual Inform Awards to recognize outstanding work in landscape architecture, interior design, and object design \(eEntrants must have a business address in Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia, Washington, DC, or North Carolina\); registration deadline: March 2, 2012-](#) Virginia Society AIA

[INSIGHT: At the Intersection of Medicine, Technology, and Design: Hybrid Operating Rooms: Technology has enabled the transformation of classic operating rooms into dynamic, multi-purpose environments - requiring a new design approach for architects. By Ross A. Cole, BAM Architecture Studio-](#) ArchNewsNow

[Call for entries: ArchNewsNow / MOO Competition: If you could hand your business card to one person in the world, who would it be? \(It's fun!\)-](#) ArchNewsNow



[Dominique Perrault: Arganzuela footbridge, Madrid, Spain](#)

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