

Today's News - Friday, October 17, 2008

- Iovine bemoans critics' rush to condemn Museum of Arts and Design (MAD): it's time to "report to the public how it is working, or not" and "stop treating every new building like the latest piece of eye candy."
- Glancey on tall buildings: "...if cities in the Dubai mould must have tall buildings, these might at least be garden-like and by designers such as Ken Yeang."
- Unloved and (gasp) unattractive buildings deserve protection, too.
- Kamin introduces us to a once lost now found - and restored - Sullivan storefront.
- The rise of SHoP.
- Booth on the "bitter end" of Future Systems' 20-year partnership that "produced one of the great creative flowerings of recent British architecture."
- Times Square's TKTS Booth (finally) ready for its close-up; visitors can now step "onto the set of some fizzy Busby Berkeley extravaganza."
- Since winning the TKTS competition, the two Sydney architects have married, had children, acquired mortgages, set up a practice (and one has gone completely grey).
- An inside look at the construction challenges behind 3XN's new Museum of Liverpool, "the city's most controversial new structure."
- North American Holcim Award winners for top sustainable construction projects.
- An eyeful of the 2008 Young Architect of the Year shortlist that just got shorter.
- Dyckhoff doffs his hat to the YAYA shortlist, but says "Pity the poor striplings" - at least they can "comfort themselves that some of the greatest innovations in architecture have happened during recessions."
- Survey uncovers the best U.K. firms to work for, and "reveals how poorly women are represented in the industry's senior management."
- Lots of weekend diversions: Prague's enormous new DOX gallery opens with "Welcome to Capitalism!"
- Woodman savors V&A's small show of Corbu's grand plans for Baghdad stadium.
- "China Design Now" makes US debut in Cincinnati.
- "Climate Change" at the American Museum of Natural History is "grim and unrelenting, but not without hope."
- Landscape architect Daugherty lauded in Atlanta.
- Book review: "Long Live The Modern: New Zealand's New Architecture 1904 - 1984."
- Pick of the clips from a green film festival in Torino.
- A film trailer that looks like it could be the most architecturally savvy since "The Fountainhead."

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Beyond Beauty Contests: The rush to condemn 2 Columbus Circle throws an unflattering spotlight on today's architecture critics: It is time for critics to forget the building's checkered...past and report to the public how it is working, or not...It's time for critics to stop treating every new building like the latest piece of eye candy. By Julie V. Iovine -- Cloepfil/Allied Works [links]- The Architect's Newspaper

Towers as old as building itself: Towers have been around for thousands of years. Which means we can certainly critique the current batch...It does seem odd that today criticising new towers is to be seen as being against progress, when the history of architecture tells us that these are in fact the most old-fashioned buildings of all. By Jonathan Glancey -- SOM; Ricky Burdett; Ken Yeang - BD/Building Design (UK)

The Brutal Truth: Unloved and (gasp) unattractive buildings deserve protection, too: ...Washington's Third Church of Christ, Scientist...is "in a league of its own" as an example of Brutalism, and if preservation is all about saving a record of our cultural history, we can't ignore — or worse, erase — a chapter of that record just because we don't like the way a structure looks. -- I.M. Pei - Preservation magazine

'Lost' Louis Sullivan storefront found on Wabash Avenue: Detective work leads to architectural gold on South Wabash. 'There was some unbelievable stuff back there.' Blair Kamin -- Harboe Architects [slide show] - Chicago Tribune

SHoP Architects rise to top of field: In the last eight years...they've gone from five graduates...sitting around a kitchen table...to one of the best architecture firms in the world, redesigning the Fashion Institute of Technology, building Google's first-ever ground-up structure and transforming the South Street Seaport...into a grid-based waterfront neighborhood for actual New Yorkers. -- Sharples Holden Pasquarelli [images] - NY Daily News

From a shining future to a bitter end as 'blob' architecture pioneers part company: Couple who rebranded Birmingham with space-age store divide their practice...20-year partnership produced one of the great creative flowerings of recent British architecture. By Robert Booth -- Jan Kaplicky; Amanda Levete; Future Systems - Guardian (UK)

Atop the New TKTS Booth, Ruby-Red Stairs With a View of the Great White Way: ...eight years later and nine times costlier than originally estimated...visitors could be convinced they had stepped momentarily out of 2008 and onto the set of some fizzy Busby Berkeley extravaganza. -- Nicholas S. Leahy/Perkins Eastman; John Choi/Tai Ropiha; William Fellows [slide show] - New York Times

Broadway's stairway to the stars is just the ticket: Sydney architects John Choi and Tai Ropiha won a design competition nine years ago..."It's a little surreal for us"...Since they won the design competition from 683 entries, both men have married, had children, acquired mortgages, set up a Manly architectural practice and, in Ropiha's case, gone completely grey. - Sydney Morning Herald

A lens on 3XN's new Museum of Liverpool: There is just one thing...on which everyone agrees: it will offer fabulous views of the Mersey. Thomas Lane looks at the construction challenges behind the city's most controversial new structure. -- Buro Happold; Galliford Try; Pihl [images] - Building (UK)

North American Holcim Awards: Top sustainable construction projects honored -- Christopher J. Collins/Solar One Green Energy; Liz Ogbu/Public Architecture; John Gunn/Laurentian University; David Stonehouse/Evergreen; Ron Kato/Larry McFarland Architects; Stéphane Orsolini; etc. [links to images] - Holcim Foundation

Yaya shortlist unveiled: Six firms have made it onto the shortlist for the 2008 Young Architect of the Year Awards. -- AOC; Feix & Merlin Architects; Hackett Hall McKnight; Kraus Schoenberg; McChesney Architects; Serie Architects [images, links]- BD/Building Design (UK)

Young Architect of the Year award 2008: Pity the poor striplings shortlisted...With construction sites grinding to a halt...not a good moment to try and convince the world you're the next Norman Foster...nominees can at least comfort themselves that some of the greatest innovations in architecture have happened during recessions... By Tom Dyckhoff -- AOC; Feix & Merlin; Hackett Hall McKnight; Kraus Schönberg; McChesney Architects; Serie Architects - The Times (UK)

Workers name the industry's 75 best employers: Survey of 30,000 staff shows which firms offer the most benefits and the best company culture...reveals how poorly women are represented in the industry's senior management. - Building (UK)

Bound for glory: An enormous new gallery opens with equally outsized ambitions...DOX, Prague's new center for contemporary arts...starting off with massive installations...exploring the ties between the arts, capitalism and media, under the heading "Welcome to Capitalism!" -- Ivan Kroupa [images]- The Prague Post

Corbusier's lost gameplan for Iraq: Baghdad was once the scene of an ambitious modernist plan with Le Corbusier's unbuilt sports complex at its heart. At last its details can be savoured..."The Olympic Stadium Project: Le Corbusier & Baghdad"... By Ellis Woodman [images]- BD/Building Design (UK)

"China Design Now" exhibit to make US debut: ...opening Saturday at the Cincinnati Art Museum provides a look into China's changing cultural landscape and at how social and economic reforms have impacted its emerging design industry. -- Aaron Betsky; Yung Ho Chang- Akron Beacon Journal (Ohio)

Apocalypse Now, via Diorama: "Climate Change: The Threat to Life and a New Energy Future" at the American Museum of Natural History...grim and unrelenting, but not without hope...The glimpses of what could happen or what might happen...are meant to be spurs to immediate action.- New York Times

Landscape architect humanizes the South's spaces: ...has had a pioneering eye for shaping the land..."Edward L. Daugherty, a Southern Landscape Architect: Exploring New Forms"...through March 28 at the Kenan Research Center, Atlanta History Center [images, links]- Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Book review: New Zealand - the modernist country: "Long Live The Modern: New Zealand's New Architecture 1904 - 1984" edited By Julia Gatley...examines the various threads of modernism...also charts the development of regional architectural styles... -- Bill Allington; Cedric Firth; John Scott; Helmut Einhorn- National Business Review (New Zealand)

Green film festival: the best clips: Our pick of the best trailers from the Cinemambiente environmental film festival in Turin, Italy. [videos, links]- Guardian (UK)

A Most Architectural Trailer: "The International" looks like it could be the most architecturally savvy since "The Fountainhead"...Limited edition AN tote bag to the first reader who can actually identify the seemingly contrived headquarters/rendering at the 0:47 mark. [video]- The Architect's Newspaper

Field Notes from the 11th Venice Architecture Biennale - Part 1: The Arsenale: Betsky's eclectic curating and the polished and thoughtful presentations of the exhibitors make it a challenging, entertaining, and provocative show. By Terri Peters -- David Rockwell; Jones|Kroloff; Thonik; Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Greg Lynn; Droog; ArandaLasch; Gehry; Hadid; Philippe Rahm; An Te Liu; Barkow Leibinger [images]- ArchNewsNow



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