

Today's News - Friday, January 9, 2009

- These may be times for New Urbanists to seize their moment; but Duany warns: "it will be much harder to do better in the 21st century, because of the way we've built the 20th."
- "Between the bad and the mad," some reasons for architects to be cheerful.
- Rochon offers up some "architectural splendor to feast on in 2009."
- AIANY offers Not Business as Usual brainstorming sessions for architects to reflect, brush up, and make plans for the future.
- Iovine on the Cannell vs. Moss dust-up: "Withering vitriol aside, the truth is that both sides have a good argument."
- Glancey and the architecture of diplomacy (x 2): the new U.S. embassy in Baghdad "looks and feels like the work of a regime battling for first place with the galactic empire itself"; he has (slightly) higher hopes that the new U.S. embassy in London will "take a different tack."
- Heathcote reminisces about Liverpool's year as European Capital of Culture: it "feels like a far more attractive, lively and connected place than it did 12 long months ago."
- Ratner denies Gehry is off the Atlantic Yards team; they just need to find less expensive ways to build (and win a law suit or two).
- Calls for entries: "Designing in Teheran" for Benetton buildings; and Van Alen Institute 2009-2010 New York Prize Fellowship.
- 25 projects garner 2009 AIA Institute Honor Awards.
- Weekend diversions: Glancey takes a look at Palladio's life and legacy: "Every building he designed was a gem."
- "The Green House" hits the road; next stop: University of Minnesota.
- Another take on Yale's Paul Rudolph show: "meant to be read as the record of a tragedy" (and some triumph).
- Page turners: Davidson on Huxtable's "On Architecture": her "work remains the gold standard of criticism...because she brings to the job a rare combination of aesthetic certitude and roving curiosity."
- "Expanding Architecture: Design as Activism" is "an inspiring read for anyone."
- Harbison on reissue of Munari's "Design as Art": "This spoonful of his teachings is worthy of a second serving."
- Macaulay's "Integrated Design - Mithun" is more than just a pretty picture book of projects.
- We couldn't resist: "Top 10 weird and wonderful stories of 2008."

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Road Worriers: With volatile gas prices, imploding suburban real estate, and an incoming administration, the New Urbanists seize their moment..."it will be much harder to do better in the 21st century, because of the way we've built the 20th." -- Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU); Smart Growth America; John Norquist; Andres Duany- The Atlantic

Glimmers of hope in the gloom: In uncertain times everyone has a prediction, but between the bad and the mad are some positive signs for architects...has architecture anything to look forward to in the year ahead? ...here are some reasons to be cheerful. - BD/Building Design (UK)

Jewel-like interventions and hope for the Olympics: The hunger for stirring architecture will never go away and, yes, there will be much architectural splendour to feast on in 2009. By Lisa Rochon -- Kuwabara Payne McKenna Blumberg (KPMB); Fumihiko Maki; PwL Partnership- Globe and Mail (Canada)

Not Business as Usual at AIA New York: Times are tough right now for architects...But there's some silver lining — architects are now reflecting, brushing up, and making plans for the future...AIANY is facilitating community brainstorming at the Center for Architecture...- Metropolis Magazine

Design Dust-Up: ...a scattershot call — "Design Loves a Depression" by Michael Cannell...for design to "come down a notch or two." Enter the Grand Poobah of contemporary design, Murray Moss, who savagely rebutted Cannell's claims...Withering vitriol aside, the truth is that both sides have a good argument. By Julie V. Iovine [links]- The Architect's Newspaper

The architecture of diplomacy: A domineering monster of a fortress has opened in Baghdad - how could the US get its new embassy so wrong...it looks and feels like the work of a regime battling for first place with the galactic empire itself. By Jonathan Glancey -- Berger Devine Yaeger; Gropius; Neutra; Saarinen; Johansen; Design Engine Architects; Dick van Gameren/Bjarne Mastenbroek; etc.- Guardian (UK)

The audacity of open architecture: Under the Bush presidency, the US has been erecting bunker-like embassy designs worldwide. With the inauguration of Obama, will the new US embassy in south London take a different tack? By Jonathan Glancey- BD/Building Design (UK)

Culture capital's concrete legacy: On Saturday, Liverpool will be celebrating the end of its year as European Capital of Culture...This sharpest, most critical and most cynical of cultural cities feels like a far more attractive, lively and connected place than it did 12 long months ago. By Edwin Heathcote -- Biq; BDP; Haworth Tompkins; John McAslan; FAT; Allies & Morrison; Union North- Financial Times (UK)

Atlantic Yards Developer Denies Removing Architect: Forest City Ratner emphatically denied...that it had gotten rid of Gehry, but acknowledged that it was exploring less expensive ways to build an arena for the Nets basketball team. - New York Times

Call for entries: "Designing in Teheran" International Architecture Contest for two Benetton multistory buildings in Teheran; cash prizes; deadline: March 27 - Benetton Group

Call for entries: Van Alen Institute 2009-2010 New York Prize Fellowship; deadline: March 6 - Van Alen Institute

2009 AIA Institute Honor Awards in Architecture, Interiors, and Urban Planning -- John G. Waite; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); VJAA; John Ronan; Grimshaw; Renzo Piano/FXFW; Leddy Maytum Stacy; Thomas Phifer; STUDIOS; Mark Cavagnero; Christoff.Finio; David Jameson; NBBJ; Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Lyn Rice; Robert M. Gurney; designLAB; TEN Arquitectos; Sasaki; Lee + Mundwiler [images]- AIArchitect

The stonecutter who shook the world: He rose from humble origins to become one of the greatest architects ever. On the eve of a major celebration of Andrea Palladio's life and legacy...a look at his work and influence...Every building [he] designed...was a gem. By Jonathan Glancey [slide show]- Guardian (UK)

Shades of green: The role of place is a key ingredient of "The Green House: New Directions in Sustainable Architecture and Design"...National Building Museum traveling exhibit coming to the University of Minnesota- Minneapolis Star Tribune

Building Codes: Lessons in clarity from Paul Rudolph: "Model City: Buildings and Projects by Paul Rudolph for Yale and New Haven, 1958-1978"...is meant to be read as the record of a tragedy: The architect who triumphs then falls into disfavor, with posthumous honors come too late to save much of his work from the wrecking company. - New Haven Advocate (Connecticut)

Book review: Critic on Site: Huxtable has been training that eye for nearly half a century. Given how often it still gets blackened by architectural sucker punches..."On Architecture"...demonstrates that she has always pursued her mission with reason, elegance and wisdom. By Justin Davidson - [New York Times](#)

Book review: "Expanding Architecture: Design as Activism" edited by Bryan Bell and Katie Wakeford ...visually rich...an inspiring read for anyone, but its clear and instructive descriptions also make it a reference book of sorts for those interested in acting through architecture. [[links](#)]- [WorldChanging](#)

Book review: Bruno Munari's "Design as Art" gets the thumbs-up from Robert Harbison: ...collection of essays is 'the purest delight' of Penguin Classics' series of reissued design and art books...This spoonful of Munari's teachings is worthy of a second serving. - [The Architects' Journal \(UK\)](#)

Book review: "Integrated Design—Mithun" by David Macaulay...tells the story of the Seattle-based architecture firm, which first opened its doors in the 1950's...built a practice around inquisition, research, and ecology and his early projects set a new standard for sustainability...Perhaps more intriguing than the projects themselves is the office culture that allows these projects to unfold. - [Metropolis Magazine](#)

Top 10 weird and wonderful stories of 2008: ...and what a strange year it's been ... - [Building \(UK\)](#)

WORDS THAT BUILD: Tip #10: Use paragraph spacing in writing and pauses in conversation to promote "out of the box" thinking. By Norman Weinstein - [ArchNewsNow](#)



-- Expansion and renovation: Gehry Partners: Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO), Toronto, Canada
-- Robert Wilson: VOOM Portraits and Chairs

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