

## Today's News - Thursday, January 15, 2009

EDITOR'S NOTE: A technical glitch caused yesterday's newsletter to be re-sent instead of today's... our apologies...

- Loss of Kaplický is totally unexpected; tributes abound.
- Obama's urban personnel: who are they, and what do they say about the new Administration's urban policy?
- Plans for New Orleans riverfront move forward, but some question if it is a necessary endeavor.
- AIA's Consensus Construction Forecast: not good news; Survey results of Pulse of the Architecture Industry Part II: "now is the time to go bartend in Costa Rica for a few years."
- Sienna Architecture closes its doors after 58 years, and new firms emerge from the ashes.
- After 10 years of contentious debates (and four architects), Cornell's Milstein Hall passes a major hurdle.
- Rybczynski revisits 2 Columbus Circle and still finds it disappointing.
- The good news: new life for a Budapest landmark; and a fictional hospital to be a figment of imagination no longer.
- Brussat on why walking next to shorter buildings "rewards the eye a lot more than walking next to skyscrapers" (and how to calculate your "Average Life Altitude").
- Salant savors Johnson's Glass House: being there is very different than just looking at iconic photos.
- Calls for entries: Exploratory Science Museum, Brazil; and Intersections: Grand Concourse Beyond 100, the Bronx.
- Eyefuls of Wallpaper's Design Awards 2009 (and who the winners aren't).
- Two we couldn't resist: Meet the new White House decorator; and a British uxury home faces demolition after being built in the wrong place by 20 inches.

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Obituary: Jan Kaplický, 71: Czech architect and founder of Future Systems...collapsed and died in Prague last night...Tributes by Richard Rogers, Norman Foster, Paul Finch, Peter Cook, etc. [\[links\]](#)- The Architects' Journal (UK)

Foster leads tributes as 'irreplaceable' Jan Kaplický; A personal tribute from Architecture Foundation chair Brian Clarke -- Future Systems - BD/Building Design (UK)

Radical architect Jan Kaplický dies: Czech-born architect dies only hours after the birth of his daughter and in the midst of a battle to begin work on his national library in Prague...Last October it emerged that Future Systems was to break up after 20 years with Levee...Kaplický was due to keep the practice name. By Robert Booth [\[slide show\]](#)- Guardian (UK)

Urban doubt-fitter: What Obama's picks signal for urban policy...His urban personnel -- his secretaries of Housing and Urban Development and Transportation, along with the head of the new Urban Policy office -- will carry the metropolitan torch for the administration. So who are they, and what do they say about an Obama urban policy? -- Shaun Donovan; Adolfo Carrion- Grist Magazine

Architects present concept for redeveloping New Orleans riverfront: In a city that has been slow to build affordable housing and other infrastructure...some have questioned whether a riverfront promenade is a necessary endeavor. -- Reinventing the Crescent; George Hargreaves; Eskew+Dumez+Ripple; David Adjaye- The Times-Picayune (New Orleans)

AIA semi-annual Consensus Construction Forecast: Steep Decline Predicted for Nonresidential Construction Activity in 2009: ...expected to decrease by 11 percent in 2009, followed by an additional 5 percent drop in 2010. [\[link to report\]](#)- American Institute of Architects (AIA)

Checking the Pulse of the Architecture Industry Part II: the Survey Results: "unless one is happy and married to money this is going to be painful."- Archinect

Sienna Architecture will close its doors: The economy stalled too many projects for the respected firm...founded in 1951..."saw this coming a year and a half ago, this perfect storm in the economy"...architects are already busy starting new firms. -- Gary Reddick; Lee Wynn; Jeff Lamb; Giorgio and Claudine Lostao/Ridiculous Design; V3 Design- The Oregonian

Milstein Hall Passes Hurdle After a Contentious Debate: Ten years and four sets of architects later, Cornell has moved one step closer to building Milstein Hall after gaining a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Ithaca Landmarks Preservation Commission. -- Koolhaas/Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA)- Cornell Daily Sun

Goodbye, 2 Columbus Circle: A refurbished New York landmark fails to preserve the spirit of the original...The new Museum of Arts and Design is artsy and designy, but it is not good architecture, and it makes me miss Stone's winsome palazzo all the more. By Witold Rybczynski -- Edward Durrell Stone (1964); Cloepfil/Allied Works- Slate

Beyer Blinder Budapest: NY firm to reimagine Hungarian landmark: , fBeyer Blinder Belle (BBB) is currently developing a restoration and reuse masterplan [\[for\]](#) Exchange Palace...will likely bustle with a mix of uses for both tourists and locals. -- Ignacz Alpar (1905)- The Architect's Newspaper

HOUSEpital: On the popular Fox doctor drama "House"...unfolds at the fictitious Princeton-Plainsboro Teaching Hospital...need not remain a figment much longer...new \$440 million hospital, to be known as the University Medical Center of Princeton at Plainsboro (UMCPP)... -- RMJM; HOK[\[images\]](#)- The Architect's Newspaper

Manhattan's transfer of altitude: ...walking next to shorter buildings rewards the eye a lot more than walking next to skyscrapers...New York's shorter buildings unfold along the street like an encyclopedia of decorative art... By David Brussat- Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

A Modern Take on Living Alongside Nature: Many who know Philip Johnson's Glass House only from the iconic photographs...consider it to be the epitome of Modernist eccentricity. But visitors to the site...will likely reach a different conclusion. By Katherine Salant [\[images\]](#)- Washington Post

Call for entries: Exploratory Science Museum, Brazil, 2-Phase International Architecture Competition; registration deadline: March 6- Universidade Estadual de Campinas (UNICAMP)

Call for entries: "Intersections: Grand Concourse Beyond 100" International Ideas Competition; cash prizes; registration deadline: April 24- Design Trust for Public Space / Bronx Museum of the Arts

Design Awards 2009: the winners -- Office dA; Foster + Partners; United Designers; Sou Fujimoto; Coop Himmelb(l)au; Hofman Dujardin Architects; etc. [\[images, links\]](#)- Wallpaper\*

And the winner isn't... here's what we thought were the disappointing, contrived and just plain bad designs of the past year.

[\[slide show\]](#) - Wallpaper\*

[Meet the new White House decorator: Michael Smith...whose clients include Steven Spielberg and Rupert Murdoch, has been selected to design the White House interiors for the Obama family. \[images, links\]](#) - Domino magazine

[Luxury £500,000 home faces demolition after being built in the wrong place 'by 20 inches'...knocking a chunk off the house would cost £30,000... -- Bennett Architectural Designs - 24dash.com \(UK\)](#)

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