

## Today's News - Monday, January 19, 2009

- ArcSpace offers us an eyeful of Nouvel's concert hall in Copenhagen.
- Meanwhile, many are "eager to see if all the delays and drama behind the construction were worth the hype."
- Is there any common ground between architecture and human rights? Graeme Bristol thinks so.
- We've come down with a serious case if Inauguration Day fever: Ouroussoff and Saffron offer eloquent takes on the embattled history and current condition of the National Mall.
- Kennicott on the brilliant branding of Obama.
- Another take on Storefront's White House Redux competition.
- Lewis on the choice facing Columbia Town Center: should it preserve its 1960s vision, or embrace the 21st century?
- An affordable housing complex in Las Vegas "works hard to avoid a 'public housing' image (it's green and colorful, too).
- Revisiting the first housing development designed by kids.
- We've followed the losing efforts to save the Google Denny's in Ballard; now it's gone, new plans could include "a walled city with a watchtower to keep out...the preservationists?"
- H&deM has towering plans near Piano's Shard (not all are pleased).
- Baillieu says bring 'em on: "When what architecture we have is at risk of being slashed or squeezed, surely we need something to look forward to?"
- A children's hospital in Texas is the first to garner LEED Platinum, but don't expect it to become the norm in healthcare design very soon.
- A call for the Philippines to fund new landscapes with the "audacity of beauty" - just as necessary as functional improvements.
- Is Manila still listed as one of the most polluted cities in the world? Time for a really honest evaluation.
- Team picked for Boston Red Sox spring training facility in Florida.
- Singh on her 20-year saga designing the Indian Naval Academy: she had no idea what she was getting into.
- Sudjic and Rose pay tribute to Kaplický: the world of architecture is now "a far duller place."

EDITOR'S NOTE: Remember this is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service - do at least one thoughtful thing for someone else.

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Jean Nouvel: DR Concert Hall, Copenhagen, Denmark

Showcase concert hall finally opens: DR Byen...another architectural landmark to the Ørestad area...many will be eager to see if all the delays and drama behind the construction were worth the hype. -- Jean Nouvel- The Copenhagen Post (Denmark)

Can architects make a difference? Is there any common ground between architecture and human rights? Graeme Bristol thinks so. -- Centre for Architecture and Human Rights [links]- Radio Netherlands

Tradition and Change Battle on the Mall: The history of the National Mall in Washington has been a roller-coaster ride of architectural controversy...we should keep in mind how vital the architectural expression of our national identity is and will remain. By Nicolai Ouroussoff -- Maya Lin; John Russell Pope (1941); I.M. Pei; Friedrich St. Florian [images]- New York Times

A look at D.C. with fresh eyes: National Mall, a landscape on which 200 years of turbulent American history have been compressed...Its ever-growing collection of sites provides a text that can be debated as vigorously as any history book. Every monument riffs and elaborates on its predecessors. By Inga Saffron- Philadelphia Inquirer

The Power Of Brand-Old Message Art: ...now it is independent magazines that are carrying on the work of Obama branding -- which is the ultimate sign of branding success. By Philip Kennicott -- Shepard Fairey; Sol Sender- Washington Post

Change You Can Only Imagine: What if the White House, the ultimate architectural symbol of political power, were to be designed today? White House Redux, a recent call for ideas... -- Storefront for Art and Architecture [images, links]- New York Times

Reimagining 'New Town' Columbia as a New City: ...which choice makes the most sense: preserving the form and function of Columbia Town Center as originally envisioned in the 1960s or embracing a vision to create a vital downtown for the 21st century? Given today's circumstances and tomorrow's needs, the latter is the only sensible response. By Roger K. Lewis -- Cooper, Robertson & Partners; Sasaki Associates- Washington Post

Las Vegas Affordable Housing Complex Fosters Community, Sustainability, and Colorful Design: Otto Merida Desert Villas...works hard to avoid a "public housing" image and create a community atmosphere. -- Lucchesi Galati Architects [images]- AIArchitect

"Hard on the inside, soft on the outside": From children's fantasy to living reality: the first housing development designed by kids...Andria decided that...to be a true cooperative for inhabitants, they would have to listen to children as well as adults. And that's how the idea to build Coriandoline was born. -- Luciano Pantaleoni [images]- Radio Netherlands

Can Obama save Ballard Denny's site? New plans for the closely-watched...landmark property are evolving...Maybe a stimulus will goose development..."Market Street Landing" nods its head at Ballard history -- instead of "Scandagoogienesian" roof lines...suggesting Ballard is now a walled city with a watchtower to keep out...the preservationists? [link to images]- Crosscut (Seattle)

Herzog & de Meuron plans London towers: ...credit crunch-defying designs for the tallest residential development in the country...proposing three slender and snaking towers with respective heights of 100m, 200m and 250m, close to the 310m-high Renzo Piano-designed Shard...- BD/Building Design (UK)

Op-Ed: Why towers must aim high: Herzog & de Meuron's towers will reignite a debate about London's skyline that ought to be solely about good architecture...For sheer audacity...have already won a place in history...When what architecture we have is at risk of being slashed or squeezed, surely we need something to look forward to? By Amanda Baillieu- BD/Building Design (UK)

LEED Platinum Unlikely for Hospitals: Dell Children's Hospital of Central Texas made news recently when it became the first

hospital in the world to receive LEED Platinum certification...[don't] expect a whole slew of hospital or medical office building developers to follow in the footsteps. -- Karlsberger Architecture- [GlobeSt.com](#)

A landscape of hope: ...part of these funds should be spent on literally building a new landscape for our towns, cities, and countryside...The audacity of beauty, as an essential equal to all these functional improvements, is necessary, too...One is a mirror that reflects the other. -- Ildefonso P. Santos - [The Philippine Star](#)

What it (really) means to be green: Is Manila still listed as one of the most polluted cities in the world? Let's stop for a while and give a really honest evaluation. Should we get a passing or a failing grade? What should we have done better? Or is the situation helpless? - [Philippine Daily Inquirer](#)

Joint panel recommends designers for Lil' Fenway...new Red Sox spring training facility...  
-- Parker/Mudgett/Smith; HOK Sport; D'Agostino Izzo Quirk- [Fort Myers News-Press \(Florida\)](#)

Shipspace at last: Architect Namita Singh spent two decades on her biggest project, the Indian Naval Academy in Kerala...had no idea what she was getting into...[she] bagged the project in 1989, but the actual construction began only in 2000.- [Business Standard \(India\)](#)

Tribute: Jan Kaplický: Czech architect whose free-form designs revolutionised British building...responsible for some of the most remarkable buildings that Britain has ever seen. By Deyan Sudjic -- Future Systems [slide show]- [Guardian \(UK\)](#)

Tribute: Jan Kaplický's death leaves the world of architecture a far duller place...[his] commitment to radical futuristic design meant that his buildings were too ahead of their time for all but the most far-sighted clients...Not for nothing was Kaplický's practice called Future Systems. By Steve Rose- [Guardian \(UK\)](#)

Community Building: A new community center re-imagines public architecture and what civic buildings represent. -- George Ranalli, Architect [images]- [ArchNewsNow](#)

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