

Today's News - Tuesday, January 27, 2009

- Plans move ahead for Rawabi, the first planned community for 30,000 Palestinians in the occupied territories.
- The largest housing development in Thames Gateway goes to planning.
- Three green, affordable housing schemes (by 3 of our faves) are a big win for a Syracuse neighborhood.
- Cheek on a new environmental education center: it's "an alternate universe" to the "grade-it, pave-it and supersize-it ethic that has shaped Bellevue."
- A new version for LEED certification - for people and buildings - adds more red tape (and cost) to complicate going green (not very good timing, we say).
- King on a shovel-ready San Francisco project that is a "poster child for stimulus package."
- Goldberger cheers the rebirth of Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall: "shows how much richness and complexity can be teased out of the modernist vocabulary in the right hands" (video walk-through, too).
- Rochon rhapsodizes about Univ. of Waterloo's "flower-power tower": it's "groovy, irreverent, gutsy, and imperfect."
- West Cork Arts Centre picks its architect.
- Density requirements unintentionally threaten Portland, Oregon's historic districts.
- Kamin gives (mostly thumbs-up to Preservation Chicago's "Chicago Seven" list, but "take it with a Sears Tower-size grain of salt."
- A call to save Dublin's historic city center instead of giving it a "bland" makeover.
- An evolving master plan for the Richardson Olmsted Complex in Buffalo moves ahead.
- Viladas offers an eyeful of Philip Johnson's other glass house in New Canaan that "has been hiding in plain sight."
- Once considered tacky, the two-level boxy stucco-clad "Vancouver Special" is now on many must-have lists.
- Glancey travels to Portugal for a face-to-face with Siza.
- Piano visits Valletta, Malta, the "Manhattan of the 16th century."
- Hume chats with Santa Monica-based Wes Jones: "Toronto is like New York without all the depressing parts."
- Call for entries: 2009 Sustainable Leadership Awards.

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Palestine eco-town to go ahead despite Gaza conflict: Faber Maunsell and EDAW to design and engineer £240m West Bank community near Ramallah...Rawabi will be the first planned community for Palestinians to be built in the occupied territories, and will include new schools, mosques, libraries and housing for up to 30,000 people.- Building (UK)

Largest housing development in Thames Gateway goes to planning: Proposals by Maccreeanor Lavington, KCAP, Sheppard Robson and Gustafson Porter for the first 4,000 homes... [images]- BD/Building Design (UK)

Green Goes the Neighborhood: Syracuse University unveils sustainable home competition winners. "From the Ground Up: Innovative Green Homes": three housing schemes that marry design and sustainable strategies — and can be built for \$150,000. -- ARO/Della Valle Bernheimer; Cook + Fox; Onion Flats [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center treads lightly on the Bellevue landscape: ...a stunning retort to the grade-it, pave-it and supersize-it ethic that has shaped Bellevue's built environment...clump of five modest buildings doesn't just suggest a different direction. It's an alternate universe. By Lawrence W. Cheek -- Jones & Jones [images]- Seattle Post-Intelligencer

Op-Ed: More Red Tape to Complicate Going Green: Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI) is launching a new version of LEED. Instead of...making the system more clear to professionals seeking accreditation for themselves or their buildings — not to mention to the clients — the new version is sure to create many levels of confusion. By Jessica Sheridan, Assoc. AIA, LEED AP [links]- e-Oculus

PUC [Public Utilities Commission] site a 'poster child for stimulus package': ...has permits in hand to erect a 12-story headquarters that emphasizes sustainable design and resource conservation; White House confidential: Randolph Delehanty...is an author whose most recent work takes a glimpse inside Obama's new digs. By John King -- Kaplan McLaughlin Diaz (KMD) [images, link]- San Francisco Chronicle

Center Stage: The new Alice Tully Hall bodes well for other Lincoln Center renovations...making a dull building exciting without warping its identity completely...shows how much richness and complexity can be teased out of the modernist vocabulary in the right hands. By Paul Goldberger -- Pietro Belluschi/Eduardo Catalano (1969); Diller Scofidio + Renfro; FXFOWle [video link]- New Yorker

Hey dude, check out the flower-power tower: The U of Waterloo has wrapped its new School of Pharmacy in medicinal herbs. The result isn't flawless, but it sure is groovy...irreverent, gutsy and imperfect...Hello insulating murals; Goodbye boring green monolith... By Lisa Rochon -- Hariiri Pontarini Architects; Claude Cormier; Robbie Young + Wright- Globe and Mail (Canada)

Donaghy + Dimond Architects win West Cork Arts Centre: Along with the winning firm...Clancy Moore Architects and Matter Design / Office dA comprised the four shortlisted finalists. [images]- Archiseek (Ireland)

Trouble in Green City: Zoning Trumps Design Guidelines in Historic Portland, Oregon: ...density requirements unintentionally threaten Portland's historic districts...current angst...is not just about what's getting torn down — it's also about what's going up. - Preservation magazine

Preservation Chicago's "Chicago Seven": A good list, but take it with a Sears Tower-size grain of salt. By Blair Kamin -- Horatio Wilson (1913); Henry J. Schlacks (1904); Consoer & Morgan (1961); Holabird & Roche (1928); Ezra Gordon and Jack Levin/Loebl, Schlossman and Bennett/A. Epstein and Sons (1951–1962)- Chicago Tribune

Don't change our historic city centre warns architect: The 'down-at-heel' appearance of a street in Dublin's city centre should be retained and not given a "bland" makeover. -- Shane O'Toole; Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland (RIAI)- Herald.ie (Dublin, Ireland)

Hotel and park proposed for Richardson Olmsted Complex: ...part of a carefully evolving master plan for the long-dormant 91-acre site... -- Henry Hobson Richardson; Frederick Law Olmsted; Chan Krieger Siniewicz- Buffalo News

A Touch of Glass: A stone's throw away from Phillip Johnson's New Canaan retreat, one of his houses has been hiding in plain sight...the Hodgson house... By Pilar Viladas -- Craig Bassam/Scott Fellows; Zion & Breen [slide show]- New York Times

Tried, tested and true: Once considered tacky, and not designed to be anyone's dream home, the "Vancouver Special" is now on many buyers' must-have lists...After four decades of ridicule, the two-level boxy stucco-clad houses are officially getting their due...the most popular style of house design in the city's history. [images, link]- Globe and Mail (Canada)

Hail Siza: Britain has bestowed its ultimate architectural honour [2009 Royal Gold Medal for Architecture] on Alvaro Siza - even though he hasn't built a thing in this country. Jonathan Glancey travels to Portugal to meet a master..."Architecture without love is annoying. There are far too many buildings today." - Guardian (UK)

Renzo Piano Says Valletta Is Manhattan of the 16th Century: ...will rebuild the gateway to the Maltese capital...will also reconstruct the city's opera house, bombed in 1942...refitted to serve as the new parliament building. - Bloomberg News

Architecture as argument for creating better world: Wes Jones is adamant. "The architect's role is to place us in our world, to say something about how we live...North American culture isn't attuned to the possibilities of what architecture can do." Alas, neither are many North American architects. By Christopher Hume -- jones, partners: architecture- Toronto Star

Call for entries: 2009 Sustainable Leadership Awards for Design and Development: Interior Design, Architectural Design, and Development; deadline: February 16- CoreNet Global/IIIDA/AIA

-- SMC Alsop: Stratford DLR Station, London, UK

-- Grimshaw Architects/Arcadis Architecten: Bijlmer ArenA Station, Amsterdam, The Netherlands - ArcSpace

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