

Today's News - Friday, January 30, 2009

- An impressive shortlist for the National Museum of African American History and Culture.
- wHY Architecture tapped to bring Speed Art Museum up to speed.
- Could the stimulus package salvage Grimshaw's Fulton Street Transit Center (with or without Carpenter's oculus)?
- The City of Ithaca finally approves Cornell's Milstein Hall by Koolhaas; but a passel of professors petition for a re-think.
- Hawthorne contemplates the "neoclassicism of Barack Obama."
- The Netherlands is giving NYC a 400th anniversary gift: a plaza by van Berkel shaped "like a white flower or a windmill, depending on your perspective."
- Montreal ponders what to do with a now-decommissioned Esso gas station designed by Mies: "It's not pretentious, not glitzy. The major problem is, what to do with it now." (flower market, anyone?).
- Pawson leaves Santa Barbara unimpressed with condo design: the "building needs more playfulness. It's too rigid." (what? no red tile roof?!?)
- Contract celebrates 30 years of the Interiors Awards (three cheers for Public Architecture - and all the other winners!).
- A Q&A with Tom Kundig, "Seattle's kinetic man on the move."
- Call for entries: 2009 Open Architecture Challenge: Classroom for Architecture for Humanity.
- Weekend diversions: two very different takes on Palladio: Heathcote: Parry's exhibition design is "serious, scholarly, and superb": Terry: "Palladio-mania is just going too far...he was passé in his own time."
- A formaldehyde-ridden FEMA trailer reinvented as the Emergency Response Studio: "resembles a UFO, albeit, an inviting one."
- In Mumbai, "Relative Visa" is an "exciting intersection of art, architecture, and design."
- Paintings of Goldfinger's other modernist tower on view in the tower itself.
- Page turners: a dreary "The Women" turns the "gripping, operatic saga of Frank Lloyd Wright into a tedious, predictable melodrama."
- Three new tomes explore the "limitless ambitions, and problematic achievements, of science and urban planning in the early 20th century."
- "Slow-Tech" is a manifesto for an over-wound world.
- "Building the New Jerusalem" examines the philosophical underpinnings of early 20th century British housing architecture.

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6 Finalists Vie to Design Black History Museum: National Museum of African American History and Culture...on the Mall in the shadow of the Washington Monument. -- Devroux & Purnell/Pei Cobb Freed; Foster + Partners/URS; Freelon Adjaye Bond/SmithGroup; Diller Scofidio + Renfro/KlingStubbins; Moshe Safdie/Sultan Campbell Britt; Moody Nolan/Antoine Predock- Washington Post

Architects chosen for Speed Art Museum update: ...charged with the Speed's expansion and creation of a connection with landscape and nature as well as correcting challenges created by three additions to the original 1927 building... -- wHY Architecture- Courier-Journal (Louisville, KY)

Keep Your Eye on the Oculus: Even before the recession hobbled the MTA, the fate of the Fulton Street Transit Center was much in doubt...MTA has decided to go forward with an above-ground building, though it could be sans oculus. -- Grimshaw; James Carpenter [image, links]- The Architect's Newspaper

Ithaca Board Grants Final Approval For Milstein Plan: After over 10 years of controversy, Milstein Hall is finally past the bulk of its hurdles. -- Koolhaas/Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA)- Cornell Daily Sun

Op-Ed: Profs urge a stop to construction on Milstein Hall: ...if a new building is desired, it can be designed in a much greener, more attractive and more economical way...we urge that Milstein be included in the building moratorium and that this project be reconsidered. -- Koolhaas/Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA)- Cornell Daily Sun

The neoclassicism of Barack Obama: ..."If Barack Obama were a building, what building would [he] be?"...What I've been trying to do is make sense of the connections I keep noticing between Obama's first week or so in office and the ideals and symbols of neoclassicism. By Christopher Hawthorne -- Edward Lifson; Holl; Koolhaas; Rykwert; Piano; Foster [images, links]- Los Angeles Times

Dutch to Help New York Celebrate Hudson's Journey: ...NYC 400, a yearlong celebration of the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson's arrival in New York Harbor...The Netherlands is giving New York City the New Amsterdam Plein and Pavilion, a small plaza...to be built in Battery Park. -- Ben van Berkel/UNStudio [images]- New York Times

The Ritz of gas stations looks for a new life: ...Montreal's Verdun borough is left to sort out what to do with a rare piece of architecture not easily adaptable...part of a neighbourhood that Mies's Chicago firm designed in the 1960s... -- Mies van der Rohe (1968)- Globe and Mail (Canada)

First Look at Bacara Condos: Residents, Planners Fret over Architecture, Beach Access...met with an unsure response...feared the minimalist, modern design clashed with Bacara's otherwise Spanish Mission-influenced aesthetic..."this building needs more playfulness. It's too rigid." -- John Pawson/BB UK Studio [image]- Santa Barbara Independent (California)

Contract Celebrates 30 Years of the Interiors Awards: 2009 Legend Wing Chao of Walt Disney Imagineering and 2009 Designers of the Year John Peterson and John Cary of Public Architecture. -- M Moser Associates; Poteet Architects; Nema Workshop; Enter Architecture; Shimoda Design Group; Clive Wilkinson Architects; Elliott + Associates; Mark Cavagnero; Zimmer Gunsul Frasca (ZGF); Westlake Reed Leskosky/Heritage Architecture & Planning [links to info/images]- Contract magazine

Q+A: Tom Kundig: Seattle's kinetic man on the move talks about his Alaskan architectural roots, the West's design boom, and nabbing the AIA firm-of-the-year award. -- Olson Sundberg Kundig Allen [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Call for entries: 2009 Open Architecture Challenge: Classroom ...challenge to the global design community to partner with teachers and students to design the classrooms of tomorrow; registration deadline: May 1- Architecture for Humanity

Template for the built world: "Andrea Palladio: His Life and Legacy"...designed by architect and academician Eric Parry, is serious, scholarly and superb...It is, perhaps, a little uncritical...But there is such depth here -- a profile of an infinitely inventive magpie mind...that you can forgive almost anything. By Edwin Heathcote [images]- Financial Times (UK)

"Palladio was passé in his own time": guest writer Francis Terry reassesses the master...Palladio-mania is just going too far...by contemporary taste, he should be derided as a backward looking plagiarist with no ideas of his own...not about innovation or cutting edge attitudes it is instead the architecture of politeness and good taste. [images]- HughPearman.com (UK)

[An Artful Response to Disaster: Salvaging a FEMA-style trailer, the formaldehyde-ridden government response to temporary shelter, and reinventing it as the Emergency Response Studio...will be featured at Rice University Gallery through March 1.](#) -- Paul Villinski [images, links]- Metropolis Magazine

[So, how relative is your art visa? Bose Krishnamachari surely deserves an applause, for going ahead with "Relative Visa" \[in Mumbai\]...an exciting intersection of art, architecture and design...aspires to blur the boundaries between each form.](#)- Times of India

[Painting exhibition of Goldfinger's other modernist tower: ...elegies to Balfour Tower charm...Being inside the subject of the paintings was strangely incongruous, largely because Peter Wylie's interpretation of social housing is so optimistic...](#) [slide show]- The Architects' Journal (UK)

[Book review: An Egotistical Architect as Seen by His Women: T. C. Boyle's dreary new novel "The Women" manages to turn the gripping, operatic saga of Frank Lloyd Wright and the women in his life into a tedious, predictable melodrama...inorganic, needlessly complex architecture — of the sort that Wright would utterly disdain in a building — serves no discernible purpose.](#)- New York Times

[Book reviews: Woolworth's shrine to commerce: The limitless ambitions, and problematic achievements, of science and urban planning in the early 20th century: "The Skyscraper and the City: The Woolworth Building and the making of modern New York" by Gail Fenske; "Invented Edens: Techno-cities of the twentieth century" by Robert H. Kargon, Arthur P. Molella; "Another City: Urban life and urban spaces in the new American republic" by Dell Upton](#)- The Times (UK)

[Book review: "Slow-Tech" by Andrew Price: Manifesto for an Overwound World: why modern ideas of efficiency are bad, and why the world must get back to building things that last](#)- The Times (UK)

[Book review: The architecture of England's green and pleasant homes: "Building the New Jerusalem: architecture, housing & politics 1900-30" by Mark Swenarton examines the philosophical underpinnings of early 20th century British housing architecture and its contribution to the development of continental modernism.](#) [images]- BD/Building Design (UK)

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

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

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