

Today's News - Tuesday, February 10, 2009

We're back - and there's lots of catching up to do!

- ArcSpace brings us Piano in Athens, and KK in Berlin.
- An impressive round-up of who's saying what about the TVCC tower blaze in Beijing (images, too).
- Greer tools around Dubai, a city "built on the premise that nothing succeeds like excess."
- A take on Prince Charles's take on lessons that can be learned from the slums of Mumbai.
- Canada's housing guru projects a vision of cities of the future: "What happens when your back is against the wall? You get inventive!"
- Two Georgia cities get a peek at their possible future over the next 20 years.
- Campbell on a towering plan for Boston waterfront: a saga that "should be fun" to follow, so "stay tuned."
- A solution to New York's traffic "congestion pricing done right."
- Niemeyer "thought he was on course to adorn the city's skyline with one last flourish"; now, he isn't.
- Rykwert on billboards and the urban fabric: "progressive usurpation of our common possession by crass commerce."
- Russell on re-do of Tully Hall and Juilliard: "the kind of theatrical audacity Lincoln Center has long needed."
- Kamin on Gropius's hand in Chicago: "a potential roadblock - or, perhaps, an opportunity - for Chicago's Olympic organizers."
- Danish firm takes Alvar Aalto Medal.
- Venturi's Lieb House saga continues: it's parked now, but it better be outta there come summer.
- U.K.'s "Angel of the South" to be a 50m-high white horse.
- Perhaps there's a lesson for the artist in Denver's "Blue Mustang."
- Call for entries: International Ideas Competition for the Bering Strait Project.
- We couldn't resist: Just in time for Valentine's Day, RIBA's light-hearted poll - vote for Britain's most romantic building.

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-- Concept Design; Renzo Piano Building Workshop: SNFCC, Athens, Greece
-- KK Letter: Architecture, Art and Design, Berlin, Germany
-- Design Hotel: The Mandala, Berlin, Germany

CCTV Hotel Ablaze: ...Television Cultural Centre (TVCC)...was due to open in mid-May and contained a hotel, a theatre, and several studios. -- Koolhaas/Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA) [links]- The Architect's Newspaper

From its artificial islands to its boring new skyscraper, Dubai's architecture is beyond crass: If Monaco is Alcatraz for the rich, what shall we make of Dubai? ...has been built on the premise that nothing succeeds like excess. By Germaine Greer - Guardian (UK)

Op-Ed: The prince and the paupers: Prince Charles' views on human-scale solutions to slums, rather than concrete towers, would resonate with Mumbai's poor. By Mukul Devichand [links]- Guardian (UK)

Urban Design in a New Economy: Canada's housing guru projects a vision of cities of the future...think of this current time as a chance to retool, cleanse, and rethink...fostering culture, nurturing education, and encouraging investment. -- Avi Friedman [images]- The Epoch Times

Bridge to tomorrow: Master plan for cities is unveiled: The vision of the future Augusta and North Augusta...focuses on nine "market creation projects" that could revitalize neighborhoods in both cities. The projects are clusters of other projects that would create a destination attraction and be a catalyst for other development... -- ICON Architecture [links]- Augusta Chronicle (Georgia)

Redesign is up in the air: Three-tower proposal is only a starting point...A lot of this makes sense...the chance to bring people to the now dead Greenway...We can expect lots of other forces to weigh in as the tale continues. By Robert Campbell -- Kohn Pedersen Fox (KPF); Elkus Manfredi; Utile; Ken Greenberg [image]- Boston Globe

Op-Ed: Free Buses, Cheaper Subways -- and a Solution to New York's Traffic: ...the basic idea is a good one, as experience in London, Stockholm and Milan has shown. Can "congestion pricing done right," ...fix the Bloomberg plan's flaws? With a smarter plan, can we make a serious dent in traffic tie-ups... By Charles Komanoff [links]- Gotham Gazette (NYC)

Architect, 101, denied chance to add final flourish to city he created: Oscar Niemeyer...thought he was on course to adorn the city's skyline with one last flourish. But now, suddenly, he isn't...no money to build the Plaza of Sovereignty, nor had there ever been. - Independent (UK)

Cities are more than occupied billboards: Advertising physically separates us from the lived experience of the urban fabric, however ugly or beautiful...Will any city have the courage to follow São Paulo? Or is the progressive usurpation of our common possession by crass commerce unstoppable? By Joseph Rykwert - The Architects' Journal (UK)

Eye-Catching \$360 Million Redo Perks Up Tully Hall, Juilliard: ...gloomy fortress housing Alice Tully Hall and the Juilliard School has gained light and sparkle...the kind of theatrical audacity Lincoln Center has long needed. By James S. Russell -- Pietro Belluschi (1969); Diller, Scofidio + Renfro; FXFowle Architects - Bloomberg News

Bauhaus founder, Walter Gropius, had hand in Olympic Village site: ...played a greater role than previously thought in planning the South Side campus of Michael Reese Hospital and serving as an architectural consultant for several of its buildings...Balkany's research represents a potential roadblock — or, perhaps, an opportunity — for Chicago's Olympic organizers... By Blair Kamin -- The Architects Collaborative- Chicago Tribune

Alvar Aalto Medal awarded to the Danish architectural practice Tegnestuen Vandkunsten....the first time...to a team of architects instead of an individual. -- Finnish Association of Architects (SAFA) [images]- Museum of Finnish Architecture

Moved house won't stay, Barnegat Light mayor says: "If [Lieb House] doesn't go by barge, it will go by the Dumpster. It's not going to sit there in the summertime."...Jim Venturi said he doesn't know when the house will be moved, but hopes to find out in the next few days. -- Robert Venturi [image]- The Press of Atlantic City

Mark Wallinger's 50m-high White Horse chosen as 'Angel of the South': ...will stand overlooking Ebbsfleet International Railway Station in Kent, adjacent to the busy A2 road. [image]- The Architects' Journal (UK)

A Horse of a Different Color Divides Denver: Blue Mustang Sculpture Shocks Visitors, Perturbs Poets; "Because of This Thing, People Think They Are in Hell Instead of Denver" -- Luis Jimenez [slide show]- Wall Street Journal

Call for entries: International Ideas Competition for the Bering Strait Project; deadline: May 26- Foundation for Peace and Unification / International Union of Architects (UIA)

Construction for Seduction: Show your love for buildings and the buildings you love to love in...Launched for Valentine's Day, this light-hearted poll...is not just about architectural merit but more about the emotive power of buildings; about what gives some places that certain je ne sais quoi? [images]- Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA)

Loud on the Outside, Quiet on the Inside: Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center (EMPAC) by Grimshaw and Davis Brody Bond Aedas: How do you "ground" a 221,200-square-foot building on a 30-degree slope? By Craig M. Schwitter, P.E./Buro Happold [images]- ArchNewsNow

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