

Today's News - Monday, March 2, 2009

- ArcSpace splashes into Saucier + Perrotte's urban spa in Vieux-Montréal, and offers an eyeful from the pages of "Limited Edition: Prototypes, One-Offs and Design Art Furniture."
- Weinstein offers a riposte to Risen's ode to Ada Louise (posted last week).
- "Sydney is vacuous and superficial. Melbourne is cultural and refined" - or maybe not.
- Heathcote heaps high praise on Chipperfield's Neues Museum make-over, done with "skill, intelligence and delicacy" to become "one of the finest, most poetic and most visceral museums in the world."
- King considers Fisher's revised Presidio museum plans; it might not please everyone, but it is "a compromise that might actually bear fruit."
- Goldberger on the centennial of Burnham's Chicago Plan: it "remains the most effective example of large-scale urban planning America has ever seen" (though Jacobs and Mumford might not agree).
- Bangalore's historical prison now Freedom Park in a "magnificent make-over" free from the "monotony of concrete landscape, polluting environment, and stereotype museum architecture."
- Revisiting some of British Columbia's First Nations ground-breaking schools 10 and 20 years later: What grows there now? (great slide show, too).
- In the U.K., zero-carbon schools could save £165m in energy bills.
- Hawthorne spends some quality time with Gehry (on his 80th birthday) to discuss his accomplished past and uncertain future: "if there's frugality, I'm ready. I'll do corrugated again."
- The doctor heading Gehry-designed Lou Ruvo Brain Institute in Las Vegas does an about-face in his attitude towards the symbolic power of architecture.
- McDonough fans in The Netherlands plea for change in his attitude re: Cradle-to-Cradle."
- Junked cars morph into green prefab houses (for as little as \$95/square foot!). (How could we resist: "24" to be the first "carbon neutral" television series - cheers for "green" car crashes?)
- More on Koshalek's journey from Pasadena to D.C.
- NYT salutes Sverre Fehn.
- British Poet Laureate salutes RIBA's 175th anniversary with poem "Frozen Music" (we love the last stanza).

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-- Saucier + Perrotte Architectes: Scandinave Les Bains, Vieux-Montréal, Montréal, Québec, Canada
-- Book: "Limited Edition: Prototypes, One-Offs and Design Art Furniture" by Sophie Lavell

Op-Ed: Life After Ada: Reassessing the Utility of Architectural Criticism: Ada Louise Huxtable deserves mucho thanks and praise - but other questions moving us to a new flavor of criticism have to be asked. By Norman Weinstein- ArchNewsNow

A tale of two cities: Sydney is vacuous and superficial. Melbourne is cultural and refined. Or have we got it all wrong? - Sydney Morning Herald

The transformation of Berlin's museum: ...The Neues Museum...has been restored...with skill, intelligence and delicacy...has become one of the most moving and beautiful buildings in the city...surely, one of the finest, most poetic and most visceral museums in the world. By Edwin Heathcote -- Friedrich August Stüler (1855); David Chipperfield; Julian Harrap- Financial Times (UK)

Fisher museum plan toned down to mesh with Presidio park: ...an effort to make the museum feel like part of the larger district, rather than an icon unto itself...the change from last year is remarkable, a compromise that might actually bear fruit. By John King -- WRNS Studio [images]- San Francisco Chronicle

Toddlin' Town: Daniel Burnham's great Chicago Plan turns one hundred...remains the most effective example of large-scale urban planning America has ever seen...To Jane Jacobs, Burnham was Robert Moses with better taste...Mumford and Jacobs...failed to see that [his] monumental style strove for social betterment as well as aesthetic uplift. By Paul Goldberger -- Zaha Hadid; Ben Van Berkel- New Yorker

Bangalore's historical prison gets a magnificent make-over: ...into a multi-use urban green land called the Freedom Park...all set to set free people not only from shackle of political injustice but also from the monotony of concrete landscape, polluting environment and a stereotype museum architecture. -- Soumitro Ghosh/Nisha Mathew Ghosh/mathew & ghosh architects- Deccan Herald (India)

Architecture of Hope Revisited: BC saw a flowering of innovative First Nations school design. What grows there now? By Adele Weder -- Patkau Architects; Acton Johnson Ostry (now Acton Ostry); Larry MacFarland Architects; Peter Cardew [slide show]- The Tyee (Vancouver)

Zero carbon schools could save £165m in energy bills: Early findings from £1m Target Zero study find £22 potential saving for every pupil in the UK - Faber Maunsell, Cyril Sweett to publish guidance on building types – schools, warehouses, offices, supermarkets and mixed use.- Building (UK)

Frank Gehry considers an accomplished past and uncertain future: As the renowned architect turns 80, the recession slows down his remaining grand projects..."it leaves a very hollow feeling in your bones...if there's frugality, I'm ready. I'll do corrugated again. It's fun to work that way...Why spend all the money for fancy details and stuff?...You can get the passion with simpler things." By Christopher Hawthorne [slide show]- Los Angeles Times

First look at clinic design [Lou Ruvo Brain Institute] made Dr. Khachaturian think: "...we like to create edifices to immortalize a person, and that can eat up a tremendous amount of resources...But when I met...Frank Gehry, I had a completely different attitude...Having a world famous architect put his name onto a building dedicated to neurodegenerative diseases...has an enormous symbolic value to the world." - Las Vegas Sun

Green Guru William McDonough Must Change, Demand His Biggest Fans: Roger Cox's plea is for McDonough to partner with the Dutch government in order to create a public private partnership...- Fast Company

Junked cars morph into green manufactured houses: Boydston Metal Works has gone from building commercial car carriers to constructing manufactured green homes out of the crushed carcasses of junked vehicles. (About four to six cars

per house.)...experimental model home -- based on a stock plan from a magazine -- was completed for \$95 a square foot. -- Alan Mascord Design Associates; Ross Chapin Architects [images]- The Oregonian

Car Crashes to Please Mother Nature: "24" is going green, becoming the first "carbon neutral" television series...a model for other shows and inspire a higher level of environmental consciousness in viewers. - New York Times

Richard Koshalek's expansive vision got him ousted in Pasadena but hired in D.C.: Ironically for an arts leader who is committed to forging global connections, Koshalek's downfall at Pasadena's Art Center was a textbook case of the power of instant electronic connectivity. - Los Angeles Times

Obituary: Sverre Fehn, 84, Architect of Modern Nordic Forms: ...talent for applying Modernist ideas to traditional Nordic forms and materials earned him the Pritzker Architecture Prize in 1997 and made him the most prominent Norwegian architect of the postwar era... - New York Times

Poet Laureate Andrew Motion writes poem 'Frozen Music' for RIBA 175th anniversary - Building (UK)

Exhibition Review: "Yes is More": BIG at DAC, Copenhagen: Though the firm's housing projects are amazing and their enthusiasm is great, the comic book graphics are a bit much - it's hard not to roll your eyes, but definitely worth the roll. By Terri Peters [images]- ArchNewsNow

Design your Own Cabanon: 14 architects follow in Le Corbusier's footsteps and design their own 'cabanons' in 45 minutes. -- Eva Jiricnae; Ben Addy/Moxon Architects; Christophe Egret/Studio Egret West; Claudio Silvestrin; Richard Walker/Tim Bushe/Walker Bushe Architects; Chee-Kit Lai/Max Dewdney/Mobile Studio; Narinder Sagoo/Foster + Partners; Pippa Nissen/Nissen Adams; Adrian Friend; Erlend Blakstad Haffner/Håkon Mætre Aasarød/Fantastic Norway; Robert Sakula/Cany Ash/Ash Sakula Architects; Piers Gough/CZWG; etc. [images, videos]- Blueprint Magazine

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