

Today's News - Friday, March 6, 2009

- A look at which developments businesses should monitor over the next several months on the road to the U.N. Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December.
- What to do about climate change if we only have seven years to do it.
- Can modern architecture be truly sustainable? Yes, says Hopkins' Taylor; no, says Victorian Society's Dungavell.
- Melbourne ripe for a makeover: it's "slipping down the scale as one of the world's best designed cities," says Cox.
- Cannell offers his (somewhat amusing) take on Adam Kalkin, "one of architecture's more unorthodox practitioners" (+ an eye-ful of his shipping container homes).
- Chipperfield "makes war-damaged Berlin's cultural heart whole again."
- A thoughtful tribute to Kaplicky by Leveté.
- Weekend diversions (and lots of 'em!): Corbu still has them talking: Willey discovers "he was also a superb interior designer and artist"; and a "voyeuristic wander through the big man's little holiday home."
- Rybczynski on a Louis Kahn show in Philadelphia: "a reminder that the famous architect still has much to teach us" (great pix).
- Hume on a Toronto show that explores urban vertical farming: "proof positive that in a place like Toronto, anything grows."
- Dutch design is wowing them in Jakarta.
- Romero and LAR in Pittsburgh; Preissner in Chicago.
- Chair design is anything but a bum's rush in Melbourne.
- "Silence" is not so hushed at the Canary Islands' second architecture and art biennial.
- Cinematic takes: a Koolhaas documentary: when he compares architecture to script writing, "it may not be precisely clear what he means, it's food for thought."
- Rose on FLW's place in film history: "Hollywood's architect of dystopia...when film-makers want to portray a sterile, authoritarian future, who better to turn to?"
- Museum of Finnish Architecture offers up a film maker's view of Austrian architecture.
- Architecture gets its close-up with winners of inaugural "Story About a Place" competition (lots of 6-minute flicks to watch, too).
- Page turners: Till's "Architecture Depends" is "far too concerned with what architects write rather than with what they do."
- YEM is a treasure trove of design, art, and architecture in one bookstore in the heart of Istanbul.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Don't forget that clocks spring ahead one hour this weekend in the U.S. (let's hope spring will follow shortly!).

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Looking for Signs Along the Road to Copenhagen: The path to a new international climate change treaty is filled with potential twists and turns that will impact how businesses operate in a carbon-constrained economy...a look at which developments businesses should monitor over the next several months on the road to the U.N. Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December. [\[links\]](#)- ClimateBiz

Where there is urgency, there is opportunity: What to do about climate change if we only have seven years to do it...The sustainable buildings solution; Inspired policy; the Passivhaus movement; Leaps in technology...we might not be as far behind as one would have guessed. - Sustainable Industries Journal

Can modern architecture be truly sustainable? Yes, says Hopkins' MD Bill Taylor, we have no choice but to build sustainably; no, says the Victorian Society director Ian Dungavell, modern architects prefer gadgetry to thermal mass-BD/Building Design (UK)

Melbourne ripe for a makeover, says top architect: The boom years have, in many areas, sculpted a city driven by commercialism rather than quality design...is slipping down the scale as one of the world's best designed cities... -- Philip Cox/Cox Group- The Age (Australia)

Would You Live In A Shipping Container? Cheap, transportable and recyclable, Adam Kalkin's container homes may be the next wave of prefab...He's one of architecture's more unorthodox practitioners, but original thinking may be what's called for as architecture works its way through..."a crisis of relevance." By Michael Cannell [\[images, links\]](#)- Fast Company

British architect makes war-damaged Berlin's cultural heart whole again: After 60 years of neglect, the Neues Museum is 'woken from its slumber'..."We didn't agree on everything, but I wouldn't have wanted it any other way...as architects we always complain that normal people are not interested enough in architecture, so I got my justice here." -- David Chipperfield- Guardian (UK)

Tribute: Jan and me: Amanda Leveté on Jan Kaplicky: ...[he] was a visionary architect whose creativity drove him to test the bounds of the possible, says his former wife and design partner- Building (UK)

Another view: Martin Willey on Le Corbusier: The Art of Architecture: ...I hadn't realised he was also a superb interior designer and an artist...Whatever you might feel about the idea of imposing masterplans on a city, Le Corbusier did it with great grace.- Guardian (UK)

Le Corbusier's Cabanon: Have a voyeuristic wander through the big man's little holiday home, which has just been reconstructed in London. [\[images\]](#)- Icon magazine (UK)

Back to the Drawing Board: Louis Kahn and the lost art of sketching..."Louis I. Kahn: The Making of a Room"...at the Arthur Ross Gallery of the University of Pennsylvania, is a reminder that the famous architect still has much to teach us. By Witold Rybczynski [\[slide show essay\]](#)- Slate

Sty in sky rethinks how we can farm in city: Welcome to Pig City...one of several dozen proposals brought together in "Carrot City: Designing for Urban Agriculture" at the Design Exchange...offers proof positive that in a place like Toronto, anything grows. By Christopher Hume -- MVRDV- Toronto Star

"Tangible Traces" other faces of Dutch design: ...traveling exhibition has finally arrived in Jakarta...exhibition's question: How do architecture and design take on meaning in a world that has become uniform as a result of globalization, standardization and commercialization? ...by embracing countervailing notions such as craftsmanship, tradition and context. -- Hella Jongerius; Onix; Frank Havermans- The Jakarta Post

Carnegie's 'Laboratory' builds bridges to innovation: The first monographic exhibit dedicated to the work of Fernando Romero and his Mexico City-based practice, LAR (Laboratory of Architecture)...focuses on today's global realities with innovative ideas of form, structure, space and surface through new building forms, imaginative structures and concepts for civic space. [\[images\]](#)- Pittsburgh Tribune-Review

Paul Preissner at Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago March 7-29...a new role for drawing within architecture as a medium to communicate the architectural effect of the project, instead of just its plan. A new set of work...looks at the unique combination of surface patterns -- "spotting" as a communicative strategy for identification -- and form as a method of spatial

organization. - Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago

Chair design in Melbourne: The bum has been the great unmentionable in polite circles, used to describe those at the 'bottom' of the hierarchy. But, as the National Gallery of Victoria proves, a museum of high art is the right place for the backside to park itself. -- Wright; Breur; Mies Van der Rohe; Eames; Piretti; Mackintosh; etc. - The Economic Times (India)

In pictures: Canary Islands second architecture and art biennial in Las Palmas and Tenerife...around the theme of 'Silencio', or silence...intended as a meditation and study of the landscape of these seven islands and their unique geographical, topographical and sociological make-up. -- Juan Manuel Palerm [images]- The Architects' Journal (UK)

The busy, captivating "Rem Koolhaas: A Kind of Architect" takes a documentary approach to the creations of the Dutch architect...At one point, [he] compares architecture to script writing...While it may not be precisely clear what he means, it's food for thought. - Seattle Times

Hollywood's architect of dystopia: When film-makers want to portray a sterile, authoritarian future, who better to turn to than the eccentric, but brilliant, Frank Lloyd Wright? Perhaps Wright's architecture will be rescued from the sci-fi brigade at last – with a story as racy as his, who needs special effects? By Steve Rose [links]- Guardian (UK)

Sense of Architecture: 46 Architectural Structures in and from Styria Filmed by Heinz Emigholz at the Museum of Finnish Architecture March 13- May 31 -- Feyferlik-Fritzer; Günther Domenig; Wolfgang Tschapeller/Friedrich W. Schöffauer; Vito Acconci [images]- Museum of Finnish Architecture

Architecture Gets Its Close Up: Society for Moving Images about the Built Environment (SMIBE) just announced the winners of its inaugural "Story About a Place" competition, which looked for short films (less than 6 minutes long) that "reveal new sides or issues about a place told by memorable characters." [links to films]- The Architect's Newspaper

Book review: Tilling infertile architectural ground: There's a whiff of hypocrisy in Jeremy Till's call in his latest book ["Architecture Depends"] for architects to re-engage with the everyday...[he] is far too concerned with what architects write rather than with what they do. - BD/Building Design (UK)

A treasure of design, art and architecture in one bookstore...in the center of Istanbul...Although it is not widely known outside the academic world, the Building Information Center, or YEM...plays a crucial role building bridges between the producers and users of building materials, through fairs, publications and events. - Hürriyet Daily News (Turkey)

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

WORDS THAT BUILD: Taking Advantage of Interruptions in Architectural Communication: Tip #12: Cogent communicators exploit opportunities offered by interruptions. By Norman Weinstein- ArchNewsNow



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

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