

## Today's News - Tuesday, April 28, 2009

EDITOR'S NOTE: Early morning travel plans tomorrow, so there will be no newsletter - heading to San Fran for AIA conference...we may - or may not - be able to post news the rest of this week. But we'll definitely be back Monday, May 4.

- Shipping containers stylishly stacked for an apartment complex near a Salt Lake City commuter rail station (very TOD).
- National Trust for Historic Preservation names its 2009 roster of America's most endangered historic places (Modernism included).
- This should add ammunition to Los Angeles Conservancy's battle to save the Century Plaza Hotel.
- Hume hopes NYC's transportation commissioner's pedestrian point of view will inspire Toronto to value the public realm more than it does.
- In St. Louis, a call "to look at the same kind of independent, open process that yielded Saarinen's masterpiece" to see how the city should move forward with the Arch grounds' next phase.
- In L.A., revised design for Grand Avenue's Civic Park "adds more softscape to a project whose earlier iteration had been criticized for preserving too much paving" (now all it needs is the money).
- Developer denies Viñoly being sidelined on Battersea Power Station plans.
- CBE trounces London 2012 Olympics media center: "awkward and unresolved" and "extraordinary banality" (ouch!).
- King welcomes AIA conventioners to his city with "7 misconceptions to toss into the recycling bin" (no, San Franciscans don't hate everything new; and no, big-name outsiders don't have all the fun).
- Q&A with Saunders re: "Urban Design" and his take on the complex issues presented in the book.
- Iovine interviews Polshek re: his recession tales, survival, and success.
- The "cunning and humanistic architect" behind Turkey's Building Information Center/YEM, and his hope that urban planning is gaining importance.
- "Shrinking Cities: Growing Communities": ACD's 2009 Annual Conference coming up.
- Heathcote gives a hearty thumbs-up to Sorkin's "delightful" new book: "Quirky, erudite and occasionally frustrating...every city should have its Sorkin."
- Cambell finds Breuer show at RISD "a rich education in 50 years of modern architecture and design."
- Fluxlab wants to organize a community of designers and inventors to bring innovative ideas to life.
- Former U.S. Chief Architect Feiner makes a move (again).
- Iovine's take on the Milan furniture fair: "offered derring-do design, along with a yearning for the comfortably clunky."
- Sudjic and Hall on how the recently-deceased author JG Ballard "cast his shadow right across the arts" - including architecture.

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**Stylish Stacking: Shipping containers will jump off the rails to form an innovative multifamily apartment complex near a Salt Lake City commuter rail station.** -- Group 41 [images] - ArchNewsNow

**Preservation Group Lists Most Endangered Places: When the National Trust for Historic Preservation assembles its annual roster of America's most endangered historic places, it looks for more than aesthetic distinction...at risk of being destroyed or irreparably damaged.** -- Frank Lloyd Wright; Minoru Yamasaki; Hilario Candela [slide show] - New York Times

**Preservationists, developer square off over Century Plaza Hotel: The owners plan to demolish the hotel and replace it with a \$2-billion commercial and residential complex. The Los Angeles Conservancy wants to save it...crescent-shaped monument of mid-century modernism...is poised to become the focus of what promises to be an intense battle over preservation.** By Martha Groves -- Minoru Yamasaki; Henry N. Cobb/Pei Cobb Freed [image, links] - Los Angeles Times

**Taking the pedestrian point of view: ...New York Transportation Commissioner Janette Sadik-Khan is a woman in a hurry...new public plazas and squares have appeared in two or three weeks, unheard of in these parts...In Toronto, the stumbling point has always been a culture that devalues the public realm, a lack of political will and a recalcitrant municipal bureaucracy.** By Christopher Hume - Toronto Star

**Op-Ed: Eero Saarinen shows way for Arch grounds' next phase: ...we have only to look at the process that yielded Saarinen's masterpiece to see how we should move forward...Civic leaders should...back the same kind of independent, open process that helped make the Arch a reality and gave St. Louis one of the world's great works of public art.** - St. Louis Post-Dispatch

**Civic Park of the Mind: New design remains contingent on stalled funding: ...a key benefit to the Grand Avenue project...alteration of the base park adds more softscape to a project whose earlier iteration had been criticized for preserving too much paving.** -- Rios Clementi Hale Studios [images] - The Architect's Newspaper

**Developer denies sidelining Viñoly at Battersea Power Station: Treasury Holdings...scotched rumours that John Thompson & Partners had been brought into to help masterplan the site...did say that more architects could be brought in as the scheme progressed and that had been the intention from the start of the £4 billion project.** - The Architects' Journal (UK)

**2012 media centre 'would blight Olympic legacy', says Cobe: ...has savaged plans for London 2012's Olympic media centre, saying it is unable to support the current designs...described the site layout as "awkward and unresolved" and criticised the "extraordinary banality" ...** -- RPS Group; Allies & Morrison [image, links] - BD/Building Design (UK)

**San Francisco architecture myths debunked: When it comes to architecture, here are seven misconceptions to toss into the recycling bin on your way to the Ferry Building.** By John King - San Francisco Chronicle

**Q & A: William Saunders: ...editor of Harvard Design Magazine, and GSD professor Alex Krieger, collaborated on the new book Urban Design, which asks prominent architects, landscape architects, and planners to take stock of**

the field of urban design—how it's evolved, where it's fallen short, and what its purpose should be...his take on the complex issues presented in the book. - Metropolis Magazine

Recession Tales: James Polshek: The founder of Polshek Partnership Architects discusses his early successes, how he weathered the nightmarish 1972 crash, and survival strategies that gave rise to a storied career in preservation. By Julie V. Iovine - The Architect's Newspaper

"Architecture: Turkey's recognized art branch": Dogan Hosal, a cunning and humanistic architect...is the chairman of the Building Information Center, or YEM...there is a lack of urban planning in Turkey that could prevent uncontrolled growth...just gaining importance...Before urban planners the job was trying to be handled by architects. -- Has Mimarlik- Hürriyet Daily News (Turkey)

Shrinking Cities: Growing Communities: Association for Community Design 2009 Annual Conference  
Rochester, NY, June 4-7 (hotel booking deadline: May 4) - Association for Community Design (ACD)

"Twenty Minutes in Manhattan": In his delightful book, Michael Sorkin writes about New York from a flaneur's perspective...one of architecture's most consistent and consistently interesting critical voices -- meanders through architecture, urbanism, sociology, politics and history...Quirky, erudite and occasionally frustrating...every city should have its Sorkin. By Edwin Heathcote - Financial Times (UK)

Breuer brand of modernism: "Marcel Breuer: Design and Architecture" at the Rhode Island School of Design Museum...was a major furniture designer but as an architect he fell a little short of the top rank. Nevertheless, a visit to this show is a rich education in 50 years of modern architecture and design. By Robert Campbell - Boston Globe

Fluxlab: Making Ideas Happen: The Revolution Door is a simple idea that can have a great impact...How can we organize as a community of designers and inventors to bring our ideas forward, sharing resources, ideas and feedback in order to bring these ideas to life? By Jennifer Broutin and Carmen Trudell [images] - Urban Omnibus

Edward Feiner, Former U.S. Chief Architect, Joins Perkins+Will as Principal - BusinessWire

Into the Woods: This week's Milan furniture fair offered derring-do design, along with a yearning for the comfortably clunky..."It's easy to do great work when the resources are plentiful. It will be interesting to see what designers can do with just a little. It's a benchmark time." By Julie V. Iovine [images] - The Architect's Newspaper

How J.G. Ballard cast his shadow right across the arts: Ballard's influence on culture went far beyond literature...his lasting impact on film, pop, architecture, TV and visual art -- Deyan Sudjic - Guardian (UK)

J.G. Ballard's architectural inspiration: ...a writer whose controversial work drew inspiration from the built environment in its many forms; multi-storey car parks, busy highways and giant shopping malls. Ballard expert Chris Hall picks five "Ballard buildings" - The Architects' Journal (UK)



-- Massimiliano & Doriana Fuksas: Parish Church and Complex, Foligno, Italy  
-- Under construction: Kevin Roche John Dinkeloo & Assoc.: Convention Centre, Dublin, Ireland

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