

Today's News - Monday, November 23, 2009

- ArcSpace brings us eyefuls of two very different mobile performance spaces by Coop Himmelb(l)au and Zaha Hadid.
- Industrialized nations have a plan to bring to Copenhagen re: reigning in emissions, but not much hope if China and the U.S. don't come to the table.
- Canadian, British, and Australian architectural organizations team up to bring a 15 point "call for action" on climate change to Copenhagen.
- Energy Star program heading for an overhaul, but exactly what it will be is a bit unclear.
- Transit use is growing, but not where you think.
- Moore's take on "London's Great Outdoors" plan: it's "a sane document," but will it actually deliver the goods; "the answer is a resounding maybe... The city's culture is changing, if glacially, towards valuing public space."
- Kamin has high hopes for big changes in store for Chicago's Northerly Island and a corner of Grant Park.
- It looks like Boston's Big Dig will finally deliver on its promise to fill in some missing links.
- Russell rues whatever the legal outcome will be re: Brooklyn's Atlantic Yards: the project "has already changed drastically for the worse."
- The Dutch extend a helping hand to create "more tangible, humane and sustainable" architecture and public spaces in Calcutta.
- Dunlop cheers the "new, world-worthy buildings" boosting South Florida's profile, some of it "big and even flamboyant. Others are more modest in scale and aspiration."
- Kennicott lauds Stern's presidential library for its "cool, quiet and dignified design."
- U.K.'s architecture minister refuses to list Madin's 1974 Birmingham Central Library for not having "sufficient historical or architectural importance."
- Groves on a united effort to save Yamasaki's 1966 Century Plaza Hotel.
- Archial wins big for its Small Animal Hospital pocketing the Doolan Award Best Building in Scotland.
- Campbell visits a new cohousing project in New Hampshire and finds it "a model for the future" because of the "quiet moves you don't notice at first" resulting in a "serious, sophisticated design."
- A yes and a no to whether the Glasgow Lighthouse will thrive in public hands.
- A French architect transforms a McDonald's in Manhattan with a euro-themed design, art deco, and free wifi (pix to prove it).
- Call for nominations: The Cultural Landscape Foundation seeks landscapes and landscape features threatened with destruction or irreversible damage.

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-- Coop Himmelb(l)au: Mobile Performance Space, Pavilion 21 MINI Opera Space
-- Zaha Hadid Architects: Mobile Performance Space, JS Bach / Chamber Music Hall

Industrialized Nations Unveil Plans to Rein in Emissions: If neither China nor the United States made a commitment, the national plans of lesser emitters would have little practical effect. - [New York Times](#)

RIBA teams up to produce call climate change 'call for action': ...has joined forces with architecture institutes around the world to deliver a 15 point "call for action" on climate change in Copenhagen next month...challenges governments and the architecture profession to work together to achieve lasting action to combat global warming. - [BD/Building Design \(UK\)](#)

'Super Star' Green Label Proposed: A major overhaul to the Energy Star program, which currently certifies and labels products that are energy efficient, is imminent. How this overhaul occurs remains to be seen...how many more green labels can be created before consumers can no longer discern between them? - [GreenerBuildings.com](#)

Transit Use is Growing, But Not Where You Think: ...the top ten metropolitan areas where transit use has increased the most. - [PLANetizen](#)

London's streets need less clutter and more class: "London's Great Outdoors"...is a sane document in pursuit of aims that everyone should support, the only question being whether it will actually deliver the good things of which it speaks...the answer is a resounding maybe...London could be a model again. The city's culture is changing, if glacially, towards valuing public space. By Rowan Moore - [Evening Standard \(UK\)](#)

Northerly Island, northeast corner of Grant Park have big changes in store; both getting fresh designs - maybe for the better...no one should expect either project to travel a smooth road. By Blair Kamin -- Michael Van Valkenburgh; JJR landscape architects; Studio Gang Architects - [Chicago Tribune](#)

State ready to fill in Big Dig's missing links: Bridges to connect city's green spaces: It was touted as the Big Dig's greatest open-space gift to Boston...[Last] week, state environmental officials...took a huge step toward addressing that failure. - [Boston Globe](#)

Bruce Ratner's Brooklyn Arena Awaits Judges' Ruling, Bond Sale: The project has already changed drastically for the worse...smacks of hack expediency...Brooklyn might have been proud of the Gehry arena. Swapping it for a life-sucking eyesore suggests that Ratner won't keep any promises that prove inconvenient. By James S. Russell -- Ellerbe Becket/AECO; SHoP Architects - [Bloomberg News](#)

Dutch help in shaping urban space: Holland has extended a helping hand to create "more tangible, humane and sustainable" architecture in Calcutta and encourage a more inclusive approach towards urban design of its public spaces. -- Arcam (Amsterdam Centre for Architecture) - [The Telegraph \(India\)](#)

Getting what we deserve: New, world-worthy buildings boost South Florida's profile...Some are indeed big and even flamboyant. Others are more modest in scale and aspiration. By Beth Dunlop -- Herzog & de Meuron; John Marquette; Frank Gehry; West 8; Hargreaves Associates; William Lane; Duany Plater-Zyberk; Joanna Lombard; Rene Gonzalez; Cure and Penabad; Khoury & Vogt; Arquitectonica - [Miami Herald](#)

A presidential library with modest virtues: Low profile distinguishes Robert A.M. Stern's design for Bush Center in Dallas...the cool, quiet and dignified design...a rather odd architectural postscript to eight dramatic years of governance. By Philip Kennicott - [Washington Post](#)

Architecture Minister Hodge refuses to list Birmingham Central Library: Both English Heritage and the Twentieth Century Society has voiced their disappointment about rejection..."This decision was finely balanced but the Minister concluded the

building did not have sufficient historical or architectural importance to merit listing." -- John Madin (1974) [images]- The Architects' Journal (UK)

Saving Century Plaza Hotel takes a whole village: Neighborhood groups, preservationists and a councilman galvanize to negotiate a rescue plan with the hotel's owners, who want to build a retail-condo complex on the site..."the developer is exploring all possible options." By Martha Groves -- Minoru Yamasaki (1966) [image]- Los Angeles Times

Archial's Small Animal Hospital lands £25,000 first prize: ...has won the 2009 RIAS Andrew Doolan Award Best Building in Scotland Award with its 'unique and ingenious' new veterinary hospital in Glasgow -- Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland [images]- The Architects' Journal (UK)

A model for the future with an eye to the past: Cohousing development blends community with a respect for the land...What makes Nubanusit Neighborhood and Farm a memorable work of architecture and planning is the host of quiet moves you don't notice at first...Simple as it seems, [it] is the result of serious, sophisticated design. By Robert Campbell -- O'Neil Pennoyer Architects [image]- Boston Globe

Will the Glasgow Lighthouse thrive in public hands? Architect and critic Peter Wilson says, no, it has long ceased to deliver any genuine national function, but Page Park founder David Page argues that it is time a national institution found a setting in Scotland's biggest city.- BD/Building Design (UK)

Upscale McDonald's brings European style to NYC: ...the Chelsea location is the first "urban redesign" in the U.S...featuring a euro-themed design, art deco and free wifi. -- Philippe Avanzi [images]- Associated Press (AP)

Call for entries/nominations: 2010 Landslide: Every Tree Tells a Story, an annual thematic compendium of landscapes and landscape features threatened with destruction or irreversible damage; deadline: March 31, 2010- The Cultural Landscape Foundation

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