

Today's News - Tuesday, January 5, 2010

- Kamin, Moore, and Rose on the Burj Dubai - 'er - now the Burj Khalifa (just think what it will cost to change the signage, maps, and t-shirts!); its "poetry comes from its mismatch of symbol and reality...a pratfall on a heroic scale"; it "may be a triumph of beauty and ambition, but the soulless cityscape surrounding it is another matter."
- An excellent in-depth look at the history of Dubai's development - and its future: the discussion has "started to move towards quality of life" (and residents "yearn for more spaces outside of shopping malls").
- Q&A with Adrian Smith: is it all you imagined? "It's pretty awesome."
- Guangzhou is "setting the standard for sustainable transportation and livability" in China.
- Cannell queries "will the new suburbia omit cul-de-sacs?"
- Campbell on Boston's brief but fascinating Age of Concrete: "We don't have to sanctify it, but we shouldn't rip it all down either."
- King offers a fascinating take on the Transamerica Pyramid's "steep path from civic eyesore to icon...As its novelty has faded, the sense of adventure has endured...brash and slightly odd - just like the city it calls home."
- Heathcote x 2: Hadid's Maxii in Rome is "an impeccable job"; and a new arts center in Ireland "offers a glimpse of relief and a reminder of just how good architecture can lift the town and the soul."
- Q&A with Viñoly re: his Las Vegas CityCenter adventure: he was pleasantly surprised by sense of community..."That is something that is very rare to find today."
- CUF's Bowles offers 20 predictions for NYC 2010 and beyond.
- Boston's best buildings of the decade: what make them important are not just buildings themselves but their revitalizing effect.
- Brussat looks at how "Providence muffed the decade" (an era of "uglies").
- Litt reviews 2009: Cleveland "finished the year in suspense...The biggest suspense regards the city itself."
- A handy round-up of 2009 architecture and design awards, "the year of wallflowers and newcomers."
- RFQ to develop innovative design options for Toronto's Gardiner Expressway and Lake Shore Boulevard.
- Call for entries: Temporary Outdoor Gallery Space 3 (TOGS 3) International Ideas Competition; and 2010 North American Copper in Architecture Awards.

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Dubai opens - and renames - world's tallest building; announced height is 828 meters, or 2717 feet: ...in a stunning move...the Burj Dubai was renamed the Burj Khalifa in honor of the president of...Abu Dhabi, which bailed Dubai out of its recent financial crisis. By Blair Kamin -- Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) - Chicago Tribune

World's tallest tower scales heights of delusion: As an emblem of the change of decade, there is nothing more deliciously poignant than yesterday's opening of the \$4 billion, 818-metre...Burj Dubai. It wraps up all the fantasy and excess, the hubris, recklessness and spectacle of the past 10 years into a single, glittering, photogenic, headline-friendly package...The poetry of the Burj comes from its mismatch of symbol and reality...a pratfall on a heroic scale. By Rowan Moore - Evening Standard (UK)

Burj Dubai is the height of architecture -- just don't look down: The world's tallest building may be a triumph of beauty and ambition, but the soulless cityscape surrounding it is another matter...the tentpole for several more acres of anonymous, soulless, energy-hungry cityscape...might be a triumph vertically, but what about the horizontal? By Steve Rose -- Adrian Smith; Bill Baker; SOM - Guardian (UK)

Attaching a sense of urban life to Dubai: ...it is time to take a longer view on how development should progress...Ask an average resident and they will say they yearn for more spaces outside of shopping malls...Discussions among architects, urban planners, property brokers and developers have already started to move towards quality of life thanks to market forces..."We architects should really sit and evaluate our role in society." -- John Harris (1960s); Urbis; Yasser Elsheshtawy; Sabah al Rayes - The National (UAE)

Meet the architect of the world's tallest tower: ...the man who designed the building that has smashed all world records. The chief architect for the Burj Khalifa [Burj Dubai], Adrian Smith, speaks about his achievement...is it all you imagined? "It's pretty awesome." - Khaleej Times (UAE)

A Glimpse into the Future: Changing China: Models of high-density, largely carfree urban development are being achieved without fanfare in Guangzhou...setting the standard for sustainable transportation and liveability in towns and cities across this rapidly developing nation. Here we see that elements of globalisation...can be successfully balanced to create places with sustainability, liveability, sociability and profitability. - Carbusters Magazine (Prague)

Death to Dead Ends: Will the New Suburbia Omit Cul-de-Sacs? ...as planners try to adapt the American dream to the new realities of sustainability, cul-de sacs are under attack. By Michael Cannell [images] - Fast Company

The beauty of concrete: Young architects say there's much to love about Boston's 'heroic' buildings...The Age of Concrete was a brief chapter, but a fascinating one...We don't have to sanctify it, but we shouldn't rip it all down either. The task today is to recognize that the era existed and that it mattered, and to begin the task of evaluating what was good and what was bad. By Robert Campbell -- over, under; pinkcomma; Le Corbusier; I.M. Pei; Aldo Cossutta; Kallmann, McKinnell and Knowles; Benjamin Thompson; Paul Rudolph; Josep Lluís Sert - Boston Globe

Transamerica Pyramid's steep path from civic eyesore to icon: ...not great architecture. But it's an architectural icon of the best sort - one that fits its location and gets better with age...It also shows that architecture is more complex than what a first glance reveals...As its novelty has faded, the sense of adventure has endured...brash and slightly odd - just like the city it calls home. By John King -- William Pereira (1972) [images] - San Francisco Chronicle

Rome's newest art museum: The plan for...€150m Maxxi museum...looks like a diagram of a highly complex railway junction. It is hardly the most romantic image...But as you enter the lobby, that fiercely reductive diagram disappears in a puff of theatrical dry-ice and reveals instead a thrillingly theatrical interior...an impeccable job. By Edwin Heathcote -- Zaha Hadid - Financial Times (UK)

Visual Centre for Contemporary Art & George Bernard Shaw Theatre, Carlow, Ireland: ...an icy block that seems to suck the greyness of the sky into itself and illuminate the heart of the town...offers a glimpse of relief and a reminder of just how good architecture can lift the town and the soul. By Edwin Heathcote -- Terry Pawson Architects [images, links] - Financial Times (UK)

Q&A with Vdara architect Rafael Viñoly: Design star says he was pleasantly surprised by sense of community..."That is something that is very rare to find today." - Las Vegas Business Press

The future of the city: Ring in the new New York in 2020: The city of the future will have new faces, older faces, crowded subways, mega-development projects...20 predictions for NYC 2010. By Jonathan Bowles/Center for an Urban Future (CUF) - NY Daily News

Brand new in Boston: Fresh look builds with stars, glass, 'green' tech, expressionism: Boston architecture broke out of its conservatism in the past decade with many outstanding and innovative buildings...highlights...aren't just buildings themselves but their revitalizing effect. -- William Rawn; Office dA; Hacin Associates; Frank Gehry; Rafael Vinoly; Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Behnisch, Behnisch and Partners; Steven Holl; Fumihiko Maki; Charles Correa; Polshek Partnership; Cambridge Seven; Michael Fieldman; Anmahian Winton; TLCR Architecture; Stull and Lee; Elkus/Manfredi; CBT Architects; Schopfer Associates; Machado & Silvetti - Boston Herald

How Providence muffed the decade: I refer to beauty, its primary attribute. The city entered the decade embracing beauty and it leaves the decade rejecting beauty. This was a big mistake...Sadly, the uglies paved the way for a return, after an absence of 30 years, to the practice of demolishing beautiful old buildings. By David Brussat [images]- Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

Steven Litt reviews 2009 in Cleveland art, architecture and planning: If your taste runs to cliffhangers, 2009 was the perfect year for you...Major institutions and big projects took serious hits from sheer fate or from a lousy economy, and finished the year in suspense...The biggest suspense regards the city itself. Will Cleveland continue shrinking...? -- Burt, Hill; Farshid Moussavi (formerly Foreign Office Architects (FOA); James Corner Field Operations; Stanton Eckstut/Ehrenkrantz Eckstut & Kuhn (EE&K); Miguel Rosales/Rosales + Partners [images]- Cleveland Plain Dealer

Design and architecture awards 2009: a year of surprises...the year of wallflowers and newcomers. -- Peter Zumthor; Peter Bohlin/Bohlin Cywinski Jackson; Richard Rogers/Rogers Stirk Harbour; I.M. Pei; Marten Baas; SHoP Architects; Tsao & McKown Architects; Hood Design; Peter Rich Architects; Murman Arkitekter; Isay Weinfeld; McBride Charles Ryan; WOHA; Morphogenesis; ; Behnisch Architekten; Allen Jack & Cottier; Sordo Madaleno Arquitectos; Battie & Roig Architects; Produkcija 004- Independent (UK)

Call for Request for Qualifications (RFQ): Competition to Develop Innovative Design Options for the Gardiner Expressway and Lake Shore Boulevard Reconfiguration Environmental Assessment Toronto (no fee for entry); cash prizes; deadline: January 25, 2010- Waterfront Toronto

Call for entries: Temporary Outdoor Gallery Space 3 (TOGS 3) International Ideas Competition; open to young professionals and students; registration deadline: March 26, 2010- Art Alliance Austin/AIA Austin

Call for entries: 2010 North American Copper in Architecture Awards to recognize innovative use of copper and copper alloys in residential and commercial building projects throughout the United States and Canada; deadline: January 31, 2010- Copper Development Association/Canadian Copper & Brass Development Association



-- David Chipperfield Architects: Anchorage Museum expansion, Anchorage, Alaska
-- Dominique Perrault: Ewha Woman's University, Seoul, Korea

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