

Today's News - Tuesday, May 25, 2010

EDITOR'S NOTE: We're making a second go at getting to ye merry London Town - volcano gods willing this time - so there will be no newsletter tomorrow. We'll try (can't promise) posting Thursday and Friday; we won't be posting Memorial Day/Monday, but promise to be back for sure Tuesday, June 1.

- Bernstein makes the case for moving Mies's Farnsworth House - but only further from the Fox River (not to East Hampton or Beverly Hills).
- Lindsay x 3: A report from CNU conference - HUD embraces New Urbanism; Duany "appeared deeply suspicious of his own movement's success"; and Calthorpe comes up with metrics that he hopes will change politics.
- A serious look at how "serious research into Wal-Mart's architecture could yield more than better boxes: all those numbers could add up to real change."
- A look at some initiatives to re-think our addiction to asphalt parking lots.
- Robert Adam argues "the case for classical design and urges a move away from a world split between new localism and kowtowing to fashion."
- Pearman ponders three young classicists who are storming RIBA "with confidence, self-belief - and a great sense of fun" with a show that's not to be missed.
- Hawthorne on Broad's big museum plans for L.A., and the big names attached - even though there's no confirmed site.
- Woodman is not wowed by Hadid's MAXXI in Rome: it is "certainly spectacular," but he's never "encountered a gallery that addresses its nominal function with such seeming cynicism."
- Halprin's Heritage Park in Ft. Worth on the list of Texas' Most Endangered Historic Places; now, in "a beautiful ironic twist," it's on the National Register of Historic Places (with high hopes for a much-needed restoration).
- Huxtable and Rybczynski tackle Palladio exhibit at NYC's Morgan Library: it's "a miraculous fusion of the distant past and immediate present."
- Kamin on the winners in competition to fill the Chicago Spire hole ("a load of whimsy" included).
- California is home to C2C MBDC's latest initiative, the non-profit Green Products Innovation Institute.
- Aga Khan Award for Architecture shortlists 19 projects (great presentations, too).
- University of Montreal's L.E.A.P is "a resource all architecture geeks will want to know about."
- We couldn't resist: Call for entries: Redesign BP's logo (a look at current submissions made us smile and wince).

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Move the Farnsworth House: Mies built the Farnsworth in spitting distance of the mighty Fox River, and the house is paying a price for his hubris. By Fred Bernstein [images]- ArchNewsNow

HUD Announces the End of Urban Sprawl as We Know It, New Urbanists Feel Fine: "It's time the federal government stopped encouraging sprawl"...we are all New Urbanists now. By Greg Lindsay-Fast Company

New Urbanism for the Apocalypse: Has the New Urbanism outlived its original purpose? The movement's charismatic founder, Andrés Duany, seems to think so...appeared deeply suspicious of his own movement's success...Nowhere was this cognitive dissonance more apparent than in the session introducing...agrarian urbanism. By Greg Lindsay -- James Howard Kunstler [images, links]- Fast Company

Peter Calthorpe's Vision for California: Save the Cities, Save the World: "The metrics matter, because they can change the politics," Calthorpe said. "The politics matter, because they can change the landscape for us as urban designers." By Greg Lindsay- Fast Company

All Those Numbers: Logistics, Territory and Walmart: What might the field of architecture learn from Walmart? What new research avenues, urban forms, building types and spatial conditions might emerge? ...could become a vital site for architectural experimentation...serious research into Walmart's architecture could yield more than better boxes: all those numbers could add up to real change. By Jesse LeCavalier [images, links]- Places Journal

Extreme Makeover: Parking Edition: The challenge for civic boosters like the Long Island Index is not only to urge developers to build more projects that involve mixed-use buildings, sidewalks, mass transit and bike lanes...but also to get Americans to start demanding parking spaces different from the flat fields of asphalt to which we're accustomed. By Lisa Selin Davis- Time Magazine

Progress isn't always modernist: Traditional architecture is preferred by the vast majority of the public, says Robert Adam, yet its practitioners are at best ignored by the architectural establishment, and at worst derided. He argues the case for classical design and urges a move away from a world split between new localism and kowtowing to fashion.- RIBA Journal (UK)

The history boys: The battleground of modernism versus traditionalism is old hat now, as a new generation of young classicists storms the RIBA with confidence, self-belief -- and a great sense of fun..."The Three Classicists" [at RIBA]...Don't miss this show. By Hugh Pearman -- Ben Pentreath; Francis Terry.; George Saumarez Smith [images]- RIBA Journal (UK)

Two architectural firms are finalists for Eli Broad museum project: Sources say the field of six architects, four of whom are winners of the Pritzker Prize, has been narrowed to Rem Koolhaas and Diller, Scofidio & Renfro. By Christopher Hawthorne -- Office for Metropolitan Architecture/OMA; Herzog & de Meuron; Christian de Portzamparc; Nishizawa /Sejima/SANAA; Foreign Office Architects/FOA- Los Angeles Times

Zaha Hadid's Maxi art gallery in Rome: stunning building, terrible gallery: ...wildly curvaceous design for Rome's new art museum is

certainly spectacular – but not fit for purpose...the architect has decreed that no art should be hung on the walls...I can't think that I have ever encountered a gallery that addresses its nominal function with such seeming cynicism. By Ellis Woodman- Telegraph (UK)

More sparkle for a Fort Worth jewel of a park: Lawrence Halprin's Heritage Park Plaza...has been placed on the list of Texas' Most Endangered Historic Places...in what is a beautiful ironic twist...being added to the National Register of Historic Places...a public/private partnership has been formed to raise the \$7.3 million needed to renovate the park and return it to public use.- Fort Worth Star-Telegram (Texas)

A Golden Age and Its Heirs: "Palladio and His Legacy: A Transatlantic Journey"...a miraculous fusion of the distant past and immediate present, a kind of aesthetic time warp that brings the man and his moment wonderfully alive...There is an intimacy, a sense of the architect's presence that no reproduction can achieve. By Ada Louise Huxtable [slide show]- Wall Street Journal

The Godfather: How a 16th-century Italian influenced the design of the White House, the New York Stock Exchange...Andrea Palladio's influence on American civic architecture. By Witold Rybczynski [slide show essay]- Slate

Filling the Chicago Spire hole - with a load of whimsy: ...winning entries in the Chicago Architectural Club's "Mine the Gap" ideas competition... By Blair Kamin [images, links]- Chicago Tribune

Cradle to Cradle Announces Green Products Innovation Institute: ...a non-profit organization based in California focused on transforming the making and consumption of things into a regenerative force for the planet. By Michelle Kaufmann -- William McDonough; C2C MBDC [links]- TreeHugger.com

Aga Khan Award for Architecture Shortlists 19 Projects of the 2010 Award Cycle -- Sasaki Associates/Machado and Silvetti Associates; Li Xiaodong; FARE Studio/Riccardo Vanucci; Kashef Mahboob Chowdhury; Arsh Design Studio; Emre Arolat Architects; Sobejano Architects; Studio Mumbai Architects; PT Bambu; URBANUS; Moriyma & Teshima Planners/Buro Happold; Architecture for Humanity; etc. [[link to images, info]- Aga Khan Development Network

Buildings that will be and might have been: ...a resource all architecture geeks will want to know about. That's the L.E.A.P at the Université de Montréal, the Laboratoire d'Etude de l'architecture potentielle, or Laboratory for the Study of Potential Architecture...based on a simple, elegant idea: architecture competitions can be a powerful analytical tool for studying trends in building design... -- Rem Koolhaas; David Chipperfield; Brad Cloepfil/Allied Works Architecture [images, links]- Maclean's (Canada)

Call for entries: Redesign BP's logo: How would you rebrand BP? deadline: June 28- Greenpeace



Shigeru Ban/Jean de Gastines: Centre Pompidou-Metz, Metz, France

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