

Today's News - Friday, June 18, 2010

- Booth on the "meddling prince" and some pesky e-mails revealing his efforts to "scupper modernist design for Chelsea Barracks" (when Charles gets NIMBY-ish, "property developers, architects and planners quake").
- Saffron gives cheers - and jeers - to "an architectural thought experiment" to transform an old granary: it's "as exciting as anything Philadelphia has seen in years," yet the idea "is as wrongheaded as it is irresistible."
- An eye-ful of Patkau's winning design for low-impact cottages at Fallingwater - "a subtle but provocative scheme burrowed into a high meadow" that "melds into the landscape rather than rivaling Wright's landmark below."
- Woodman finds Caruso St John's Chiswick House café quite wonderful.
- A panel discusses the differences between Danish and American approaches to embassy design.
- Uber-recycling: a Malibu house built from a Boeing 747 is almost ready for takeoff (with pix to prove it).
- More on Calatrava's ballet adventure: he "soon learned the differences between designing for the confines of the stage and building a full-scale, gravity-defying structure."
- Australian Institute of Architects hands out 2010 NSW Architecture Awards.
- Call for entries: "Felicity. Change your city, change your life" international competition for architects and graphic designers.
- Weekend diversions:
- Glancey rounds up his pick of top 10 London Festival of Architecture treats; and cheers the V&A's "1:1 - Architects Build Small Spaces": "even when they become historic curiosities, these buildings will have something worthwhile to tell us."
- Long is less laudatory: "the architects involved have responded rather predictably with self-absorbed and, for the most part, rather shallow reflections on what makes a refuge."
- A "wonderful exhibition" in Vancouver shows off architects' models.
- In NYC, a Brazilian photographer's seemingly abstract prints are actually "some of the world's most seductive new buildings"; and Creative Time offers free skeleton keys to some of the city's secret places.
- Vienna rediscovers Joseph Maria Olbrich with his first big exhibition in the city he helped shape (his "cabbage head" building looks amazing!).
- Mouzon's "Original Green" should be read "by everyone interested in crafting a more sustainable built environment."
- "Boathouses" by Mornement richly illustrates how "these once little-loved sheds have metamorphosed into breathtaking residences which are, frankly, too good for simply housing a boat."
- "The Houses of Greenwich Village" by Murphy and Rocheleau is "a beautiful book...that is also quite thoughtful...there is a lot more behind these brick facades than meets the eye."

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How the 'meddling prince' and his aides turned up heat on developers: Confidential emails reveal how Charles intervened to scupper modernist design for Chelsea barracks: The Prince of Wales is no normal Nimby. When the heir to the throne says "not in my back yard", property developers, architects and planners quake. By Robert Booth -- Rogers Stirk Harbour, Quinlan Terry - Guardian (UK)

Bad plan for a city landmark: ...an audacious proposal to transmute the old granary...into an apartment tower...Viewed purely as an architectural thought experiment...concept is as exciting as anything Philadelphia has seen in years...setting the stage for the neighborhood's transformation...The appeal is undeniable. And yet the idea...is as wrongheaded as it is irresistible. But resist Philadelphia must. By Inga Saffron -- Brian Phillips/Interface Studio Architects [images]- Philadelphia Inquirer

Fallingwater's New Bedfellows: Canadian firm wins competition for low-impact cottages to house visitors to famed Frank Lloyd Wright house...a subtle but provocative scheme burrowed into a high meadow...the ensemble melds into the landscape rather than rivaling Wright's landmark below. -- Patkau Architects [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Chiswick House café by Caruso St John: The initial formality...soon gives way to something more complex and mysterious...The building's certainties quickly melt away as if touched by a warming gust of romanticism blowing in from the surrounding grove. By Ellis Woodman [images]- BD/Building Design (UK)

Diplomacy through Architecture: ...Danish and American approaches to embassy design...buildings are a critical diplomatic tool, especially for small countries. The Danes, he argued, do buildings well and have some of the most climate-friendly, energy-efficient buildings in the world...The assumption now is that "every embassy is a terrorist target." In effect, this means embassies are no longer "representational buildings;" they now actually "impede public diplomacy." -- Richard N. Swett; Jane Loeffler; Kieren Timberlake/OLIN- The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Malibu house built from a Boeing 747 nears takeoff: ...taking on a new life as the "Wing House"...wings form the main residence while the cockpit has become the "Meditation Pavilion." -- David Hertz/Studio of Environmental Architecture [images]- USA Today

Dance Partners: Santiago Calatrava teams up with the New York City Ballet...The architect soon learned the differences between designing for the confines of the stage and building a full-scale, gravity-defying structure...Nonetheless, poetic connections between the two endeavors can be drawn. [images]- Metropolis Magazine

Canopied-glass stations make light work of Australian Institute of Architects' 2010 NSW Architecture Awards -- Hassell; Durbach Block Architects; Francis-Jones Morehen Thorp/fjmt; Tonkin Zulaikha Greer; JMD Design; Tzannes Associates; Brewster Hjorth Architects; Paul Berkemeier Architect/Barry McGregor and Associates; Workshop 1

Dunn + Hillam Architects [images]- Sydney Morning Herald

Call for entries: "Felicity. Change your city, change your life" international graphic design contest...an occasion for graphic designers and architects from all over the world; works will be exhibited in October in Venice and Expo Shanghai 2010; deadline: July 31 - Felicity Project

Best of the London Festival of Architecture: From sugary sculptures to a madcap midnight cycling tour, Jonathan Glancey rounds up 10 festival treats that promise a fresh perspective on the capital - Guardian (UK)

"1:1 - Architects Build Small Spaces": A teahouse on stilts, a tower of books, a woodland shelter – seven one-off buildings have taken root in the V&A's galleries...a modest but inventive exhibition with a powerful message about the importance of nurturing local architecture... By Jonathan Glancey -- Studio Mumbai; Terunobu Fujimori; Rintala Eggertsson Architects; Sou Fujimoto; Helen & Hard Architects - Guardian (UK)

A tree house to treasure in "1:1 Architects Build Small Spaces": The premise of this show is a reasonable one...The pieces, though, are of varying interest...the architects involved have responded rather predictably with self-absorbed and, for the most part, rather shallow reflections on what makes a refuge. By Kieran Long -- Helen & Hard; Rintala Eggertsson Architects; Rural Studio - Evening Standard (UK)

Handmade models help architects visualize and solve design problems: ...about 50 models and pieces of models from 26 architectural firms...organized into a wonderful exhibition called "1:26 - In Study Model Wonderland from Halifax to Vancouver" at Emily Carr University of Art + Design... -- Sophie Girronnay/Maison de l'architecture du Quebec; Atelier in Situ; Uniform; Shim-Sutcliffe; Richard Henriquez - Vancouver Sun

Beguiling Horizons from Bruno Cal's: The almost abstract series of prints by Brazilian photographer...are in fact some of the world's most seductive new buildings...on view through July 31 at 1500, a new gallery in New York... [link to images] - The Architect's Newspaper

Skeleton Keys to New York's Secrets, Free While Supplies Last: New Yorkers will be seen hastily undoing padlocks, ducking through creaky gates, and rifling through strange P.O. boxes. Do not be alarmed! The city-wide security breach is part of the public art project Key to the City. [images] - Fast Company

Vienna's Lost Designer, Rediscovered: Joseph Maria Olbrich Gets His First Big Exhibition in the City He Helped Shape...He was a powerhouse at the turn of the last century and a founding member...of the Secessionists, a reform movement that promoted the integration of art in everyday life. [images] - Wall Street Journal

They don't build them like they used to: Steve Mouzon's "Original Green: Unlocking the Mystery of True Sustainability"...should be read by everyone interested in crafting a more sustainable built environment...eloquently posits and expounds the proposition that environmentally responsible building and placemaking has more to learn from traditional culture and practices than from 21st-century 'gizmo green' technology. - Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)

Wet rooms: ...the humble boathouse has undergone a radical transformation...these once little-loved sheds have metamorphosed into breathtaking residences which are, frankly, too good for simply housing a boat – as a new book, "Boathouses" by Adam Mornement, attests. [slide show] - Independent (UK)

Vicarious Living: Mark Alan Hewitt admires "The Houses of Greenwich Village" by Kevin D. Murphy, photography by Paul Rocheleau...a beautiful book of Village houses that is also quite thoughtful...there is a lot more behind these brick facades than meets the eye. [images] - The Architect's Newspaper



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