

Today's News - Tuesday, July 20, 2010

EDITOR'S NOTE: Just a reminder that we're three hours behind home base for the rest of this week, so newsletter will be arriving a bit later than usual.

- Q&A with a Shanghai-based planning professor and urban-preservation expert about the death of vitality in China's flash new cities.
- A British architect fears the U.K. "will be scarred as cuts end a golden age of architecture."
- Haiti six months on: when it comes to the question of temporary shelter and permanent housing, "it is hard to find silver linings."
- Is Make It Right getting it right in New Orleans?
- Shortlist in New Orleans sustainable design competition to design self-sufficient homes that can be quickly constructed after disasters set to showcase local architectural talents on a global stage.
- Cornell's Milstein Hall finally underway: the steel framing members "seem to defy gravity - as complex in construction as it is simple in form."
- An Irish developer brings 5 Pritzker winners together at his vineyard in the south of France; unfortunately, there's "no intention to open it to the public" (for the time being, anyway).
- King gives cheers to San Francisco's new bus shelters by Lundberg, but scowls at new bike racks: "other cities hold design competitions...we order from the catalog."
- A Maryland town is a model of green infrastructure best practice becoming common practice: "If a small town can do this, anyone can."
- Rochon revels in Beesley's Canadian pavilion for the Venice Biennale that "points the way toward materials that are light, healing and can potentially renew themselves...a highly speculative piece of artful architecture sweetened by its lightness."
- Q&A with the architect who wants to be Toronto's mayor: "He knows how to draft a city, but can he run one?"
- The last of the Case Study House architects doesn't dwell on his past - he's too busy building.
- Portland, OR (as elsewhere) is having difficulty finding minority architects and engineers: "effort to raise awareness should start in grade school."
- We couldn't resist: Groves grooves on Marilyn Monroe's Brentwood hacienda (it can be yours for only \$3.6 million).
- Lots of calls for entries: deadline looms for Seattle Central Waterfront Project RFQ + AIAS/Kawneer 2010 Schools of Tomorrow Student Design Competition + U.S. Fallen Heroes Memorial Open Design Competition + 2nd Annual BrickStainable Design Competition + REPEAT international competition to foster the creative spirit in digital fabrication.

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China's urban disease Part 1 & 2: Zhang Song, a Shanghai-based planning professor and urban-preservation expert...talks about the death of vitality in China's flash new cities...Public engagement in planning is the only way ahead. By Zhang Chuanwen/Southern Metropolis Daily [links] - ChinaDialogue.net

Britain 'will be scarred as cuts end a golden age of architecture': The designer of the new Shakespeare theatre in Stratford says it could be the last great public project for years..."I am pessimistic about the way cutbacks in building will affect the country. I think the government has underestimated the impact on the economy." -- Rab Bennetts/Bennetts Associates - Guardian (UK)

Haiti Six Months On: ...comment on one particular aspect of response to the Haitian earthquake...which bridges the immediate relief and long-term reconstruction efforts: the question of temporary shelter and permanent housing...the particular challenges of reconstruction in an urban context...it is hard to find silver linings. [links] - Brookings Institution

Getting It Right: What Is Brad Pitt Really Doing for New Orleans? When [he] showed up to help fix the Lower Ninth Ward, it raised hope - and eyebrows. Is his high-design, low-income green housing project what the neighborhood needs? -- Make It Right; William McDonough; KieranTimberlake; Eskew+Dumez+Ripple; Austin Allen; Tim Duggan - GOOD Magazine

Sustainable Design Competition winner to be announced Thursday: ...challenges these firms to design self-sufficient homes that can be quickly constructed after a hurricane or similar catastrophe...competition is designed to showcase New Orleans' architectural talents on a global stage. -- Ammar Eloueini Digit-All Studio; Billes Architecture; Bild Design; Judith Kinnard Architecture; Mathes Brierre Architects; Metro Studio; Trapolin Architects; Wiznia Architecture + Development. - The Times-Picayune (New Orleans)

Milstein Hall Hangs Tight at Cornell: OMA and its associates grapple with complex forms for a new Architecture, Art, and Planning school: Much has been written about the trouble Cornell...has faced in striving to get its new building off the ground...erection of steel framing members...seems to defy gravity...as complex in construction as it is simple in form. -- Office for Metropolitan Architecture; KHA Architects; Robert Silman Associates [images] - The Architect's Newspaper

Developer Paddy McKillen brings 'starchitects' together: A remarkable artistic project is being created in the south of France...owns a vineyard, Chateau La Coste...it is not wine but architecture and art which will be the most remarkable features of the property..."no intention to open it to the public or promote it at this stage" -- Tadao Ando; Jean Nouvel; Frank Gehry; Norman Foster; Renzo Piano - BBC

Wheels of change on Valencia Street in S.F.: ...San Francisco's new bus shelters make me smile, but the bicycle racks make me scowl...Other cities hold design competitions...We order from the catalog...decisions made about bike racks and bus shelters, street lights and garbage cans - often with little attention - have their own ramifications. By John King -- Olle Lundberg [images] - San Francisco Chronicle

Green Streets for All: National Building Museum's Smart Growth lecture series featured Adam Ortiz, Mayor of Edmonston, Maryland, who put forward his community's innovative green street as a model, saying that the time has come for green infrastructure best practice to become common practice..."If a small town can do this, anyone can." -- Neighborhood Design Center [links] - The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

A Canadian brings the light to Venice: Architect Philip Beesley points the way toward materials that are light, healing and can potentially renew themselves...His Hylzoic Ground is a reef of white fronds that will infiltrate the Canadian pavilion...a highly speculative piece of artful architecture sweetened by its lightness...beautiful mutant designs...move unpredictably and without warning. By Lisa Rochon - Globe and Mail (Canada)

Q&A: Babak the Builder: Babak Eslahjou, the architect who wants to be mayor, heads Core, one of Toronto's most prestigious design firms. He knows how to draft a city, but can he run one? - Toronto Life

Beverly Thorne: man of steel: He doesn't dwell on his Case Study House No. 26 past. At 85, he simply prefers to keep forging ahead...in the mid-1960s[he] decided to retire David Thorne. - Los Angeles Times

Diversity lacking in engineering, architecture: Portland's difficulty in finding minority architects and engineers to participate in its Minority Evaluator Program comes as no surprise to many who say the professions have long been lacking in diversity, particularly in the Pacific Northwest..."effort to raise awareness should start in grade school" -- Christine Theodoropoulos - Daily Journal of Commerce (Oregon)

Marilyn Monroe's former home on the market for \$3.6 million: The actress lived in the Brentwood 'hacienda' - the first home she had ever owned independent of a husband - for only a brief time before she died of a sleeping pill overdose in 1962. By [Martha Groves](#) - [Los Angeles Times](#)

Deadline reminder: Call for entries/Request for Qualifications (RFQ): consultant services for the Seattle Central Waterfront Project; deadline: August 4 - [City of Seattle](#)

Call for entries: [AIAS/Kawneer 2010 Schools of Tomorrow Student Design Competition](#): challenges students to learn about building materials, specifically architectural aluminum building products and daylighting systems in the design of an elementary school; cash prizes; deadline: November 28 - [American Institute of Architecture Students \(AIAS\)](#)

Call for entries: [United States Fallen Heroes Memorial Open Design Competition \(U.S. only\)](#); deadline: September 30 - [United States Fallen Heroes Foundation](#)

Call for entries: [2nd Annual BrickStainable Design Competition](#); registration deadline: November 15 - [Potomac Valley Brick](#)

Call for entries: [REPEAT](#) - an international competition to foster the creative spirit in the burgeoning field of digital fabrication; site: atrium of the University of Houston's College of Architecture designed by Philip Johnson; deadline: October 3 - [TEXFAB](#)

Veni, Vidi, Vici: [Museo MAXXI by Zaha Hadid Architects](#): Rome, Italy: The ancient city's newest museum is a reminder that here is a woman at the top of the field - and a testament to the fact that women build, and build well. By [Ann Lui](#) - [ArchNewsNow](#)

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