

Today's News - Thursday, January 13, 2011

- Cross on Article 25's efforts in Haiti one year later: its "architects' focus is finding permanent solutions" that ensure "it is the people of Haiti who are becoming the authors of a safer, more sustainable future."
- An insiders' take on the NBM's Intelligent Cities initiative "to investigate the intersection of information technology and urban life and design."
- Zandberg on an initiative in Israel "to square the circle of design and social responsibility"; though the goal is "at once ambitious, pretentious, promising and at the moment a bit unclear," it holds promise.
- Dvir looks at 1960s-'70s experimental housing projects in Be'er Sheva "before green construction became a buzz word"; too bad Israeli architects "have forgotten how to make avant-garde buildings with added value for the tenants and the environment."
- Rybczynski on "how the Great Recession has changed architecture - for the better" (alas, the "losers will be the current generation of young graduates").
- Farrelly minces no words about Gehry's adventure Down Under: "he could at least move us forward to greener cultural pasture, rather than pretend Sydney needs more faux-habitable sculpture" or come up with a "dull box"; there is "a third option: architecture. We deserve it."
- Score another one for DS+R - two buildings for Columbia University: with the its Harlem neighbors "still wary of the new campus," perhaps some dynamic designs will help "smooth out some of the bumps" + An amusing conversation with DS+R's "naughty architect."
- Glasgow picks team for a "floating community."
- Iovine gives two thumbs-up's to the new Museum of the Moving Image: "the finest recent American example of radical design" that is "bold but accessible" and "confounds expectations - in a good way."
- Roche leads a facelift for Met Museum's Costume Institute that will put part of its permanent collection in a more contemporary setting.
- BKSK "parachutes" into several projects without "pre-digested and superficial symbols" that "signals the refreshing vision of an outsider's struggle with the real content of Jewish communal life...It turns out that parachuting is not so dangerous after all."
- Uncovering the Saw Mill River and the value (and wonder) of making our water infrastructure more visible.
- Freecell wins bid to design this year's Valentine in Times Square (volunteers to hold up the heart needed).
- USGBC 2010 LEED for Homes Award winners.

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Haiti one year on: put communities at the heart of reconstruction: Haiti's earthquake drew emergency help from the charity Article 25, but its architects' main focus is finding permanent solutions...placing community participation and capacity building at the crux of reconstruction...ensures it is the people of Haiti who are becoming the authors of a safer, more sustainable future. By Robin Cross - Guardian (UK)

Intelligent Cities: Susan Piedmont-Palladino and Scott Kratz talk about a National Building Museum initiative...to investigate the intersection of information technology and urban life and design..."There is an enormous amount of information out there. But that's the problem - it's out there. It's not visible and, much more importantly, it's not useful." [images]- Urban Omnibus

Design or revolution: Is socially responsible design an oxymoron? A special clinic...at the College of Management in Rishon Letzion is tackling this very issue...an attempt to restore the historical social role designers took...to square the circle of design and social responsibility. By Esther Zandberg -- Yaron Turel; Carmella Jacoby-Volk; Gil Mualem Doron; Ann Lacaton/Lacaton-Vassal; Frederic Druot- Ha'aretz (Israel)

Pyramid scheme: Much thought was given to experimental housing projects in Be'er Sheva, but they didn't all pan out. Before green construction became a buzz word...Israeli architects had already experienced planning for an extreme climate...and planners attributed importance to public housing..."We have forgotten how to make avant-garde buildings with added value for the tenants and the environment." By Noam Dvir -- Moshe Lofenfeld/Giora Gamerman (1960s)- Ha'aretz (Israel)

The Return of Common Sense: How the Great Recession has changed architecture — for the better: The losers will be the current generation of young graduates...they will find themselves facing a world of chastened clients who demand discipline, restraint, and common sense. Big chill, indeed. By Witold Rybczynski -- Enrique Norten/TEN Arquitectos; Libeskind; Hadid; and Mayne; Calatrava; Gehry; Paul Rudolph; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM)- Slate

Frank Gehry has designed a building that is more about him than us: ...he could at least move us forward to greener cultural pasture, rather than pretend Sydney needs more faux-habitable sculpture. It's not a choice between the dull box and the exuberant PR-driven sculpture. There is a third option: architecture. We deserve it. By Elizabeth Farrelly- Sydney Morning Herald

Diller Scofidio + Renfro Designing Kravis Business Buildings for Columbia University: The firm will have its work cut out for it, as the university's Harlem neighbors are still wary of the new campus...Perhaps Columbia...is hoping to smooth out some of the bumps with some dynamic designs. By Matt Chaban- New York Observer

The Naughty Architect: Charles Renfro, Mastermind of the Broad Museum: "As soon as we started working together, we sort of knew it was a good fit. We were equally perverse, anxious, ambitious. We became family almost instantly." -- Diller Scofidio + Renfro- New York Observer

Architects chosen for Glasgow 'floating village': London architect Baca and Glasgow-based ZM Architecture have been chosen...part of a team called Floating Concepts...with plans to transform the 5ha Canting Basin...into a floating community with shops, offices, houses, restaurants...centred around a new canal with a U-shaped floating roadway. [images]- BD/Building Design (UK)

Designed to Evoke the Future of Filmmaking...: The new Museum of the Moving Image is the finest recent American example of radical design, all the more astonishing in that it was almost entirely publicly funded. Bold but accessible...will draw new audiences in without making longtime cinéastes feel left behind. By Julie V. Iovine -- Thomas Leiser [image, link to slide show]- Wall Street Journal

Face-Lift for Met's Costume Institute: ...redesign will allow the Metropolitan Museum of Art to show off part of its permanent collection in a more contemporary setting...Lizzie and Jonathan Tisch Gallery follows two other major building projects under way at the museum... -- Kevin Roche John Dinkeloo and Associates - New York Times

Parachuting Into A World: Creating Jewish Architecture: The absence of pre-digested and therefore superficial symbols...signals the refreshing vision of an outsider's struggle with the real content of Jewish communal life...It turns out that parachuting is not so dangerous after all. -- BKSK Architects [images]- The Jewish Press

Grey vs. Green: Daylighting the Saw Mill River: Zach Youngerman reflects on both natural and piped waterways and considers the value of making our water infrastructure more visible...The wonder of green infrastructure is that it...becomes more productive and therefore more valuable over time. -- Saratoga Associates [images], links]- Urban Omnibus

"Light Hearted" by Lauren Crahan and John Hartmann Freecell Wins Times Square Alliance 3rd Annual Valentine Design Competition: Six volunteers will hold up the heart for display for 15 minutes at a time in Duffy Square from February 10th to 20th...other designs reviewed... -- B.I.G. Bjarke Ingels Group; Marc Fornes; Bade Stageberg Cox [images, links]- Times Square Alliance

U.S. Green Building Council Announces Recipients of 2010 LEED for Homes Awards: ...recognize excellence in the green residential building community. -- Postgreen/ISA; Sacramento Habitat for Humanity; Artistic Homes; Jay DeChesere; ABS Architects; etc. [links to images, info]- U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC)

Q&A with James Anderson, LEED AP re: Low Impact Development: LID is an alternative, cost-effective method for those who want to be sensitive to sustainability, but lack the resources to pursue LEED certification.- ArchNewsNow

Book Review: "Cities for People" by Jan Gehl: Copenhagen's urban-space guru explains the principles, practices, and priorities that make cities more livable - beginning, but not ending, with dethroning King Car...He's clearly earned his increasing influence, which this masterful book will help spread and cement By Bill Millard- ArchNewsNow



-- Gwathmey Siegel & Associates: Teel Family Pavilion, Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, California
-- Reiser + Umemoto (RUR): Port and Cruise Service Center, Kaohsiung, Southern Taiwan, ROC

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