

Today's News - Thursday, January 20, 2011

- Architecture may be an important U.S. export - but "be warned: Design firms in Asia are catching up."
- We wish we could have been a fly on the wall in London's Gopher Hole where a panel of critics "decorously agreed to differ" (instead of "spitting venom from behind the safety of Twitter").
- A U.K. football club's architect defends proposal to demolish (for the most part) a £500 million 2012 Olympic stadium, "insisting they are sustainable and not a waste of taxpayer's money" (seats and lights recycled, oh my...Livingstone calling the idea "obscene" seems appropriate at this stage).
- The restoration battle over Miami's Marine Stadium may be closer to a happy ending.
- St. Paul, MN's historic Union Depot finally breaks ground on transformation into a multimodal transportation hub (after years of debate and plans).
- Horton cheers a new gallery "that will likely challenge the future identity of all galleries, and not just in Los Angeles" (it torques! it twists! it bends!).
- Zandberg cheers the new fountain in Tel Aviv's Rabin Square that "fits in nicely with the plaza's original anti-architectural design."
- In Givatayim, Israel, a strategy to recycle just about everything is now showing up in local parks.
- Q&A with Maki re: what it means to win the AIA Gold Medal and more: Are there any specific building types that you would like to design? "No. Any kind will be challenging."
- The 2011 Solar Decathlon teams feel a bit like they're currently blowing in the wind as DOE decides to relocate from the National Mall - but to where?
- AIA selects 5 impressive recipients for the 2011 Institute Honors for Collaborative Achievement.
- Call for entries: Arnold W. Brunner Grant (U.S. citizens only).
- Two we couldn't resist: an amazing collection of "mind-boggling" places people have made using junk + a colossal cathedral in suburban Madrid being built by one man out of nothing but recycled junk: "Authorities have allowed the construction to continue despite the lack of permits...perhaps out of a sense of curiosity or just plain awe."

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Watch Your Back: Our stuff may be made in China, but when it comes to ideas, the United States is still on top. Professional services, including architecture, constitute roughly a third of America's exports. But be warned: Design firms in Asia are catching up. By Thomas Fisher, Cathy Lang Ho, Andrew Yang -- Ager Group / Shanghai; Urbanus / Shenzhen; Morphogenesis / New Delhi - Architect Magazine

In search of criticism: Spitting venom from behind the safety of Twitter, critics decorously agreed to differ when pitted face-to-face...in a panel discussion...at the newly founded Gopher Hole project space in east London... By Oliver Wainwright -- Peter Kelly/Blueprint; Geoff Manaugh/BLDGBLOG; Joseph Grima/Domus; Kieran Long; Charles Holland/FAT; Shumi Bose- BD/Building Design (UK)

Architect defends Tottenham Hotspur's Olympic stadium demolition plan: ...insisting they are sustainable and not a waste of taxpayer's money...said it was "nonsense" to say the scheme...would eradicate the £500 million investment made at the 2012 site in Stratford...would replace the Populous-designed stadium with a 60,000-seat arena dedicated to football. -- David Keirle/KSS Design Group- BD/Building Design (UK)

The Marine Stadium's Makeover: Miami's long-drawn restoration battle might have a happy ending...once the stadium was put on the World Monument Fund's 2010 Watch List, it got some serious media attention. -- Hilario Candela (1963); Jorge Hernandez; Catherine Lynn [images, links]- Metropolis Magazine

Union Depot project breaks ground: ...\$243 million project will return the 1920s-era building to its transit hub roots...will provide "seamless transfers" between local and regional rail, bus and automobile corridors... -- Mortenson; HGA Architects; URS Corp.; Beyer Blinder Belle [image]- Finance & Commerce (Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota)

Warping the Art Gallery: PATTERNS Architects Torques the Sunset Strip: Whatever the terms - warping, bending, twisting - the result is a transformed space...not just the external environment...but also influences the people who enter within [Prism]...a building that will likely challenge the future identity of all galleries, and not just in Los Angeles. By Guy Horton [images]- Huffington Post

Back to the square roots: A new fountain in Tel Aviv's Rabin Square fits in nicely with the plaza's original anti-architectural design. Will more plans to rehab the space be able to repeat the trick? By Esther Zandberg -- Avraham YaskiShimon Povzner (1960s) [image]- Ha'aretz (Israel)

Givatayim even reduces, reuses and recycles its benches: ...recycling to be "a strategy to run the city by. The materials we use haven't left the city and if they do, they come back." This new strategy has become apparent in recent weeks in local parks. -- Havi Livne/Heli Ellul Tselniker/Urban Fabric - Ha'aretz (Israel)

Newsmaker: Fumihiko Maki re: long-standing relationship with the United States, what it means to win the AIA Gold Medal, etc...Are there any specific building types that you would like to design? "No. Any kind will be challenging." -- Maki and Associates [slide show]- Architectural Record

Solar Decathlon Booted From the National Mall? 20 teams totaling more than 1,000 students have been developing their site-specific entries for over a year, and the news comes as a huge disappointment, and inconvenience...U.S. Department of Energy hasn't yet named an alternative site.- The Architect's Newspaper

AIA Selects Five Recipients for the 2011 Institute Honors for Collaborative Achievement -- NYC Active Design Guidelines; Dallas Architecture Forum; Louis Poulsen Lighting; Peter Lindsay Schaudt, Assoc. AIA, FASLA, FAAR/Hoerr Schaudt Landscape Architects; Walter J. Hood, Jr./Hood Design- American Institute of Architects (AIA)

Call for entries: Arnold W. Brunner Grant for architectural investigation that will contribute to the knowledge, teaching or practice of the art and science of architecture (open to U.S. citizens); deadline: February 1- Center For Architecture Foundation

Turning trash into visionary art: From garbage houses to New York's tower of trash, the mind-boggling things people make with junk...America is littered (in a good way) with art yards, trash houses, and found-object sculptures. A sense of whimsy and ingenuity pervades these 13 places... [slide show]- Salon

Man Builds Colossal Cathedral With Junk and Faith: Faith, not skill, is what drives the man...in suburban Madrid to collect batches of rejected bricks...mixed with his special brand of junk mortar and laid somewhat haphazardly. So far, this concoction has reached towering heights of 131 feet. [images, links]- Green Prophet (Middle East)

Book Review: How New Urbanism's Case Triumphs Best Through "The Language of Towns & Cities: A Visual Dictionary" by Dhuru A. Thadani: His oversized reference charms, infuriates, and enlightens. By Norman Weinstein- ArchNewsNow



-- Diller Scofidio + Renfro: The Broad, Los Angeles
-- Travel: New Orleans: Soniat House, The French Quarter + "Architecture in Times of Need: Make it Right - Rebuilding the New Orleans' Lower Ninth Ward"

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