

Today's News - Monday, February 21, 2011

- ArcSpace brings us Siza's museum in South Korea (inspired by a cat).
- Architects come to the aid of Australian flood victims by donating to a flood relief auction (some cool stuff! bidding closes March 2).
- Bhalla berates India's rigid, antiquated building laws for "dull" urban architecture: "Design is not the culprit here rather it is the victim, enslaved within the clutches of policy or what is infamously called the 'system'" (leaving architects looking for loopholes).
- Ireland's attorney general warns against a proposed law to allow "grandfathering" of "people with several years experience practicing as an architect - but without a formal college qualification - to be admitted to the official register of architects" (needless to say, the RIAI agrees).
- Wimsatt offers up five myths about the 'burbs: "let's dispense with a few misunderstandings about where most of us call home."
- Hume cheers a KPF residential skyscraper that "is among the most elegant additions to the Toronto skyline in recent years...bringing a finer urban grain to a part of the city that had been overlooked for decades."
- Bernstein cheers Pratt's new Myrtle Hall: its "sleek design" and environmentally friendly features are getting attention, but so, too, is its role in renewing a neighborhood.
- Gardner is not quite so gushing about DS+R's new Film Society of Lincoln Center project: "The firm's skill, even brilliance, consists in grand gestures" - but the devil is in the details.
- Q&A with Mazzanti re: his role in the revitalization of a once-mean Medellín, Colombia, neighborhood: "we want an architecture defined by what it does, not by its substance."
- Q&A with Tombazis re: being a green pioneer in Greece, why Athens is not a lost cause, and bioclimatic design: "I do not really strive for a timeless design, what does timeless mean anyway?"
- Q&A with Krisel re: his thoughts on the Modern movement - then and now..."I don't consider it a style; I consider it a language."
- Heatherwick tapped to design 2012 Olympic Cauldron (alas, no pix yet).
- An eyeful of the Edinburgh Architectural Association Awards 2011 shortlist.
- U.S. stamp series celebrates Pioneers of American Industrial Design (skipping some notables because they didn't meet "the primary requirement for U.S. stamp stardom: They're not dead").
- We couldn't resist: meet Architect Barbie - complete with hard hat, blueprints, and black leather jacket (but those black leather boots at a construction site?!?!).

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[Álvaro Siza Arquitecto: Mimesis Museum, Paju Book City, South Korea](#)

[International architects donate to flood relief auction: Some of the world's most sought-after architects have rallied to the aid of Australian flood victims...bidding closes March 2. -- Richard Rogers/Rogers Stirk Harbour; Toyo Ito; Williams Billie Tsien Architects; BOLLES + WILSON; Thomas Daniell; Wilkinson Eyre; Herzog & de Meuron; Rafael Moneo; Sou Fujimoto \[link to images/auction\]- Architecture & Design \(Australia\)](#)

[The law is always an ass: Why do our cities have such dull architecture? The answer lies in our rigid, antiquated building laws...Design is not the culprit here rather it is the victim, enslaved within the clutches of policy or what is infamously called the 'system'...there is no room for imagination...Architects must first grapple with these convoluted laws and then...find loopholes... By Suparna Bhalla- Business Standard \(India\)](#)

[Attorney General counsels caution on architect registration: Proposed legislation...would place Ireland in breach of EU law...Building Control \(Amendment\) Bill proposed to allow..."grandfathering" clause, aimed at allowing people with several years experience practicing as an architect - but without a formal college qualification - to be admitted to the official register of architects...opposed by the Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland \(RIAI\)...- Sunday Business Post \(Ireland\)](#)

[Five myths about the suburbs: ...today, the suburbs aren't what they used to be...have become more like cities, while cities have become more like suburbs...For better or worse, the suburbs reflect America, so let's dispense with a few misunderstandings about where most of us call home. By William Upsi Wimsatt- Washington Post](#)

[New Ritz-Carlton, five-star architecture: The 52-storey residential skyscraper is among the most elegant additions to the Toronto skyline in recent years...bringing a finer urban grain to a part of the city that had been overlooked for decades..."We see it as a piece of urban theatre." By Christopher Hume -- Kohn Pederson Fox \(KPF\) \[image\]- Toronto Star](#)

[Pratt Institute Takes an Interest in Making a Neighborhood Nicer: ...Myrtle Hall...has attracted attention for its sleek design...and its environmentally friendly features. But over time it may prove to be most notable for its effect on the neighborhood. By Fred A. Bernstein -- WASAStudio A \[images\]- New York Times](#)

[New Film Society of Lincoln Center project fails in the details: The firm's skill, even brilliance, consists in grand gestures while the failures reside in the small details. The new Film Center, judged only by the exterior, is a case in point. By James Gardner -- Diller Scofidio + Renfro \[image\]- The Real Deal \(NYC\)](#)

[Architect Restoring Civic Pride, One Library at a Time: Giancarlo Mazzanti has been a key figure in the revitalization of a sector of Medellín, Colombia, that was once regarded as one of the most violent places in the world..."we want an architecture defined by what it does, not by its substance." \[images\]- UT Dallas News \(University of Texas at Dallas\)](#)

[The architecture of happiness: Eco-architecture pioneer Alexandros Tombazis discusses politics, Athens and his dream project...and why the Greek capital is not a lost cause...bioclimatic design..."I do not really strive for a timeless design, what does timeless mean anyway?"- Kathimerini \(Greece\)](#)

[William Krisel's memories of modern movement in desert: The 86-year-old architect shared his thoughts on the modern movement - then and now..."I don't consider it a style; I consider it a language." \[images, videos\]- The Desert Sun \(Palm Springs, CA\)](#)

[Thomas Heatherwick to design Olympic Cauldron: Flame centrepiece will be visible from Populous' 2012 stadium- BD/Building Design \(UK\)](#)

[Edinburgh Architectural Association Awards 2011 Shortlist: The results will be announced April 14... -- Allan Murray Architects; Gaia Architects; Ingenium Archial; HAA Design; Oberlanders; Studio DUB; LDN Architects; Craig Amy Architect; Konishi Gaffney; Reich and Hall; WTArchitecture; Simpson & Brown \[images\]- Edinburgh Architectural Association \(EAA\)](#)

Postal Service Issues Stamps of Approval: A behind-the-scenes look at industrial designers and their iconic designs going postal...Pioneers of American Industrial Design...some of these design pioneers may not have met the primary requirement for U.S. stamp stardom: They're not dead. -- Raymond Loewy; Niels Diffrient; Derry Noyes; Eliot Noyes; Henry Dreyfuss; Norman Bel Geddes; Donald Deskey; Greta von Nessen; Tucker Viemeister/Lab at Rockwell Group [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Meet Architect Barbie: ...complete with hard hat and blueprints...will spotlight architecture as its "Career of the Year"...hopes to educate and encourage girls to consider architecture when thinking about what their jobs could be as adults...consulted with the AIA to keep the doll "authentic to the career." -- Kelly Hayes McAlonie; Despina Stratigakos [image]- American Institute of Architects (AIA)

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