

## Today's News - Wednesday, March 2, 2011

- In post-quake Christchurch, architects will have to accept that people probably won't want to work in high-rise towers any more.
- An architecture and urban planning historian offers a (most interesting) perspective on Cairo's Tahrir Square and the importance of a public space being a "critical factor leading to the success of the revolution."
- More U.K. firms pull out of Libya + A Libyan author "accuses architects of being 'insincere' in their reaction to crisis."
- We are saddened by the news that the Charlottesville Community Design Center has closed its doors after 7 years (with hopes it will continue at some point).
- Kotkin on which U.S. cities are the "biggest brain magnets" (some surprises), and why others "have suffered high levels of domestic outmigration."
- A landmarked block on Louisville's Whiskey Row faces the wrecking ball (with some hopes they might suffer only façadectomies); the irony: demolition could take place during the National Trust for Historic Preservation's National Preservation Month.
- King cheers Maltzan's design for S.F. State's Mashouf Performing Arts Center: "if the complex gets built...students will inhabit one of the Bay Area's most architecturally provocative landscapes."
- An eyeful of the 7 shortlisted schemes for London's V&A extension (an eclectic mix of firms).
- A library in Germany and London's cycle-hire program among the Brit Insurance Designs of the Year 2011 category winners.
- Q&A with Heatherwick re: China's building boom, "soulless" architecture, a gigantic cockroach (and link to his own TEDTalk).
- We couldn't resist: even if you don't have \$7.5 million (a bargain, down from \$15 mill) to actually buy FLW's Ennis House, the slide show is worth the trip.
- Deadline looms: Call for entries: 3rd International Holcim Awards for Sustainable Construction (\$2 million in prizes).

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No more high rises for rebuilt quake city: Architects believe no more high-rise buildings will go up in Christchurch after last week's earthquake...also expect tougher national standards for strengthening older buildings...most modern buildings performed well...but architects had to accept that people simply would not want to work in high-rise towers any more. -- Peter Marshall/Warren & Mahoney; Stephen Thurman; New Zealand Institute of Architects - New Zealand Herald

Tahrir Square: Social Media, Public Space: ...a look at the Egyptian Revolution from the perspective of a historian of architecture and urban planning...focuses on the occupation of physical urban space as the critical factor leading to the success of the revolution. By Mohamed Elsaied [images] - Places Journal

More UK firms vow to stay out of Libya till Gaddafi goes: Camillin Denny and Edward Cullinan Architects are among those that have followed the lead set by Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios...other firms refused to say how they would act once the turmoil comes to an end...Jack Pringle defended architects who had chosen to work in Libya... -- Aecom; Foster & Partners; Capita Symonds - BD/Building Design (UK)

'Cynical' architects turned blind eye to evils of Gaddafi regime: Libyan author Hisham Matar accuses architects of being 'insincere' in their reaction to crisis - BD/Building Design (UK)

Charlottesville Community Design Center closes its doors after seven years of serving as neutral ground for builders and neighbors to meet and discuss projects...hope the center, which relied heavily on volunteer efforts, will continue to have a positive community impact, even if it doesn't have its own space. - Daily Progress (Virginia)

The U.S.' Biggest Brain Magnets: College graduates are heading in droves to Raleigh, Austin and, surprisingly, New Orleans...in the past 10 years "hip and cool" places like New York have suffered high levels of domestic outmigration. By Joel Kotkin - Forbes

Paved Paradise along Whiskey Row: Louisville's new mayor okay's demolition of landmarked block: In a blow to preservationists and the local landmarks commission, the city has granted its demolition, to take place this May during the National Trust for Historic Preservation's National Preservation Month. [images] - The Architect's Newspaper

Michael Maltzan's provocative design: ...an upscale home for the College of Creative Arts at San Francisco State University...if the complex gets built...students will inhabit one of the Bay Area's most architecturally provocative landscapes...most dramatic piece of the puzzle would be the first to rise: the Mashouf Performing Arts Center... By John King -- Paffard Keatinge Clay (1975); Hargreaves Associates [images] - San Francisco Chronicle

V&A extension shortlist revealed: ...seven practices vying to design a new courtyard and underground extension... -- Michael Maltzan Architecture; Tony Fretton; Jamie Fobert; Jun Aoki & Associates; Amanda Levete; Heneghan Peng; Snøhetta/Gareth Hoskins Architects [images, links to info] - The Architects' Journal (UK)

Category Winners Announced for Brit Insurance Designs of the Year 2011: Architecture Award Winner: Open Air Library, Magdeburg, Germany, KARO Architekten; Transport Award Winner Barclays Cycle Hire, Transport for London & Serco [images, links] - Design Museum (UK)

Thomas Heatherwick On China's Building Boom, 'Soulless' Architecture, And More: "Rather than thinking of a building as unique to its place, I've seen the same kinds of buildings built in cold Canada as Abu Dhabi. What's the point in traveling if what you arrive at is similar?" [link to TEDTalk] - Huffington Post

Enter the Ennis house: When Frank Lloyd Wright completed the Ennis house in 1924, he immediately considered it his favorite...garners so much reverence from the architecture community makes its current status all the more remarkable: for sale since June 2009, price reduced from \$15 million to \$7,495,000. [slide show] - Los Angeles Times

Deadline reminder: Call for entries: 3rd International Holcim Awards for Sustainable Construction: \$2 million in prizes and is open to: sustainable building and civil engineering works; landscape, urban design and infrastructure projects; and materials, products and construction technologies; deadline: March 23 - Holcim Foundation

Architecture as a Social Instrument: Interview with Bjarke Ingels of BIG: cBy Vladimir Belogolovsky [images] - ArchNewsNow

Zaha Hadid Architects: Guangzhou Opera House, Guangzhou, China

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