

Today's News - Friday, March 18, 2011

- Thumbs-up and thumbs-down for Eisenman's City of Culture: it's either "grand and farsighted" or "an expensive mistake. Probably one of the largest in the history of architecture" - depending on who you ask.
- Saffron has a hard time grasping how Philly's new 20-acre convention center is on track to earn LEED Silver: it's "come a long way since it was the Hummer of convention centers. But it's still no Prius."
- Kamin cheers a master plan for a long-overlooked Chicago neighborhood that "isn't afraid to think big or outside the box" (with a few reservations).
- Mays cheers Teeple's "post-modern strategy for city building."
- South Africa's new department of international relations and cooperation in Pretoria is an example of design compromise and functionality: "The brief was mouth-watering at first glance," bemoans its architect.
- Bing Thom takes home RAIC Gold Medal (great slide show).
- Palm Springs follows John King and comes up with its own list of architectural "guilty pleasures" (check out the KFC!).
- What's in a Name? Part II (it was a good idea Mies dropped Maria from his name).
- Weekend diversions:
- Hugh Newell Jacobsen gets the PBS treatment.
- Jacobs is inspired by "Vertical Urban Factory" at the Skyscraper Museum: it "struck me as timely, heartening, and prescient."
- "Jugaad Urbanism" suggests that "a small-scale, object-based approach can sometimes yield great results" - but "not all jugaad stories have happy endings" + Q&A with curator Agrawal discusses what can we learn from the creative ways Indians solve urban problems.
- "Raimund Abraham: Musikerhaus" at The Cooper Union celebrates his "singular work as an architect and educator."
- "Anish Kapoor: Flashback" is wowing them in Manchester, U.K.
- "Palladio at Work" at the Canadian Centre for Architecture "addresses contemporary questions."
- Corbu x 2: "Le Corbusier" at the NYK Maritime Museum in Yokohama "illustrates the influence that ships had on building structures and design, and vice versa" + "Voiture Minimum: Le Corbusier and the Automobile" is a "compelling story of a perfectionist striving to create the perfect automobile" - and then some (great pix).
- "Architects' Sketchbooks" is an "intriguing new book" for which 85 architects "have rifled through their studio drawers and thrown open their Moleskine notepads."

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Eight years late and millions over budget: Santiago de Compostela's City of Culture branded an "expensive mistake": A member [Wilfried Wang] of the competition jury that in 1999 selected...Peter Eisenman to design a monumental cultural complex...has called the decision "an expensive mistake. Probably one of the largest in the history of architecture"...But another member of the jury, Kurt Forster, said the plan was grand and farsighted. - The Art Newspaper (UK)

Is it lipstick on an energy hog? Convention Center sprawls across 20 acres, a huge box of meeting rooms...yet the project is on track to earn [LEED Silver] from the U.S. Green Building Council. Somehow this does not compute...My first question: How could this dinosaur qualify for a silver rating?...The meeting hall has come a long way since it was the Hummer of convention centers. But it's still no Prius. By Inga Saffron -- Vitetta; TVS Design; Re: Vision Architecture - Philadelphia Inquirer

New ideas for West Lakeview: How about a strolling path under the 'L'? Master plan kick-starts talks on the neighborhood's future...isn't afraid to think big or outside the box. Among its more audacious ideas: a proposed pedestrian path, or "Low Line"... By Blair Kamin [images] - Chicago Tribune

A post-modern strategy for city building: His remarkable Gansevoort project may never be built, but Toronto architect Stephen Teeple moves ahead with a forward-thinking blueprint... "It's so basic, I'm afraid that nobody wants to hear it. All architects do is shape measured space...We can't be world saviours. It's just not going to happen. You can only make architecture that means something to someone at a certain moment." By John Bentley Mays - Globe and Mail (Canada)

The architecture of foreign policy: One should never lightly ask architects to revisit a public building they have designed...The new department of international relations and cooperation (Dirco) started as a doodle five years ago, but today it is an example of design compromise and functionality... "The brief was mouth-watering at first glance" -- Mark Pencharz/TC Design Architects - Mail & Guardian (South Africa)

Vancouver architect Bing Thom wins Canada's top award: ...the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada's Gold Medal...will receive his award during the 2011 RAIC Festival of Architecture May 24 to 27... [slide show] - Vancouver Sun

Indulge in local architecture: John King recently wrote... "We all have guilty pleasures"...caused me to wonder: Does Palm Springs have similar architectural "guilty pleasures" - and what might they be? [images] - Palm Springs Sun

What's in a Name? Part II: What Buildings Did Maria Ludwig Michael Mies Design and Why do Architects Change Their Names? Would an architect by any other name be as great? The reality is that names do not create architecture. By Jim Atkins, FAIA -- Le Corbusier; Louis Kahn; Maria Ludwig Michael Mies/Ludwig Mies van der Rohe; Frank Lincoln Wright/Frank Lloyd Wright; Christopher Wren - AIArchitect

Hugh Newell Jacobsen will be featured on an upcoming episode of "The Artist Toolbox" on PBS: ...walk with host [and son] John Jacobsen...through his childhood home and his father's Georgetown office... - The Artist Toolbox

Made in the U.S.A.? An inspiring new exhibition on the American factory asks some provocative questions about the future... "Vertical Urban Factory" at the Skyscraper Museum...struck me as timely, heartening, and prescient...an outgrowth of Nina Rappaport's observation that "the factory has provided a place of design innovation for engineers and architects." By Karrie Jacobs -- Albert Kahn; Giacomo Matte-Trucco; Johannes Brinkman; Le Corbusier; Studio Tractor; Gunter Henn; Super-Interesting! - Metropolis Magazine

Making Do: "Jugaad Urbanism: Resourceful Strategies for Indian Cities" touts the ingenious resourcefulness of Indian design. But is jugaad good urbanism?...not all jugaad stories have happy endings...rarely produces perfect answers...exhibition suggests that a small-scale, object-based approach can sometimes yield great results... -- Sanjeev Shankar; Philips Design; Kanu Agrawal; ndian Council of Architecture; M.P. Ranjan; Vir.Mueller Architects [images] - Metropolis Magazine

Q&A with Kanu Agrawal: The Energy of Jugaad: At the Centre for Architecture, New York, a pioneering exhibition called "Jugaad Urbanism" is taking a closer look at this rich culture of innovation in India...What

can we learn from the creative ways Indians solve urban problems? [images]- Metropolis Magazine

"Raimund Abraham: Musikerhaus" at The Cooper Union: Mounted in celebration of [his] singular work as an architect and educator...exhibition features...the Musikerhaus project, a residence and rehearsal space he designed for four musicians in Hombroich, Germany. -- Situ Studio- GermanyinNYC.org

"Anish Kapoor: Flashback": First Major Show Outside of London in 10 Years by Kapoor at Manchester Art Gallery...It will then tour nationally... [images]- ArtDaily.org

"Palladio at Work": new exhibition at the Canadian Centre for Architecture: ...focused examination of 15 drawings...addresses contemporary questions and gives new insight on Palladio's working method through extensive annotations in the form of diverse reference materials, images and texts.- Canadian Architect

"Le Corbusier" is perhaps less about the renowned architect and more about ship building, though there is plenty...to keep those interested in architecture occupied...illustrates the influence that ships had on building structures and design, and vice versa...at the NYK Maritime Museum in Yokohama until April 3- Japan Times

"Voiture Minimum: Le Corbusier and the Automobile" by Antonio Amado...documents this project as well as the architect's lifelong love and involvement with the car...also explores...other key architects' involvement with the automobile in the context of both town planning ideas and automotive design. -- Joseph Maria Olbrich; Adolf Loos; Walter Gropius; Jean Prouvé; Buckminster Fuller; Frank Lloyd Wright [images]- Wallpaper*

Back to the drawing board: "Architects' Sketchbooks" by Will Jones provides a fascinating insight into "the blood, sweat and pencil lead that go into designing the world we live in"...85 architects from around the world have rifled through their studio drawers and thrown open their Moleskine notepads. -- Norman Foster/Narinder Sagoo/Foster + Partners; Ivan Harbour, of Rogers Stirk Harbour; Shigeru Ban; Mi5 Arquitectos; C J Lim; Will Alsop; Carlos Jiménez [slide show]- Independent (UK)



BNKR Arquitectura: Sunset Chapel, Acapulco, Guerrero, Mexico

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