

Today's News - Thursday, March 24, 2011

- Q&A with Paulett Taggart re: a tale of two very different public pools in California.
- Chakrabarti pens a love letter to Japan: "we must learn to be more like them in their civility, to live as they do in their density...the ultimate Country of Cities."
- Russell says "nuclear doomers should pipe down" and study two projects in Canada and Colorado.
- Bernstein says ""the shock of the new"...is only a pleasant shock when there is old to measure it against."
- Glancey explores a temple of technology and art in Paris: "There is something distinctly French in this marriage between the grandly historical and the audaciously modern."
- Plans for a Russian cathedral near the Eiffel Tower sparks "fears of cold war-style espionage in the heart of Paris" (it's also rather bizarre looking).
- King cheers a senior living center is a good example of "thoughtful urban design" (even if he's not particularly thrilled by the architecture).
- Q&A with Shigeru Ban re: his shelters for the quake victims: "We don't need innovative ideas. We just need to build normal things that can be made easily and quickly."
- Q&A with Berkebile re: designing sustainably for water: "every drop that falls from the sky as a precious resource."
- Q&A with AfH "chief eternal optimist" Sinclair re: the democratization of architecture, how design is reshaping the Swat Valley, and Twitter.
- Pedersen queries Foster re: his "his latest labor of love" - a Dymaxion car + film of the starchitect behind the wheel.
- An eye-ful of the winning design of U.K.'s Architecture Foundation's Bankside BikeShed competition.
- Montgomery Sisam Architects receives Architecture Canada | RAIC 2011 Firm Award.
- Australian Institute of Architects gives Gold Medal to Graeme Gunn ("part of a clutch of awards").
- An interesting shortlist for the 2011 Mies van der Rohe Awards.
- Solar Decathlon Europe named in Communication category by European Sustainable Energy Awards.
- U.S. shortlist for UIA Golden Cubes International Awards celebrating K-12 architecture education programs.
- Call for entries: AuthenticCity: The Madison Design Competition for CNU 19 host city Madison, Wisconsin + Deadline looms for National Award for Smart Growth Achievement.
- We couldn't resist: Earth Hour 2011: 8.30pm, Saturday, March 26.

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A Tale of Two Pools: Q&A with Paulett Taggart: It was the sunniest of pools, it was the foggiest of pools, but the architectural approach is similar: there is nothing unnecessary. -- Paulett Taggart Architects; Mark Cavagnero Associates [images]- ArchNewsNow

The Ultimate Country of Cities: Vishaan Chakrabarti pens a love letter to Japan, a country that has shaped his beliefs in the importance of dense urban living...we must extend our hands, heads and hearts to our dear friends across the Pacific, and learn to be more like them in their civility, to live as they do in their density...the ultimate Country of Cities. [images]- Urban Omnibus

Nuclear Doomers Should Pipe Down, Study Canada, Colorado: These are good places to visit if you're worried about the cost of energy. There you'll find successful conservation efforts using the simple option of using less energy...Manitoba Hydro Place and National Renewable Energy Laboratory. By James S. Russell [images]- Bloomberg News

More Is Less: Contemporary buildings feed on historical context. When that context is removed, even the best of the new buildings fall flat..."The shock of the new"...is only a pleasant shock when there is old to measure it against...If the trend toward placing sleek contemporary buildings cheek to jowl continues, it is the contemporary buildings that will suffer most. By Fred A. Bernstein -- Thom Mayne/Morphosis; Jean Nouvel; Frank Gehry; Shigeru Ban; Annabelle Selldorf; Della Valle + Bernheimer; Audrey Matlock; Asymptote; Richard Meier; Mies van der Rohe; Frank Lloyd Wright; Greg Pasquarelli/SHoP- Design Observer

Digital love: Manuelle Gautrand and the Théâtre de la Gaîté Lyrique: Paris's newest theatre, is a marriage of past and future so bold it takes the breath away. Jonathan Glancey explores a temple of technology and art...There is something distinctly French in this marriage between the grandly historical and the audaciously modern. [images]- Guardian (UK)

Russian cathedral plan for Paris site sparks spy fears: Sade-Arch has sparked fears of cold war-style espionage in the heart of Paris with its plans for a £30 million Russian Orthodox cathedral beside the Eiffel Tower...unveiled plans for a golden onion-domed building with a huge glass solar-panelled roof. [images]- BD/Building Design (UK)

The Coronet complex simply fits in the Richmond: Architecturally, I'm no fan of the six-story building...But here's what I also see: a satisfying tutorial on how to add housing to neighborhoods where single-family homes are the norm...a complex with 150 senior apartments...faced too much opposition for far too long...Some locations call for Architecture with a capital A. Others are served by thoughtful urban design. The Coronet is a good example of the latter, and we need more like it. By John King -- BAR Architects; TMW Architects - San Francisco Chronicle

Q&A: Shigeru Ban on Designing Shelters for the Quake Victims: ...planning partitions for evacuation centers in Japan..."We don't need innovative ideas. We just need to build normal things that can be made easily and quickly. A house is a house." By Julie Lasky [images]- New York Times

Beyond Energy: LEED co-creator Bob Berkebile discusses designing sustainably for water..."every drop that falls from the sky as a precious resource." -- BNIM [images]- Metropolis Magazine

A Conversation With Cameron Sinclair, CEO ["chief eternal optimist"] of Architecture for Humanity...discusses the democratization of architecture, how design is reshaping the Swat Valley, and Twitter. - The Atlantic

Q&A: Norman Foster and the Dymaxion Car: The architect takes his latest labor of love out for a drive...talks about his relationship with Buckminster Fuller, the continued relevance of the car, and the legacy of his former mentor + a short film of Foster driving the new Dymaxion Car #4. By Martin C. Pedersen- Metropolis Magazine

Studio Meda wins Bankside BikeShed contest: ...Architecture Foundation competition to design a £10,000 prototype bike shed...saw off shortlisted schemes by Atmos Studio, Dream Studio, Quinn Architecture and Tughela Gino Architecture with Gabby Shawcross. [images]- The Architects' Journal (UK)

Architecture Canada | RAIC announces 2011 Firm Award recipient: The Architectural Firm Award goes to a firm which represents the core of Canadian architectural practice. They are a balanced, well rounded firm with excellent design and business acumen." -- Montgomery Sisam Architects [images]- Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC)

Gold medal goes to Graeme Gunn who draws on 50 years of experience: Melbourne architect, urban designer and a former dean of architecture at RMIT University has won the Gold Medal for Architecture from the Australian Institute of Architects...part of a clutch of awards under the banner of Australian Achievement in Architecture that recognise contributions to the profession. -- Gunn Dyring; Janet Holmes a Court; Marcus White/Harrison & White; Anna Rubbo; Paul Pholeros/Healthabitat- The Australian

European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture / Mies van der Rohe Awards 2011 Finalists -- David Chipperfield; MDMA/Martine De Maeseneer Architecten; Zaha Hadid; Jean Nouvel; Bernard Tschumi; Architectenbureau Koen van Velsen [images]- Mies van der Rohe Foundation

Solar Decathlon Europe named in Communication category by European Sustainable Energy Awards- People's Daily (China)

U.S. Nominees Selected for IIA Golden Cubes International Awards Program Celebrating K-12 Architecture Education Programs -- New York Center for Architecture Foundation/Learning by Design: NY; Chicago Architecture Foundation/The Architecture Handbook: A Student Guide to Understanding Buildings; Vitruvius Program/Summit School of Ahwatukee; Next.cc/Milwaukee [link to info/images]- Association of Architecture Organizations (AAO)

Call for entries: AuthentiCity: The Madison Design Competition: Help Create Authentic Places for CNU 19 Host City Madison, Wisconsin; deadline: April 29- Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU)

Deadline reminder: Call for entries: National Award for Smart Growth Achievement; deadline: April 6- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Earth Hour 2011: 8.30pm, Saturday, March 26: ...celebrate that commitment with the people of the world by switching off your lights...From its inception as a single-city initiative -- Sydney, Australia - in 2007, Earth Hour has grown into a global symbol of hope and movement for change...2010 created history as the world's largest ever voluntary action with people, businesses and governments in 128 countries...- EarthHour.org



-- wHY Architecture: L&M Arts, Venice, California

-- KK Letter: Bjarke Ingels, Terry Allen, Dave Hickey, Tadao Ando, Marianne Stockebrand, Robert Irwin, Ed Ruscha, Craig Dykers, and Iwan Baan... 10 busy days in LA.

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