

## Today's News - Monday, April 4, 2011

- ArcSpace brings us eyefuls of Maltzan's Mashouf arts center in San Francisco.
- Merrick x 2: he minces no words re: the future of the profession (that even RIBA says "could die out by 2025"): "if architects and architecture are perceived as faintly trivial," why should anyone "pay more than lip-service to what architects think or say?" (your must-read for the day!) + A brighter note: picking Zumthor "is a real coup" for the Serpentine: "With him we are...into the mystic...Mr Atmosphere...the vibe is utterly anti-free market, anti-bling."
- Images of Zumthor's gallery show a place to smell the flowers "abstracted from the world of noise and traffic and the smells of London" in a hidden garden designed by Oudolf.
- Rochon has "no quarrel with" Pritzker pick, but hails "the remarkable talent of the architect - the woman - the Pritzker juries allowed to get away."
- Hawthorne x 2 (and then some, reporting from the East Coast): Denari's HL23 in Manhattan is a "building of drama and cunning that rises over the High Line" (and his amazement at seeing so "many similarly ambitious buildings" around town).
- His take on DS+R's Granoff Center for the Creative Arts in Providence, RI: it's "like a high-drama, high-design billboard...eager to advertise all the ways its design helps make collaboration not just easier or more attractive but, well, pretty much mandatory...Loners beware."
- Some impressive voices offer their ideas about what might be done with the beleaguered (putting it politely), \$2 billion Xanadu mall still stalled in New Jersey (Rockwell threw in the towel in '08).
- Growing pains amidst the high hopes for Montreal's new Quartier des Spectacles (Rybczynski's hopes are far from high).
- Can arts and culture save Detroit? "What we really need are more places for culture that aren't bars or major institutions" - now if only political and business leaders and philanthropists would get with the program.
- Chicago's landmark but fire-ravaged Pilgrim Baptist Church "may be on road to recovery at last."
- High hopes to make a Frank Lloyd Wright house in New Jersey part of the Houses at Sagaponac development in the Hamptons on Long Island (will it float a la Venturi Scott Brown's Lieb House, we wonder).
- Uganda cheers its "first and only female with a PhD in architecture."
- A good reason to head to Boston at the end of the week: American Planning Association 2011 National Planning Conference.
- Call for entries (lots of 'em): Van Alen's: Life at the Speed of Rail ideas competition + The Generative Space Award to recognize break-through designs that improve health and healthcare + Rolex Awards for Enterprise.
- One we couldn't resist: Lego releases Mies's Farnsworth House kit.

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[Michael Maltzan Architecture: Mashouf Performing Arts Center, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, California](#)

The death of architecture: Unless you're a 'starchitect', chances are you'll end up creating mediocre glass-clad hangars. Does the problem lie with the profession, or the politicians in charge of our towns and cities? ...architects have simply failed to get a hugely important message across...architecture of unmistakable quality are absolutely crucial to the future intelligible meaning of our cultural and commercial landscapes. By Jay Merrick- Independent (UK)

Serpentine commission is a real coup for gallery: A handful of living architects – notably Frank Gehry, Oscar Niemeyer and Alvaro Siza – can be described as unique. The word seems crude when applied to Peter Zumthor. With him we are...into the mystic...Mr Atmosphere, the unchallenged master in creating spaces of sensual, pregnant stillness: the vibe is utterly anti-free market, anti-bling. By Jay Merrick- Independent (UK)

Peter Zumthor's Serpentine Pavilion revealed: ...structure will present multiple paths for visitors with covered walkways and Piet Oudolf's garden hidden at the centre..."a place abstracted from the world of noise and traffic and the smells of London...This experience will be intense and memorable..." -- Arup [images]- BD/Building Design (UK)

Outside the Pritzker Prize boys' club: In Sao Paulo, you come face to face with Lina Bo Bardi's gift to one of the world's biggest cities. How has this woman been missed by architecture's big award? ...Eduardo Souto de Moura...won the 2011 award. His work in Portugal...is a wide-ranging, invigorating portfolio, and I have no quarrel with it...the remarkable talent of the architect – the woman – the Pritzker juries allowed to get away. By Lisa Rochon- Globe and Mail (Canada)

HL23 in Manhattan: Neil Denari's design yields a West Side building of drama and cunning that rises over the High Line elevated park...a standout building in ways that begin with - but aren't limited to - its gymnastic form...among the most ambitious of the many buildings spawned by the opening of the wildly popular park... By Christopher Hawthorne -- Thomas Juul-Hansen; Rafael Moneo; Frank Gehry; Norman Foster; Thomas Leeser; Ennead Architects- Los Angeles Times

Granoff Center at Brown University: The Diller, Scofidio + Renfro-designed building for the creative arts is dedicated to our culture's current share-and-share-alike moment...Like a high-drama, high-design billboard...eager to advertise all the ways its design helps make collaboration not just easier or more attractive but, well, pretty much mandatory...Loners beware. By Christopher Hawthorne- Los Angeles Times

Fix Xanadu? The Problem May Be Where to Begin: Architectural experts offer thoughts on rescuing a stalled New Jersey Meadowlands mall project that has already soaked up \$2 billion...After previous developers repeatedly changed the plans, the Rockwell Group withdrew in 2008 and disavowed any responsibility for the project's appearance. -- Richard A. Cook/Cook+Fox; Paul Goldberger; Guy Geier/FX/Fowle; Brian McGrath/Urban-Interface; Melissa Lafsky/The Infrastructure- New York Times

Growing pains in Montreal's cultural redevelopment: ...new Quartier des Spectacles has been under construction for four years and still is facing opposition...at a public meeting...the audience was divided on whether the project was worth waiting for...Witold Rybczynski said he doesn't have faith in governments to create culture. He complained that money is being wasted..."It does things in laboratories then it's surprised by real life."- CBS News (Canada)

Can arts and culture save Detroit? "What we really need are more places for culture that aren't bars or major institutions"...political and business leaders, along with many philanthropists, have yet to recognize culture as one of metro Detroit's greatest assets and drivers of renewal.- Detroit Free Press

Pilgrim Baptist to be born again: Devastated in 2006 fire, landmark church may be on road to recovery at last. -- Dankmar Adler/Louis Sullivan/Adler & Sullivan (1891); Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates; Johnson & Lee Architects - Chicago Tribune

Architects to Move Frank Lloyd Wright House from New Jersey to the Hamptons: ...Tarantino Architects is willing to move

[circa 1954 Bachman Wilson House to Houses at Sagaponac development... \[images\]](#) - Curbed Hamptons

[Assumpta Nagenda-Musana: First and only female in Uganda with a PhD in architecture.](#) - The New Vision (Uganda)

[April 9-12, Boston: American Planning Association 2011 National Planning Conference](#) - American Planning Association (APA)

[Call for entries: Life at the Speed of Rail ideas competition: envision the cultural, environmental and economic impact of a new American rail network; cash prizes; deadline: May 21](#) - Van Alen Institute

[Call for entries: The Generative Space Award to recognize break-through designs that improve health and healthcare; deadline: May 1](#) - The CARITAS Project

[Call for entries: Rolex Awards for Enterprise for projects that demonstrate innovative thought and benefit the world we live in; each of 5 2012 Laureate will receive \\$100,000; deadline: May 31](#) - Rolex Awards for Enterprise

[More amazing Lego: Mies van der Rohe's Farnsworth House released \[images\]](#) - The Architects' Journal (UK)

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