

Today's News - Friday, April 8, 2011

EDITOR'S NOTE: We can't do the newsletter today, but we do have a selection of terrific weekend diversions for your amusement...and we'll a lot of catching up to do come next week. See you then!

- In NYC, Ouroussoff is intrigued by "The Vertical Urban Factory" - it "makes you wonder what was lost on the way to our greener, more stroller- and bike-friendly city" (great slide show).
- Patton explores "The Once and Future Pennsylvania Station" (on view at Grand Central, no less), and ponders: "The station was a great piece of architecture, but was it a great piece of city planning?"
- Phoenix, AZ, considers all things mid-century modern in its 7th annual Modern Phoenix Week.
- The launch of the first Bauhaus magazine since 1931 will continue to explore "the tumultuous relationship between science and the arts," beginning with cover story and show "Kurz Kranz: Programming of Beauty" at Bauhaus Dessau (great pix).
- In Montreal, CCA's "Architecture in Uniform" fills an important historical gap by investigating the work and achievements of the architects and designers during World War II.
- In Paris, "Concrete Islands" presents "utopian architectural projects designed with inherent social and political values that now exist in various stages of inhabitation, dereliction and destruction."
- In London: Stirling may be "regarded as part of a British architectural renaissance," but "have his reputation, and buildings, stood the test of time? The drawings may beguile, but the flawed buildings reveal the truth."
- "The Petrified Music of Architecture" is a "fascinating collection of models constructed by the mysterious model maker and architect William Gorrington" on view for the first time in over 80 years.
- An eyeful of English Heritage's Aerofilms Collection of aerial photography of Britain dating back to 1919.
- Q&A with architect Eskandari re: her traveling exhibit, "Sacred Space: (Re)Constructing the Place of Gender in the Space of Religion," which "brings a new angle to the debate discussing the role of architecture as an identity issue," especially for Muslim Americans.
- Gastil cheers Tony Hiss's "In Motion" as "timely and valuable" - especially for architects and planners.
- An erudite ode to Xenakis who created "architecture for the ears" (great pix).
- We couldn't resist: a truly amazing slide show of London landmarks "visited by some rather illuminating vehicles" (via "light graffiti" - we kid you not).

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The Height of City Manufacturing: "The Vertical Urban Factory"...intriguing show at the Skyscraper Museum...makes you wonder what was lost on the way to our greener, more stroller- and bike-friendly city...manages to capture a time when manufacturing was a central part of the urban experience, as well as the extraordinary range of invention... By Nicolai Ouroussoff -- Nina Rappaport; Ernest Ransome (1905); Albert Kahn (1913); Peter Behrens (1909); Walter Gropius; Giacomo Mattè-Trucco (1922); Brinkman and Van der Vlugt (1931); Henn Architects (2001); L.E.FT [slide show]- New York Times

Penn Station's History Lesson: "The Once and Future Pennsylvania Station" explores the legacy of New York's lost Beaux Arts landmark and ponders the site's future...The station was a great piece of architecture, but was it a great piece of city planning?...the future station...needs to be part of a wider plan...risks becoming little more than a memorial to the old station and a memento of what might have been....at Grand Central Terminal, New York through October 30. By Phil Patton [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

An April Celebration of All Things Mid-Century Modern: April 9 -17, Modern Phoenix and the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art are teaming up for the seventh annual Modern Phoenix Week. [images, links]- Phoenix New Times (Arizona)

Bauhaus is back: ...launch of the first Bauhaus magazine production since 1931...an exciting moment in the tumultuous relationship between science and the arts...project aims to reignite a dialogue between past and future + "Kurz Kranz: Programming of Beauty" at Bauhaus Dessau, Germany, through May 29- New Scientist

"Architecture in Uniform: Designing and Building for the Second World War"...documents the extensive contribution of architecture to the war...and considers how this questioned architectural methods and construction technologies, and lead to the supremacy of modernism....opens April 13 -- Alvar Aalto; Normal Bel Geddes; Charles and Ray Eames; Buckminster Fuller; Walter Gropius; Albert Kahn; Le Corbusier; Erich Mendelson; Richard Neutra; Albert Speer; Bruno Zevi; etc. [images]- Canadian Centre for Architecture (CCA)

"Concrete Islands": a group exhibition of photography and video exploring contemporary experiences of utopian architectural projects...designed with inherent social and political values that now exist in various stages of inhabitation, dereliction and destruction, curated by Elias Redstone - Six Elzévir, Paris, April 9-17 -- Andreas Angelidakis; Iwan Baan; Frédéric Chaubin; Mounir Fatmi; Niklas Goldbach- Analix Forever

James Stirling, the architect who divides opinion: Along with Norman Foster and Richard Rogers, he was regarded as part of a British architectural renaissance. Have his reputation, and buildings, stood the test of time? ...The drawings may beguile, but the flawed buildings reveal the truth. By Andrew Saint -- Stirling and Gowan; Michael Wilford; Leon Krier; John Tuomey- Guardian (UK)

"The Petrified Music of Architecture: Sir Herbert Oakeley's Collection of Cathedral Models": A fascinating collection of models...constructed by the mysterious model maker and architect William Gorrington on display in London for the first time in over 80 years, at Sir John Soane's Museum...8 April-25 June- Creative Boom (UK)

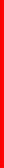
Britain from the air in times gone by: Amazing pictures from one of the earliest collections of aerial photography, the Aerofilms Collection...which dates back to 1919. [slide show]- Telegraph (UK)

Sacred Space for Muslim Americans: Maryam Eskandari, an architect at the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture at Harvard and MIT...brings a new angle to the debate discussing the role of architecture as an identity issue. Q&A re: her traveling exhibit, "Sacred Space: (Re)Constructing the Place of Gender in the Space of Religion"- elan Magazine

"In Motion: The Experience of Travel" by Tony Hiss: ...the realities and opportunities of contemporary travel, and its design and planning, cut across classes and continents. In a world where our daily rounds grow longer and duller — and often as not through the failures of narrowly defined planning — In Motion is timely and valuable. By Ray Gastil- Places Journal

Architecture for the Ears: Trained as an engineer, Iannis Xenakis was a practicing architect who then turned into a composer - without leaving the drafting table...began moving arcs and blocks of clustered tones around as if designing buildings or bridges...For the entirety of his career he built his music - or, if you would, composed his architecture. By Peter Frank [images]- Huffington Post

Light graffiti supercars in London by Marc Cameron and Mark Brown: London's landmarks have been visited by some rather illuminating vehicles... [slide show essay]- Telegraph (UK)



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

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