

Today's News - Tuesday, October 4, 2011

- Part 2 of ANN's exclusive "You Survived" series looks at how to establish a specific, easy, and brief Go/No Go decision process to quickly determine where to invest limited marketing resources.
- Glancey and Heathcote offer eloquent tributes to Makovecz, the Hungarian architect "whose fairytale designs defied soulless Stalinism"; he was "poetic, charismatic, endlessly generous and indomitable...and a truly great man."
- Will Coop Himmelb(l)au's Busan Cinema Center create the Bilbao effect hoped for? "There are potential pitfalls to banking too much on 'if we build it, they will come' starchitecture, as cultural organizations around the world have learned."
- Foster + Partners has revised the West Kowloon Cultural District master plan to "include ideas from vanquished rivals"; we're keeping an eye out for announcement of design competition for signature buildings.
- Politics and budgets close Spain's Niemeyer Center (hopefully only temporarily): politicians promise it "will not become an empty white elephant" to be added to "a growing list of ambitious publicly-funded projects in Spain which have run into trouble."
- Dvir reports that Chyutin Architects is threatening to quit Jerusalem's Museum of Tolerance project because the Wiesenthal Center is driving "the architects crazy" by nagging them to death.
- In the wake of Tropical Storm (nee Hurricane) Irene, some developers of major waterfront projects under way in NYC are taking the "approach that building bulkheads or armoring the waterfront is not sufficient."
- Berger minces no words about what's holding up regional transportation planning along Puget Sound: Seattle "isn't the paragon of urban design it pretends to be," and other municipalities are weary of what seems like bully tactics.
- Saffron settles into Boston for a spell, and finds "Philadelphia could certainly learn a trick or two" from a city once "considered an urban basket case" and "routinely described as a 'hopeless backwater.'"
- King cheers three San Francisco architects designing "some of the nation's best affordable housing" because "they understand the need to rebuild neighborhood landscapes as well as individual lives."
- Estonia discusses how to "turn the old Soviet-era apartment blocks" (a.k.a. "Khrushchovka") into "eye-catching constructions."
- But one architect says they are in "such poor condition that even thorough renovation wouldn't bring them up to decent standards" (and hopefully won't collapse any time soon).
- In Melbourne, a minuscule budget doesn't dampen an architect's creativity in carving affordable spaces for artists out of a massive old textile mill.
- NYC gets a new park via "an offbeat act of corporate philanthropy" (peanuts and Ken Smith included).
- 2011 Curry Stone Design Prize winners announced - and hopefully will inspire (links to great presentations).

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You Survived Part 2: Mapping the Path to your Next Project and a More Predictable Workload: It is essential to establish a specific, easy, and brief Go/No Go decision process, allowing you to quickly determine where to invest limited marketing resources. By Michael Bernard, AIA, and Nancy Kleppel, Assoc. AIA- ArchNewsNow

Obituary: Imre Makovecz, 75: Hungarian architect whose fairytale designs defied soulless Stalinism...headed a loose-knit band of architects, designers and craft workers who established an alternative way of building, thinking and existing during the long years of communist rule...He sensed a guiding creative spirit in the patterns found in nature. By Jonathan Glancey- Guardian (UK)

Obituary: An architect appalled at communism and consumerism alike: Imre Makovecz was uninterested in becoming a global superstar...His sculptural, symbolic style made him simultaneously an international inspiration and an untranslatable phenomenon. Poetic, charismatic, endlessly generous and indomitable, he was a uniquely Hungarian figure and a truly great man. By Edwin Heathcote- Financial Times (UK)

How a New Cinema Center Could Change the Busan Film Festival/BIFF: Organizers hope the \$15 million Busan Cinema Center...will dazzle festgoers..."starchitecture" as a silver bullet...there are potential pitfalls to banking too much on "if we build it, they will come" architecture, as cultural organizations around the world have learned..."the Bilbao effect"....still has enormous global appeal. -- Wolf Prix/Coop Himmelb(l)au [images]- Hollywood Reporter

Foster + Partners' West Kowloon Cultural District masterplan revised to include ideas from vanquished rivals: CityPark proposal, which narrowly won the most public votes...WKDA preparing to launch design competitions for signature buildings and facilities in the district. -- OMA; Rocco Design- BD/Building Design (UK)

Spain's €44m Oscar Niemeyer International Cultural Centre is shut in galleries glut: Squabble over spending on hotels, trips and meals at complex designed by celebrated Brazilian architect...Although politicians say the Niemeyer will not become an empty white elephant, its name can be added to a growing list of ambitious publicly-funded projects in Spain which have run into trouble. - Guardian (UK)

Architects of Jerusalem's Museum of Tolerance threaten to quit: Moves two weeks before construction at contentious site is set to begin...over differences with the Simon Wiesenthal Center..."The Center drove the architects crazy. It asked for daily briefings and nagged them to death"... By Nir Hasson and Noam Dvir -- Chyutin Architects- Ha'aretz (Israel)

In Irene's Wake, High and Dry Enough? The storm revealed an uncomfortable truth: Much of New York's development has been in areas most at risk of flooding...major projects under way along the water today...take the approach that building bulkheads or armoring the waterfront is not sufficient. - New York Times

The Cascadia conundrum: Balkanized transportation: Puget Sound is a poster child for the problems of regional transportation planning. One big roadblock: long-standing distrust of Seattle...[it] isn't the paragon of urban design it pretends to be...many suburbs have simply been turning into Seattle, becoming more dense, more diverse, and better places for starving artists to find...cheap housing, and work space. By Knute Berger- Crosscut (Seattle)

Boston's secret to success: ...it's still hard for a Philadelphian not to feel jealous of Boston...But did you know that it was pretty much considered an urban basket case until the start of the 1980s? ...routinely described as a "hopeless backwater." I've been learning a lot of surprising details about the city's history in a class at Harvard's GSD, called Cities by Design...Philadelphia could certainly learn a trick or two from Boston... By Inga Saffron- Philadelphia Inquirer

Projects show architects' skills, social concern: In San Francisco - blessed by the presence of designers who take pride in producing work of social merit...some of the nation's best affordable housing. What makes it so good...They understand the need to rebuild neighborhood landscapes as well as individual lives, and their latest projects accomplish this with a nuance that can take decades to master. By John King -- Herman & Coliver: Architecture; Levy Design Partners; David Baker + Partners Architects; Andrea Cochran Landscape Architecture; Daniel Solomon Design Partners [images]- San Francisco Chronicle

Narva Seeks to Beautify the 'Khrushchovka': Architects and heads of apartment associations met...to discuss ways to make the half-century-old apartment buildings visually exciting and energy-efficient...there are many ways to turn the old Soviet-era apartment blocks into eye-catching constructions. -- Peeter Tambu- Estonian Public Broadcasting / Eesti

Architect: Renovating Soviet-Era Houses Not a Solution: The apartment buildings that were mass-constructed throughout Estonia during the 1950s are in such poor condition that even thorough renovation wouldn't bring them up to decent standards...Solutions must be sought fast...the khrushchovka will last only for another 20 years. Hopefully none...will collapse, but the possibility exists... -- Ülar Mark/Center of Architecture.- Estonian Public Broadcasting / Eesti Rahvusringhääling

Thinking outside the box: ...approached by Creative Spaces, an organisation that finds affordable spaces for artists, the budget for the 3000-square-metre building was a minuscule \$300,000...Initiated by the City of Melbourne and Arts Victoria...the architects took up the River Studios challenge. By Stephen Crafti -- Jeremy McLeod/Breathe Architecture [image]- Sydney Morning Herald

Offbeat Corporate Giving: A Park Inspired by Peanuts: A new park called Planters Grove...in a public housing development in the East Village, was developed and paid for by Planters, the snack brand...an offbeat act of corporate philanthropy... -- Ken Smith Landscape Architect- New York Times

2011 Curry Stone Design Grand Prize Winner Announced: Sustainable Architecture in Post-Disaster Areas. Two Winner Prizes for: Collective Urban Architecture and Community Solutions Through Mobile Technology -- Hsieh Ying-Chun; Atelier d'Architecture Autogeree (AAA); FrontlineSMS [links to info, images]- PR Newswire

When a Train Rumbles Past this Recording Studio, Nobody Hears It: SubCat Studios, Syracuse, NY, has rapidly established itself as a catalyst to rebrand and revitalize the city's core. -- Fiedler Marciano Architecture [images]- ArchNewsNow



EASTERN design office: Three Houses: Keyhole House; A House Awaiting Death; Mountain Opening House. Three poetic residential projects in Japan by architects Anna Nakamura and Taiyo Jinno.

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