

Today's News - Tuesday, October 25, 2011

- Adjaye, Hirsch, and Otero-Pailo have a most interesting discussion about architecture and authorship: Is the architect an author of a building or provider of professional services?
- A report about Kamin's recent visit to Columbus, OH, where he praised some neighborhoods, but "took aim at nondescript high-rises, which he colorfully described as 'filing cabinets' and 'buildings with hats on them.'"
- Birnbaum on the continuing saga of Minneapolis's Peavey Plaza: what went right - before it went wrong (might Target save the day?).
- Gehry's Guggenheim Abu Dhabi on hold as some construction contracts are canceled (for the time being).
- The Istrian coast "offers visitors a window into the next generation of Croatian architects who are picking up where "heroic modernism" left off: "it's important to not let Croatia be designed by others."
- Predictions of the demise of libraries have fallen flat (just ask some starchitects).
- King cheers UC Davis West Village that "aspires to be the nation's largest zero net energy community" - a quest "that adds layers of site-specific architectural detail."
- Ijeh cheers the transformation of King's Cross Granary into the University of the Arts in London that "exudes creativity" in a "subtle balance between engagement and restraint, confidence and humility."
- Rinaldi x 2: Kansas City's Kauffman Center, "gleaming and screaming on a small hill...represents a big leap into the present for both the fine arts and architecture" + He just has to rap as architecture goes hip-hop (how could we resist?).
- Ando talks about his next grand adventure with the Clark Art Institute.
- FLW's long-lost plans for a gas station will be a showpiece at the Buffalo Transportation Pierce Arrow Museum (gas not included).
- Should Venturi and Scott Brown be given this year's RIBA Gold Medal? Yes, says Charles Holland/FAT; but Jack Pringle thinks otherwise (their "buildings failed to live up to their fine words" - ouch!).
- Davidson spends some time with Koolhaas, which is a bit "like interrogating an oracle."
- Kamin has the skinny on the 11 teams shortlisted for Chicago's Navy Pier design competition (team members are just as impressive as the leaders - who isn't on this list?!?).
- Wainwright on the "clanging alarm bells" going off around one of Leed's most important historic buildings where a partial collapse illustrates "the lethal effects of neglect on a vast but delicate structure."
- LeBlanc cheers an online treasure-trove of Toronto's mid-century architecture.
- One we really couldn't resist: move over Gehry Collection for Tiffany - now we have the H.Stern by Oscar Niemeyer Collection of diamond and gold jewelry (we'd certainly wear it!).
- Call for entries: Letters of Inquiry for second round of ArtPlace grants for creative placemaking + 2011 Open Architecture Challenge: [UN]RESTRICTED ACCESS international architecture competition to re-purpose closed, abandoned, and decommissioning military sites.

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[On Architecture and Authorship: A Conversation: Is the architect an author of a building or provider of professional services? Can we develop more nuanced understandings of the idea of architectural authorship that acknowledge the complex and collaborative processes of making, inhabiting and preserving buildings? Architects David Adjaye, Nikolaus Hirsch and Jorge Otero-Pailos met recently to contemplate these issues.](#) - Places Journal

[Criticism of skyline not always set in stone: Blair Kamin likes to say that he "kicks tires for a living" -- another way of saying he's an architecture critic...he praised some Columbus neighborhoods...but he took aim at...nondescript high-rises, which he colorfully described as "filing cabinets" and "buildings with hats on them."](#) By Jim Weiker - Columbus Dispatch (Ohio)

[City Shaping IV: Can Target Right What Minneapolis Is About to Ruin? ...with Peavey Plaza about to effectively be bulldozed, what should be done? The City needs to reopen the design decision-making and insure transparency in the process.](#) By Charles A. Birnbaum -- M. Paul Friedberg; Tom Oslund [images, links] - Huffington Post

[Guggenheim Abu Dhabi on hold: Emirate cancels construction contracts for Frank Gehry-designed museum...work will be retendered at a future date...the museum is not being cancelled.](#) - The Art Newspaper (UK)

[New Design on Croatia's Coast: The Istrian coast offers visitors a window into the next generation of Croatian architecture...During the 1960s and '70s, Yugoslav architects...created a new school of design -- now often called heroic modernism...Today, the region's architects are picking up where they left off..."it's important to not let Croatia be designed by others."](#) -- 3LHD; Randic-Turato - New York Times

[Abandoning the Stacks for a Multimedia Wonderland: Many predicted that the rise of the digital book would signal the demise of the library. But the opposite has been the case. The world's top architects have designed a number of modern libraries...though the focus is no longer on the books. -- Herzog & de Meuron; Santiago Calatrava; Zaha Hadid; Rem Koolhaas/OMA; Toyo Ito; Eun Young Yi - Der Spiegel \(Germany\)](#)

[UC Davis West Village touts zero net energy living: architecture itself can embody the quest for conservation, as is the case in this university city...where a new 130-acre development aspires to be the nation's largest zero net energy community...zero net quest - a desire that adds layers of site-specific architectural detail...](#) By John King -- SWA Group; Studio E Architects [images] - San Francisco Chronicle

[University of the Arts: The art of simplicity: ...campus exudes creativity...recently converted King's Cross Granary...melds old and new, industry and art and provides a home for the next generation of designers...a subtle balance between engagement and restraint, confidence and humility...the new Central Saint Martins has pitched it just about right.](#) By Ije Ijeh -- Stanton Williams [images] - Building (UK)

[A hall for all to envy in ambitious Kansas City: ...a city comes together for culture...Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, gleaming and screaming on a small hill in a midsize city, represents a big leap into the present for both the fine arts and architecture...confidence, even cockiness, is a winning trait these days, and that makes this building a landmark product of its time.](#) By Ray Mark Rinaldi -- Moshe Safdie; Nagata Acoustics [images] - Denver Post

[Please forgive the critic \(but he just has to rap...\): Architecture goes hip-hop, critic goes a little crazy.](#) By Ray Mark Rinaldi -- Jean Nouvel; Moshe Safdie; Johnpaul Jones/Jones & Jones Architects [images] - Denver Post

[The Clark Art Institute and its star architect unveil what's next: Tadao Ando's mind is always working; these days he is working on the ongoing construction of the focal point of the completely redesigned lower main campus, the 44,400-square-foot Visitor, Exhibition, and Conference Center. -- Annabelle Selldorf; Gary Hilderbrand - Bennington Banner \(Vermont\)](#)

[Buffalo museum builds long-lost Frank Lloyd Wright gas station: Buffalo Transportation Pierce Arrow Museum is building the filling station...as a showpiece exactly as Wright drew it up..."It's not every day that you discover an unbuilt commission...previously unknown"... -- Patrick Mahoney/Lauer-Manguso & Associates - Reuters](#)

Should the Venturis be given this year's RIBA Gold Medal? Yes, says Charles Holland/FAT, the duo's contribution is phenomenal; but Jack Pringle claims the pair's buildings failed to live up to their fine words. -- Robert Venturi; Denise Scott Brown- BD/Building Design (UK)

45 Minutes With Rem Koolhaas: ...talks about the New York buildings he's never put up...like interrogating an oracle..."Now there is zero communication among architects...We are constantly competing against each other...It's difficult to remain lucid and friendly." By Justin Davidson -- Office for Metropolitan Architecture/OMA- New York Magazine

Hadid, Koolhaas firms head 11 teams picked for next phase of Navy Pier design contest: The chosen teams, culled from more than 50...are mostly headed by non-Chicago designers... By Blair Kamin -- AECOM; Aedas Architects; Frederic Schwartz Architects; Gustafson Guthrie Nichol; Jacques Ferrier Architectures; James Corner Field Operations; Imelk; OMA/SGA (Studio Gang Architects); SHoP Architects; Xavier Vendrell Studio; Zaha Hadid Architects- Chicago Tribune

For ever Egypt - a northern temple to industry is at serious risk: Has Leeds woken up to the fact that one of its most important historic buildings is in serious danger? The Victorian Society and English Heritage are clanging alarm bells...dramatically illustrated by the partial collapse of Temple Mill...the lethal effects of neglect on a vast but delicate structure... By Martin Wainwright- Guardian (UK)

Reading the narrative of Toronto's mid-century architecture: ...well represented in Toronto, but...much of it is isolated and difficult to find...Robert Moffatt's Toronto Modern, a treasure-trove of over 50 entries covering everything from public buildings...to private homes. By Dave LeBlanc -- Ron Thom; Henry Fliess; DOCOMOMO; Moriyama & Teshima Architects; Charles Dolphin; Leslie Rebanks; WZMH; Bregman and Hamann; Peter Dickinson; Uno Prii; Taivo Kapsi; Gordon Adamson [slide show]- Globe and Mail (Canada)

Oscar Niemeyer inspires New H.Stern jewelry collection: Niemeyer appears to bend straight lines in his concrete structures, transforming curves into a natural solution for his creations. H.Stern does the same with gold and diamonds. [images]- Philippine Daily Inquirer

Call for entries: Letter of Inquiry for second round of ArtPlace grants for creative placemaking: projects integrating artists and arts organizations into key local efforts in transportation, housing, community development, job creation and more; deadline: November 15- ArtPlace

Call for entries: 2011 Open Architecture Challenge: [UN]RESTRICTED ACCESS: From military space to civic space - international architecture competition to re-purpose closed, abandoned and decommissioning military sites from Gaddafi's compound to Guantanamo Bay Detention Center; registration deadline: March 31, 2012; submission deadline: May 1, 2012- Open Architecture Network / Architecture for Humanity



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