

## Today's News - Tuesday, November 1, 2011

- Hunter offers an insightful, in-depth look at Bangkok's "pocket-urbanization" (a.k.a. slums) and the role of community architects to envision "housing policies beyond the simple provision of houses, putting people at the centre of the process."
- In Australia, plans to reform the Office of the Victorian Government Architect and a new Victorian Design Review Panel will put renew "emphasis on architecture and design."
- King looks beyond politics to see how Occupy San Francisco "brings unexpected life to dormant park" as an "example of how cities never stand still - and often change in ways that no planner or politician can predict."
- White discovers Calgary has an "exercise district": "we just haven't branded it as such"; now would be a good time to start promoting the "Bow River Exercise District" brand.
- Chaban x 2: the long quest of Manhattan's East Siders' dreams of waterfront open space might be at hand + An eyeful of "some terribly lively schemes" that are "an ambitious way of thinking about the greenway."
- Christchurch begs to differ with British developer who claims the city's new pop-up City Mall Restart project is a "blatant breach of London's Boxpark intellectual property rights."
- Woodward explores the new "age of flower towers" and architects "using green technology to grow forests in the sky" (hopefully not in hurricane zones?).
- Heathcote finds three new hotels that are "the perfect settings for design-lovers to witness New York's architectural renaissance."
- Merrick waxes melodious about a "nondescript Cardiff building reborn as virtuoso modernism" that "has a great vibe, and outlook, an architectural machine that sings."
- An undeveloped site next to Malta's St. Julian's church is earmarked for a mixed-use project that will "respect the needs of the local community."
- In Philadelphia, Stern is tapped - for the third time and site - to design a Museum of the American Revolution.
- Solomon tours three FLW projects in Wisconsin that "reveal the man and the era he lived in": she marvels "at the contrast between the calm landscape and the delirious inventiveness of his work."
- A profile of a young Moscow firm whose business was boosted by the 2008 financial crisis: "how innovative the Russian capital could be if restrictions and bureaucracy were removed."
- If we were in Bulgaria, we'd be heading to Sofia Architecture Week today!
- Call for entries: MONU magazine's Non-Urbanism issue + Amsterdam Iconic Pedestrian Bridge international competition.

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Decoding Bangkok's Pocket-Urbanization: Social Housing Provision and the Role of Community Architects: ...years of unequal access to financial resources and land essentially yielded a process of social and spatial 'pocketisation' by way of 'slums'...At least to some degree...programme has set a new agenda...envisioning housing policies beyond the simple provision of houses, putting people at the centre of the process. By William Hunter [images]- Archinect

Premier Ted Baillieu sketches plans for emphasis on architecture and design: The Office of the Victorian Government Architect will be reformed as an "independent and authoritative voice" for design in the state, and will also run a new Victorian Design Review Panel. - Sydney Morning Herald

Occupy San Francisco brings unexpected life to dormant park: ...showed evidence of what so far feels like an upbeat, ad hoc village...You can worry about sanitation conditions or future conflict. But what's happening before our eyes is an example of how cities never stand still - and often change in ways that no planner or politician can predict. By John King [slide show]- San Francisco Chronicle

"Exercise District" flexes its muscles: ...Calgary already has one; we just haven't branded it as such...If Calgary is serious about creating unique 21st century urban places, it would be well served by adopting and promoting the "Bow River Exercise District" brand (BRED for short). By Richard White/Riddell Kurczaba Architecture- Calgary Herald (Canada)

Park Life: The East Side's Landless Gentry Fight for Every Scrap of Open Space: Thanks to rampant development...access to the water, a mere mile away, has been all but impossible...mayor reached what he called "a historic agreement" with the United Nations that would finally realize every East Sider's dream of waterfront open space. By Matt Chaban [slide show]- New York Observer

Revolutionizing the East River Waterfront: Things sure are moving fast...a coalition of civic groups have announced the winners of Closing the Gap competition to create a new waterfront park stretching from 39th to 60th streets...designers proposed some terribly lively schemes...an ambitious way of thinking about the greenway... By Matt Chaban -- Transportation Alternatives; d3; pla.net architects; James and Madeline Stokoe; Civitas [slide show]- New York Observer

The Best and Worst of the World's Central Plazas and Squares -- Project For Public Spaces [slide show essay]- The Atlantic Cities

Lawsuit threat to 'pop-up' City Mall Restart project: ...being accused of copying a "pop-up mall" in London. Director of the London Boxpark development...accusing them of a "blatant breach of the Boxpark intellectual property rights"...The threat could not have come at worse time for Christchurch organisers... -- Anton Tritt/The Buchan Group- Stuff (New Zealand)

The age of flower towers: Architects are tackling the problems of the concrete jungle with ambitious schemes using green technology to grow forests in the sky...Bosco Verticale in Milan...the world's first 'vertical forest'...Greenwich South quarter in Manhattan...Torre Huerta social housing project in Valencia...Harmonia 57 in São Paulo... By Christopher Woodward/Garden Museum -- Stefano Boeri; MVRDV; MGAARQTOS; Lewis.Tsurumaki.Lewis/LTL Architects; Triptyque; Edouard François [images]- Financial Times (UK)

Stay cool: Three new hotels provide the perfect settings for design-lovers to witness New York's architectural renaissance...Now, you don't need to go just to look at good new architecture, you can stay in it. By Edwin Heathcote -- Grzywinski+Pons; Enrique Norten/TEN Arquitectos; MCH [slide show]- Financial Times (UK)

Architecture that hits the high notes: A nondescript Cardiff building is reborn as virtuoso modernism: Until a few weeks ago, few people in Cardiff even knew where the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama was...Now, after a dazzling £22m extension, you couldn't miss the place if you tried...It has a great vibe, and outlook, an architectural machine that sings. By Jay Merrick -- Jason Flanagan/BFLS Architects [image]- Independent (UK)

Car park proposed next to St Julian's church: Presently undeveloped site...earmarked for the development of a public car park, a supermarket, offices and 12 residential units...project respects the needs of the local community. -- Ray DeMicoli/DeMicoli & Associates [image]- Malta Today

Architect selected for Museum of the American Revolution: Third time's the charm. After years of debate, two rejected sites and immeasurable frustration, plans for the Museum are finally under way...the architect chosen to design the museum is - again - Robert A.M. Stern...design will use "the language of traditional Philadelphia architecture." -- MFM Design- Philadelphia Inquirer

Frank Lloyd Wright's Wisconsin: A tour of three of the architect's home-state masterpieces reveals the man and the era he lived in...to marvel at the contrast between the calm landscape and the delirious inventiveness of his work...Taliesin; Monona Terrace; Johnson Wax building... By Deborah Solomon [slide show] - New York Times

The hunt for Russia's new Red October: Moscow architect Fyodor Dubinnikov is one of those rare people whose business was boosted by the 2008 financial crisis...Krasny Oktyabr is a good example of how innovative the Russian capital could be if restrictions and bureaucracy were removed. -- Pavel Chaunin/Mel Space - The Moscow News (Russia)

Sofia Architecture Week/"SAW 2011" Opens in Bulgaria's Capital: A number of exhibits and lectures, November 1-6, are going to present the unlimited possibilities of architecture. [link to details] - Novinite.com (Sofia News Agency)

Call for entries/submissions: MONU magazine on urbanism has released its new call for submissions for MONU #16 on the topic of Non-Urbanism; deadline: December 31 - MONU magazine

Call for entries: Amsterdam Iconic Pedestrian Bridge international competition; cash prizes; earlybird registration deadline: December 15 - [AC-CA] Architectural Competition/Concours d'Architecture



Hagar Qim and Mnajdra Temples, UNESCO World Heritage Site, Island of Malta: To protect the 5,000-years-old temple ruins against further deterioration, engineers developed two special membrane roof structures, which now cover and protect the archaeological excavation. -- Walter Hunziker Architekten; formTL

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