Today's News - Tuesday, November 8, 2011

- An intriguing exploration of "how architects might participate in the provision of shelter on the Occupy Wall Street protest sites, and beyond."
- Good timing, too occupiers in Zuccotti Park are dealing with the dilemma of density "in classic Manhattan fashion: arguing about it, making deals and building upward" (and taking a census).
- It looks like 1WTC might get a glittery glass base after all.
- · Hodges hails a "quiet revolution" that "has remade one of the Detroit area's gems" with a "discreetly elegant addition" to Saarinen's Cranbrook Art Museum.
- Steve Paul on the art museum in the Arkansas woods that looks "rather organic, like some gigantic tree-dwelling insects or fat wormlike creatures sunning for a spell (he means that in a good way).
- Finn is practically gob-smacked by the Crystal Bridges Museum: "You can take all those MOMAs, I'm happy here...Just the restaurant makes you grin."
- · Hadid does La Jolla with a 12,700-square-foot house; some neighbors are none too pleased (great pix).
- · Fort Worth's Sundance Square to get classically-designed boutique-style office buildings; now they just have to figure out what the square will look like.
- · Kimmelman cruises NYC's controversial bikeways with Sadik-Khan ("a piñata for their vocal opponents") it's quite a journey.
- · A profile of the man behind gardens that defy gravity the inventor of green walls.
- Christo gets clearance for his river project in Colorado, which could "draw 400,000 visitors, both during the construction which could become its own tourist event and the display itself."
- Russia has big plans to build a vast domed city for 5,000 residents 1,000 miles from North Pole: "a luxury lifestyle in the cocoon."
- We have Post-modernism being dissected in NYC at the end of this week; plan to come back next week for TCLF's Second Wave of Modernism II: Landscape Transformation and Complexity two-day conference at MoMA.
- · We just couldn't resist this one: a collection of the world's funniest and/or most absurd signs (you will laugh out loud, we promise!).
- Call for entries: Nominations for Cooper-Hewitt's 2012 Annual National Design Awards.

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Occupy: What Architecture Can Do: Reinhold Martin explores how architects might participate, in the provision of shelter on the Occupy Wall Street protest sites, and beyond. [images, links]- Places Journal

Protesters' Dilemma: Less Space to Occupy: Occupy Wall Street protesters are confronting a classic Manhattan problem: lots of people, not a lot of space...organizers are looking for structures that allow for higher density...It's "sort of like what New York did with the skyscraper...It will create better walkways and emergency exits."- Wall Street Journal

1 World Trade Center gets its glass pedestal: After months of effort, and one failed plan, architect devises an appealing skin for 185-foot-tall, fortified-concrete base of New York's tallest building-to-be...base will be covered with glass louvers that are set at different angles... -- David Childs/Skidmore Owings & Merrill (SOM)- Crain's New York

Cranbrook Art Museum reopens with design exhibit: A quiet revolution has remade one of the Detroit area's gems...the outside is a discreetly elegant addition...and saves all the visual fireworks for the interior...plazas weren't on the original to-do list, but falling construction prices...allowed the institution to stretch its budget to include them, as well as restoring [the] original landscaping scheme. By Michael H. Hodges -- Eliel Saarinen (1942); Reed Kroloff; SmithGroup [image]- Detroit News

In the Arkansas woods, an art museum sprouts tall: ...from a distance, the rounded and glass-striped copper roofs of the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art look rather organic, like some gigantic tree-dwelling insects or fat wormlike creatures sunning for a spell. Perhaps it's a happy accident, but the image turns out to be fitting. "We're a bunch of nature lovers," Alice L. Walton says... By Steve Paul -- Moshe Safdie [images, video]- Kansas City Star

Art in the Ozarks: Why should museums be stuck in cities? Call the Ozarks "middle America" if you have to, but don't call it middlebrow. The gob-stopping \$1.2 billion Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art opens...You can take all those MOMAs, I'm happy here...Just the restaurant makes you grin. By Holly Finn — Moshe Safdie- Wall Street Journal

Zaha Takes Flight: San Diego Planning Commission okays Hadid's La Jolla House: Despite strident appeals from some neighbors...[will] demolish an existing house...and replace it with a 12,700 square foot residence...displays Hadid's trademark focus on elegant plasticity. By Sam Lubell -- Zaha Hadid; Public [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Fort Worth's Sundance Square to construct two boutique-style office buildings next year: The buildings have been designed, but the look of the central plaza is still up in the air. -- David M. Schwarz Architects; The Projects Group; Bennett Benner Pettit Planners + Architects [images]- Fort Worth Star-Telegram (Texas)

Pleasures of Life in the Slow Lane: Janette Sadik-Khan, transportation commissioner for New York City, leads a two-wheeled tour of the city's controversial bike lanes...the driving force behind the city's new bike lanes and now also a piñata for their vocal opponents...a city reaches a tipping point when biking achieves what [she] describes as an everyday "architecture of safety." By Michael Kimmelman [slide show]- New York Times

The Green Man Whose Gardens Defy Gravity: Since Biblical times, gardens have been horizontal, with flowers and plants sprouting out of the ground. Patrick Blanc has turned that whole notion on its side, literally. He is the inventor of the vertical garden, also known as the living (or green) wall. [images, video]- Wall Street Journal

U.S. Clears Art Project by Christo in Colorado: A \$50 million art project, "Over the River," will suspend nearly six miles of fabric panels along a 42-mile stretch of the Arkansas River...could generate \$121 million in economic output and draw 400,000 visitors, both during the construction — which could become its own tourist event — and the display itself.- New York Times

Welcome to Ice City: Russia plans to build frozen community 1,000 miles from North Pole... as race for Arctic minerals heats up: Named Umka...the initial 5,000 residents will live under a vast dome...designs are based on the International Space Station...a luxury lifestyle in the cocoon...Food wise, it will be totally self-sufficient... -- Valery Rzhevskiy [image]- Daily Mail (UK)

Second Wave of Modernism II: Landscape Transformation and Complexity, Friday November 18, 2011 at The Museum of Modern Art in New York: International Leaders in Landscape Architecture & Architecture Examine Significant Modernist Sites at a Residential, Urban and Metropolitan Scale -- Julie Bargmann; James Corner; Lisa Gimmy; Kathryn Gustafson; Gary R. Hilderbrand; Raymond Jungles; Christopher LaGuardia; Elizabeth K. Meyer; Charles Renfro; Michael Van Valkenburgh; Charles A. Birnbaum; etc.- The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF)

World's Funniest Signs: Don't Drive Your Car off a Cliff! Some of these signs aren't just funny, but absurd — like one next to the water in Mystic, CT, saying that throwing rocks will cost you 50 cents each. [slide show essay]- Travel + Leisure

Call for entries: Nominations for the 2012 Annual National Design Awards honoring lasting achievement in American design;

open to citizens or long-term residents of the United States and corporations or institutions headquartered in the U.S. deadline: December 15- Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum
Preston Scott Cohen: Herta & Paul Amir Ruilding, Tel Aviv Museum of Art. Tel Aviv Israel

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