

Today's News - Thursday, November 17, 2011

- We lose Boeke, the visionary architect behind Sea Ranch.
- The £5.5bn Liverpool Waters scheme threatens Liverpool's world heritage status: "If the price of that vanity badge is wrecking the plans, we should pay it. The vanity badge, from what I can tell, has brought little, if any, benefit" (needless to say, not all agree).
- Rogers warns that the national planning policy needs to be rewritten or the U.K. "could look like Los Angeles" (gasp!).
- Meanwhile, his design for the largest office building in Australia offers the "most accurate glimpse yet of the future for the \$6 billion Barangaroo urban renewal project (nothing very L.A. about that, right?).
- Brussat offers Part 1 of his report from last week's star-studded "Reconsidering Postmodernism" conference: "The difficulty of defining the word, let alone the phenomenon itself, pretzeled speaker after speaker."
- Kimmelman, Bernstein, and Genevro tackle the future (and history) of housing in NYC: "can the city become nimble again?"; a conference with an impressive line-up of architects explored possible answers; and a historical snapshot of Starrett City proves "there are models that work."
- Some say the next building boom will be multifamily housing, but "architects will have to get clever at delivering quality inventive housing without spending the time."
- Grand Rapids' "bustling downtown" could grow even livelier with proposed \$31 million urban market (demolition required).
- But in Chicago, many are questioning why a historic, 19th-century brewery should bite the dust to make way for a big-box retailer, when it "could be adapted to many different uses."
- Participants at the first National Built Heritage Forum in Jeddah call for heritage preservation in the city's historic Balad district: "there is reluctance on the part of owners to understand the heritage value of their properties."
- Crosbie visits the King Memorial in DC, and is sorely disappointed: "it is very cartoonish...a miniature Mount Rushmore" (the best way to see it is if you don't walk in the way the designers want you to).
- Pedersen ponders the winning design in the Living City Design Competition that gives Paris "a futuristic, green makeover," combining "both the imminently practical and the wildly blue-sky."
- A good reason to find yourself in Johannesburg next week: a conference tackling sustainable architecture in South Africa - Recycling the City, based on "economy of means, simple solutions and good sense, involving urban recycling."
- Help wanted: IIT is looking for a new Dean of the College of Architecture.
- Call for entries: Re-Thinking Shanghai 2012: International Design Competition for a Sustainable Intervention on the Suzhou Creek.
- One we couldn't resist: a German village plans to build a church out of snow (it's quite beautiful, too).

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Obituary: Al Boeke, Architect Who Sought Ecological Harmony, 88: ...in 1962 when Boeke flew...over the pristine beaches, steep bluffs, wind-swept woods and sheep-grazed meadows along the Pacific Coast in Sonoma County, Calif...What [he] saw, in his mind's eye, was a residential community...That vision led to Sea Ranch... -- Joseph Esherick; Charles Moore; Donlyn Lyndon; William Turnbull; Richard Whitaker; Lawrence Halprin - *New York Times*

Is Liverpool's world heritage status in ruins? A billionaire's 60-storey skyscraper has prompted Unesco to reconsider the honour it granted the city...Peel Group's £5.5bn Liverpool Waters scheme...would have "a significant damaging negative impact"... "If the price of that vanity badge is wrecking the plans, we should pay it. The vanity badge, from what I can tell, has brought little, if any, benefit." [image]- *Independent (UK)*

Richard Rogers warns that UK 'could look like Los Angeles': Architect says national planning policy needs to be rewritten to avoid creeping suburban sprawl. -- Rogers Stirk Harbour - *BD/Building Design (UK)*

Barangaroo plans reveal nation's largest office building: ...the most accurate glimpse yet of the future for the \$6 billion urban renewal project. -- Rogers Stirk Harbour & Partners [images]- *Sydney Morning Herald*

Postmodern architecture demystified: ..."Reconsidering Postmodernism" conference...Some who attended...anticipated the conference with dread...leery of ICAA's interest in postmodernism...The difficulty of defining the word, let alone the phenomenon itself, pretzeled speaker after speaker. By David Brussat -- Institute of Classical Architecture & Art; Michael Graves; Robert A.M. Stern; Andrés Duany; Robert Adam; Thomas Gordon Smith; Demetri Porphyrios; Jaquelin Robertson; Vincent Scully; Robert Venturi; Denise Scott Brown; Charles Jencks; Witold Rybczynski; Paul Goldberger; Robert Campbell [images]- *Providence Journal (Rhode Island)*

Imagining Housing for Today: Bronx Park East, a single-room occupancy residence, opens new possibilities for housing stock in New York...a kind of "S.R.O. redux"...In the past New York has adapted to changing household patterns...The question now is can the city become nimble again? By Michael Kimmelman -- Jonathan Kirschenfeld; Peter L. Gluck; Ted Smith; Deborah Gans; Rafi Segal; Stan Allen; Fred A. Bernstein [slide show]- *New York Times*

Starrett City: A Home of One's Own — With Party Walls: Rosalie Genevro offers a historical snapshot of Starrett City and challenges us to question conventional notions of "house" and "home" in American culture...It is good to know that there are models that work. -- Architectural League of New York -- Citizens Housing and Planning Council; Making Room; United Housing Foundation (UHF); Herman Jessor [images, links]- *Urban Omnibus*

The New Normal: Can urban, multifamily rentals drive the economy forward? ...a building boom is on the horizon. It's multifamily housing...High-rise density...remains a challenge in many urban neighborhoods...current challenges are formidable..."architects will have to get clever at delivering quality inventive housing without spending the time." -- Meeks + Partners; Elness Swenson Graham Architects; Douglas Root Architects; Heller Manus Architects; Koning Eizenberg Architecture- *AIArchitect*

A market force for Grand Rapids' bustling downtown grows closer to reality: The next accoutrement in...growing list of amenities — a proposed \$31 million urban market for downtown...to demolish six neglected buildings and prepare the 3.5-acre site for a 130,000-square-foot market... -- Hugh A. Boyd; Design+; Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber- *Crain's Detroit Business*

Should historic Elston Ave. brewing complex be destroyed for a big-box retailer? If the former Brand Brewing Co. complex remains, the multiple structures and unique floor plans could be adapted to many different uses...architectural details show the rare survivor of a 19th century Chicago brewery. By Patrick Steffes [images]- *Our Urban Times (Chicago)*

Collaboration needed to protect heritage: Participants at the first National Built Heritage Forum discussed the emerging voices of heritage preservation in Jeddah's historic Balad district...there is reluctance on the part of owners to understand the heritage value of their properties. -- Norah Al-Khamis; Islam Al-Guniami - *Arab News*

King Memorial Is More Mountain Than Man: ...It attempts to take a symbolic reference imbedded in King's great oratory and make a memorial out of it by inflating it into a cartoon. And it is very cartoonish...a miniature Mount Rushmore...Getting turned into stone can be deadly. By Michael J. Crosbie- *Hartford Courant (Connecticut)*

[Image Control: The winners of the Living City Design Competition give Paris a futuristic, green makeover...winning entry "Reinterpretation of Paris"...combines, as it should, both the imminently practical and the wildly blue-sky...a laundry list of sustainable best practices...have never been implemented simultaneously on a large urban scale...most radical proposal involves transportation. By Martin C. Pedersen -- Maximilian and Daniel Zielinski \[images\]- Metropolis Magazine](#)

[Workshop to address sustainable architecture in South Africa: fourth annual EUNIC Architecture Studio...students from South Africa, France, the UK and Mozambique, together with architects and young professionals, will tackle the major issue of Recycling the City, an Approach to Sustainable Architecture...based on economy of means, simple solutions and good sense, involving urban recycling. -- European Union of National Institutes for Culture; Thorsten Deckler/26'10 South Architects; Frédéric Druot; Daniel Estevez; Christophe Hutin; Iain Low; Alexander Opper/Notion Architects; Carin Smuts/CS Studio Architects; Jeffrey Turko/Nekton Studio- Bizcommunity.com \(South Africa\)](#)

[IIT invites nominations for, and expressions of interest in, the position of Dean of the College of Architecture.- Illinois Institute of Technology \(IIT\)](#)

[Call for entries: Re-Thinking Shanghai 2012: International Design Competition for a Sustainable Intervention on the Suzhou Creek; registration deadline: March 1, 2012; submissions due: March 28, 2012- 10 Design](#)

[When Heaven Freezes Over: German Village Rebuilds Its Snow Church 100 Years Later: Hotels and bars made out of ice have been common for a while - now a church is the latest project to get the cold treatment. -- Alfons Doeringer \[images\]- Der Spiegel \(Germany\)](#)

[Michael Sorkin: Architectural Critic as Scam Scanner and Urban\(e\) Design Sage: "All Over the Map," a sprawling miscellany of recent essays on buildings and cities, is a triumph of enlightened nay-saying and affirmation. By Norman Weinstein- ArchNewsNow](#)



[Exhibition: "Detour DK" - DAC Danish Architecture Centre, Copenhagen, Denmark -- Peter Zumthor/and Louise Bourgeois; Odd Aanensen/Inge Dahlman; Pushak arkitekter; 70° Nord - Gisle Løkken; Reiulf Ramstad Architects; Jensen & Skodvin Architects; Snøhetta](#)

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