

Today's News - Thursday, January 5, 2012

- Kamin x 2: lots to look forward to in 2012 + a most engaging take on the Burj Khalifa two years later: despite "its status as a global icon" (and currently co-starring with Tom Cruise), "it is plainly no towering achievement in urban planning."
- BD lines up some of the key projects around the world due to open this year (we can't wait!).
- Horsley hails the Top 10 new NYC apartment buildings that offer "hope that the city's design conservatism may be waning."
- After years of second-class attention, there is hope that NYC is finally heading into a "golden age for the East River."
- Brussat hands out his Roses and Raspberries for 2011 (mincing no words, of course).
- An in-depth look at PennPraxis at 10: "the group has pushed farther and farther afield, branching into the sort of city-changing projects that other academic design groups only dream of."
- Stephens connects the dots between "a sorority of dissent" - Jane Jacobs, Rachel Carson, and Betty Friedan: "There must have been something in the water affecting women in the early 1960s."
- The new wing of Cranbrook's Saarinen-designed museum may not include new galleries or grand entrances, "but to call it simply 'storage space' would demean the complicated inner workings" that allows the museum to operate as intended when it was completed in 1942.
- Dvir delves into the planned transformation of a seminal 1970s building in Haifa "from a modest, modernist office building to a brazen high tech one," losing "its architectural identity for good" (not all are displeased: "not every building planned by a great architect is worth preserving forever").
- de Portzamparc's One57 now rising in Manhattan "may cement the arrival of a new boom."
- Mays goes mano-a-mano with Yansong Ma re: how his "foxily curvaceous" Marilyn tower in Mississauga was "a landmark breakout from cereal-box modernism" (the word "nature" comes up often).
- The downsides of working in a glass office: aside from a loss of privacy, there's "the bird factor - people slamming into walls."
- A London-based firm wins U.N. ideas competition for housing in Iraq; first up: three sites in Baghdad (one hopes).
- Krasnow on the special challenges in designing Indian Country detention facilities: "One of the significant differences is the challenge of incorporating a tribe's cultural values & symbols."
- Q&A with the newly-elected president of African Union of Architects re: the future: "the focus is to re-brand African Architects and architecture" (and how to keep all the good work from going to foreigners).
- As if things aren't bad enough, a new study shows an architecture degree yields highest unemployment: "People keep telling kids to study what they love - but some loves are worth more than others."
- Call for entries: Helsinki Central Library International Architectural Competition.
- Winners all: Faith & Form/IFRAA 2011 Religious Art and Architecture Awards + Association of Licensed Architects 13th Annual Design Awards.

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Architecture and urban design forecast for 2012: Navy Pier competition, Hadid at Michigan State, London Olympics, and more. By Blair Kamin -- VOA Associates; Ralph Johnson/Perkins+Will; Stanley Tigerman; Jeanne Gang; Muller + Muller; Zimmer Gunsul Frasca (AGF); Solomon Cordwell Buenz; Anderson Mikos Architects; Arup; Michael Van Valkenburgh; Carol Ross Barney; Lucien Lagrange [links] - Chicago Tribune

The Burj Khalifa two years later: With help from Hollywood, the world's tallest building asserts its status as a global icon, but real estate and urban planning problems remain: "...the big real estate idea...was to make the tower a focal/selling point for an entire urban district...Dubai has an awful track record of building first and planning later, and so it is with the Burj...for now at least, it is plainly no towering achievement in urban planning. By Blair Kamin -- Bill Baker/Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Adrian Smith [images, links] - Chicago Tribune

Buildings of 2012: BD looks ahead to some of the key projects around the world due for completion in 2012 -- OMA; Zaha Hadid; Grimshaw/Dattner Architects; MVRDV; SANAA; Foster + Partners; Herzog & de Meuron [images] - BD/Building Design (UK)

Top 10 Newly Developed NYC Apartment Buildings Ranked on Architectural Merit: "...there were some strong entries for excellent architecture - encouraging hope that the city's design conservatism may be waning... By Carter B. Horsley -- Kohn Pedersen Fox(KPF); Frank Gehry; Neil Denari; Perkins Eastman; DDG Design; Ehrenkrantz Eckstut & Kuhn/EE&K; Arquitectonica; SLCE Architects; Lucien Lagrange; Annabelle Selldorf/Selldorf Architects - Citybizlist New York

Reinventing the East Side Waterfront: A steady drumbeat of real estate deals, park restorations, reclaimed piers and new esplanades heralds the remaking of Manhattan's East Side waterfront..."a golden age for the East River" is at hand... -- Municipal Art Society - New York Times

Roses and raspberries for 2011: "...main ally in suppressing the dominion of the raspberry in recent years is the continuation of the poor economy. By David Brussat [images] - Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

PennPraxis at 10: "...research ideas can translate into object lessons for design students by assigning them real-world projects with contracts, deliverables, deadlines -- and, not incidentally, fees...Along the way, the group has pushed farther and farther afield, branching into the sort of city-changing projects that other academic design groups only dream of..."Its impact has been really profound," says Inga Saffron... -- Harris Steinberg; Gary Hack; James Timberlake/KieranTimberlake - The Pennsylvania Gazette (University of Pennsylvania)

50 Years Later, Jacobs Still Leads a Sorority of Dissent: Rachel Carson, Betty Friedan, and Jane Jacobs tore at the social fabric of America...They reaffirmed the beauty...that had been forgotten in the aesthetic cataclysm of the 1950s, and then they painstakingly explained what had happened and what could be done...Though they chose different images, they all wrote about the same thing. By Josh Stephens - California Planning & Development Report

Polishing a Gem: Cranbrook's Saarinen-designed museum gets a new wing...does not add new galleries, lobbies, or grand entrances. But to call it simply "storage space" would demean the complicated inner workings of a building that allows the historic museum to operate as Eliel and Eero Saarinen intended when it was completed in 1942. -- Raphael Moneo (2002); SmithGroup [images] - The Architect's Newspaper

Back to the Future / Pulling in anchors: The Zim building in Haifa's lower city helped herald a renewal effort in the 70s...the city is hoping a new look will help breath life into the area...extensive renovation plans...call for its transformation from a modest, modernist office building to a brazen high tech one...likely to lose its architectural identity for good..."not every building planned by a great architect is worth preserving forever." By Noam Dvir -- Shmuel and Ari Rosov (1970); Mansfeld-Kehat [image] - Ha'aretz (Israel)

Building New York: Christian de Portzamparc's One57 Towers over the City: "...will exceed 1,000 feet to become the city and country's tallest residential building...In the wake of the still-lingering recession, the success of One57 may cement the arrival of a new boom. -- Thomas Juul-Hansen [images] - International Business Times

Marilyn throws a curve at traditional Toronto condo design: When the wraps came off Yansong Ma's design for the foxily

curvaceous Absolute condominium tower in Mississauga almost six years ago...Critics at home and abroad hailed the project as a landmark breakout from cereal-box modernism...the word "nature" comes up often..."Going natural," however, does not mean the same thing for Ma that "going green" signifies for most Western architects. By John Bentley Mays -- MAD Architects - Globe and Mail (Canada)

Indecent Exposure: The Downsides of Working in a Glass Office: While they may bring more efficiency, some complain about a loss of privacy...Some companies are tinkering with the designs to make them more habitable...Then there is "the bird factor — people slamming into walls"... - Wall Street Journal

British firms wins Iraq housing work: Assemblage has won a United Nations ideas competition...The government is looking at using its winning design on three sites in Baghdad which it wants to start work on this year. - BD/Building Design (UK)

Thoughts on Planning, Programming & Designing Indian Country Detention Facilities: One of the significant differences in designing an Indian Country detention facility is the challenge of incorporating a tribe's cultural values & symbols. By Peter Krasnow, FAIA/Justice Solutions Group - Correctional News

"Local architects are incapacitated": Chief Tokunbo Omisore was recently elected President of African Union of Architects (AUA)...he speaks on his role as president, the state of the architectural industry and plans for the future..."the focus is to re-brand African Architects and architecture." - The Nation (Nigeria)

New study shows architecture, arts degrees yield highest unemployment: "People keep telling kids to study what they love - but some loves are worth more than others"... - Washington Post

Call for entries: Helsinki Central Library International Architectural Competition (2 stages); cash prizes; deadline (Stage 1): April 16, 2012 - City of Helsinki (Finland)

Faith & Form/IFRAA 2011 Religious Art and Architecture Awards: "Context" was the watchword... -- Duncan G. Stroik Architect; Kubala Washatko Architects; Albano Poli; Kiki Smith/Deborah Gans; Constantine George Pappas; Shim-Sutcliffe Architects; Maurice Jennings + Walter Jennings Architects; Atkin Olshin Schade Architects; Kosinski Architecture; Quinn Evans Architects; Historic Building Architects; Richard Brown Architect; Lehrer Architects LA; Arquipelago; etc. [images] - Faith & Form Magazine

Association of Licensed Architects (ALA) Announces Winners in 13th Annual Design Award Competition -- Dewberry/MKC Associates; INVISION Architecture; Morgante Wilson Architects; Dewberry/HDA Architects; Hirsch Associates; FGH Architects; Harley Ellis Devereaux; McCollum Architects; Design Organization; Urban Works; Torchia Associates; Korb Tredo Architects; LCM Architects; etc. [images] - Association of Licensed Architects (ALA)



Yayoi Kusama: Flowers That Bloom at Midnight, Jardins des Tuileries, Paris, France

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