

Today's News - Tuesday, April 3, 2012

- Belogolovsky and Villa throw the spotlight on five Colombian architects who leverage brick, concrete, and glass forms to improve the lives of ordinary people in an exhibition making its world debut in Chicago today.
- Two new reports show how the new building energy rating and disclosure policy "is creating skilled, export-proof jobs" across the U.S.
- It's a New Urbanism kind of day: is it a community-planning model for the 21st century? Plater-Zyberk thinks so, but "not everyone is a cheerleader."
- Berg tackles "imposturbs" - themed real estate developments that "have spread urban mimicry" around the world (and are "a little absurd").
- In 1953, a 23-year-old penned a manifesto for new urbanism "in a particularly absurdist fashion" (a fascinating read!).
- Chaban parses the NYT's editorial board getting on board with NYU's expansion plans in Greenwich Village: "This is quite the reversal from Kimmelman's daring proposal a week ago, which has already become a cause célèbre in the neighborhood."
- Saffron tallies up the pluses and minuses of the Barnes move: even critics "will have to work to find reasons to hate this building. The architecture is that good" (so are the gardens!).
- Meanwhile, Philly's Kimmel Center is making over two of its quasi-public spaces "in hopes of becoming more hospitable and profitable."
- Baltimore's Camden Yards turns 20: "the grande dame of the post-modern era of sports architecture...became the poster child for a new generation of stadium architecture and a national symbol of successful downtown revitalization."
- Wilmington, NC, would like to repeat that success with a riverfront stadium of its own.
- Book now: a luxury "groundscraper" hotel planned in an abandoned quarry in China - truly a "jaw-dropping design."
- With a new, shortened shortlist, the long-stalled L.A. Courthouse project might actually (finally!) become the "biggest new architecture project in Los Angeles."
- Modesto Junior College's new student center is "shiny, new and very different."
- Sarasota High School picks its design team; next step: determining what will become of Rudolph's Building 4 (at least they have a Rudolph expert on board).
- Doig "explains why buses have an image problem and the things cities around the world are doing to improve bus transit."
- BMW Guggenheim Lab lands a new spot in Berlin (sounds perfect, too - lots of artists, galleries, and food).
- Berger looks back at "what-might-have-been" plans for Seattle's 1962 World's Fair (some pretty far-out proposals).
- One we really, really couldn't resist: eye-fuls of architectural LOLcats - Libeskitten and Rem Kooplaws included (and who could resist Kickboxing Kitty taking on Gehry's "Fred & Ginger" in Prague?!?).

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Colombia: Transformed / Architecture = Politics: The curators of the exhibition making its world debut in Chicago this week throw the spotlight on five Colombian architects who leverage brick, concrete, and glass forms to improve the lives of ordinary people. By Vladimir Belogolovsky and Fernando Villa, AIA, LEED AP - ArchNewsNow

New IMT Research Finds That Energy Benchmarking Policies Create Jobs: Two new reports...show how a new kind of energy policy, called building energy rating and disclosure, is creating skilled, export-proof jobs in cities across the United States. [links to reports]- Institute for Market Transformation

New Urbanism: Old-fashioned design in for long run: ...is this a community-planning model that will continue to flourish in the 21st century? Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk sees better days ahead: "...there will absolutely be a resurgence...It's exactly what the boomers want"...Not everyone is a cheerleader for old-style houses with front porches. -- Duany Plater-Zyberk; John Norquist/Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU); Peter Calthorpe/Calthorpe Associates; Barry Berkus/B3 Architects/Berkus Design Studio- Chicago Tribune

The Curious Case of the 'Imposturbs': Themed real estate developments have spread urban mimicry all over the world. But why do we want these places? ...[in] "Planet of Slums," Mike Davis refers to these kinds of communities as "off worlds," out-of-place and disconnected -- and, it wouldn't be inaccurate to add, a little absurd. By Nate Berg [images, links]- The Atlantic Cities

The Manifesto for a New Urbanism That Came Before 'New Urbanism': Before the buildings of Leon Krier or Robert Venturi, even before the iconic writings of Jane Jacobs, came a 20-year-old's manifesto that rejected the modernist city, but in a particularly absurdist fashion...Ivan Chitchevlov wrote his "Formulary For a New Urbanism" in 1953...- The Atlantic Cities

Times Editorial Board Bleeds Purple: Let NYU Build Its Village Campus, You Whiners: ...says the project's critics have overreacted...the faculty who does not like are, well, dumb...This is quite the reversal from Michael Kimmelman's daring proposal a week ago, which has already become a cause célèbres in the neighborhood. By Matt Chaban [links]- New York Observer

Tallying up the worth of the move: Even critics who feel the Barnes is wrenching the collection from its historic womb will have to work to find reasons to hate this building. The architecture is that good. That doesn't mean that something ineffable won't be lost...It is an ode to Philadelphia's 20th-century architectural triumvirate: Cret, Kahn and Venturi...a museum as enduring as the ones those three created. By Inga Saffron -- Tod Williams Billie Tsien; Laurie C. Olin [slide show]- Philadelphia Inquirer

The Kimmel Center will renovate two of its public spaces: ...in hopes of becoming more hospitable and profitable...Work on the rooftop garden is under way...A new restaurant is still in the design stage... -- BLT Architects; KieranTimberlake; Marguerite Rodgers - Philadelphia Inquirer

Camden Yards, the stadium that changed baseball and Baltimore, turns 20: Innovative ballpark changed way stadiums were designed...the grande dame of the post-modern era of sports architecture...became the poster child for a new generation of stadium architecture and a national symbol of successful downtown revitalization. -- HOK Sport (now Populous); Janet Marie Smith- Baltimore Sun

Site on river most desired for stadium: ...a potential multi-million dollar home of a minor-league Atlanta Braves franchise...the story of how it might be built from scratch will be as unique as the product that is unveiled...a site along the Cape Fear River is most desired... "you want some iconic feature; you want people to look at it and say, 'Hey, that's the Wilmington ballpark.'" - 360 Architecture- Star-News (North Carolina)

Luxury hotel 'groundscraper' planned in abandoned quarry: Would you spend \$300 a night to sleep underground? You might, once you see the jaw-dropping designs for China's latest hotel project...the 380-room InterContinental Shimao Shanghai Wonderland... -- Atkins [images]- CNN

New Shortlist Jumpstarts Long-Stalled LA Courthouse: The biggest new architecture project in Los Angeles just got a much smaller list of candidates. By Sam Lubell -- Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Yazdani Studio/Gruen Associates; Brooks + Scarpa/HMC Architects; NBBJ Architects - The Architect's Newspaper

Harvard Jolly Architecture chosen for Sarasota High School project: ...including renovation of the key building, the Paul Rudolph-designed Building 4...What remains to be resolved is the effort by the local architecture community to prevent the

proposed glassing in of Building 4's open entry plaza for use as a media center. -- Jonathan Parks; Fielding Nair International - Herald-Tribune (Florida)

Modesto Junior College looks to the future with unveiling of student center: Shiny, new and very different..."The rest of the campus will look like this eventually. We're out with the old and into the future"...on track to be certified LEED Silver. -- Perkins+Will - Modesto Bee (California)

Op-Ed: Hate The Bus? It's Time To Reconsider: Will Doig argues that disliking the bus is "practically an American pastime," but buses are key to improving mass transit...he explains why buses have an image problem and the things cities around the world are doing to improve bus transit. - WFSU / National Public Radio (NPR)

BMW, Guggenheim salvage Berlin 'lab' after threats: The BMW Guggenheim Lab had been scheduled to arrive on a vacant lot in the Kreuzberg area in May...will now open June 15 to July 29 in the upscale Prenzlauer Berg district of the former communist east, which has undergone rapid gentrification...Pfefferberg site...is a sprawling former brewery and factory that already hosts artists' studios, galleries and restaurants. - Expatica

Seattle World's Fair? We almost invited the world to Auburn: A look back at the what-might-have-beens for Seattle's signature event. Thankfully, Mount Rainier didn't get the planned 21-foot-tall "decoration."...Century 21 was a smash hit...With the 50th anniversary coming up, we could be remembering a very different fair. By Knute Berger -- Paul Thiry; Jim Jackson/John Graham & Co. - Crosscut (Seattle)

Architectural LOLcats: ...some of the thesis students here at UC Berkeley Wurster Hall went stir crazy over Spring Break...By Michael Bergin -- Le Kittenusier; Purrzog & deMeowron; The Purrrrr Building (Diller Scofidio + Renfro); Libeskitten; Nelson Atkin Meowseum (Steven Holl); Coop Himmel(m)ew; Rem Koolpaws; Louis Kittahn; etc. [images]- Archinect



-- Coop Himmel(l)au: Musée des Confluences, Lyon, France
-- Zaha Hadid Architects: Rocca London Gallery, London, UK
-- The Camera: Fernando Alda: The poetry of the skeleton

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