

Today's News - Monday, November 5, 2012

EDITOR'S NOTE: We're b-a-a-c-k!!! But not posting from home base...after hours on the road, we landed late last night in the land of electricity, heat, and running (hot!) water - with hard drive and cats in tow. There is so much to catch up with, and we'll do our best...it's just good to be online again after seven days in the dark and cold...our deepest thanks to all who e-mailed concern and good wishes.

- Catching up with ArcSpace, with projects in Cleveland, Marrakech, Park City, Utah, and Pittsburgh.
- A sad, sad day with reports on the passing of and tributes to Lebbeus Woods, Gae Aulenti, and David Resnick.
- Then there's Hurricane Sandy:
- Davidson offers a most thoughtful assessment of how New York City "could live with the sea rather than fighting it."
- Davies delves into a NYSERDA study from a year ago that looked at a scenario similar to Sandy: "It appears the downsides of density exceed its strengths when it comes to natural disasters."
- An economist looks at the economic impact of the storm: it's "a big wake-up call regarding the region's vulnerability," and "should spark a vigorous debate about how to protect our infrastructure, communities and economy from flooding."
- One bright piece of news: Sandy spared the first phase of the "Artlantic" public art project in Atlantic City, "part of an effort to transform the city's desolate public spaces."
- In an excerpt from his forthcoming "Walkable City," Speck explains why, if we really want to stop climate change, it's time to move to the city and start walking.
- Birnbaum explores the significance of the recent \$100 million gift to Central Park, and what that means to urban parks across America: it "places the park and designed landscapes on the same plane with other philanthropic beneficiaries."
- Badger explains how the Academy of Neuroscience for Architecture's "dream to create joint-degree programs in architecture and neuroscience seems not so far off."
- WSJ names its China Innovator of the Year Award in architecture to an architect who is redefining prefab, designing new buildings meant for earthquake-struck Sichuan province.
- Kimmelman groks Brooklyn's Barclays Center: the arena itself is (mostly) a winner, but the overall Atlantic Yards project "exemplifies how the city got planning backward."
- Good news: FLW's Phoenix house saved from the wrecking ball by an anonymous buyer who plans to preserve the "architectural gem."
- Not-so-good news: Chicago's landmarks commission granted preliminary landmark designation to Goldberg's Prentice hospital, then (2 hours later) revoked landmark status (a convoluted, if depressing, tale well worth reading).
- Plans to restore Havana's crumbling ballet school "raises architectural-ethical conundrum": "Is Foster going to take over the project, or will it continue to be Garatti's?"
- Ending on a political note, Badger digs deep into Romney's "murky urban agenda: As Massachusetts governor, he was a believer in smart growth, climate change and mass transit. But the same man may not enter the White House, if he wins."
- Vote for whoever you wish...but VOTE!!!

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-- Farshid Moussavi Architecture: MOCA Cleveland [Museum of Contemporary Art], Cleveland, Ohio
-- Guilhem Eustache: Fobe House, Marrakech, Morocco
-- BIG/Bjarke Ingels Group: Kimball Art Center, Park City, Utah
-- Exhibition: "White Cube, Green Maze: : New Art Landscapes": Heinz Architectural Center, Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Obituary: Lebbeus Woods, Architect Who Bucked Convention, 72: ...conceived of a radical environment, one intended for a world in conflict, in an era when many of his peers focused on corporate headquarters and high-rises. [slide show]- New York Times

Lebbeus Woods, visionary architect of imaginary worlds, dies in New York: ...the cult building designer who dreamed up fantastical structures from a parallel universe...a series of reflections from architects and academics, writers and critics who have been inspired by his work over the years. By Oliver Wainwright -- Zaha Hadid; Nigel Coates; Steven Holl; Peter Eisenman; Joseph Grima; Mark Morris; Douglas Murphy; Cameron Sinclair; etc.- Guardian (UK)

Obituary: Italian Architect Gae Aulenti, 84: ...was arguably the only internationally-recognized female practitioner in the first wave of starchitects, winning commissions in the 1980s alongside Aldo Rossi and I.M. Pei...art-infused take on postmodernism elevated such projects as the Musée d'Orsay and the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco to works of true resonance... By Julie V. Iovine [slide show]- Architectural Record

Obituary: Brazilian-born Israeli architect David Resnick, 88: Israel Prize winner...designed Hebrew University's Mount Scopus campus, Ben-Gurion University and the Kennedy Memorial- The Times of Israel

New York's Wet Future: How the City Could Live With the Sea Rather Than Fighting It: ...what if New York could become a pioneer of urban life in an era of climate change? Instead of retreating, denying, or despairing, we'd be inhabiting our fragile ledge with foresight and aplomb, reengineering the post-industrial shoreline to emulate its pre-urban state. Our best future resembles the past. By Justin Davidson- New York Magazine

What might Hurricane Sandy end up costing? A study done last year by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)...looked at a scenario similar to Hurricane Sandy...the most vulnerable county in the US is Manhattan. The Bronx is also in the top five...largely the result of very high density. It appears the downsides of density exceed its strengths when it comes to natural disasters... By Alan Davies - Crikey (Australia)

5 Ways Hurricane Sandy Could Reshape New York's Economy: How will the hurricane's impact affect the economy and economic well-being...of New Jersey and New York, which account for one-ninth of the nation's economic output? ...a big wake-up call regarding the region's vulnerability...should spark a vigorous debate about how to protect our infrastructure, communities and economy from flooding... By James Parrott/Fiscal Policy Institute- The Atlantic Cities

Hurricane Sandy Spares Seaside Art: ...spared the first phase of a five-year, \$13 million public art project in Atlantic City called "Artlantic," part of an effort to transform the city's desolate public spaces. -- Lance Fung/Fung Collaboratives; Balmori Associates [slide show]- New York Times

Stop climate change: Move to the city, start walking: Climate change is helped along by suburban driving culture. We need to embrace cities -- and walking...Quality of life - which includes both health and wealth - may not be a function of our ecological footprint, but the two are deeply interrelated. By Jeff Speck (Excerpted from "Walkable City: How Downtown Can

Save America, One Step at a Time")- Salon

A New Philanthropic Threshold: The Significance of \$100 million gift to Central Park: ...places the park and designed landscapes on the same plane with other philanthropic beneficiaries -- cultural institutions...medical facilities, universities, etc. This helps elevate the understanding of landscape's fundamental role and value, and it could also spur similar acts of philanthropy for other parks in New York and around the country. By Charles A. Birnbaum/The Cultural Landscape Foundation [images, links]- Huffington Post

Corridors of the Mind: Could neuroscientists be the next great architects? ...Academy of Neuroscience for Architecture's dream to create joint-degree programs in architecture and neuroscience seems not so far off. By Emily Badger -- John Zeisel; Alison Whitelaw/Platt/Whitelaw Architects; Louis Kahn- Pacific Standard

All About the Bones: Zhu Jingxiang Redefines Prefab: The Chinese edition of The Wall Street Journal on Monday awarded [him] its China Innovator of the Year Award in architecture for his work designing new buildings meant for earthquake-struck Sichuan province...architecture isn't about making an eye-catching monument. [images]- Wall Street Journal

An Arena as Tough as Brooklyn. But Street Smart? This is two reviews. The first welcomes to town the new Barclays Center. The second, about the arena's context...gets trickier...Atlantic Yards project also exemplifies how the city...got planning backward... By Michael Kimmelman -- Pentagram; SHoP Architects; Frank Gehry; Ellerbe Becket/Aecom [slide show]- New York Times

Frank Lloyd Wright-designed home sold: An anonymous buyer has purchased Phoenix home...with the aim of preserving an architectural gem that, until last week, was threatened with demolition.- Arizona Republic

Behind the Decision to Deny Prentice Women's Hospital Landmark Status: Around 4:00, Chicago Commission on Landmarks voted unanimously to grant a preliminary landmark designation, calling it a "boldly sculptural building"...voted at 6:45 p.m. to revoke landmark status...Northwestern is preparing for a design competition in 2013 for the new research facility. -- Bertrand Goldberg [links]- Chicago Magazine

Dancer Carlos Acosta's plan to restore crumbling Cuban ballet school raises architectural-ethical conundrum: Coyula called for a definitive plan to be made public so people can judge the project on its merits rather than on rumor...urged Garatti to recognize that some change is inevitable after a half-century. (AP) -- Vittorio Garatti; Norman Foster/Foster + Partners; Mario Coyula [images]- Washington Post

Romney's Murky Urban Agenda: As Massachusetts governor, he was a believer in smart growth, climate change and mass transit. But the same man may not enter the White House, if he wins. By Emily Badger [links]- The Atlantic Cities

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