

Today's News - Thursday, January 31, 2013

- Quirk x 2: a thoughtful, in-depth search to answer the question: "does designing out tragedy truly help to prevent violence in the future?" + An architect offers 8 things domestic violence shelters can teach us about secure school design.
- Denvir digs deep into what Youngstown, Ohio, is doing to "shrink and flourish."
- Green reports on the recent Transforming Transportation conference to find out "what can more cities do to become a Melbourne, not a Moscow?" (step #1: stop counting on the 'U.S. car-centric model').
- Wainwright bemoans a new U.K. law allowing office buildings to be turned into residential buildings without planning permission, "the latest step in a piecemeal erosion of the planning system."
- Selin Davis cheers the "search of 'Eldertopia'": "cutting edge strategies for aging-in-place are coming from an unlikely source: the university classroom."
- Kennicott cheers Holl's "modest, pragmatic and surgical addition" to the "big and plug-ugly box of blank marble" that is the Kennedy Center.
- Zongker says the biggest challenge could be winning approval for a floating performance stage on the Potomac River; Holl says: "I'm ready for the fight."
- St. Louis Public Library "removes its dust jacket for an inspired renewal - the result is nothing short of transformative" (it's gorgeous!).
- A new medical center in San Antonio "incorporates amenities that cater to a luxury lifestyle."
- Betsy has some issues with Koolhaas's plans for the 2014 Venice Biennale to be "about 'architecture, not architects.' To that, I say: Give me a break."
- If preservationists had issues with the previous mayor of Moscow, things are even worse now with "the final, shameful 'blitzkrieg' of city authorities" against the historic city.
- A new report illustrates how Naples is slowly dying of neglect.
- A most impressive list of finalists vying for the 2013 Rudy Bruner Award for Urban Excellence.
- One we couldn't resist: eye-fuls of an amazing "Las Vegas-style" snow festival in a "gritty, grubby, bitter-cold city" in northern China (very cool - literally and figuratively).
- Call for entries: National Design Ideas Competition for a new Prime Minister's Lodge in Canberra, Australia.

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Post-Traumatic Design: How to Design Our Schools to Heal Past Wounds and Prevent Future Violence; ...is beginning anew (via demolition or extensive remodeling) the most appropriate response to a tragic act? Perhaps...does designing out tragedy truly help to prevent violence in the future? By Vanessa Quirk -- Erlend Blakstad Haffner/Fantastic Norway; Jack Swanzy; Mahlum [images, links]- ArchDaily

The 8 Things Domestic Violence Shelters Can Teach Us About Secure School Design -- Corrie Rosen/Mahlum Architecture- ArchDaily

Defending Youngstown: One City's Struggle to Shrink and Flourish: "At some point you need to just turn the picture to the wall and move forward"...has been waiting for an economic deus-ex-machina since Black Monday. By Daniel Denvir [images]- The Atlantic Cities

Is There a Secret Recipe for Successful Urban Development? Doesn't sound like it...world cities are still struggling to get urban development right, said some of the world's leading urban experts at the Transforming Transportation conference...what can more cities do to become a Melbourne, not a Moscow? ...no developed world city, except perhaps Copenhagen, escaped mistakenly adopting the U.S. car-centric model. Shifting gears may actually mean a return to the old ways. By Jared Green- The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Home truths: how the housing market is threatening affordable workspaces: A worrying new law means offices can be turned into residential buildings without planning permission. Artists' studios and creative start-ups will be the first to go...the latest step in a piecemeal erosion of the planning system... By Oliver Wainwright- Guardian (UK)

In Search of 'Eldertopia': Architecture and planning schools are finally focusing on designing homes and communities we can age into...cutting edge strategies for aging-in-place are coming from an unlikely source: the university classroom. By Lisa Selin Davis -- Georgeen Theodore/Dan D'Oca/Interboro Partners [images]- The Atlantic Cities

A smart response to urban design challenges: ...a modest, pragmatic and surgical addition to the Kennedy Center is the best news in a generation...[it] has been a study in urban isolation since its opening in 1971...it will always be a big and plug-ugly box of blank marble. But a little bit of life will flow in through a new side channel, and that will be a distinct improvement. By Philip Kennicott -- Edward Durell Stone; Steven Holl Architects [images]- Washington Post

Kennedy Center sets 1st expansion since opening: The biggest challenge...could be winning approval for a performance stage that would float on the Potomac River, Holl said..."I'm ready for the fight"... By Brett Zongker -- Steven Holl [image]- Associated Press (AP)

A New Volume: St. Louis Public Library removes its dust jacket for an inspired renewal. The effort to disassemble the interior of the building was daunting and labor intensive, but the result is nothing short of transformative. -- Cass Gilbert (1912); Cannon Design [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Forest Park Medical Center San Antonio Focuses on Resort-Style Patient Experience: Just like architects design children's hospitals to create a playful experience for younger patients...incorporates amenities that cater to a luxury lifestyle... -- BOKA Powell- HC&O News (Healthcare Construction 7 Operations)

Modernism Rules: Instead of displaying each country's unique architecture, Rem Koolhaas wants each country pavilion at the 2014 Venice Biennale to show how it's part of the new, homogenized global Modernism...claims that this Biennale will be...about "architecture, not architects." To that, I say: Give me a break. By Aaron Betsky- Architect Magazine

Russian conservation bodies denounce destruction of landmark buildings: Moscow mayor under fire for demolishing part of Joseph Bové's early 19th-century complex..."the final, shameful 'blitzkrieg' of city authorities against historic Moscow." - The Art Newspaper (UK)

See Naples before it dies of neglect: Report and protests highlight shoddy state of Unesco World Heritage site...a petition...was circulated at the end of last year calling for the city to be stripped of its Unesco title. [images]- The Art Newspaper (UK)

2013 Rudy Bruner Award for Urban Excellence Finalists Announced: Congo Street Initiative, Dallas/buildingcommunityWORKSHOP; Inspiration Corporation/Chicago; Louisville Waterfront Development Corporation; The Steel Yard, Providence, RI/Klopfer Martin Design Group; Via Verde, Bronx, NY/Jonathan Rose Companies/Phipps Houses/Dattner Architects/Grimshaw- Bruner Foundation

The Secret to Harbin's Tourism Success: A Las Vegas-Style Snow Festival: China's northern-most, gritty, grubby, bitter-cold city is dark and freezing most of the time. But it draws crowds with gigantic sculptures, light and ice shows, even tigers.

[images]- The Atlantic Cities

Call for entries: The Lodge on the Lake: National Design Ideas Competition for a new Prime Minister's Lodge in Canberra; cash prize; deadline: May 31 - University of Canberra / Gallery of Australian Design

Nuts + Bolts: Mission Possible: Increase Your Value Without Lowering Your Fees; Fact or fiction: Lowering your fees makes you competitive? You decide. By Steve Whitehorn - ArchNewsNow.com



-- MAD: Absolute Towers ["Marilyn Monroe" towers], Mississauga, Canada

-- Barreca & La Varra Studio: B5 Building, Milan, Italy

-- "ARCHIGRAM - A Guide to Archigram 1961-74" by Pamela Johnston, Catherine Crompton, Philip Mann, Christian Steiner & Toni Stooss

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