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Today's News - March 26, 2007

ArcSpace makes two stops in Brooklyn. — How some big-name firms are planning for their future (or not). — Success for Dubai's numerous 'cities within a city' will come down to good planning. — L.A. doesn't have to reinvent the planning wheel; it just needs a big-city plan. — NYT's special section: Business of Green (lots of info). — Large high-rise apartment buildings may be the most cost-effective candidates for green retrofit. — Universal housing with aesthetic appeal will be more marketable to aging boomers. — Cookie-cutter McMansion era on the wane in Dallas (we hope). — Two young architects with attitude win P.S. 1’s MoMA prize. — Movie maker to repurpose winery into a kid-friendly destination (with water, not wine). — Napier University in Edinburgh has big plans for a "knowledge hub." — Germaine Greer's birthday card to Sydney Harbour bridge (how could we resist?). — Critics and curators to turn out for 2-day conference in Minneapolis. — Calls for entries: design something useful out of carpet samples; design a chair, see your prototype. — Bayley finds some interesting surprises at V&A's "Surreal Things." — Book reviews: "The Suburbanization of New York"; "New York in Store"; Rockwell's "Spectacle"; and Lancaster's lost Kentucky. — To subscribe to the free daily newsletter click here

— Polshek Partnership Architects: Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art, Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY
— Platt Byard Dovell White: Green-Wood Columbarium, Brooklyn, NY
— Book: Architecture of the Air: The Sound and Light Environments of Christopher Janney

The Next Generation: When an architecture firm’s founding principal decides to retire, does the business have to wind down too? ...high-profile practices and how their leaders are planning their own succession — and hoping to ensure the future success of their companies. — Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Foster + Partners; Hellmuth, Obata , + Kassabaum (HOK); Pelli Clarke Pelli; Edward Larrabee Barnes; Lee/Timchuka; Gehry Partners; Richard Rogers Partnership; Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners— The Architect's Newspaper (NYC)

A tale of two cities: While attention remains fixed on the region's more high-profile projects, it is easy to forget that Dubai is generating a series of carefully organised "cities within a city"...Transit Oriented Development (TOD) concept to carry out a detailed study into developing the sites for mixed use communities. — Scott Burbidge/Canconsult Maunsell, Paul DeVylder/KEO Consultants— ArabianBusiness.com

Faulty towers: ...enormous stock of large high-rise apartment buildings...Typically viewed as "mistakes" from the 1960s and '70s, and largely excluded from urban debates, they may in fact represent one of our greatest opportunities for creating a sustainable region...building type may be the most cost-effective candidate for retrofit. — Toronto Star

Universal Design Aims to Wed Both Elements in Inclusive, Adaptable Approach: As the baby boomer population ages, specialized housing needs for seniors will increase. Universal housing is more marketable than accessible housing because it includes aesthetic appeal. — Korydon Smith; Studio AID— The Morning News (Arkansas)

Neighbor friendly: Can the era of McMansions be over? Urban Reserve and Kessler Woods throw over cookie-cutter "McMansion" style for eco-conscious contemporary design. — Susan Appleton; BBK Architects; Rembaum Magadini; Bodron + Fruits; Elliott & Associates; Tod Williams Billie Tsien; Hammer + Partners; Clifford Welch Architect; Talley Associates; Maria Helena Cruz; etc.— Dallas Morning News

Two Low-Key Young Architects With an Attitude, a Vision and Now a Prize: ...anointed the winners of the Young Architects Program competition, held annually by P.S. 1 in Queens and the Museum of Modern Art. — Gaston Nogues/Benjamin Ball/Ball-Nogues Studio— New York Times

Holyrood firm gets Napier University design role; £55 million development will kick start regeneration in the area and create a "knowledge hub" in south west Edinburgh — RMJM— The Scotsman (UK)

Happy birthday, Sydney Harbour bridge. It's time your designer got the credit he deserves. By Germaine Greer — John Bradfield; Doman Long; Ralph Freeman—Fox
Conference: “Design and its Publics: Curators, Critics, and Historians”: 14 leading design thinkers from the U.S. and Europe address how public understanding of architecture and design is shaped by criticism, scholarship and curatorial practice; April 27-28 – Antonelli; Bergdoll; Hodge; Rosa; Ryan; Sudjic; Urbach; etc. - University of Minnesota Design Institute

Call for entries: Ample Sample Design Contest: recycle no-longer-needed carpet samples into beautiful and/or functional fixture, furniture, or any interior product; deadline: May 15 - Tricycle

Call for entries: Promosedia International Design Competition: 2007 Caiaz Caiazza Memorial Challenge - Designs for a Chair must be under 40; deadline: May 11 (English and Italian) - Promosedia

Does this ring any bells? “Surreal Things: Surrealism and Design”: The V&A’s new show looking at Surrealism’s impact on modern design has some familiar exhibits - and some interesting surprises. By Stephen Bayley - Observer (UK)


Book review: Spectacle as Ritual: From Burning Man to Broadway "Spectacle" by David Rockwell addresses issues of community and isolation. By Zahid Sardar - San Francisco Chronicle

Book review: Lost Kentucky: "Clay Lancaster's Kentucky". The fact that some of the remarkable buildings in the book were lost as recently as 2002 reminds us to heed our contemporary Lancasters, no matter how eccentric they may seem. By Alan G. Brake - Courier-Journal (Louisville, KY)

Sacred Simplicity: Park East Synagogue, Pepper Pike, Ohio: Age-old materials and a straightforward design fulfill a growing congregation’s vision of a sacred place. -- Centerbrook Architects and Planners [images] - ArchNewsNow

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