Today's News - Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Words That Build: Playing with the Flow of Communication - Tip #3: Use language that playfully enhances the flow of design intentions between you and your client. By Norman Weinstein

Conscience of a Constructor: Why it matters when good architects take on big projects for bad governments...because the clear lines between good and bad states...have blurred, it is easier for architects to claim ignorance or indifference to moral considerations. By Clay Risen -- Libeskind; Foster; Hadid; Koolhaas; Andreu; Holl; Herzog & de Meuron; PTW; Gehry; Calatrava; Morphosis; van Egeraat; etc.

Architecture vs. Extremism: In an age of warring ideologies, can the Aga Khan award for architecture reconcile modernity and tradition in the Islamic world? By Michael Z. Wise [slide show]

Op-Ed: Scotland can lead the world with visionary approach to planning: ...of the hundreds of planned construction projects that have been completed in the UK over the last two years, only a very small proportion of them made sustainability a priority...The Planning Act heralds a new dawn... By Sebastian Tombs/Architecture and Design Scotland- The Scotsman (UK)

Automatic Architecture: The ultimate goal of green building? how about automation? ... With its own kind of DNA, could architecture be grown instead of built? ...the results could be good for buildings and the environment but put architects and builders out of their jobs—unless they, too, evolve. By Lance Hosey [images] - Architect Magazine

Roswell residences a new definition for a green, solar community: Weatherford Place...eventually will have eight homes on 1.6 acres...a "solar community of net-zero energy homes"...EcoCraft: designed and built to nature's code...the entire development will be platinum LEED... -- Cadmus Construction- Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Pedestrians to power shopping malls: Shoppers' footsteps could soon be used to power underfloor generators in shops and Tube stations

Robin Hood Gardens in the nationals: Architects aren't to blame for our sink estates: Don't knock the buildings, knock society; A capital despoiled by monumental egos; Modern architects try to dodge the wrecking ball; Give Robin Hood Gardens a chance - - Peter and Alison Smithson; Sunand Prasad; Amanda Baillieu [links]- BD/Building Design (UK)

Academy could alter Belle Isle: Maritime school at old boat club site should be debated...raises the possibility of further dense development of the island, the city's prime recreational space...plans go far beyond a renovation of the historic Detroit Boat Club building... By John Gallagher -- Gunn Levine Images] - Detroit Free Press

Flashty Towers by Gehry, Van Berkel Drape, Pleat N.Y. Skyline: More is to come from Rem Koolhaas, Daniel Libeskind and Jean Nouvel. These are not just emblems of confidence in the New York market. They also express faith in architecture that strives for significance. By James S. Russell -- UNStudio; Swanke Hayden Connell (images)- Bloomberg News

Box of plenty: design for Berkeley art museum: He doesn't have the name recognition of a Frank Gehry or a Daniel Libeskind, but Toyo Ito is one of Japan's most acclaimed and adventurous architects. Looking at the design for a downtown museum that would be his first buildings in the United States, it's easy to see why. By John King -- Mario Ciampi (1970); EHDD (images)- San Francisco Chronicle

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Crit: Libeskind's Ode to Life - Contemporary Jewish Museum of San Francisco: ...resembles an iceberg come to rest in the midst of a metropolis...In spite of the architect's by-now familiar dissonant shapes, the museum works. By Mitchell Schwarzer [images] - The Architect's Newspaper (NYC)

'World-class architect' to design museum: The Orange County Museum of Art is moving to Costa Mesa, with Thom Mayne heading up plans for the new building. - Morphosis - Daily Pilot (Newport Beach/Costa Mesa, CA)

Wait till you see our swimming pool! With its grooming rooms, en-suite showers and double-domed roof, Norman Foster's new addition to Copenhagen Zoo is pure elephant bliss. By Jonathan Glancey -- John Jennings/Foster + Partners; Stig L Anderson [slide show] - Guardian (UK)

Visions for Coney Island Differ: Breathtaking Rides, or Shopping? When Dick Zigun imagined the future of Coney Island, he said, "I saw a fantasy land." And that's what it may very well remain. [slide show] - New York Times

A yellow beacon set to light up Venice; Australian architects aim to lure the Biennale crowds, there will be more than 300 models from architecture practices around Australia. -- Neil Durbach; Wendy Lewin - Sydney Morning Herald

Rafael Viñoly's Musical Refuge: [He] is losing count of his pianos. It's out of control. It's rare that an architect is his own client. "It's the most horrible thing you could ever wish...I should have fired myself." [images] - New York Sun

Climbing The Times: Architects weigh in on Gray Lady's facade problem: AN asked some of the city's most inventive architectural minds how they might tackle this urgent design challenge. -- Renzo Piano/FXFowle; Markus Dochantschi/studioMDA; Ada Tolla/GT-EK; Joshua Prince-Ramus/REX Architecture; Florian Herrburg/SoA; Gregg Pasquarelli/SHoP; Shohei Shigematsu/OMA - The Architect's Newspaper (NYC)

Starchitects break the mould in jelly competition...revealed wobbly replicas of some of their landmark buildings...in the Bompas & Parr Architectural Jelly Design Competition. -- Foster + Partners; Grimshaw; and Rogers Stirk Harbour; Tonkin Liu [images] - The Architects' Journal (UK)

-- Tabanlioglu Architects: Dogan Medya Center, Ankara, Turkey
-- Installation: Greg Lynn/FORM: Blobwall Pavilion, SCI-Arc Gallery, Los Angeles