

Today's News - Friday, October 10, 2008

- Field Notes from the Venice Biennale - Part 1: ...a challenging, entertaining, and provocative show.
- Mayne warns Dubai set for "ecological disaster."
- Q&A with Thomas Friedman: he's a bit more optimistic.
- Campbell on the U.S. embassy in Berlin: "security experts turned a potentially great building into a merely acceptable one" (and a thumbs-up to MRY "for hanging on to as much of the quality as they did").
- An amusingly illustrated look at how U.K. firms are changing their strategies in an economic downturn: the mood is sober, but not everything is black and bleak.
- Three takes on "experience design" that uses media and architecture to produce immersive spaces.
- Ando offers an entertaining interview.
- Q&A with ACE Mentor program founder Charles H. Thornton re: what it takes to be a mentor and why it's so important to the industry.
- Weekend diversions: Stephens feels morally obligated to review "Big Box Swindle."
- King nominates "Atlas of the Real World" as his "candidate for 2008's most mesmerizing book."
- Rawsthorn is enchanted by "Ken Adam Designs the Movies" (remember Dr. Strangelove's War Room?), and how his influence has "extended beyond film into other design disciplines" (great slide show).
- Bayley's take on Corbu show: his "visionary genius should help clear his name as the man 'responsible' for our Sixties council blocks" - politicians and value engineering were really at fault.
- In Glasgow, "Architecture in Scotland 2006-2008: Building Biographies" places Scottish buildings in an international context (great links).
- Call for entries: 2009 Great Places Awards (formerly EDRA/Places Awards).
- APA names 2008 Great Places in America (great links here, too).
- On the eve of naming the Stirling Prize winner, BD's Carbuncle Cup 2008 winner; says the architect: the design is not our fault. - Bookies blame the lack of a clear frontrunner for the slow betting on a Stirling favorite.
- We couldn't resist: a technicolor Hadid at the National Portrait Gallery "immortalized in a portrait as vivid as she is."

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Field Notes from the 11th Venice Architecture Biennale - Part 1: The Arsenale: Betsky's eclectic curating and the polished and thoughtful presentations of the exhibitors make it a challenging, entertaining, and provocative show. By Terri Peters -- David Rockwell; Jones|Kroloff; Thonik; Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Greg Lynn; Droog; Aranda/Lasch; Gehry; Hadid; Philippe Rahm; An Te Liu; Barkow Leibinger [images]- ArchNewsNow

Mayne warns Dubai set for "ecological disaster": ...blames a lack of control by city's political class...The intervention of Morphosis founder...coincided with this week's unveiling of proposals by...developer Nakheel for a 1km-tall skyscraper by Woods Bagot. - BD/Building Design (UK)

Q&A: Thomas Friedman: Hope For A Hot, Flat and Crowded World: "...pessimists are usually right. Let's face it. Optimists are usually wrong. But all the great change in history, positive change, was done by optimists." By Elizabeth Kolbert- Yale Environment 360

Sending the wrong message to the rest of the world: Robert Campbell takes a hard look at Moore Ruble Yudell's new US embassy in Berlin and the way security concerns affected its design...The American government and its security experts turned a potentially great building into a merely acceptable one...I admire MRY for hanging on to as much of the quality as they did. [images]- Architectural Record

How to survive the downturn - top 250 consultants: Last year, Building's annual snapshot of the industry's consultants was all about the "staggering success" of the sector...This year, the mood is considerably more sober...Not everything is black and bleak... - Building (UK)

Experience Design: a new way of thinking, designing, engaging that uses media and architecture to produce immersive spaces: Building Fiction: The Architecture of Experience Design; Experience as Material: Transforming Architecture into Communications Media; Convergence: Blending the Digital and Physical -- Imaginary Forces; Kohn Pedersen Fox (KPF); Gensler; Foghorn Creative; Tronic [images]- ARCHI-TECH magazine

Star of his own making: Architects are hardly what most people think of when they hear the word "superstar," but Tadao Ando fits the bill...My research had shown me...he is unforgiving with reporters who haven't done their homework...But what I found, I was completely unprepared for. - Daily Yomiuri (Japan)

Q&A: Charles H. Thornton, founder and chairman of the ACE (Architecture, Construction, Engineering) Mentor program: "The toughest thing about mentoring is that you need to be exciting. You need to be entertaining. If you're boring, you're going to lose the kids." -- Thornton Tomasetti- AIArchitect

Breaking Down the Big Box: ...mega-retailers have not only drained the American economy of much of its entrepreneurial spirit, but also have contributed to the degradation of the social fabric, intellectual life, and built environment of cities and towns across the United States...I originally read "Big Box Swindle" by Stacey Mitchell out of curiosity and latent disgust. I review it out of moral obligation. By Josh Stephens- PLANetizen

Book review: "Atlas of the Real World" puts us in our place: ...my candidate for 2008's most mesmerizing book... By John King- San Francisco Chronicle

Book review: Ken Adam: Creating film sets that are more real than reality: "Ken Adam Designs the Movies"...his influence has extended beyond film into other design disciplines. By Alice Rawsthorn [slide show]- International Herald Tribune

Corbusier's vertical hold on history: An exhibition celebrating Le Corbusier's visionary genius should help clear his name as the man 'responsible' for our Sixties council blocks...[his] architectural philosophy was elegant, simple and correct...We are absolutely wrong to condemn him because of asinine politicians responsible for postwar social housing. By Stephen Bayley- Observer (UK)

"Architecture in Scotland 2006-2008: Building Biographies": ...exhibition seeks to place Scottish buildings in an international context...at The Lighthouse, Glasgow, until January 11 -- gordon murray + alan dunlop; Reiach and Hall; Gökay Devenci; Gareth Hoskins [links to images]- ScottishArchitecture.com

Call for entries: 12th annual Great Places Awards (formerly EDRA/Places Awards) for Place Design, Planning, sponsored by Places: Forum of Design for the Public Realm, EDRA, and Metropolis Magazine; deadline: February 9, 2009- Environmental Design Research Association (EDRA)

[2008 APA Great Places in America: 30 Great Neighborhoods. Great Streets, Great Public Spaces \[links to slide shows\]- American Planning Association \(APA\)](#)

[Radisson SAS Waterfront Hotel in Jersey by EPR Architects has won the wooden spoon in BD's Carbuncle Cup 2008...least impressive building of the year..."It's a scheme we inherited from another architect. The external envelope is not our design...." \[image, video\]- BD/Building Design \(UK\)](#)

[Stirling Prize almost too tight to call, says bookies: Bookmaker William Hill...surprised by how little cash had been wagered on the prize, and blamed the lack of a clear frontrunner for the slow betting -- Allford Hall Monaghan Morris \(AHMM\); Denton Corker Marshall; Zaha Hadid- The Architects' Journal \(UK\)](#)

[A Technicolor Hadid arrives at the National Portrait Gallery: One of Britain's most colourful architects has been immortalised in a portrait as vivid as she is...created by Michael Craig-Martin...- Evening Standard \(UK\)](#)

[WORDS THAT BUILD: Creating a Site Analysis That's Out of Sight: Tip #7: Write a site analysis using words referring to senses beyond sight. By Norman Weinstein- ArchNewsNow](#)



[Exhibition: Between Earth and Heaven: The Architecture of John Lautner, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles](#)

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