

Today's News - Tuesday, October 14, 2008

- Hume studies a new study that says urban planners should let city-building happen on its own.
- Jenkins vs. Jones: one cheers the "end to the tall cranes"; the other is fed up with the "perpetual bullying of skyscrapers and all who like them" - let's "build our way out of recession - skyward."
- In Malaysia, two culprits are behind why public architecture is so "dismal."
- An eye-ful of the kilometer-high tower that will "dwarf the Burj Dubai."
- Russell's riff on Gehry's Princeton library: "as a place to curl up with a laptop - maybe even a book - it's pretty hard to beat."
- Rose on the need for good architecture for Britain's new nuclear power plants - and a survey of architects who would - and wouldn't design one.
- Study of ancient desert plants and dwellings turns "conventional models of architecture inside out" and new green building technologies.
- Campbell comes away from Harvard exhibition of new architecture in Croatia and Slovenia wishing he could recommend it, but "fails visually almost as much as verbally."
- Diller's TEDTalks: "Architecture is a special effects machine" (fog included).
- Call for entries: WTO architectural competition: an extension for Centre William Rappard/CWR in Switzerland.
- We couldn't resist: on the eve of presidential debate, a look at how critical the set and furnishings are (great slide show).

EDITOR'S NOTE: For those who took Columbus Day off, please click "Yesterday's News" - there's a lot, including much on the sterling pick for the Stirling Prize.

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The end of planning? Just maybe: A new report suggests that urban planners should let city-building happen on its own. There's less to density than meets the eye. So says a report released recently by the Neptis Foundation... "Real life is always right. It's planning that's wrong." By Christopher Hume -- Zack Taylor; John van Nostrand/architectsAlliance- Toronto Star

There are rewards for us all in this crunch: Do cheer up. There is no such thing as all bad news... a construction executive declared "an end to the tall cranes" and a reversion to the repair and renovation of existing buildings. I cheered... The Livingstone skyscrapers... will one day seem a carbon-guzzling turn-of-the-century blind alley, just so much froth. By Simon Jenkins - The Times (UK)

Depression architecture: the only way is up: I'm fed up with Simon Jenkin's perpetual bullying of skyscrapers and all who like them... New York defied the Great Depression in the 1930s by raising the Empire State Building. So let's imitate that example and build our way out of recession - skyward. By Jonathan Jones - Guardian (UK)

Wrong practices and unbalanced education: You don't send boys out to do men's work. Yet, that is what we are doing in designing our country's edifices of the future... two culprits... The first is the use of diploma holders as architects and the second is the unbalanced planning of studio projects that lean more towards elite rather than public buildings. By Mohamad Tajuddin - The Star (Malaysia)

Design unveiled for new world's tallest tower: Nakheel Harbour & Tower... will be more than one kilometre high, as part of a 14 billion-dirham (\$38.12 billion) project that will include the world's first inner city harbour... will cover an area of more than 270 hectares and eventually house more than 55,000 people. -- Woods Bagot [slide show]- ArabianBusiness.com

Princeton's Gehry Library Banishes Stacks, Encourages Talking: Saw-toothed glass dances in a conga line above leaping arcs of metal roof at the Peter B. Lewis Science Library... as a place to curl up with a laptop -- maybe even a book -- it's pretty hard to beat. By James S. Russell -- Frank Gehry/Craig Webb/Gehry Partners [slide show]- Bloomberg News

Sun, sand - and a nuclear reactor: At least four new power stations are planned for the UK coastline, and British architects have been asked to get on board. But will they? Both Foster and Rogers have declined, but a quick survey found several willing candidates. By Steve Rose -- Giles Gilbert Scott (1930s); Basil Spence (1960s); Rogers Stirk Harbour; Foster + Partners; John McAslan & Partners; Future Systems; Will Alsop; Bill Dunster/ZEDfactory; Wilkinson Eyre - Guardian (UK)

Binary Design's Study of Desert Plants and Ancient Dwellings Leads to New Green Building Technologies... for hot desert climates by turning conventional models of architecture inside out. -- Dale Clifford; Jason Vollen; Emerging Materials Technology Research Group [images]- Archinect

A view to expanded horizons: I'm always hoping I can recommend shows like this to the general public, because architecture, after all, is a public art, and it's nice when the designers and the public can communicate. Alas, "New Trajectories: Contemporary Architecture in Croatia and Slovenia" fails visually almost as much as verbally. By Robert Campbell - Boston Globe

TEDTalks: Liz Diller: Architecture is a special effects machine: ... shares her firm DS+R's more unusual work, including the Blur Building, whose walls are made of fog, and the revamped Alice Tully Hall, which is wrapped in glowing wooden skin. Diller Scofidio + Renfro [video]- TED (Technology, Entertainment and Design)

Call for entries: WTO architectural competition: Centre William Rappard/CWR extension; registration deadline: October 24- World Trade Organization

In Debates, the Furniture Is the Message: The set is so critical to how a debate proceeds that they are distinguished from each other by the furniture and setting... "Set design makes an important contribution" and often dictates the ensuing dynamic of the debate, said Alan Schroeder, the author of "Presidential Debates: 50 Years of High-Risk TV." By Phil Patton - Carl Magnusson; Hugh Gray Raisky [slide show]- New York Times

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

Morphosis: Madrid Social Housing, Madrid, Spain

Some pages may expire after a few days.

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