

Today's News - Monday, October 20, 2008

- It's a good news/sad/bad news kind of day: Rochon says "hallelujah" if desperate economy means a "new imperative to build more intelligent architecture."
- Reports indicate architects are/will be hit hard by financial crisis (oh for the days of market doldrums).
- Then there's the EU climate push - 'er 'concessions and opt-outs" (don't think this won't affect architects: beware "buyers' remorse").
- Why Boston's "ugly, expensive Macallen Condos shouldn't be a model for green buildings."
- Is Stirling Prize-winning Accordia development really be a blueprint for housing? "Yes" from the architect; "no" says developer.
- South African architects ready to embrace green-building challenge (with huge red dots to prove it).
- Texas and Beijing universities collaborate on pocket parks (a trend in the making, we hope).
- Kamin has high hopes for new origami-inspired park in Chicago.
- Big plans and high hopes for a former Jersey City rail yard.
- Calatrava and P+W file leans against Chicago Spire (developer is still optimistic: "the market is obviously the 800-pound gorilla in the room.").
- In Sarasota, a Modernist-designed development goes for Modernist to "classic Spanish" bungalows: "Not a great day for architecture" says some.
- Western architects win big in Libya (it's taken awhile).
- The Smithsonian spreads its wings.
- New HQ for an NYC-based housing advocacy group is a "more accurate reflection of the communities it helps to create."
- Q&A with NYC's Urban Design Chief about similarities between biological change and urban growth, green roofs, and blue roofs.
- After 27 years, Sydney's Historic Houses Trust director decides "it's time for a different kind of person to run the trust: someone with more Sydney front."
- Canada's 40 Under 40 of fresh, young talent ("fun facts are fun).
- Israel's Trostler was "one of the most productive and innovative architects in Israel in the 1950s and '60s" deserves (and slowly getting) what he deserves.
- We couldn't resist: cartoonist/designer Ralph Steadman: "London is a Frankenstein city."

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[Goodbye Starchitects. Hello Climate Engineers: If there is a new imperative in this desperate economy, it is surely to build more intelligent architecture...If market panic means...cancelling the crap that regularly passes as architecture, then, hallelujah...old architecture...needs to be retrofitted and new architecture needs to be designed so they become highly intelligent living organisms.](#) By Lisa Rochon – Kuwabara Payne McKenna Blumberg (KPMB); Thomas Auer; Thom Mayne/Morphosis; Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill- Globe and Mail (Canada)

[Architects Hit Hard by Financial Crisis: Next year looks even more dismal..."firms that are going into business now will be out of business soon."](#) - Architectural Record

[EU climate change push in disarray as Italy joins Iron Curtain revolt: In the next few weeks there are likely to be a series of concessions and opt-outs offered to get everyone on board...Most of those trying to wriggle out of the targets are former Iron Curtain countries...some of the EU leaders were experiencing "buyers' remorse"](#) - The Times (UK)

[Is Brown the New Green? Why Boston's Ugly, Expensive Macallen Condos Shouldn't Be a Model For Green Buildings.](#) -- Office dA [slide show]- Xconomy

[Can Accordia really be a blueprint for housing? Yes, says Keith Bradley one of the Stirling Prize-winning development's architects; but Alan Cherry, of the scheme's developer Countryside Properties, disagrees](#) -- Fielden Clegg Bradley Studios- BD/Building Design (UK)

[South Africa architects ready to embrace green-building challenge: ...quite rapidly moving away from only "how pretty a building is, but also how it works"...Nationwide, award-winning buildings are adorned with 'red dots' – one metre in diameter – in recognition of good architecture...](#) -- Al Stratford/South African Institute of Architects - Engineering News (South Africa)

[University of Texas at Austin, Tsinghua University Pursue International Collaboration for Green Space: Beijing project to be paradigm for other urban areas...explore an interdisciplinary approach to designing traditional green retreats or "pocket parks"...in a large, complex urban area...](#) - AIArchitect

[An oasis of public space between Michigan Avenue and Navy Pier; origami-inspired park is deftly integrated with tower...Like all good public spaces, this one gives you lots of choices about what to do.](#) By Blair Kamin -- Solomon Cordwell Buenz; Hargreaves Associates [image]- Chicago Tribune

[Play Ball: Former Jersey City railyard due for distinctive athletic fields: Berry Lane Park will become Jersey City's largest recreational area...Concrete coal silos will now serve as a backdrop for a park amphitheater.](#) -- Dresdner Robin/Rogers Marvel Architects [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

[Spire pay dispute spurs doubt: Calatrava among consultants filing millions in liens against developer...seeking more than \\$11.3 million...Perkins+Will Inc. filed a lien against Shelbourne for almost \\$4.85 million in payment.](#) By Mary Ellen Podmolik and Blair Kamin- Chicago Tribune

[Modern no more: As the real estate market founders, The Houses of Indian Beach's modernist concept has been abandoned in favor of something "more marketable"...has been renamed Casa Museo, and it will offer an equal number of "classic Spanish" bungalows...](#) -- Guy Peterson; Walter Hamm - Herald- Tribune (Florida)

["Not a great day for architecture": The decision...to abandon the modernist design aesthetic of The Houses of Indian Beach for "classic Spanish" houses in the now-named Casa Museo development...is sure to stir debate as to the merits and relevance of modernist design here. The market made them do it.](#) -- Guy Peterson; Halfants + Pichette; Walter Hamm [images]- Herald- Tribune (Florida)

[Libya Opens the Door to American Architects: RMJM's Global Education Studio \(GES\) is designing master plans for two separate university campuses in Libya—making it the first American architecture office to work in the North African country since the U.S. lifted sanctions against it in 2004.](#) [images]- Architectural Record

[Udvar-Hazy Center to Spread Its Wings at Dulles: ...a \\$74 million, 220,000-square-foot expansion of the companion to the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum.](#) -- HOK [slide show]- Washington Post

[Inside an Office, Reflections of a City: Enterprise New York, a national nonprofit, recently moved to office space that is a much more accurate reflection of the communities it helps to create.](#) -- Stephen Yablon Architect [images]- New York Times

[Q&A: Alexandros Washburn, Urban Design Chief, New York City, on PlaNYC, similarities between biological change and](#)

[urban growth, green roofs, and blue roofs.](#) - American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

[Playing by Sydney rules: After saving the best of Sydney and NSW from destruction, Historic Houses Trust director Peter Watts is putting his feet up - for a while at least...he arrived 27 years ago to run this outfit which has no equivalent anywhere in Australia...He thinks, apart from anything, it's time for a different kind of person to run the trust: someone with more Sydney front.](#) - Sydney Morning Herald

[40 under 40: Fresh ideas from young Canadian designers -- Clayton Budd/64th and Queen; Bryan Chartier/Core Architects; Susan Bettencourt/Figure 3; etc.](#) - National Post (Canada)

[A concrete life: Rudolf Reuven Trostler...was one of the most productive and innovative architects in Israel in the 1950s and '60s, though certainly not one of the most famous...A few of \[his\] buildings have managed to escape the bulldozers for now...One can only hope that the rest of the buildings designed by Trostler, who never asked for recognition, will receive such renewed consideration.](#) - Ha'aretz (Israel)

[Ralph Steadman: 'London is a Frankenstein city': Rory Olcayto meets cartoonist...whose monstrous vision for an arch on the Thames Gateway launches the AJ/Geze competition to design an entrance to London..."It's made from the structures we are in danger of becoming. We're making ourselves slaves to this kind of architecture."](#) [images]- The Architects' Journal (UK)

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