

Today's News - Thursday, October 30, 2008

- Is smart growth really dumb growth?
- Hawthorne looks at the intersection of public transit, urbanism, architecture - and a ballot that wants to bring back earlier model of public-transit for Los Angeles.
- The Dutch choose BREEAM over LEED.
- ULI report: sidestep going green at your own risk - even in a tough economy.
- In Helsinki, The Public is the all-important client, and open competitions are the way to get going for young Finnish architects.
- Mexico City's Paseo de la Reforma and its "incongruous influx of luxury high-rises" (but the naked farmers aren't going anywhere).
- A Waldorf=Astoria to be Philly's 6th tallest tower.
- London's Design Museum has its eye on Commonwealth Institute to be its new home.
- Good day for Gehry: his Museum of Tolerance in Jerusalem gets Israeli court o.k.
- He's on an impressive shortlist for Eisenhower Memorial on the National Mall.
- Another impressive shortlist for a new government center in Sofia.
- Dispute over fate of Neutra's Gettysburg Cyclorama gets its day in court today (our fingers are crossed!).
- Brussat finds a silver lining in the housing crisis: Howard Roark would be a traditionalist as developers turn away from modern.
- Farrelly on Australian Institute of Architecture awards: Melbourne trounced Sydney: "It's the look. You have it or you don't. We don't." - And two winners cause a fuss over what constitutes "public architecture."
- An eyeeful of ideas to transform bus stops for London's double-deckers.

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Dumb Growth: The smart-development movement has made sprawl worse, not better: Our smart growth planners, blind to the consequences of their plans, certainly consider themselves to be winners...The losers include all of us who have paid way too much for our homes and spend way too much time in traffic. - Washington CEO Magazine

Measure R is more than roads and rails: The vote on transportation funding has implications for how we build, perceive and experience L.A....an effort to help subsidize a transition in L.A. back to an earlier model of public-transit mobility and perhaps a return to a broader, more comprehensive urban universe as well. By Christopher Hawthorne - Los Angeles Times

Dutch to adopt BREEAM: Dutch Green Building Council favours UK assessment tool over LEED as its building assessment tool for the Netherlands. - Building (UK)

Say Goodbye To Going Green? Not So Fast: ...current economic collapse would seem to have made reducing your carbon footprint a luxury...Not necessarily..."Emerging Trends" report says constructing or retrofitting buildings so they tread lightly on the earth remains a competitive selling point, and a good way to save money...you sidestep going green at your own risk. -- Urban Land Institute (ULI) - Washington CEO Magazine

Letter From Helsinki: Building with care in the Finnish capital...The Public is the all-important, perennial client, who must be informed of every new planning goal and design concept...and (in some cases) mollified well before ground is broken...open competitions are "practically the only way to get going" for young Finnish architects... -- Laituri; NRT Architects; APRT; ALA Architects; SAFA/Finnish Association of Architects; Arup; ARK-House Architects [images] - Architect Magazine

Reforma Movement: Mexico City's iconic avenue is experiencing an incongruous influx of luxury high-rises...Whether they can recapture the avenue's early heyday, though, is uncertain...those naked farmers aren't going anywhere. -- Teodoro González de León; Pelli Clarke Pelli [images] - Metropolis Magazine

One of the First Grand Hotels Meets One of the Country's First Cities: ...58-story Waldorf=Astoria Hotel and Residences Philadelphia...\$420 million hotel-anchored mixed-use project...will be the city's sixth-tallest building...to support a sustainable footprint. -- Cope Linder Architects; Re:Vision Architects; Frank Nicholson [image] - MarketWatch

Design Museum targets Commonwealth Institute building for new home: ...epic search for a larger new home is finally set to end... -- Johnson-Marshall & Partners (RMJM) (1962); Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA); Deyan Sudjic - BD/Building Design (UK)

Israeli court OKs Museum of Tolerance's controversial branch: Frank Gehry-designed museum can rise in Jerusalem on a site that was once a Muslim cemetery... [images] - Los Angeles Times

Frank Gehry, Moshe Safdie on Ike's short list: A competition to pick a designer for the National Eisenhower Memorial, slated for a site just off the Mall in Washington, D.C., is down to seven finalists -- Peter Walker; Stanley Saitowitz; Rogers Marvel; Ralph Johnson/Perkins + Will; Ron Krueck/Krueck and Sexton - Los Angeles Times

Leading architectural studios shortlisted for design of Government centre in Sofia -- Foster+Partners; Zaha Hadid; Dominique Perrault; Obединenie G-3;Georgi Stoilov; Massimiliano Fuksas; ADAIS proekt - Sofia Echo (Bulgaria)

Dispute over Gettysburg cyclorama building heads to court: ...if the building can't be saved on the site, the Park Service should consider moving it. Two Gettysburg businessmen have offered to accommodate the building on their nearby properties. -- Richard Neutra (1961); Christine Madrid French/Recent Past Preservation Network; Dion Neutra - Philadelphia Inquirer

Housing crisis has a silver lining: Jittery developers in Florida recently dumped the modern architecture of a proposed upscale residential project and chose Spanish Colonial-style bungalows instead...If Rand were to rewrite The Fountainhead today, she'd make Howard Roark a traditionalist. They are the ones battling the entrenched establishment. By David Brussat - Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

At 90 degrees, Sydney's in the shade: ...Australian Institute of Architecture awards...Melbourne trounced us...It's quite a turn-up for Sydney to be stuck wearing the sensible shoes while Melbourne gets to party all night in blue vellum stilettos...It's the look. You have it or you don't. We don't. By Elizabeth Farrelly -- Edmond and Corrigan; Denton Corker Marshall; Ashton Raggatt McDougall (ARM); LAB; James Stockwell; McBride Charles Ryan; Tonkin Zulaikha Greer; John Wardle - Sydney Morning Herald

Fuss over winning designs: ...two elite private schools have controversially won the country's two highest "public architecture" awards... -- Australian Institute of Architects; John Wardle; m3architecture; Phooey Architects; McBride Charles Ryan - The Age (Australia)

Double-decker bus-stop hits the Oxo tower: Architects' transformational designs in two new initiatives include bunk-bed bus

stops and a snowdrop formation. -- Urban Splash; FAT; Architecture Foundation; Klassnik Corporation; Common Office; Feix & Merlin; Glowacka Rennie Architects; Dallaspierce [images]- Building (UK)



Rafael Moneo: Prado Museum Extention, Madrid, Spain

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