

Today's News - Tuesday, November 4, 2008

- Weinstein's Words That Build Tip # 8: Initiate conversations about design that engage your clients.
- Lyndon offers a thoughtful and informative review of the new U.S. Embassy in Berlin.
- An amusing interview with Chipperfield: "wow" architecture on the wane (and will consider himself eligible for a Pritzker once his Neues Museum opens).
- Kamin on Chicago's "Lights Out" program and efforts everywhere to keep skyscrapers from being bird-killers.
- Rose on why James Bond is "basically an enemy of architecture - the buildings in Bond films dazzle - what a shame they get blown to smithereens."
- Viñoly's Curve Theatre is an "architectural dazzler."
- Efforts to keep London's Design Museum in Southwark may be too late.
- Litt talks to Fentress re: Cleveland Museum of Natural History's plans to plow ahead with expansion despite economic turmoil.
- "Cargotecture" catching on in Hawaii.
- Artists lead the way in neighborhood developments in L.A.'s Watts and Cairo's Antikhana.
- London's mayor wants to convert swathes of unused space, including roofs, into vegetable gardens (2,012 of them, to be exact).
- A Pittsburgh neighborhood reclaims a dumping ground; officials hope the self-motivated activism will become infectious.
- Hawthorne visits L.A. County's Elections Operations Center to find color and visual charisma, a tribute to the "infrastructure of democracy."
- The architect reshaping Taiwan's architectural landscape.
- Call for papers: Eero Saarinen (1910-1961) At the Centennial of his Birth.
- Transportation Alternatives announces Designing the 21st Century Street competition winners.

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WORDS THAT BUILD: Initiate Conversations about Design that Engage Your Clients: Tip #8: Write dialogues engaging materials and processes with clients. By Norman Weinstein- ArchNewsNow

Speaking of Places - The New U.S. Embassy in Berlin: ...a vigorous statement of engagement with a place, the complexities of its development, and a heritage of investment in the public realm. The building presents the U.S. as a spirited good neighbor, caring for its own interests, yet supporting the civic intentions of its host country. By Donlyn Lyndon -- Moore Ruble Yudell; Gruen Associates (pdf) [images]- Places Journal

"Wow Factor" Buildings Endangered by Crisis, Says Chipperfield: The global financial meltdown is likely to have one unintended side effect...Fewer attention-seeking buildings will go up..."we will see a mood shift -- a certain sensibility coming back"...he says of the British..."We don't talk about ideas: We talk about delivery."- Bloomberg News

Must skyscrapers be bird-killers? Not necessarily: A green city is not a blacked-out city...Chicago is one of the first U.S. cities to encourage building owners to dim lights during bird migration season..."Lights Out" program correctly recognizes that a building isn't fully green unless it responds to the needs of birds as well as the needs of people. By Blair Kamin [links]- Chicago Tribune

James Bond: the enemy of architecture: From Venetian palazzos to fantastical submersible lairs, the buildings in Bond films dazzle - what a shame they get blown to smithereens..."Quantum of Solace" wins hands down when it comes to best architecture. By Steve Rose -- Dietrich Untertrifaller; Peter Zumthor; Auer and Weber; Erno Goldfinger; Le Corbusier; John Lautner; Ken Adam [slide show]- Guardian (UK)

The Curve theatre in Leicester: ...makes the powerful, dramatic statement that here is a city that can think outside the box. What the new building doesn't shout, in any obvious way, is "theatre"...Yet a theatre is exactly what this £61 million architectural dazzler is. By Dominic Cavendish -- Rafael Viñoly - Telegraph (UK)

Southwark fights to keep Design Museum: ...could offer...new sites to stop a move to the Commonwealth Institute in Kensington...may have come too late to stop the move. - The Architects' Journal (UK)

Cleveland Museum of Natural History plows ahead with expansion plans despite economic turmoil: Museum officials figure that by the time they finish architectural plans, obtain cost estimates and complete a feasibility study, conditions for fundraising may improve. By Steven Litt -- Fentress Architects [images]- Cleveland Plain Dealer

Thinking inside the box: ...a new trend in architecture and an old trend in high housing costs are leading more people to move into the containers themselves..."cargotecture" -- has been embraced by a growing handful of architects and developers around the world... -- Patrick Tozier/Global Living Systems; Tempohousing; Fritz Johnson; Affordable Portable Housing [images]- Honolulu Advertiser

Watts House Project: art meets architecture near the Towers: An artist's vision for the neighborhood surrounding the famed landmark is taking shape from the ground up...a grand-scale collaboration...is finally beyond the drawing board phase. Based on artist Rick Lowe's Houston development, Project Row Houses...part conceptual art, part activism..."an artwork in the shape of a neighborhood development." -- Edgar Arceneaux [video link]- Los Angeles Times

Model Citizens: A pair of Dutch artists aims to empower a Cairo community with a fantastically detailed miniature replica...The big question is whether the exercise will influence the government's planned gentrification of the neighborhood...artists hope their models will encourage architects and urban planners to take a more nuanced look at the neighborhood--miniature warts and all. -- Wouter Osterholt; Elke Ullentuis [images]- Metropolis Magazine

Roof allotments a capital way to feed Olympians, says mayor: Swathes of unused space in London, including flat roofs, are to be converted into vegetable gardens in an initiative...with a lofty aim: to feed the 2012 Olympians with products grown in...2,012 new growing spaces...- The Times (UK)

What Was Once a Dumping Ground, Volunteers Turn Into a Park: ...Pittsburgh hope that this kind of self-motivated activism...can become infectious, leading to beautification of a growing number of vacant, abandoned lots...they might have a problem on their hands. "We worried that maybe we had done our job too well and might attract attention...some developer might come along and think, 'Hey, I could build there.'" - New York Times

One person, one vote, one storage spot: Los Angeles County's Elections Operations Center, which stores ballots, is a cornerstone of democracy. But its design is not just about utility. Pains were taken to add color and visual charisma...bringing a surprising degree of liveliness to a design...a tribute to the "infrastructure of democracy." By Christopher Hawthorne -- Lehrer Architects [image]- Los Angeles Times

Return of the Modern: Kris Yao is reshaping Taiwan's architectural landscape through his insistence on designing structures that enhance their surroundings. -- Artech [images]- Taiwan Review

Call for papers: Eero Saarinen (1910-1961) At the Centennial of his Birth for special issue with guest editor, j.m.rees;
deadline for abstracts: January 15, 2009- Nexus Network Journal

Street Wise: Transportation Alternatives announces Designing the 21st Century Street competition winners. -- Rogers
Marvel Architects; Steven Nutter; LEVON [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Field Notes from the 11th Venice Architecture Biennale - Part 2: The Giardini: "Experimental Architectures" offers a glimpse
of 30 countries' current architectural debates and experiments. By Terri Peters [images]- ArchNewsNow



Gehry Partners: Sønderborg Harbor Masterplan, Sønderborg, Denmark: ...proposes to transform the former industrial
waterfront into a vibrant urban development... [images]

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