

Today's News - Wednesday, November 5, 2008

- Nobody is mincing any words today: Moore tackles the "great planning swindle" that turns public benefit into a "pawn in a spectacularly inefficient process."
- Zandberg trounces the court decision to approve Jerusalem's Museum of Tolerance by Gehry: the "verdict crushes all hopes of halting this ridiculous and groundless project" (it won't even be the city's Bilbao moment).
- Khoury gets cantankerous when it comes to building in Beirut: is it even worth the effort?
- In India, the "mindless borrowing of foreign ideas" has left its cities "teetering between awkward extremes."
- Cheek wishes Seattle's architecture had, well, a little more cheek with less "conventional respectability and generic anonymity," and "more architecture that will start some fights."
- Protesters couldn't do it, but the financial mess just might halt the Gazprom tower in St. Petersburg (though others say it will go ahead).
- Pearman throws some curves at Viñoly's The Curve theater: does it work? Yes, but then again, no.
- Will the recession kill the market for green architecture? An expert says no: environmental design is a must-have.
- Two students come up with a way to mend fences and bridge a racial divide in a Philadelphia neighborhood.
- New Orleans debates plans for a new hospital; RMJM Hillier says it will be faster and cheaper to renovate the old one.
- Mayne moves into China, where "you can do things formally you just can't do in the U.S. - aggressive, uncompromised, out-there ideas."
- Susanka "demystified how and why good design works," and celebrates the 10th anniversary of "The Not So Big House."
- An eloquent tribute to our dear friend Stephen Kliment (there's a memorial program at the Center for Architecture in NYC tonight).

EDITOR'S NOTE: The U.S. election is over. It is a historic moment - leave it to a British historian, Tristram Hunt, to put our feelings into words: Obama "brings the narrative that everyone wants to return to - that America is the land of extraordinary opportunity and possibility, where miracles happen."

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The great planning swindle: Here we go again. Once more a projected tower...is to be subjected to a planning inquiry...Developers, architects and planners may all be acting professionally and in good faith but the public benefit becomes a pawn in a spectacularly inefficient process of planning negotiation...Planning gain is a tax that dare not speak its name. By Rowan Moore- Evening Standard (UK)

No tolerance for Jerusalem's uniqueness: The Supreme Court...approved the continued construction on [the] Museum of Tolerance...verdict crushes all hopes of halting this ridiculous and groundless project, which in the end is nothing more than a source of quarrel and contention, fanning the flames of hatred and strife... By Esther Zandberg- Ha'aretz (Israel)

City lost, regained ... or should we even make the effort? Three renowned architects explore the evolution of urban living..."While you were busy designing public libraries, the city was being built without you and despite you" -- Juan Herreros; Javier Maderuelo; Bernard Khoury- Daily Star (Lebanon)

Op-Ed: Cities without ideas: In levels of squalor, inefficiency, noise, disorder, visual pollution, weariness and decay, few would disagree that today's Indian city is a waste of space...the mindless borrowing of foreign ideas has left the Indian city teetering between awkward extremes. By Gautam Bhatia- Indian Express

Seattle architecture needs to have more fun: We are cultivating an almost unwavering devotion to mainstream modernism, conventional respectability and generic anonymity...there's a near-blackout in personal vision, risk-taking and simple quirkiness. By Lawrence W. Cheek -- Gehry; Koolhaas; NBBJ; Weber+Thompson; Don Carlson [images]- Seattle Post-Intelligencer

Financial Crisis Puts Gazprom Skyscraper In Doubt: ...crisis might do what months of impassioned protests by St. Petersburg residents failed to accomplish -- halt construction of a \$2 billion skyscraper...Participants in the project remained confident that Gazprom would continue building the Okhta Center, even without the city as a partner. -- RMJM- The Moscow Times (Russia)

Gadget-box theatre: Rafael Viñoly's first British building: It takes a certain level of nerve to announce that you are going to reinvent everyone's received notion of what a theatre is...an audacious new regional theatre in Leicester, The Curve, that is a great big transparent gadget-box. Does it work? By Hugh Pearman [images]- HughPearman.com (UK)

Tales From the Downturn, Part Four: Dan Probst: Will the recession kill the market for green architecture? Quite the opposite, says the chairman of energy and sustainability services at Chicago-based real estate giant Jones Lang Lasalle. In today's down economy, environmental design is a must-have. By Ned Cramer- Architect Magazine

Good Fences? Can sustainable building bridge the racial divide? ...two Temple students might have an idea to breath a new wind of prosperity through this backward scene. -- Jeremy Kaltreider and Hanif Azly are the winners of the 2008 Delaware Valley Green Building Council's Sustainable Design Competition..."our intent was to fuse these communities together."- PW- Philadelphia Weekly

New Orleans Debates Hospital Plan: RMJM Hillier says it will be faster and cheaper to renovate the 1939 Charity Hospital than constructing a new complex. [image, links]- Preservation magazine

Morphosis Pushes Boundaries with First Project in China: ...a sinuous 24,000-square-meter Giant Group Pharmaceutical Campus...Mayne: "In China, you can do things formally you just can't do in the U.S.—aggressive, uncompromised, out-there ideas." [image]- Architectural Record

Success of Susanka: It's been a decade since a thoughtful architect from North Carolina demystified how and why good design works..."Sarah Susanka made it sexy to be smart and thoughtful about good design, about creating a sustainable house or a flex house..."- Ottawa Citizen (Canada)

A tribute Stephen A. Kliment, 1930-2008: Lance Jay Brown recalls a forceful champion for architecture- The Architect's Newspaper

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

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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