

Today's News - Friday, December 5, 2008

- Murcutt selected for 2009 AIA Gold Medal.
- Farrelly on why the pick has "raised a few eyebrows."
- Olson Sundberg Kundig Allen snags 2009 AIA Architecture Firm Award (no raised eyebrows here).
- Rybczynski on Rudolph's resurrection: "a reminder of the important role that fashion plays in the fortunes of architects."
- Hawthorne on Ehrlich's ASU school of journalism: it "doesn't rise to the level of great architecture," but it is "a near-perfect piece of architectural symbolism: a happily cobbled-together, chewing-gum-and-bailing-wire building."
- HOK's Dali Museum to break ground next week on St. Petersburg, FL's waterfront (despite gloomy economy).
- Meier pays tribute to Utzon: he was "an architect's architect."
- Lots of weekend diversions: "Flip a Strip: New Ideas for Old Strip Malls" on view in Scottsdale (and an eye-ful here).
- Glancey is intrigued by "Japan Car: Designs for a Crowded Globe" (designed by Ban, no less) at London's Science Museum.
- The "tension between art and history" of a crumbling South Bronx in the early 1980s on view at the Museum of the City of New York.
- A "Blade Runner Barbie" doll house for Calvin Klein on Madison Ave.
- Page turners: Kennicott on "Le Corbusier: A Life": shows "he was utterly obnoxious," but fails to examine "the man's importance or his legacy."
- Heathcote's holiday gift picks, from "expensive, space-devouring, gorgeous" to "unusual and affecting."
- A Metropolis round-up of new and notable (and one very expensive!) books.
- "The American Skyscraper" is a big book project.
- Brussat gives two thumbs-up to "Roots of Home: Our Journey to a New Old House": it raises "hope for real change - a return to the primacy of a timeless architecture."
- How could we resist: Guest DJ Thom Mayne spins some tunes (great Q&A, too).

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Glenn Marcus Murcutt, Hon. FAIA, Selected for 2009 AIA Gold Medal: ...honored for the depth of his work and the breadth of his influence, which echoes well beyond his native Australia. [images]- AIArchitect

Father's son captures spirit of a place: Glenn Murcutt has received the 2009 American Institute of Architects' Gold Medal... has raised a few eyebrows...more because [he] has never built in America, or even outside Australia, and few of his works are bigger or more complex than a large house. It's not for lack of asking. By Elizabeth Farrelly- Sydney Morning Herald

2009 AIA Architecture Firm Award Goes to Olson Sundberg Kundig Allen: ...based on its 35 years of consistently excellent work, including its seamless blending of architecture, art, and craft; community involvement; attention to sustainable design; and nurturing of in-house talent. [images]- AIArchitect

Bringing Brutal Back: Can restoring Paul Rudolph's signature building rescue the architect's reputation as well? The newly refurbished and expanded Art and Architecture Building at Yale is a reminder of the important role that fashion plays in the fortunes of architects. By Witold Rybczynski -- Gwathmey Siegel- Slate

Arizona State's new journalism building: ...doesn't rise to the level of great architecture, it is a near-perfect piece of architectural symbolism: a happily cobbled-together, chewing-gum-and-bailing-wire building that manages to mine some bright optimism...from the depths of an industry's identity crisis...a brisk, forward-looking monument to making do. By Christopher Hawthorne -- Steven Ehrlich; Ten Eyck Landscape Architects [image]- Los Angeles Times

Officials say new Dali Museum will open in 2011: Regardless of how low the economy goes in the next two years, the new \$35-million Salvador Dali Museum will be built...on the St. Petersburg waterfront...Groundbreaking is set for Dec. 12. -- Yann Weymouth/HOK [images]- St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

Tribute: Jorn Utzon: An architect's architect...It is easy to be wistful about the lost possibility of another Utzon masterwork, but perhaps it is better to honor the sacrifices Jorn made for this one, which will shine forever. By Richard Meier- Time Magazine

"Flip a Strip: New Ideas for Old Strip Malls": exhibition of innovative proposals by 35 architectural teams from around the country, for flipping local strip malls in Scottsdale, Tempe and Phoenix. -- MOS; AEDS; Avery Architecture & Design; Aptom Architecture; cityLAB/Roger Sherman Architecture; Miller Hull Partnership; etc. [links to images]- Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art (SMoCA)

Do you want a ride in my Bubble? The Science Museum's exhibition of high-concept Japanese cars ["Japan Car: Designs for a Crowded Globe"] is a design-lover's dream. But will you see them in Suffolk, wonders Jonathan Glancey -- Kenya Hara; Shigeru Ban [images, links]- Guardian (UK)

Crumbling South Bronx as a Muse: Ray Mortenson's photographs of the South Bronx in the early 1980s are featured in "Broken Glass" - a new exhibition at the Museum of the City of New York...the tension between art and history. [slide show]- New York Times

Blade Runner Barbie: ...a doll house for the Calvin Klein Collection, on view now through January 5, 2009 at their store on Madison at 60th Street. But this doll house isn't child's play. -- REX; Magnusson Klemencic; Situ Studio [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Book review: Modernism's Monster: "Le Corbusier: A Life" by Nicholas Fox Weber...as becomes clear in great detail in this biography, he was utterly obnoxious...fails to examine Le Corbusier's contradictions or any of the received ideas about the man's importance or his legacy. By Philip Kennicott- Washington Post

Christmas 2008: Architecture and design books: ...suitable for a (sturdy) modernist coffee table...a shiver of nostalgia...Uplifting, playful and intelligent...Expensive, space-devouring, gorgeous...Unusual and affecting. By Edwin Heathcote -- Le Corbusier; Oscar Niemeyer; Ken Adam; Daniel Eatock; Leo Rubinfien- Financial Times (UK)

Book reviews: New and notable books on architecture, culture, and design -- Ada Louise Huxtable; Jennifer Siegal; Arup; Jean Nouvel- Metropolis Magazine

A Big Book Project: "The American Skyscraper" by Eric Mull reaches new heights...captures each city's tall buildings in a single day of shooting. [images]- ImagingInfo

Book review: The history of the new old house: "Roots of Home: Our Journey to a New Old House" by architect Russell Versaci...convey home truths...raise hope for real change -- a return to the primacy of a timeless architecture...and the abandonment of an orthodoxy that stole the word "modern" and perverted what "modernism" ought to mean. By David

[Brussat](#)- Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

Guest DJ Project: Thom Mayne: ...Pritzker Prize winning architect with a taste for Texas blues, New Orleans funk, intelligent storytellers and, to top it all off, Prince. Music has had a huge influence on his work..."This going to be fun." -- Morphosis [Q&A, links]- KCRW (Los Angeles)

WORDS THAT BUILD: Tip #9: Work with your clients' contradictions to discover possible solutions. By Norman Weinstein- ArchNewsNow



-- Jørn Utzon 1918 - 2008: "I think back on my life with my father with great joy and love. To be allowed to spend so much time together with such a remarkable man, father and architect, has been a great privilege indeed." -- Jan Utzon

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