Today's News - Monday, January 19, 2009

- ArcSpace offers us an eyeful of Nouvel's concert hall in Copenhagen.
- Meanwhile, many are "eager to see if all the delays and drama behind the construction were worth the hype."
- Is there any common ground between architecture and human rights? Graeme Bristol thinks so.
- We've come down with a serious case if Inauguration Day fever: Ouroussoff and Saffron offer eloquent takes on the embattled history and current condition of the National Mall.
- Kennicott on the brilliant branding of Obama.
- Another take on Storefront's White House Redux competition.
- Lewis on the choice facing Columbia Town Center: should it preserve its 1960s vision, or embrace the 21st century?
- Another look at D.C. with fresh eyes: National Mall, a landscape on which 200 years of turbulent American history have been compressed...Its ever-growing collection of sites provides a text that can be debated as vigorously as any history book.
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- Can architects make a difference? Is there any common ground between architecture and human rights? Graeme Bristol thinks so.
- Tradition and Change Battle on the Mall: The history of the National Mall in Washington has been a roller-coaster ride of architectural controversy...we should keep in mind how vital the architectural expression of our national identity is and will remain. By Nicolai Ouroussoff -- Miya Lin; John Russell Pope (1941); I.M. Pei; Friedrich St. Florian [Images] - New York Times
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- Monumental riffs and elaborates on its predecessors. By Inga Saffron - Philadelphia Inquirer
- The Power Of Brand-Old Message Art: ...now it is independent magazines that are carrying on the work of Obama branding -- which is the ultimate sign of branding success. By Philip Kennicott -- Shepard Fairey; Sol Sender - Washington Post
- Change You Can Only Imagine: What if the White House, the ultimate architectural symbol of political power, were to be designed today? White House Redux, a recent call for ideas... -- Storefront for Art and Architecture [images, links] - New York Times
- Reimagining 'New Town' Columbia as a New City: ...which choice makes the most sense: preserving the form and function of Columbia Town Center as originally envisioned in the 1960s or embracing a vision to create a vital downtown for the 21st century? Given today's circumstances and tomorrow's needs, the latter is the only sensible response. By Roger K. Lewis -- Cooper, Robertson & Partners; Sasaki Associates - Washington Post
- Las Vegas Affordable Housing Complex Fosters Community, Sustainability, and Colorful Design: Otto Merida Desert Villas...works hard to avoid a "public housing" image and create a community atmosphere. -- Lucchesi Galati Architects [Images] - AIArchitect
- "Hard on the inside, soft on the outside": From children's fantasy to living reality: the first housing development designed by kids...Andria decided that...to be a true cooperative for inhabitants, they would have to listen to children as well as adults. And that's how the idea to build Coriandoline was born. -- Luciano Pantaleoni [Images] - Radio Netherlands
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hospital in the world to receive LEED Platinum certification...[don’t] expect a whole slew of hospital or medical office building developers to follow in the footsteps. -- Karlsberger Architecture - GlobeSt.com

A landscape of hope: ...part of these funds should be spent on literally building a new landscape for our towns, cities, and countryside...The audacity of beauty, as an essential equal to all these functional improvements, is necessary, too...One is a mirror that reflects the other. -- Ildefonso P. Santos - The Philippine Star

What it (really) means to be green: Is Manila still listed as one of the most polluted cities in the world? Let’s stop for a while and give a really honest evaluation. Should we get a passing or a failing grade? What should we have done better? Or is the situation helpless? - Philippine Daily Inquirer

Joint panel recommends designers for Lil’ Fenway...new Red Sox spring training facility...-- Parker/Mudgett/Smith; HOK Sport; D’Agostino Izzo Quirk - Fort Myers News-Press (Florida)

Shipshape at last: Architect Namita Singh spent two decades on her biggest project, the Indian Naval Academy in Kerala...had no idea what she was getting into...[she] bagged the project in 1989, but the actual construction began only in 2000. - Business Standard (India)

Tribute. Jan Kaplicky: Czech architect whose free-form designs revolutionised British building...responsible for some of the most remarkable buildings that Britain has ever seen. By Deyan Sudjic -- Future Systems [slide show]- Guardian (UK)

Tribute. Jan Kaplicky's death leaves the world of architecture a far duller place...[his] commitment to radical futuristic design meant that his buildings were too ahead of their time for all but the most far-sighted clients...Not for nothing was Kaplicky’s practice called Future Systems. By Steve Rose- Guardian (UK)

Community Building: A new community center re-imagines public architecture and what civic buildings represent. -- George Ranalli, Architect [images]- ArchNewsNow