

Today's News - Wednesday, February 4, 2009

- Iovine ponders if there's really going to be an up-side for architects in the stimulus bill: perhaps - if "architects make themselves known as designers of options, instead of icons."
- UK-GBC's King calls for clear guidance on green building or the "recession could damage sustainable architecture."
- Hume takes a cross-country journey to explore the sustainability, viability and livability of Canada's major cities (set your DVRs).
- Preservationists battle to protect Brasilia's signature skyline from Niemeyer's proposed "Plaza of Sovereignty" (it looks pretty cool to us).
- Sydney's Barangaroo park plans seem to be moving ahead (7 years later) + the city "needs another icon project," so why not build another bridge?
- Farrelly calls Barangaroo plan "bad dreams of a front lawn for a 50-story office park... this is a site for brilliance, not understatement."
- Łódź? has ambitious plans for a "squalid" neighborhood.
- Pakistani architecture "may evolve. But it might be by default and not by conscientious design."
- Designing architecture for the desert requires equal parts ingenuity and respect.
- Goldhagen takes a long look at the many advantages of prefab and modular house-building
- and the "hulking obstacles that block our path to a more rational system of house construction."
- A new, green convent in West Harlem is a natural for sisters who "are already friends of the earth."
- A new Minnesota justice center aims for LEED Silver (despite wattage and water use needed for security).
- Smith + Gill design an eco-bridge to complete Burnham's plan for Chicago waterfront (now all they need is the money).
- Roma architecture is surreal real estate: can this style be imitated authentically? (great pix!)
- An architect's Vermont retreat blends New England and Korean design into a "four-generation-and-beyond house."
- Call for entries: John M. Clancy Award for Socially Responsible Housing.
- We couldn't resist: a bathmat made of moss stays alive with the help of bath water (we want one!).

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Op-Ed: Think Again: ...high hopes for a vast and visionary infrastructure push that would translate into a wave of architectural design have gradually faded...never has it seemed more imperative to the welfare and survival of the profession that architects make themselves known as designers of options, instead of icons. By Julie V. Iovine- The Architect's Newspaper

We need clear guidance on green building: Without clarity from the government, the recession could damage sustainable architecture. By Paul King/UK Green Building Council (UK-GBC)- The Architects' Journal (UK)

Living City: A Critical Guide: Christopher Hume takes a cross-country journey to explore the sustainability, viability and liveability of Canada's population centres; premieres February 5- CBC (Canada)

Brazilians tell architect Niemeyer to let it be: Preservationists say they are fighting to protect Brasilia's signature skyline...from Oscar Niemeyer himself...101-year-old architect envisions building a "Plaza of Sovereignty"...project threatens the "emotional memory of the city"...UNESCO would support preservation efforts. [images]- Associated Press (AP)

Sydney vision comes to life after seven years: ...final approval for one of the world's unique city parklands....plan for the Barangaroo park will restore the northern cove to its pre-industrial form + We need a new Bridge over troubled waters: It can't be underestimated the boost to the confidence of a populace, that the simple image of cranes around a city can have....Sydney needs another icon project. [images]- Daily Telegraph (Australia)

Bad dreams of a front lawn for a 50-storey office park: It's a form of hubris...Keating began patchworking Barangaroo. A bit of Rogers here, a bit of Lloyd Rees there, a thick slice of Toaster architect Andrew Andersons and a decent whack of nostalgia. Nostalgia for what? ...this is a site for brilliance, not understatement. By Elizabeth Farrelly- Sydney Morning Herald

A brand new district in the city centre: The squalid neighbourhood of Łódź' Fabryczna Station is going to be renewed...divided into two zones..."Special Cultural Zone"...The other one (60ha) is to be used as an area to create commercial buildings: apartments, stores and offices. -- Rob Krier; Möller Architekten; NOW Architectural Office; S.A.M.I. Architects - Gazeta (Poland)

Architecture in Pakistan: Other than those left behind by the British there has been no new world class museum or art gallery built in the last six decades...The country has no internationally renowned architects or architectural firms of its own and thus heavily depends on foreign based designers. It is possible...Pakistani Architecture...may evolve. But it might be by default and not by conscientious design.- Punjab Heritage News

Architects of the extreme: Designing architecture for the desert is akin to harnessing nature's harshest elements - it requires equal parts ingenuity and respect...landscape, history and culture play key roles for designing in a region of extremes. -- Antoine Predock; Steven Ehrlich; German del Sol- The National (Abu Dhabi)

Stick Stuck: Technologically, there is no reason why houses, like cars, cannot be mass-produced, and in other countries they are constructed that way...So what is our problem? Several hulking obstacles block our path to a more rational system of house construction. By Sarah Williams Goldhagen -- Safdie; Cruz; Green/Archigram; Gropius; Le Corbusier; Wright; Breuer; Keck; Prouve; KieranTimberlake; Sass; Horden Cherry Lee/Haack + Hopfne; Resolution: 4 Architecture; Kaufmann- The New Republic

Praise the Lord and Green the Roof: The sisters of West 113th Street are already friends of the earth. Their new convent, with rooftop gardens and recycled brick, will make the bond even stronger...will help them be green from the ground up. -- BKSK Architects [images]- New York Times

Blue Earth County's justice center's efficiency takes shape: Jail may become only one in country certified as 'green'...on track to be the first LEED-certified building in south-central Minnesota. -- Paulsen Architects [images]- The Free Press (Minnesota)

Local architects plan an eco-bridge to complete Burnham's plan: ...a two-mile footbridge that would connect opposite ends of the city center and Grant Park. -- Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture [image]- Medill Reports (Chicago)

In Buzescu, Roma architecture is surreal real estate: Roma palaces...use of forms is imaginative, vivid and sincere: this is art! ...the birth of an innovative movement of architecture...The question remains: can this style be imitated authentically? [images]- CafeBabel.com (Paris)

Creating New Roots: A family's Vermont retreat blends architectural traditions of New England and Korea...a "four-generation-and-beyond house"... -- Kyu Sung Woo [slide show]- Wall Street Journal

Call for entries: John M. Clancy Award for Socially Responsible Housing 2009 (any public- or private-sector project built anywhere in the U.S. is eligible); deadline: April 23- Boston Society of Architects/AIA

Mat made of moss stays alive with the help of bath water: A new bathmat made of moss is kept alive by the water that drips from your body as you dry. [image]- Telegraph (UK)

WORDS THAT BUILD: Faceting Architectural Communication: Tip #11: Effective communication evolves out of cross-reflective details. By Norman Weinstein- ArchNewsNow



-- Zaha Hadid Architects: Port House, Antwerp, Belgium

-- Under construction: MAD Architects: The Absolute Towers, Mississauga, Canada

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