

Today's News - Wednesday, February 11, 2009

- Goldberger, Glancey, and Rose on the Beijing blaze: an "intimate connection between cutting-edge architecture and catastrophe"; will it "come back to haunt European architects?"; "TVCC tower looks to have survived its first, and fiery, brush with Chinese fate."
- Greer's view of Dubai from the top deck of a tour bus (posted yesterday) obviously missed that "on the ground, ordinary people are starting to make the city buzz."
- Foster's Las Vegas tower gets knee-capped almost in half, now "fated to look like a stubby, squashed stepchild next to its soaring CityCenter siblings" (no official renderings, but LV Sun comes up with its own).
- Sorkin offers some suggestions on how to spend \$800 billion (now if only they would listen!).
- The Senate may have passed a huge economic stimulus bill, but it's not necessarily good news for architects; 66 industry organizations take to the Hill.
- A new, weekly synopsis follows the action.
- Hume fumes that in Canada, "instead of spending the money, and getting those proverbial shovels into the ground, we will continue to bicker."
- The Get Britain Building Campaign is about outcomes, not rhetoric, and the time for government spin is over (but will anyone listen?).
- Dyson couldn't build his own school, so he makes a generous donation to the Royal College of Art to help fund a major new building (no word yet on who will design it).
- More on Venturi's Lieb House move - and the architect who has been losing sleep over it.
- Kamin cheers three winners of Driehaus community design award: they "are all worthy choices."
- Mies van der Rohe Award 2009 shortlist announced.
- Deadline reminders: ASLA 2009 Annual Meeting call for presentations; and SMPS National Marketing Communications Awards.
- We couldn't resist: pretend to be an architect for an hour and get paid \$100?! Yes, please, and pass the foam core!

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[Burning Koolhaas Down: Probably not since a gunman went on a rampage at the Frank Gehry-designed business school at Case Western Reserve University...has there been such an intimate connection between cutting-edge architecture and catastrophe.](#) By Paul Goldberger -- Scheeren/Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA)- New Yorker

[Will the Beijing blaze come back to haunt European architects? Rem Koolhaas's reputation was to be cemented with the CCTV/TVCC buildings, but the recent fire is bound to raise questions about the work of foreign architects in Beijing.](#) By Steve Rose -- Metropolitan Architecture (OMA)- Guardian (UK)

[Beijing's newest skyscraper survives blaze: Its finery might have been scorched away, and cries of "hubris" have risen with the smoke, yet the TVCC tower looks to have survived its first, and fiery, brush with Chinese fate.](#) By Jonathan Glancey -- Cecil Balmond/Arup; Koolhaas/Scheeren/Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA)- Guardian (UK)

[Reject the Dubai Clichés: Yes, the rich are luxuriating in the fantasy hotels and the McVillas...but on the ground, ordinary people are starting to make the city buzz...Dubai is actually beginning to feel like a real city.](#) By Herbert Wright -- WS Atkins; Adrian Smith; Zaha Hadid- Blueprint Magazine

[Adaptation or 'disaster'? Topping out at 28 stories instead of the proposed 49, the incredible shrinking Harmon hotel seems unfortunately fated to look like a stubby, squashed stepchild next to its soaring CityCenter siblings...not what MGM Mirage wanted when it convened a dream team of eight internationally known architects... -- Foster + Partners \[images\]- Las Vegas Sun](#)

[Some suggestions on how to spend \\$800 billion: Michael Sorkin writes an open letter to President Obama outlining some of the things he feels should be part of the new administration's agenda.](#)- Architectural Record

[Senate Passes \\$838 Billion Economic Stimulus Bill: ...not necessarily good news for architects, as it no longer contains funds earmarked for school construction...AIA has teamed up with 66 organizations, including the U.S. Conference of Mayors...to send a letter to Congressional leaders urging them to restore the school-construction portion of the bill.](#)- Architectural Record

[Weekly Federal Update: Feb. 2-6, 2009: It's all about the stimulus \[links\]- Architect Magazine](#)

[In tough times we need less talk, more action: What the cities can offer is a list of projects that are ready to start...If the federal stimulus budget is to have any positive effect, it must be directed toward these programs. But chances are it's already too late. Instead of spending the money, and getting those proverbial shovels into the ground, we will continue to bicker.](#) By Christopher Hume- Toronto Star

[The answer to recession is to get Britain building: Trying to boost consumer spending won't bring economic recovery -- constructive action is what the UK needs...The Get Britain Building Campaign is about outcomes, not rhetoric, and the time for government spin is over.](#)- Building (UK)

[Design guru's £5m bid to find new talent: James Dyson makes a major donation to the Royal College of Art and calls for the UK to rediscover its talent for making things...help fund a major new building on its Battersea campus in south London by 2012.](#)- Observer (UK)

[Moving on a Barge to a Long Island Berth: ...the fate of a particular old home has been keeping Frederic Schwartz up at night...Lieb House, designed by...Robert Venturi...parked temporarily on a pier parking lot. The journey has only begun.](#) [images]- New York Times

[Studio Gang's SOS Children's Villages center wins top Driehaus community design award: This year's three winners...are all worthy choices.](#) By Blair Kamin --LCM Architects; Johnson & Lee Architects/VOA- Chicago Tribune

[Five finalists announced for the European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture -- Mies van der Rohe Award 2009 -- Atelier Marc Barani; Massimiliano Fuksas Architecture; Grafton Architects; Snøhetta; RCR Aranda Pigem Vilalta Arquitectes \[images\]- Mies van der Rohe Foundation](#)

[Call For Presentations deadline reminder: ASLA 2009 Annual Meeting and EXPO - "Beyond Sustainability: Regenerating Places and People"; deadline: February 20-](#) American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

[Call for entries deadline reminder: SMPS National Marketing Communications Awards 2009; deadline: March 2-](#) Society for Marketing Professional Services (SMPS)

[A Real Life Extra: \\$100 to Look Employed: A meeting with an important client was scheduled for the next day...Would I be able to help them out? ...pretend to be an architect for an hour and get paid \\$100?! Yes, please! Pass the foam core!](#)- Huffington Post

Loud on the Outside, Quiet on the Inside: Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center (EMPAC) by Grimshaw and Davis
Brody Bond Aedas: How do you "ground" a 221,200-square-foot building on a 30-degree slope? By By Craig M. Schwitter,
P.E./Buro Happold [images]- ArchNewsNow



- Concept Design; Renzo Piano Building Workshop: SNFCC, Athens, Greece
- KK Letter: Architecture, Art and Design, Berlin, Germany
- Design Hotel: The Mandala, Berlin, Germany

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