Today's News - Thursday, February 12, 2009

- Rochon visits the barrios of Medellin and Caracas and finds two very different worlds: one "has floated up, up, up" with "catalytic architecture"; the other "has spiraled crazily down."
- Architecture and politics: White City, Dark City: "Gaza City and Tel Aviv offer a brutal display of contrasts."
- Zandberg says "Israel's urban environment has suffered more than enough architectural abuse"; Rami Karmi's design for new prime minister's HQ "one abuse too many."
- Despite protests that money could be better spent, the Israeli government approves the huge budget for lavish new PM's residence (with pix - you can decide).
- The public rallies to support building Kaplický's Prague library; City Hall walks a noncommittal line.
- Cornell faculty debates Misteit Hall: without it, the architecture department is "in extreme danger of losing accreditation"; it should be put on hold along with other projects; it could be built - if it's green enough.
- Brussat blames Hitler for inflicting Modernism on America, causing the "decline and fall of our cities."
- An eyeful of BIG Architects' carbon neutral master plan for Zira Island in the Caspian Sea.
- CalArts adds a Wild Beast to its menagerie of buildings: "It's a fun little thing."
- Princeton taps Tod Williams Billie Tsien for Andlinger Center for Energy and the Environment.
- George Brown College taps Stantec and KPMB for new Toronto waterfront campus.
- Costs to restore Cincinnati Museum Center at Union Terminal are six times more expensive than anticipated (but vows to get it done).
- Hume is taken by Toronto Hydro manhole covers painted red - perhaps a good idea for the rest of the city: it would employ artists, "bolster flagging civic pride, keep us amused, and make Torontonians more sensitive to the ubiquity of the infrastructure."
- Hosey calls for the U.S.-Mexico border barrier to be torn down: it's "an architectural, ecological, and functional failure."
- Reality bites: he said there wouldn't be job cuts, but Foster will lay off up to 400, and close Berlin and Istanbul offices.
- Louis Kahn's Esherick House finally makes it to Philadelphia Register of Historic Places.
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- Gehry's software keeps buildings on budget (at least for projects that still have budgets).
- We couldn't resist: a Woodstock revival in the wind for Berlin's Tempelhof airport (we're up for that - happy birthday Abey baby).
Louis Kahn’s Esherick House added to Philadelphia Register of Historic Places: ...also recognized the landscape design by Frederick Peck... - Chestnut Hill Local

Frank Gehry’s Software Keeps Buildings on Budget: ...known for using curved shapes in his architecture, also offers modeling software to compute the cost of building those designs...Gehry Technologies, which sells Digital Project to other developers and architects and trains project teams to use it...Success with this version of Digital Project seems crucial to Gehry’s legacy. [images] - New York Times

Nazi Airport Meets Flower Power: Woodstock Coming to Tempelhof? ...airfield might just bring the Age of Aquarius to Berlin this summer -- in the form of a Woodstock revival. - Der Spiegel (Germany)

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

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