

Today's News - Tuesday, February 17, 2009

- Glancey minces no words about the "lack of civic-mindedness" in "zombie public spaces" that feel like "they've been ordered from some global urban design catalogue."
- Pogrebin on the win for culture in the stimulus bill.
- New U.K. immigration rules may put a damper on international collaborations.
- Litt and the LV Sun on Gehry's Ruvo Center in Las Vegas: starchitecture used to raise awareness; "Once it is built, people will understand that it's not just a frivolity," says the starchitect himself.
- Clashing visions for Coney Island (residents just want to be sure there's affordable housing and a grocery store).
- Rose visits Fuksas's Peres Peace House in Jaffa: it "wants to be both a US-style presidential memorial library and a grassroots NGO headquarters" (oh - and it "works marvelously").
- Hawthorne on Mayne's Cahill Center: "It seems eager to start a conversation or pick a fight, depending on your point of view."
- Davidson gives another thumbs-up to Lincoln Center's Tully Hall re-do: a "triumphant rehabilitation" with a "fresh sense of spectacle."
- A planned tower for the High Line (which has "morphed from eyesore to eye candy") has preservationists "aghast, and the local community board ambivalent."
- Gainesville, FL, has big green plans for a brownfield - including a museum in honor of the inventor of Gatorade; hopes are it will be "an absolute model for redevelopment nationwide."
- Lewis on why Murcutt deserves AIA Gold Medal: "his reach is subtle but profound."
- Hume on Toronto's "earth angel" who has "pulled together one of the biggest environmental coups of the new century."
- Q&A with Vancouver's Henriquez re: his "bold experiment for the city's Downtown Eastside."
- Woodman accesses the 2009 Brit Insurance Designs of the Year shortlist (at least the exhibit is worth a look).
- Another thumbs-up for urban vertical farming.
- Wind turbines for our own roofs (they're pretty cool looking, too).
- Job opening: chair of the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat.

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When legacy is dead on arrival: The lack of civic-mindedness during the decades of "greed is good" has delivered only zombie public spaces, devoid of any life...they feel as if they've been ordered from some global urban design catalogue. By Jonathan Glancey - BD/Building Design (UK)

Saving Federal Arts Funds: Selling Culture as an Economic Force: ...culture contributes 6 million jobs and \$30 billion in tax revenue and \$166 billion in annual economic impact..."It's a signal that maybe there is after all more understanding of the value of creativity in the 21st-century economy." By Robin Pogrebin - New York Times

Controlling Immigration Damages the Arts: If you're thinking of inviting a designer, artist or architect from Russia, China, India, Brazil, or indeed Japan, to collaborate on a project in the UK, think again...architects who want to collaborate...will lose their flexibility and freedom to choose who they work with internationally. - Blueprint Magazine

The Cleveland Clinic Ruvo Center for Brain Health in Las Vegas will use celebrity architecture to fight disease...a way to harness Gehry's architecture to focus national attention on research into ravaging neurological illnesses... By Steven Litt -- Frank Gehry [images] - Cleveland Plain Dealer

Cleveland Clinic Ruvo Center for Brain Health: Gehry's design elevates awareness of Alzheimer's disease, research...sensitive to Alzheimer's patients and caregivers...Gehry plays a role in the organization's strategy that is both sublime and sensible..."Once it is built, people will understand that it's not just a frivolity." [images] - Las Vegas Sun

City and Developer Spar Over Coney Island Visions: ...competing visions of how best to preserve the soul of Coney Island...differences revolve not around whether to preserve [its] unique character, but around how big the amusement district should be and what uses should be allowed....The fear is that ultimately little or nothing will happen... -- Municipal Art Society [images] - New York Times

Peace centre with a panic room: Can architecture end a war? Steve Rose travels to Israel to see Peres Peace House, a new building with big ambitions - and a bomb shelter on every floor...it works marvellously..."A building without emotion is not architecture..."...wants to be both a US-style presidential memorial library and a grassroots NGO headquarters, part gift to humanity, part vanity project. -- Massimiliano Fuksas [image] - Guardian (UK)

Thom Mayne's Cahill Center at CalTech: It seems eager to start a conversation or pick a fight, depending on your point of view, about the appeal of aggressively contemporary architecture...gap between the...standout elements and its conservative ones is no accident. By Christopher Hawthorne -- Morphosis [images] - Los Angeles Times

Bully for Tully: Lincoln Center's battered chamber-music hall gets a triumphant rehabilitation...a fresh sense of spectacle. By Justin Davidson -- Pietro Belluschi/Eduardo Catalano/Helge Westermann (1969); Diller Scofidio + Renfro; FXFowle - New York Magazine

Diamond in the Rough: James Carpenter-designed tower proposed for Meatpacking District: ...the High Line has morphed from eyesore to eye candy...Preservationists are aghast, and the local community board ambivalent. -- Gerner Kronick + Valcarcel [images] - The Architect's Newspaper

Ambitious Cade Museum plans gain support: "This is about a symbiotic relationship between a green space and a museum...When you add up all the things that this is, it will be an absolute model for redevelopment nationwide." -- Carol R. Johnson Associates; Amaze Designs [image] - Gainesville Sun (Florida)

Touching the Earth Lightly, His Reach Is Subtle but Profound: One of American architecture's highest awards just went to Glenn Murcutt...Glenn Murcutt? Few Americans have heard of him...What differentiates [his] work and makes it so significant, so lastingly influential on architectural theory and practice, that it merits the gold medal? By Roger K. Lewis - Washington Post

Earth Angel: The Architect: Green space is his game: Quietly, cleverly, patiently, Geoff Cape has pulled together one of the biggest environmental coups of the new century...Brick Works site will be a national centre for sustainable cities. By Christopher Hume -- Evergreen - Toronto Star

B.C. architect building toward a solution for everyone: Gregory Henriquez...author of Towards an Ethical Architecture...designed the Woodward's building, a mixed-income development in the Downtown Eastside...a bold experiment...will see wealthy condo dwellers living cheek by jowl with the poor... - Globe and Mail (Canada)

Assessing the Brit Insurance Designs of the Year shortlist: How do you assess the relative merits of the latest Prada spring/summer collection...and the high-speed rail link between London and the channel tunnel? Frankly, I haven't a clue...
By Ellis Woodman -- Alford Hall Monaghan Morris (AHMM); Feilden Clegg Bradley/Alison Brooks/Maccreanor Lavington; Snøhetta; Design Indaba; Steven Holl; Shuhei Endo/Bubbleculture H; Romera y Ruiz Arquitectos; Herzog & de Meuron; West 8 + DTAH; Adjaye Associates; Junya.Ishigami; McDowell Benedett; Subarquitectura [slide show]- BD/Building Design (UK)

Solving the global food crisis: vertical aeroponic farm grows food out of thin air: ...highlights the potential of aeroponics in combination with high-density urban high-rise farming...could be made even more vertically dense...vertical farms could become an economically attractive use of land. -- Eugene Tsui; Eric Vergne [images, links]- Gizmag (Australia)

Bringing Wind Turbines to Ordinary Rooftops: In these green times, some companies hope smaller wind turbines will soon rise above homes and garages. -- Swift Wind Turbine; Energy Ball [images, links]- New York Times

Call for nominations: New CTBUH Chair; deadline: March 31 - Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat (CTBUH)



-- BIG: Zira Island Master Plan, Baku, Azerbaijan

-- Under construction: Gehry Partners: Counseling Center, Danish Cancer Society, Aarhus, Denmark

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