

Today's News - Friday, February 20, 2009

- Campbell pays tribute to Flansburgh, dedicated to Modernism and Cornell.
- We also lose Rand, the master photographer who cataloged L.A. architectural history (a terrific slide show to prove it).
- A number of colleagues pay tribute to Max Bond.
- Sad/bad news doesn't stop there: "It's a bloodbath" for the profession in the U.K.; and AIA's ABI falls to an all-time low.
- Does the stimulus bill offer any good news for architects in New York and California?
- Hume looks for a silver lining: "the death of the growth-at-any-cost economy could be one of the best things to happen to Toronto and Canada."
- Moore and Glancey bemoan the chances of an important Olympic legacy "now looking very out-of-date" - and offer suggestions to make it better.
- A spirited discussion among Las Vegas architects and urbanists about building a better city; and the D.C. anti-Modernist who wants to transform the Strip.
- Q&A with L.A. city planners discussing new downtown standards.
- Another riposte to Greer's dis of Dubai: Germaine - get off the bus and look around.
- Ouroussoff and Lacayo cheer Alice Tully Hall/Juilliard make-over, "flush with new life," and "ingeniously reconfigured."
- Hodges offers a video tour of Detroit's "ugly-beautiful manufacturing landmarks."
- Weekend diversions: "Last Call for Planet Earth," a documentary travels the globe to find 12 leaders in sustainable design.
- Medieval architecture inspires zero-carbon home.
- King finds J. Mayer H. show at SFMOMA "catnip" for those who see architecture as another realm of modern art, but "it doesn't go far enough."
- Q&A with Benjamin Godsill and Jiang Jun re: "Urban China: Informal Cities" at the New Museum.
- Corbu continued: Pearman includes Palladio: "how delightful to find you both in London."
- Architect and writer Guy Booth argues that Corbu's "legacy was monstrous," creating not much more than "concrete carbuncles."
- A visit to the "futuristic rot that was once the seminary of St Peter's... among the sorriest remnants of Britain's brief and ambiguous romance with modernism."
- An eyeful of Corbu's own interior at Cabanon (reconstructed in London).

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Obituary: Earl Flansburgh, 77...noted Boston architect...believed firmly in modernism..."You can have any color as long as it's white..."Besides his architecture and his family [his] great love was Cornell University. By Robert Campbell -- Earl R. Flansburgh + Associates - Boston Globe

Obituary: Marvin Rand, 84: ...photographer whose images captured more than five decades of Los Angeles' architectural history... [slide show]- Los Angeles Times

J. Max Bond Jr., FAIA, 73: "This remarkable man whose gentle exterior belied the spiritual steel that drove him forward despite naysayers who said that because of his race the cards were stacked against him if he dared to pursue a career in architecture." - AIArchitect

'It's a bloodbath': The architecture profession has been savaged by the recession and there is widespread fear of worse to come, the AJ's State of the Profession survey has revealed...concerns about the 41 per cent of architects who confessed to dropping their fees...RIBA claimed that lower fees devalue the work of architects. - The Architects' Journal (UK)

Architectural Billings Index Hits All-Time Low: ...the lowest level in its 13-year history. - Architectural Record

How Stimulating? Money for Nothing: New York's share of federal stimulus funds will largely sidestep architecture; Life Support? Stimulus act's impact on California architects uncertain- The Architect's Newspaper

Good times for smart building: It was fun while it lasted...for all the pain it will cause, the death of the growth-at-any-cost economy could be one of the best things to happen to Toronto and Canada. By Christopher Hume- Toronto Star

Let's have an Olympic legacy like this: London should take inspiration from Stockholm, Amsterdam, or even Dubai if the benefits from 2012 are to amount to more than fantasy...the legacy plan embodies a philosophy that is now looking very out-of-date. By Rowan Moore- Evening Standard (UK)

Engineering revival: A better Olympic legacy for east London would be a return to its great manufacturing tradition...Sadly, British politicians tend to have little care for manufacturing...we will reject as a matter of course in favour of unimaginative, posturing "urban regeneration", which will see the East End of London little better off than before... By Jonathan Glancey- Guardian (UK)

Making designs on Vegas: Four of Sin City's leading architects and urbanists in a spirited discussion about building a better city + One man's unlikely quest to transform the Strip -- Ron Smith/UNLV Office of Urban Sustainability Initiatives; Mike Del Gatto/Carpenter Sellers Architects; Eric Strain/assemblageSTUDIO; Robert Dorgan/Institute for Small Town Studies; Nir Buras [images, links, audio]- Las Vegas Weekly

Q&A: LA Urban Design Studio: Discussing new downtown standards...most ambitious endeavor: 11 Urban Design Principles, a set of values to which developers would be required to subscribe when seeking entitlements. -- Emily Gabel-Luddy; Simon Pastucha- The Architect's Newspaper

Dubai's skyline is a mark of vitality, not superficiality: Its 40-year transformation from fishing port to busy city has been remarkable, says Siobhan Campbell...One could argue that the entire mirage of "excess" and "megalomania" that Greer finds so crass is likewise created for tourist appeal. - Guardian (UK)

Boxy to Bold: A Concert Hall Busts Out: The womblike performance space of Alice Tully Hall, its surfaces flush with new life, makes it hard to remember the dreariness of the 1969 original...refers to the past but doesn't shirk the present... By Nicolai Ouroussoff -- Pietro Belluschi/Eduardo Catalano (1969); Diller Scofidio & Renfro; FXFowle; JaffeHolden [slide show]- New York Times

Linking Lincoln Center: Alice Tully-Juilliard building...ingeniously reconfigured to announce to anybody passing by, Come in, we're here, make yourself at home! By Richard Lacayo -- Diller, Scofidio + Renfro; FXFowle [images, links]- Time Magazine

Detroit's ugly-beautiful manufacturing landmarks: ...few activities are as thrilling as tooling around the foundries and factories from early in the last century, built as this country roared its way toward global pre-eminence...rich beyond the telling, full of what an old English hymn calls "dark, satanic mills." By Michael H. Hodges -- Albert Kahn (1920s); William McDonough [images, videos]- Detroit News

Sustainable architecture on the screen: "Last Call for Planet Earth": The mastery of sustainable development and its

application to architecture and town planning is one of the challenges to minimize the vulnerable environment... -- Françoise-Hélène Jourda; Christoph Ingenhoven; Massimiliano Fuksas; Jo Crepain; Rogers Stirk Harbour; Markku Komonen; Georg Reinberg; Kengo Kuma; Qingyun Ma; Daniel Pearl; Jaime Lerner; Thom Mayne [links]- Constructalia

Medieval architecture inspires zero-carbon home: Innovative energy-efficient home based on historic technique of arched overlapping thin clay bricks will star in TV's Grand Designs -- Richard Hawkes; Michael Ramage; Philip Cooper [images]- Building (UK)

"Patterns of Speculation: J. Mayer H." at SFMOMA: ...demonstrates, emphatically, that architects can use their craft to offer an artistic response to technology and cultural trends...catnip for museumgoers who see architecture as another realm of modern art, a forum for individual voices and visions. That worldview is fine as far as it goes. But it doesn't go far enough. By John King [images]- San Francisco Chronicle

Q&A: Benjamin Godsil and Jiang Jun: Cities are four-dimensional universes...If the contemporary apex of this incomprehensibility is anywhere, it's in China...They're huge and sprawling, overpopulated, misunderstood, and growing fast. And a new show at the New Museum in New York packs all that into one room..."Urban China: Informal Cities"- Architectural Record

Monsieur Le Corbusier, meet Signor Palladio - how delightful to find you both in London. Sir Edwin Lutyens wants a word with you...As with the Corb show, so with Palladio...Remarkable individuals working in remarkable times produce remarkable buildings. By Hugh Pearman [images, links]- HughPearman.com (UK)

Who's responsible for all the concrete carbuncles? Many would have only the vaguest idea of who he was...But as a new exhibition celebrates the work of Le Corbusier, architect and writer Guy Booth argues that his legacy was monstrous. [images]- BBC Magazine

"The spaceship:: Le Corbusier's concrete legacy in Britain has been both celebrated and reviled. Brian Dillon visits the vast complex of futuristic rot that was once the seminary of St Peter's, and finds hope amid the decay...a ruin as much of the architectural dreams of its century as of the more localised and equally doomed optimism that brought it into being. -- Isi Metzstein/Andrew MacMillan/Gillespie, Kidd & Coia- Guardian (UK)

Living Simply with Le Corbusier: "Le Corbusier's Cabanon 1952/2006 - The Interior 1:1"...a glimpse inside by reconstructing the remarkable interior of Cabanon. [images]- Metropolis Magazine



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

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

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