

Today's News - Thursday, February 26, 2009

- Australian architects to offer pro bono services for stimulus package infrastructure projects "as a community service."
- Recession strikes neighborhoods: as the "tide of gentrification that transformed economically depressed enclaves is receding, leaving some communities high and dry."
- Huxtable takes on the "beauty in Brutalism": a 20th-century heritage "is in crisis and in desperate need of a revised, realistic agenda."
- Risen, meanwhile, muses that Huxtable's "legacy may be too much of a good thing": most other critics don't engage both society and architecture…guiding them both forward...toward better urban forms and healthier cities."
- Viñoly's Battersea eco-tower bites the dust.
- An Urbanist's polemic against the excesses of the transformation of Beijing (maybe the Mandarin tower fire was not such a bad thing?).
- Rosenbaum offers an irreverent take on Alice Tully Hall (in two parts): some thought the old one "was the pits. But I thought that its new entrance pit was the pits."
- Holl's next big win in China: images with "some tantalizing jargon...Bracket, eh?"
- A special report re: Dallas Center for the Performing Arts' Wyly Theater and Winspear Opera House (lots of images, videos, links!).
- Forgey (we're so glad he's back!) on Esocoff's "willful buildings that tend to stand out while fitting in…an unusual, but clear-headed, architectural mantra."
- The new Secretary of the Interior lists preservation of the National Mall as a top priority (yay!).
- An eyeful of winning design for Liffey Valley bridge: "iconic yet understated."
- U.K.'s first new nuclear plant calls on YRM for design (visitors center included?).
- Two Q&A's with Siza re: winning Royal Gold Medal.
- Cheek pulls no punches re: his adventure designing his own house: "A week after we moved in, my amateur design errors were brutally obvious."
- Some of the Routemaster winning entries "are rife with cuddly, friendly, smiley anthropomorphism...cute for an entrant in the under-11s category."
- V&A to launch competition for Dundee museum; Bilbao effect expected.
- Call for entries: FormShift Vancouver international open ideas competition for a vibrant, greener, denser city.

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[Councils and architects collaborate on stimulus package infrastructure projects: Architects are offering their services on an initial pro bono basis to local councils for projects worth more than \\$1 billion..."as a community service."](#) - Australian Institute of Architects (formerly RAlA)

[When the Next Wave Wipes Out: Recession strikes a Los Angeles neighborhood...poses another kind of threat: to the character of neighborhoods settled by the young creative class...tide of gentrification that transformed economically depressed enclaves is receding, leaving some communities high and dry.](#) -- Joel Kotkin - New York Times

[The Beauty in Brutalism, Restored and Updated: Nothing is the same when you reach the 21st century. Suddenly a 20th-century heritage is in crisis and in desperate need of a revised, realistic agenda to keep its landmarks useful and alive.](#) By Ada Louise Huxtable -- Paul Rudolph; Kallmann, McKinnell & Knowles; Gwathmey Siegel - Wall Street Journal

[Ahead of the Critical Mass: Ada Louise Huxtable is a formidable architecture critic, but her legacy may be too much of a good thing...Too few critics today bother with the other, less sexy aspect of \[her\] legacy: that of engaging with both society and architecture and guiding them both forward...toward better urban forms and healthier cities. There are exceptions — Blair Kamin...comes to mind... By Clay Risen - Architect Magazine](#)

[Viñoly's Battersea eco-tower scrapped: Back to the drawing board for power station developer after mayor signals his opposition \[images\]](#) - BD/Building Design (UK)

[After the Inferno: Did the Mandarin Fire signal the demise of the Beijing building boom? An Urbanist's polemic against the excesses of the decades-long transformation of China's ancient capital...looming recession may well be the agent of a wiser, more responsible urban strategy... By Thomas J. Campanella -- Rem Koolhaas/Ole Scheeren - Obit magazine](#)

[Concert Hall Gaffes: An Irreverent Alice Tully Hall Photo Essay \(Part One\): Some critics think that the old Alice Tully Hall was the pits. But I thought that its new entrance pit was the pits.](#) By Lee Rosenbaum -- Diller Scofidio + Renfro; FXFOWLE [images, links] - ArtsJournal

[Concert Hall Gaffes: An Irreverent Alice Tully Hall Photo Essay \(Part Two\).](#) By Lee Rosenbaum -- Pietro Belluschi (1969); Diller Scofidio + Renfro; FXFOWLE [images, links] - ArtsJournal

[Shade Machines and the Social Bracket: The news yesterday that Steven Holl Architects won a master-plan competition in Shenzhen, China, came with some tantalizing jargon...Bracket, eh? \[images, links\]](#) - Metropolis Magazine

[Video/Special Report: The Wyly Goes Tubular + the Winspear Opera House's solar canopy: ...the latest in Art & Seek's series about notable design elements in the Dallas Center for the Performing Arts -- REX/OMA; Foster + Partners \[images, videos, links\]](#) - KERA, North Texas Public Broadcasting

[Prolific architect Philip Esocoff's designs offer an improbable balancing act: ...willful buildings tend to stand out while fitting in...an unusual, but clear-headed, architectural mantra...He views his complex art "not as a rebuke to modernism, but just as another way of doing modern architecture."](#) By Benjamin Forgey -- Esocoff & Associates [images] - Washington Business Journal

[Interior Design: Ken Salazar brings a welcome voice to protecting America's landscape, including the Mall...refreshing to hear \[interior secretary\] talk of a "department for all of America" and set forth an agenda that -- at last -- lists preservation of the Mall as a top priority.](#) - Washington Post

[Buro Happold and Explorations Architecture to design new Liffey Valley bridge: ...design tailors a recognisable bridge design to best suit the local conditions...iconic yet understated... \[images\]](#) - Archiseek (Ireland)

[YRM to design first new nuclear power station: Practice welcomes 'opportunity to redefine industrial architecture'...The architectural establishment has long opposed nuclear power station work...But attitudes now seem to be thawing, with both Will Alsop and Amanda Levete recently saying they would have no qualms about getting involved. \[image\]](#) - BD/Building Design (UK)

[Alvaro Siza: intensity through dialogue: ...will receive the Royal Gold Medal at RIBA tonight, talks to Ellis Woodman about his influences](#) - BD/Building Design (UK)

[Video: Christine Murray interviews Álvaro Siza on being awarded the Gold Medal.](#) - The Architects' Journal (UK)

An architecture critic tries building his own home: Can a man who makes a career out of critiquing the professional work of others find happiness in a home of his own design? And what's with that tiny bathroom? A week after we moved in, my amateur design errors were brutally obvious. By Lawrence W. Cheek - [Crosscut \(Seattle\)](#)

Review: The New Routemasters: ...winning entries...are rife with cuddly, friendly, smiley anthropomorphism...cute for an entrant in the under-11s category...When it comes to adult professional designers, such whimsy is distressing. – Foster + Partners/Aston Martin; Héctor Serrano/Miñarro García/Javier Esteban [images]- [Icon magazine \(UK\)](#)

V&A to launch competition for Dundee museum: ...set to launch an international competition to design its new £43 million Scottish outpost before the end of the year...part of a huge Bilbao-inspired masterplan to regenerate the city's waterfront...Early feasibility studies...have already been drawn up by Conran & Partners...- [The Architects' Journal \(UK\)](#)

Call for entries: FormShift Vancouver international open ideas competition for a vibrant, greener, denser city; cash prizes; registration deadline: [March 13](#)- [The Tyee \(Vancouver\)](#)



[UNStudio: MUMUTH Music Theatre, Graz, Austria](#)

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