Today's News - Friday, March 6, 2009

- A look at which developments businesses should monitor over the next several months on the road to the U.N. Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December.
- What to do about climate change if we only have seven years to do it.
- Can modern architecture be truly sustainable? Yes, says Hopkins' MD Bill Taylor; no, says Victorian Society's Dungavel.
- Melbourne ripe for a makeover: it's "slipping down the scale as one of the world's best designed cities," says Cox.
- Caroline offers his (somewhat amusing) take on Adam Katkin, "one of architecture's more unorthodox practitioners" (+ an eyeful of his shipping container homes).
- Chipperfield "makes war-damaged Berlin's cultural heart whole again."
- A thoughtful tribute to Kaplicky by Levete.
- Weekend diversions (and lots of 'em!): Corbu still has them talking; Willey discovers "he was also a superb interior designer and artist"; and a "voyeuristic wander through the big man's little holiday home."
- Rybczynski on a Louis Kahn show in Philadelphia: "a reminder that the famous architect still has much to teach us" (great pix).
- Hume on a Toronto show that explores urban vertical farming: "proof positive that in a place like Toronto, anything grows."
- Dutch design is wowing them in Jakarta.
- Romero and LAR in Pittsburgh; Preissner in Chicago.
- Chair design is anything but a bum's rush in Melbourne.
- "Silence" is not so hushed at the Canary Islands' second architecture and art biennial.
- Cinematic takes: a Koolhaas documentary. When he compares architecture to script writing, "it may not be precisely clear what he means, it's food for thought."
- Rose on FLW's place in film history: "Hollywood's architect of dystopia...when film-makers want to portray a sterile, authoritarian future, who better to turn to?"
- Museum of Finnish Architecture offers up a film maker's view of Austrian architecture.
- Architecture gets its close-up with winners of inaugural "Story About a Place" competition (lots of 6-minute flicks to watch, too).
- Page turners: Till's "Architecture Depends" is "far too concerned with what architects write rather than with what they do."
- "Silence" is not so hushed at the Canary Islands' second architecture and art biennial.
- Page turners: Till's "Architecture Depends" is "far too concerned with what architects write rather than with what they do."
- YEM is a treasure trove of design, art, and architecture in one bookstore in the heart of Istanbul.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Don't forget that clocks spring ahead one hour this weekend in the U.S. (let's hope spring will follow shortly!).

- Back to the Drawing Board: Louis Kahn and the lost art of sketching..."Louis I. Kahn: The Making of a Room"...at the Arthur Ross Gallery of the University of Pennsylvania, is a reminder that the famous architect still has much to teach us. By Witold Rybczynski [slide show essay]: Slate
- Stry in sky rethink how we can farm in city: Welcome to Pig City...one of several dozen proposals brought together in "Carrot City: Designing for Urban Agriculture" at the Design Exchange...offers proof positive that in a place like Toronto, anything grows. By Christopher Hume -- MWRDV- Toronto Star
- "Tangible Traces" other faces of Dutch design: ...travelling exhibition has finally arrived in Jakarta...exhibition's question: How do architecture and design take on meaning in a world that has become uniform as a result of globalization, standardization and commercialization? ...by embracing countervailing notions such as craftsmanship, tradition and context. -- Hella Jongerius; Orix; Frank Havermans - The Jakarta Post
- Carnegie's Laboratory builds bridges to innovation: The first monographic exhibit dedicated to the work of Fernando Romero and his Mexico City-based practice, LAR (Laboratory of Architecture)...focuses on today's global realities with innovative ideas of form, structure, space and surface through new building forms, imaginatory structures and concepts for civic space. [Images] - Pittsburgh Tribune-Review
- Paul Preissner at Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago March 7-29...a new role for drawing within architecture as a medium to communicate the architectural effect of the project, instead of just its plan. A new set of work...looks at the unique combination of surface patterns -- “spotting” as a communicative strategy for identification — and form as a method of spatial combination of surface patterns -- "spotting" as a communicative strategy for identification -- and form as a method of spatial...
Chair design in Melbourne: The bum has been the great unmentionable in polite circles, used to describe those at the 'bottom' of the hierarchy. But, as the National Gallery of Victoria proves, a museum of high art is the right place for the backside to park itself. -- Wright; Breur; Mies Van der Rohe; Eames; Piretti; Mackintosh, etc. - The Economic Times (India)

In pictures: Canary Islands second architecture and art biennial in Las Palmas and Tenerife...around the theme of 'Silencio', or silence...intended as a meditation and study of the landscape of these seven islands and their unique geographical, topographical and sociological make-up. -- Juan Manuel Palerm [images] - The Architects Journal (UK)

The busy, captivating "Rem Koolhaas: A Kind of Architect" takes a documentary approach to the creations of the Dutch architect...At one point, [he] compares architecture to script writing...While it may not be precisely clear what he means, it's food for thought. - Seattle Times

Hollywood's architect of dystopia: When film-makers want to portray a sterile, authoritarian future, who better to turn to than the eccentric, but brilliant, Frank Lloyd Wright? Perhaps Wright's architecture will be rescued from the sci-fi brigade at last -- with a story as racy as his, who needs special effects? By Steve Rose [links] - Guardian (UK)


Architecture Gets Its Close Up: Society for Moving Images about the Built Environment (SMBE) just announced the winners of its inaugural "Story About a Place" competition, which looked for short films (less than 6 minutes long) that 'reveal new sides or issues about a place told by memorable characters.' [links to films] - The Architect's Newspaper

Book review: Tilling infertile architectural ground: There's a whiff of hypocrisy in Jeremy Till's call in his latest book ['Architecture Depends'] for architects to re-engage with the everyday...[he] is far too concerned with what architects write rather than with what they do. - BD/Building Design (UK)

A treasure of design, art and architecture in one bookstore...in the center of Istanbul...Although it is not widely known outside the academic world, the Building Information Center, or YEM, plays a crucial role building bridges between the producers and users of building materials, through fairs, publications and events. - Hurriyet Daily News (Turkey)

Op-Ed: Life After Ada: Reassessing the Utility of Architectural Criticism: Ada Louise Huxtable deserves mucho thanks and praise - but other questions moving us to a new flavor of criticism have to be asked. By Norman Weinstein - ArchNewsNow

WORDS THAT BUILD: Taking Advantage of Interruptions in Architectural Communication: Tip #12: Cogent communicators exploit opportunities offered by interruptions. By Norman Weinstein - ArchNewsNow

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