

## Today's News - Wednesday, March 18, 2009

- A look at what kind of urbanism President Obama's stimulus billions will buy, and a few of an emerging generation of activist designers who hope to make a difference.
- British survey shows the public believe onus is on them to make towns and cities better places to live - and students' winning design to help them do it.
- Pasternack offers an in-depth take on Beijing's "trial by fire," and the many layers of symbolism (and politics) the TVCC immolation represents.
- Architects speak out about Viet Nam's "changing rural landscape and the need to address the sometimes chaotic architecture that is creating eyesores across the countryside."
- Time magazine's 10 Ideas Changing the World Right Now: #2. Recycling the Suburbs.
- Farrelly bemoans Heneghan's stepping down from Sydney University's architecture chair to head to Tokyo; could it be the pathetic state of Australia's system?
- A Miami revitalization project may have fallen short of its original goals, but it still garners praise for its efforts in helping knit together two other neighborhoods.
- A "dramatic" new RMIT campus building will be "a spectacular addition to Melbourne's urban landscape."
- Jerusalem's Israel Museum gets \$100 million re-do.
- FLW's Darwin Martin House visitors' center is ready for its close-up.
- Another British survey: "a grim picture for small firms," but the "worst of the job cuts may be over" (though not much hope for those already out of a job).
- A look at how some U.S. firms "have found sensible rather than sheepish ways to try to handle what's ahead."
- There is some good news: Winners named in Delft University of Technology architecture faculty competition. - Holl surprised by (very generous!) Spanish prize. - Calatrava wins big in his suit re: Bilbao bridge design change (though nowhere near as big as he'd wished).
- Call for entries: 4th IABR Squat City Competition; and Ample Sample 2009: "Rethink. Reuse. Upcycle."

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Urban Renewal: What kind of urbanism will President Obama's stimulus billions buy? For an emerging generation of activist designers, the future of the American city lies not in top-down master plans, but in a fine-grained analysis of the existing fabric. -- cityLAB; Interboro Partners; Fletcher Studio; Terreform-1 - Architect Magazine

Regeneration Begins at Home: British Public Believe Onus Is on Them to Make Towns and Cities Better Places to Live, New Research Reveals: ...coincides with the end of Cisco's 'Urban 2020' competition...winning entry, 'Connect 4 Sustainability,' was designed by Peter Sproule and James Hotson from Manchester School of Architecture... [links]- MSNBC

Beijing's Trial By Fire: When the TVCC building...went up in flames, it...became another fixture of Chinese culture — the terrible omen...The dance between control and chaos...has always been a leitmotif of the arresting CCTV project...fitting metaphors for the daily life of Beijing — and perhaps for the entire country. By Alex Pasternack -- Koolhaas/Scheeren/Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA)- Far Eastern Economic Review

Better rural planning proves easier said than done: ...three architects speak about the changing rural landscape and the need to address the sometimes chaotic architecture that is creating eyesores across the countryside. -- Hoang Dao Kinh/Viet Nam Association of Architects; Pham Dinh Viet/University of Civil Engineering; Ha The Luan/Ninh Binh Architects' Association- Viet Nam News

10 Ideas Changing the World Right Now: 2. Recycling the Suburbs: ...a transformation is under way in regions that were known for some of the worst sprawl in the U.S. Communities...have repurposed boarded-up malls as mixed-use developments...result will be a U.S. that is more sustainable — environmentally and economically.- Time Magazine

Architecture as a cultural art gets lost in translation: "The creation and diffusion of knowledge should be a thrilling, delightful activity. But you can't teach drawing to a lecture room of 150 kids." By Elizabeth Farrelly -- Tom Heneghan- Sydney Morning Herald

A Promising Miami Revitalization Project Is Stalled: A recovery of railyards near Biscayne Bay has hit the slump...a new, distinctly urban neighborhood known as Midtown Miami...has fallen short of its original goals...Though it may be years before the heavily subsidized development fulfills its ambitious expectation...has won praise for helping knit together two other neighborhoods... -- Bernard Zyscovich- New York Times

Ten-storey RMIT campus to change face of Swanston Street: ...dramatic multi-coloured facade continues the university's penchant for modern urban design..."a spectacular addition to Melbourne's urban landscape" -- Lyons Architects [image]- The Age (Australia)

Israel Museum, Home to Dead Sea Scrolls, Gets \$100 Million Redo: ...renovation will free up an extra 100,000 square feet and double the existing gallery space...within the museum's original envelope... -- Alfred Mansfeld (1965); James Carpenter Design Associates; Efrat-Kowalsky Architects- Bloomberg News

A Frank Lloyd Wright Landmark Gets a Modern Pavilion by Toshiko Mori: ...Darwin Martin House is one of the three most significant residences designed by Wright...the visitor center opens to the public on March 18. -- Hamilton Houston Lownie [slide show]- Architectural Record

Quarter of small firms fear insolvency: A new survey has painted a grim picture for small firms, with turnover widely forecast to fall...it also suggests the worst of the job cuts may be over for the construction sector...But for those who have already been made redundant from the sector, there seems little hope of finding a new role in construction...- Building (UK)

Recession Survival, Part 2: Pain Management: We're all hurting in this economy — but if you're a firm leader, you don't want your staff and your balance sheet to take too much of a pounding...some principals have found sensible rather than sheepish ways to try to handle what's ahead. -- Baskervill; Shears-Adkins; Development Design Group; Marjanne Pearson; Gruen Associates; Jonathan Barnes; Withee Malcolm Architects- Architect Magazine

Winners named in Delft University of Technology architecture faculty competition...10 months after it was devastated by fire. -- Laura Alvarez Architecture; Gijs Raggars; Marc Bringer Architecture [images, links]- BD/Building Design (UK)

Steven Holl Wins Half-Million Dollar Spanish Prize: The first edition of the BBVA Foundation's Frontiers of Knowledge Prize in the Arts...announcement surprised even Holl...plans to put the money toward his firm's pro-bono projects...- Architectural Record

Calatrava awarded €30k compensation for design change: Spanish High Court rejects Spanish architect's €3m compensation claim for Bilbao Zubi Zuri bridge extension...recognised the architect's bridge as an "original work of art" -- Arata Isozaki- Building (UK)

Call for entries: 4th IABR Squat City Competition: submissions should contribute to the agenda of the 'Open City' by

proposing inventive design strategies and techniques pertaining to informal urban development; cash prizes; deadline: March 27 - Squat City / International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam (IABR)

Call for entries: Ample Sample 2009: "Rethink. Reuse. Upcycle": recycle no-longer-needed carpet samples into beautiful and/or functional fixture, furniture, or any interior product; deadline: May 8 - Tricycle

Happy Ending for the Little Beach House That Could: Venturi and Scott Brown watch their Lieb House sail by. By Kristen Richards -- Frederic Schwartz; Inga Saffron [images, links] - ArchNewsNow

Q&A: Public Architecture Co-founders John Peterson and John Cary - ArchNewsNow



-- Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA): Taipei Performing Arts Centre, Taipei City, Taiwan  
-- Sadar Vuga Arhitekti: National Gallery Extension, Ljubljana, Slovenia

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