

Today's News - Thursday, April 16, 2009

- Schubert calls for creating a new/better public/private model by bringing architects to the table from the beginning.
- Bernstein (he's back!) bemoans the U.S. government not backing the U.S. pavilion for Shanghai's 2010 World Expo (meanwhile, a Canadian has actually designed the pavilion, and Shanghai chose an American team - go figure).
- Rybczynski on the "new vogue for tottering towers," a.k.a. the "Jenga effect."
- In Shenzhen, Holl is "turning the traditional idea of a skyscraper on its head - or rather on its side."
- Kamin on what has preservationists more than a bit anxious about demolition plans for Chicago's Olympic Village.
- Chelsea Barracks Rogers/Terry row: CABE and SAVE Britain's Heritage join the fray (3 guesses who's for which plan - the first 2 don't count).
- Adaptive reuse projects that prove "repurposing old buildings for new uses needn't sacrifice soul."
- Iovine gets a sneak peek at the High Line: "time will tell" if the "design lives up to our unfettered fantasies."
- An eyeful of FXFowle's LEED-Platinum National Audubon Society HQ in Manhattan: it "offers lessons in how to maintain green leadership."
- Shigeru Ban pitches Aspen Art Museum plan; critics worry about "his penchant for building with low-cost materials" (huh???)
- Bergdoll and Seung H-sang stroll Seoul, and find the "still, slow waters of Korean architecture."
- Zumthor x 2: Long says "one of his most important polemics is that he rejects the idea of architect as service provider; and a (not great) image of his first U.K. building."
- Litt on Cleveland's attempt to regulate the aesthetics and safety of wind turbines, and hopes architects, urban designers, and landscape architects will have "a strong hand, if not the leadership role" (if engineers are in charge, "we could be in trouble").
- Hume fumes about Toronto's new garbage bins "trying just a bit too hard to be cool."
- Call for entries: "Design The 4th Bin": a competition to the next generation E-waste logo and an E-waste Bin for NYC (Toronto - take heed!).
- We couldn't resist: old shoes found behind the walls of Halifax lieutenant governor's residence could spark the revival of an old tradition.

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Op-Ed: Designing the New Public/Private Model: Greater government involvement in design can be an opportunity - if done correctly. That requires architects to be at the table from the beginning. By Peter Schubert, AIA- ArchNewsNow

Op-Ed: Worlds Away: A U.S. policy of not sponsoring world expo pavilions is a missed opportunity for architects and the nation...expect great things from BIG (Bjarke Ingels Group), BiCuadro, Miralles Tagliabue EMBT, Thomas Heatherwick...But the U.S. no longer turns to its top talent. Ironically, Shanghai officials have chosen American experts to sell themselves on their own home turf. By Fred Bernstein -- Clive Grout; Yung Ho Chang/MT; Edwin Schlossberg/ESI Design [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

The Jenga Effect: A new vogue for tottering towers. By Witold Rybczynski -- Herzog & de Meuron; SANAA; Pei Zhu; nArchitects; Moshe Safdie [slide show essay]- Slate

Super skyscraper design takes it lying down: The new Vanke Center in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, is a "horizontal skyscraper"...aiming to be the first LEED platinum building in China. -- Steven Holl [image]- Shanghai Daily

City asks contractors to submit qualifications for demolition at Olympic Village site; preservationists fear loss...if Chicago wins the right to host the 2016 Summer Olympic Games. By Blair Kamin -- Walter Gropius (1940s); Schmidt, Garden & Martin (1907) [links]- Chicago Tribune

CABE and London deputy mayor join Chelsea Barracks row: The controversy over Richard Rogers' proposed redevelopment...rumbled on this week, as SAVE Britain's Heritage and CABE became the latest organisations to wade into the classicism versus modernism debate -- Rogers Stirk Harbour; Quinlan Terry- The Architects' Journal (UK)

Adaptive Reuse: Four preservation projects -- a barn, a grain elevator, a nurses' dormitory, and a power plant -- show that repurposing old buildings for new uses needn't sacrifice soul. -- Sander Architects; Parameter; Ehrenkrantz Eckstut & Kuhn Architects (EE&K); Ayers Saint Gross [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

High Line: There is no real precedent for New York's newest site for urban meandering, and time will tell how much Field Operations and Diller Scofidio + Renfro's careful design lives up to our unfettered fantasies. By Julie V. Iovine [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Nature Calling: FXFOWLE's LEED-Platinum Manhattan headquarters for the National Audubon Society offers lessons in how to maintain green leadership...a new home that would take it back to the leading edge.- GreenSource Magazine

Architect pitches Aspen Art Museum plan: Shigeru Ban's two-building design would be built on the site of the former Aspen Youth Center, pending voter approval..."The Accidental Environmentalist"...is known for his innovative approaches to environmentally sound architecture...Critics cite his penchant for building with low-cost materials...- Aspen Times (Colorado)

Still, slow waters of Korean architecture: "A good urban environment creates a society. A lot of social conflict comes from the structure of the city. Clashes over redevelopment are an example"...Seung H-sang and Barry Bergdoll talk architecture... -- Iroje [images]- JoongAng Daily (Korea)

The Peter principle: Pritzker Prize-winner Peter Zumthor is the antithesis of the megastar architect...one of [his] most important polemics is that he rejects the idea of architect as service provider. By Kieran Long- The Architects' Journal (UK)

[Zumthor designs Devon house: ...will be part of a new initiative, called Living Architecture, to create pieces of modern architecture that are available to the general public. -- Nord; MMRDV; JVA; Hopkins Architects \[image\]- The Architects' Journal \(UK\)](#)

[Cleveland proposes ordinance to regulate aesthetics and safety of wind turbines: ...who'll be in charge of designing wind farms? If it's engineers, we could be in trouble.....architects, urban designers and landscape architects, should have a strong hand, if not the leadership role. By Steven Litt -- Frode Birk Nielsen/Birk Nielsens Tegnestue- Cleveland Plain Dealer](#)

[New designer garbage bins all wrong: ...the first result of a program that will see Toronto awash in new street furniture, all very modern and oh so designerly...trying just a bit too hard to be cool...seem a bit too fragile to serve intended down-and-dirty purpose. By Christopher Hume \[image\]- Toronto Star](#)

[Call for entries: "Design The 4th Bin": a competition to the next generation E-waste logo and an E-waste Bin for New York City; registration deadline: June 19- 4thbin.org](#)

[Odd shoe superstition revived at lieutenant governor's residence in Halifax- Metro News Halifax \(Canada\)](#)

[One on One: Elusive Architecture: Interview with Kengo Kuma: "I want to create a condition that is as vague and ambiguous as drifting particles. The closest thing to such a condition is a rainbow." By Vladimir Belogolovsky \[images\]- ArchNewsNow](#)



[Competition winner: Herreros Arquitectos: Munch Area/Lambda, The Munch Museum, Oslo, Norway](#)

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