

Today's News - Wednesday, May 6, 2009

- Weinstein's Words That Build Tip #14: Cluster symbolic and mythically-charged keywords in communication with clients.
- Sarkozy's grand plans for Paris: forget the icons - "it could be argued that architects are morally or ethically obliged" to find solutions to urban planning.
- Havana's "rich and eclectic architectural history tumbles to the ground every few days" (maybe the diplomatic thaw will help make things better?).
- Merrick muses about the London that might have been if it weren't for the recession, cautious investors (and just cranky folks).
- Hosey hopes the recession is a chance to "make development a smarter, more sustainable business."
- Vancouver's Olympic Village hopes to score high on the sustainability scale - including a healthy after-life.
- Woodman and Brussat chime in on Chelsea Barracks: one calls Rogers' scheme "utterly grotesque," but blames it on the planners; the other says "Good for Charles!"
- ULI infrastructure report points to a need to upgrade our thinking, not just the structures.
- Heathcote x 2: he cheers approval of Woods Bagot plans for one of London's "most extraordinary landmarks"; and gives (mostly) thumbs-up to Mather's Modernism in Eastbourne.
- Pearman is entranced by a "strange and wonderful house in a strange and wonderful place."
- Calys cheers (and will be keeping an eye on) New Practices San Francisco winners.
- Q&A with a Nigerian landscape architect re: the low public perception of the relevance of landscape architecture in Nigeria.
- Musical chairs at Harvard GSD: new Landscape Architecture Chair named.
- WAN Education Building of the Year 2009 hails from Down Under.

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WORDS THAT BUILD: Tip #14: Cluster symbolic and mythically-charged keywords in communication with clients. By Norman Weinstein- ArchNewsNow

Paris receives a facelift: Nicolas Sarkozy has grand designs for his capital city...[he] understands how architecture can shape a leader's image...For all the impact of so-called iconic buildings, where architects can truly contribute is in finding solutions to urban planning. In fact, it could be argued that they are morally or ethically obliged to do so. By Razia Iqbal -- Rogers Stirk Harbour; MVRDV; Jean Nouvel [links]- BBC News

Havana's historic architecture at risk of crumbling into dust: Chunks of this city's rich and eclectic architectural history tumble to the ground every few days, piece by piece, forever lost in the rubble...Every three days, there are two partial or total building collapses in Central Havana alone... -- Jose Antonio Choy; Orestes del Castillo; Nicolas Quintana; Mario Coyula [slide shows]- South Florida Sun-Sentinel

Ghost town: London's 'lost' buildings: Cautious planners and the recession have shattered architects' dreams of a new London...Jay Merrick imagines what London might have looked like. -- Richard Rogers; KPF; FAT; Daniel Libeskind; Cecil Balmond; James Stirling; Mies van der Rohe; Marcus Binney; Philip Armstrong Tilden; Joseph Paxton; Rafael Vinoly; Rem Koolhaas - Independent (UK)

Off Spec: There's no dearth of housing right now, so let's take this chance to make development a smarter, more sustainable business. By Lance Hosey- Architect Magazine

Vancouver's Olympic Village Aims High on Sustainability Scale: ...going for LEED Gold...The 1.4-million-square-foot complex will accommodate 3,000 athletes competing in the 2010 Winter Games. -- Hotson Bakker Boniface Haden; Arthur Erickson; Merrick Architecture; GBL Architect Group; Lawrence Doyle Young Wright; Walter Francl Architect; Nick Milkovich Architects - Architectural Record

Prince Charles vs. the architects: round two: As the Chelsea Barracks farrago makes clear, it is impossible to make good architecture -- of whatever stylistic stripe -- if the conditions set by the planning process are the wrong ones. If that much can be agreed then the Prince and the RIBA could together present a real force for change. By Ellis Woodman -- Rogers Stirk Harbour; Quinlan Terry- Telegraph (UK)

Donnybrook at Chelsea Barracks: That Charles and RIBA might bury the T-square seemed unlikely. Now that a battle royal has erupted at the Chelsea Barracks, it seems impossible...Good for Charles! Back in the saddle again! By David Brussat -- Rogers Stirk Harbour; Quinlan Terry- Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

It's not just U.S. infrastructure that's outmoded, says a new report ["Pivot Point"] by the Urban Land Institute. The way citizens and politicians think about it needs an upgrade, too.- Architect Magazine

Conversion of one of the City of London's most extraordinary landmarks into a hotel...given planning consent...[10 Trinity Square] was the city's last Edwardian landmark...Developers' and architects' hyperbole has been lacking in recent months but this scheme gives the City a welcome boost. The dramatic plan should reinvigorate an area that has been hindered rather than helped by the huge touristic draw of the Tower of London. By Edwin Heathcote -- Woods Bagot- Financial Times (UK)

Modernism with seaside rust: Towner Gallery, Eastbourne...an intelligent, pared-down modernism, sympathetic to a slightly ugly neighbour, urbane, robust and good value. By Edwin Heathcote -- Rick Mather- Financial Times (UK)

The amoebic house: Simon Conder returns to Dungeness...has built his latest eccentric house...a strange and wonderful house in a strange and wonderful place. By Hugh Pearman [images]- HughPearman.com (UK)

New practices: young turks in SF architecture: These young architects and their firms have undertaken some excellent work and just may become the architectural leaders of tomorrow. That's why the New Practices San Francisco is worth checking out. By George Calys -- CMG Landscape Architecture; Edmonds + Lee Architects; Faulders Studio; Kennerly Architecture + Planning; Min | Day; Public Architecture; Axelrod Design; Envelope A+D [images, links]- San Francisco Examiner

How I Coined the Name Millennium Park - Landscape Architect Olaniyi Kehinde on the low public perception of the relevance of landscape architecture in Nigeria and how he coined the name for Abuja's largest and popular recreation centre.- Daily Trust (Nigeria)

New Landscape Architecture Chair @ Harvard GSD: Charles Waldheim is the new Landscape Architecture Chair as the leadership shuffle continues. -- Mohsen Mostafavi- Archinect

Australian Technical College wins inaugural WAN Education Building of the Year 2009. -- Spowers [images]- World Architecture News (UK)

Stylish Stacking: Shipping containers will jump off the rails to form an innovative multifamily apartment complex near a Salt Lake City commuter rail station. -- Group 41 [images]- ArchNewsNow



-- KK Letter: From Graz, Austria to Ljubljana, Slovenia
-- Design Hotel: Augartenhotel, Graz, Austria

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