

Today's News - Wednesday, May 13, 2009

- Rybczynski and others try to answer the question: is a car-free America a realistic goal?
- Atlanta Symphony Orchestra may not get a Calatrava after all, though he "will be invited to participate" in new site design (will he or won't he? not even his press agent knows for sure).
- Hill ponders "there has to be a better way" to rejuvenate London's poorer neighborhoods than building "freakish towers of luxury flats."
- Huxtable hails Ranalli's Brooklyn community center that "manages to break just about every deadly rule of conventional public building design...This is, in sum, real architecture"; revisit ANN's feature about the project (with lots of pix).
- An affordable housing in the Bronx is out to prove that eco-friendly construction can be cost-effective.
- Another saga in the Bronx suggests role for architects in securing stimulus funds.
- Dyckhoff, Glancey, Moore, and more: as we expected, the pundits have chimed in re: Prince Charles's RIBA speech (worth spending some time on this one).
- Mori takes on Breuer (and Docomomo).
- Time's Green Design 100 includes lots of design.

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Car-Free in America? Is this a realistic goal in a car culture like ours? We asked some urban planners, developers and other experts to comment. -- Witold Rybczynski; D.J. Waldie; Dolores Hayden; Christopher B. Leinberger; J.H. Crawford; Marc Schlossberg - New York Times

Visionary design for Atlanta Symphony Orchestra jettisoned: Santiago Calatrava's dramatic, \$300 million vision for Symphony Center will not survive a proposed change of location..."There will be a process" to determine a design for the new site, and Calatrava "will be invited to participate"...It's not clear if that process will entail another competition. -- Sasaki Associates [image] - Atlanta Journal-Constitution

High rise regeneration: Does the rejuvenation of London's poorer neighbourhoods really have to involve building freakish towers of luxury flats? Surely, there has to be a better way. By Dave Hill - Guardian (UK)

Breaking All the Rules With New York's Public-Building Design: ...a building as good as the Saratoga Avenue Community Center...deserves to have its presence shouted from the rooftops as a seriously fine demonstration of the art of architecture...manages to break just about every deadly rule of conventional public building design...This is, in sum, real architecture. By Ada Louise Huxtable -- George Ranalli - Wall Street Journal

Community Building: Saratoga Avenue Community Center: A new community center re-imagines public architecture and what civic buildings represent. -- George Ranalli [images] - ArchNewsNow

A Green Building, for Those Without Much of the Green Stuff to Spare: A nonprofit group is signing up low-income New Yorkers for affordable housing in the Bronx in a bid to prove that eco-friendly construction can be cost-effective...Even the most skeptical could at least consider Intervale Green a worthwhile experiment... -- Edelman Sultan Knox Wood - New York Times

Lend a Hand: Bronx Austin Jacobo Center's saga suggests role for architects in securing stimulus funds -- Rogers Marvel Architects [images] - The Architect's Newspaper

An apology of sorts, but he's the same old deluded Prince: ...still doesn't get the basic problems behind all bad buildings and bad environments...What he is really railing against is not Modernism but modern global capitalism, the kind that lets developers rule our cities for profit, not people, and that's going to take a whole lot more fixing than a couple of classical columns. By Tom Dyckhoff - The Times (UK)

Prince Charles spurns demolition job in bid to build bridges with architects: ...here was a polite speech, given to serried ranks of grey-haired architectural folk who laughed politely at studied witticisms and clapped politely when it was over...And yet, it was really business as usual... By Jonathan Glancey - Guardian (UK)

The 'nice' Prince was building bridges, but ego twin is still alive: How else to explain the fact that one Prince Charles denounces "battles of the styles" as the invention of "stupid extremists", while another Prince Charles has for a quarter century determinedly and ruthlessly promoted one style of architecture and attacked another? For what is his support of the classical architecture of Quinlan Terry at the expense of the modernism of Lord Rogers, if not a sally in a battle of styles? By Rowan Moore - Evening Standard (UK)

Prince Charles at the RIBA: first thoughts: The only real argument the prince made at the RIBA last night was that, basically, old things are better than new things. By Dan Stewart - Building (UK)

Prince Charles' RIBA speech: first reaction -- Simon Allford/Allford Hall Monaghan Morris (AHMM); Glancey; Robert Jamison; Kieran Long; Amanda Baillieu; Neal Charlton/Buttress Fuller Alsop Williams; etc. - The Architects' Journal (UK)

Prince Charles warns of 'gulf' between architects and society; What the audience thought; Includes video interviews with Robert Adams and Piers Gough and complete text of the prince's speech - BD/Building Design (UK)

Prince Charles faces the old enemy, architects, and says 'sorry': ...it was the one thing that few members of his audience would have been expecting him to say...The Prince may not have been there to pick a fight, but he was not going to give the country's leading architects an easy ride, either. - The Times (UK)

The Prince of Wales on architecture: his 10 'monstrous carbuncles': ...has defended his views on modern buildings 25 years after his 'monstrous carbuncle' speech but architects remained divided on whether his comments have made any difference. - Telegraph (UK)

Toshiko Mori Takes on Breuer, and More from the Modern House Day Tour: "Is there anyone here from Docomomo?...Where were you when this house was slated for demolition?" - Metropolis Magazine

The Green Design 100 -- Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture/Mod.Fab; Perkins + Will; Valleycrest Design Group; Gensler; Mansilla + tuñón + Peralta Arquitectos; Turkel Design; Studiomobile; BIG; MVRDV [images, links] - Time Magazine

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

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