

Today's News - Tuesday, June 2, 2009

- Weinstein's Words That Build Tip #15: Cultivate communication with clients that translates architectural imagery into experience at their fingertips.
- AIANY's Bell reflects on the future of Ground Zero: "What is happening at the WTC site? And why is there a need to get together on 6/11 to turn 9/11 around, yet again?"
- Stewart questions whether too many publicly-funded British quangos might ultimately devalue the promotion of good design.
- Should architects become more active in politics? Yes, says a district councillor; no, says DEGW's Duffy.
- Forget whether architects should get more involved in politics - Glancey has a plan for politicians to learn a little more about - and appreciate - good architecture (and "wean MPs off property speculation at the taxpayers' expense once and for all").
- Irish architects up in arms over competition to redesign the ESB headquarters in Dublin.
- "There is more to obesity than diet": Friedman calls for local governments to rethink the way they design communities to promote physical activity instead of encouraging a sedentary lifestyle.
- While Lincoln Center re-do garners high praise, a few discordant voices are raising an alarm that it may be changing too much.
- Cannell considers whether modernist landscapes are the next wave for preservation, and the irony that preservationists largely ignore the outdoor portion of the sites they're trying to preserve.
- Arief juries a mall design competition to find "a glimpse of the future and, unfortunately, the past."
- Pearman ponders the meaning of Mackintosh's Glasgow School of Art winning the Stirling of Stirlings: "What does this say about our attitude to architecture today?"
- King gives (mostly) thumbs-up to Viñoly's UCSF Diller Family Cancer Research Building: it "shows the difficulty of creating institutional facilities that succeed for their users and have a neighborly feel."
- A big cheer for San Jose's new airport terminal: it's "the best piece of public architecture since the new City Hall" (too bad it's mostly hidden by a blob of a garage).
- Providence does contemporary: Brown University breaks ground on DS+R's Granoff Center for the Creative Arts; the "biggest surprise may be on the inside" - Shipping containers take shape as a new office building for start-up businesses and artists (we can imagine Brusat broiling them in oil).
- A paint attack on Rome's Ara Pacis Museum while the mayor backs off of wanting to tear it down and "has begun talks with Richard Meier to 'rethink' its design."
- Bayley celebrates Big Ben's birthday: "Pugin's crazy, magnificent clock tower."
- Scottish Design Awards 2009 winners announced.
- Call for entries: The Self-sufficient City: Envisioning the habitat of the future.
- Call for papers: Nexus 2010: Relationships Between Architecture and Mathematics Conference.

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WORDS THAT BUILD: Translate Images Into Touching Performances: Tip#15: Cultivate communication with clients that translates architectural imagery into experience at their fingertips. By Norman Weinstein- ArchNewsNow

Op-Ed: Ain't it black? On June 11th, Mayor Bloomberg will bring together...some of the key individuals who will determine the future of the World Trade Center site's redevelopment...What is happening at the WTC site? And why is there a need to get together on 6/11 to turn 9/11 around, yet again? By Rick Bell -- Grimshaw; Calatrava; Libeskind; Pei Cobb Freed; Pelli Clarke Pelli; Louise Braverman; Polshek; Foster; Rogers; Maki; Snohetta - World Architecture News (UK)

Follow that CABE - how many quangos do we need? Without devaluing the promotion of good design, one has to question the number of bodies publicly funded to do so...it should be obvious from the number of duff buildings under construction out there that this fragmented, costly approach isn't working. By Dan Stewart - Building (UK)

Should architects become more active in politics? Yes, architects need to get involved, says Kensington & Chelsea councillor Emma Dent Coad, but Frank Duffy/DEGW counters that architects should spend their time on good design ideas not the nitty-gritty of politics - BD/Building Design (UK)

Let's put all the MPs in a home: Should architects get more involved in politics, or should politicians learn a little more about architecture? I have a plan... By Jonathan Glancey - BD/Building Design (UK)

Architects may complain to Brussels over design contest: The Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland (RIAI) says criteria for entering the competition to redesign the ESB headquarters in Dublin would debar most Irish architects. - Irish Times

Architect weighs in on creating skinny cities: "When we look at how we house ourselves, there is more to obesity than diet"...local governments have to rethink the way they design our communities. Urban planning should include ways to promote physical activity instead of encouraging a sedentary lifestyle. -- Avi Friedman - Saskatoon Star-Phoenix (Canada)

When Renovation Meets Redo: A few discordant voices are raising an alarm with worries that Lincoln Center may be changing too much. By Robin Pogrebin -- Diller Scofidio & Renfro; Dan Kiley; Gordon Bunschaft; Max Abramovitz; Docomomo; Hugh Hardy - New York Times

Are Landscapes the Next Wave for Preservation? Long overshadowed by mid-century architecture, modernist landscapes are gaining recognition, with help from the downturn...The irony is that mid-century architecture tended to emphasize the indoor-outdoor aspect, but preservationists largely ignore the outdoor portion of the sites. By Michael Cannell -- Schindler; Neutra; Rudolph; Dan Kiley; Olmsted; Charles Birnbaum/Cultural Landscape Foundation; Saarinen [images, links]- Fast Company

Rethinking the Mall: At a convention for shopping mall designers and developers, a glimpse of the future and, unfortunately, the past. By Allison Arief -- Colman Architects; Fitzgerald Associates Architects; Hobbs + Black Architects; CommArts [images]- New York Times

Stirling of Stirlings: Mackintosh, the lion and the unicorn: Well, I'm surprised. When I asked you to vote online for the best British-designed building of the past 175 years...You went...for a century-old masterpiece by a tragic genius...the Glasgow School of Art by Charles Rennie Mackintosh. What does this say about our attitude to architecture today? By Hugh Pearman [images, links]- HughPearman.com (UK)

UCSF's Diller Family Cancer Research Building better inside than out: ...the newcomer shows the difficulty of creating institutional facilities that succeed for their users and have a neighborly feel...Of the four lab buildings so far, Viñoly's comes closest to success on both counts. By John King -- Rafael Viñoly [image]- San Francisco Chronicle

The story of the telescope and the blob: ...the architects of San Jose's new Terminal B...have done something unlikely for an airport whose middle name is disarray: They've created something genuinely memorable...the best piece of public architecture...since the new City Hall...In San Jose style, we've mostly hidden it. -- Gensler; Fentress Architects; Steinberg Architects [slide show]- Mercury News (California)

Brown University 'breaks ground' on new arts center on East Side of Providence: Perry and Marty Granoff Center for the Creative Arts...biggest surprise may be on the inside. -- Diller Scofidio + Renfro [image]- Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

New building should work inside the box: ...the Box Office, a three-story building made from 32 recycled steel shipping containers. The 10,000-square-foot building is targeted at start-up businesses and artists...a welcome addition to a blighted area and a model...to make Providence a national leader... -- Peter Gill Case/Truth Box Architects; Distill Studio- Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

Paint Attack on Ara Pacis Museum: 'Balloons used' to splash colours on controversial structure...Rome Mayor Gianni Alemanno...has distanced himself from an old election promise to tear the building down but has begun talks with Richard Meier to "rethink" its design.- ANSA (Italy)

Happy Birthday Big Ben: Though the moral fabric of Parliament is in tatters, its architecture remains an inspiration. Stephen Bayley celebrates Pugin's crazy, magnificent clock tower...He did it while going mad and careless of budget. There's a metaphor struggling to escape here.- The Spectator (UK)

Scottish Design Awards 2009: Winners revealed -- Reiach and Hall Architects; Robert R Steedman/Morris and Steedman; Studio LR; Bennetts Associates; 3Fold; Lee Boyd; ZM Architecture; Foster + Partners; RMJM; Colin A Smith Architect - CASA; LJRH Architects; Richard Murphy Architects; Elder and Cannon; PagePark; JM Architects; ANTA Architecture; Malcolm Fraser; Collective Architecture; John McAslan; LDN Architects; Gareth Hoskins; Buro Happold; Ian White; etc. [link to images]- ScottishArchitecture.com

Call for entries: The Self-sufficient City: Envisioning the habitat of the future - 3rd International Advanced Architecture Contest; free registration; cash prizes; deadline: September 28- Institute for Advanced Architecture of Catalonia (IAAC)/HP

Call for Papers: Nexus 2010: Relationships Between Architecture and Mathematics Conference; deadline: August 1- Nexus Network Journal



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