

Today's News - Thursday, June 4, 2009

- Kamin on landmark law turmoil: "If Chicago's law falls, could ordinances in New York or Los Angeles also be toppled?"
- A wrecking ball headed for parts of Dinosaur National Monument's 1958 visitors center (at least a cool part will be saved).
- Filler finds plenty to criticize about Lincoln Center, "parts of which annoy me more and more as time goes by," but "one cannot imagine life in America's cultural capital without it."
- Brussat (as expected) takes on the Modernist onslaught of Providence: "The uglitarians are inside the gates"; and an image gallery to prove his point.
- Appelbaum on Times Square's lesson in design value: "the plan that gets people together quickly and cheaply should guide policymaking...a convincing start toward reinventing a city."
- Financially-strapped Chicago is losing the battle against "sight blight" by "joining the push to commercialize the public way."
- A peek at Viñoly's latest re-do of Battersea.
- Legorreta is "happy" with the almost-complete Fort Worth Museum of Science and History; it will be "'an environment of happiness and playfulness,' not a sacred or intimidating place."
- An eyeful of Wood's design for Apple's 2nd Beijing store that will combine classic Chinese design with Mac's signature glass and metal.
- An eyeful of 49th Annual LA Architectural Award-winners signifies "a shift from praising spindly sky-grazing towers to humble community assets."
- Antonelli's "new map for design" includes a shift to "a practice of experimentation, ideas take precedence over products."
- L.A. MoCA lays off architecture curator Hodge, cancels blockbuster Morphosis show, but says it is "committed to its architecture and design program" (sans curator).
- Students in Louisville and Tacoma reinvent a run-down neighborhood and re-think housing using shipping containers.
- India's Council of Architecture makes it a bit easier for students to major in architecture.
- China's Ordos Prize will be first to award a commission to design a building.
- Call for EO/PPQ: Competition revamp Manchester's civic center.
- Call for entries: AJ Common of Houses competition to solve the controversy over MPs' second homes.
- We couldn't resist: East German airplane to become luxury hotel in the Netherlands (whirlpool and sauna included).

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Turmoil over landmark law making waves in and outside Chicago: The case has jolted historic preservationists around the country, and for good reason. The seven standards by which Chicago evaluates landmarks...differ little from the criteria used by other American cities. If Chicago's law falls, could ordinances in New York or Los Angeles also be toppled? By Blair Kamin - Chicago Tribune

Wrecking Ball to Swing on "Mission 66" Visitor Center [at] Dinosaur National Monument: ...even landmark status isn't enough to preserve a building deemed structurally unsound...the exhibit hall will be renovated. -- Anshen and Allen (1958); Barker Rinker Seacat Architecture; Andrews & Anderson Architects [slide show] - Architectural Record

After 50 years, Lincoln Center still offers plenty to criticize: ...parts of which annoy me more and more as time goes by...however, quibbles of architectural quality are rendered effectively moot...One cannot imagine life in America's cultural capital without it. By Martin Filler -- Wallace K. Harrison; Max Abramovitz; Pietro Belluschi; Gordon Bunshaft/Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Philip Johnson; Eero Saarinen; Diller Scofidio + Renfro - Architectural Record

Modernist rampage in Providence: Your embattled correspondent dares not peep out of his foxhole. The uglitarians are inside the gates. By David Brussat -- Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Friedrich St. Florian - Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

Modernist rampage - in pictures. By David Brussat [images] - Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

Times Square's Lesson in Design Value: ...in an era of lean government budgets, the plan that gets people together quickly and cheaply should guide policymaking...if you reconnect people without obliging them to shop or watch jocks, you can make a convincing start toward reinventing a city. By Alec Appelbaum - Urban Omnibus

Op-Ed: City losing war against sight blight: Cash-strapped local governments that ought to be guarding the urban environment against sight blight are instead joining the push to commercialize the public way. By John McCarron - Chicago Tribune

Viñoly has another go at Battersea: Architect scraps glass tower plans in favour of design that includes only low-rise buildings...will include 3,700 homes and 1.5 million ft² of office space...no buildings on the site will be taller than the power station. [images] - Building (UK)

Architect 'happy' with new building for Fort Worth Museum of Science and History: With building 85% finished, designer thinks it 'works'..."'an environment of happiness and playfulness,' not a sacred or intimidating place. -- Legorreta + Legorreta - Fort Worth Star-Telegram (Texas)

Apple's 2nd Beijing store to use classic Chinese design: ...a very different design...one that would embrace ancient traditions while thriving on the Mac maker's signature glass and metal. -- Benjamin Wood [images] - AppleInsider

Civic Over Slick: Los Angeles Business Council's 49th Annual LA Architectural Awards strive for new age in local design...A park, not a building, was named the grand-prize winner...signifying a shift from praising spindly sky-grazing towers to humble community assets... -- Mia Lehrer; ERW Design; Moore, Ruble, Yudell; Lorcan O'Herlihy/LOHA; Belzberg Architect; Kanner Architects; AECOM; Marmol Radziner; Rios Clementi Hale; Peter Tolkin; Tighe Architecture; etc. [images, slide show] - The Architect's Newspaper

A New Map for Design: As the focus of design shifts from the production of finite goods to a practice of experimentation, ideas take precedence over products. By Paola Antonelli - Seed Magazine

Tough Cuts: LA Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) Lays Off Curator of Architecture and Design: ...laying off Brooke Hodge...and cancelling its long-awaited Morphosis exhibition...has spurred anxiety in the Los Angeles design community...has no plans to hire a new architecture curator, but that it is "committed to its architecture and design program." - The Architect's Newspaper

A new vision for Louisville's Portland neighborhood and the now-vacant Shippingport Island: University of Kentucky architecture students reinvent neighborhood...It was the dream architecture design studio... -- Gary Bates/Spacegroup; Julien de Smedt/JDS Architects; Jason Scroggin [images] - Courier-Journal (Louisville, KY)

Turning little boxes into living space: If you think about it, we live in boxes. So maybe it doesn't sound so farfetched to live in a cargo shipping container...a spring semester project for Tacoma's School of the Arts students... -- Peter DeMaria; Seong Shin/McGranahan Architects - Belleville News-Democrat (Illinois)

You needn't do science to be an architect: Council of Architecture (COA) has decided to keep the subject open for students of all streams, with the condition that they have any kind of math, business math or statistics as a compulsory subject..."However, COA has not made English compulsory, which may come as a boon for many Gujarati medium students." - Times of India

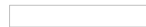
And now, an international architecture prize from Inner Mongolia: Ordos Prize from China to spotlight young architect of great promise...first to award a commission to design a building...Koolhaas heads jury. By Edward Lifson [links]- Hello Beautiful! (Chicago)

Call for Expressions of Interest (EOI)/Pre-Qualification Questionnaires (PPQ): Competition for £165m Manchester civic revamp opens...searching for architects to lead the £165 million redevelopment of its historic town hall complex; deadline: July 3 [link to details]- BD/Building Design (UK)

Call for entries: Architects to solve political crisis: AJ Common of Houses competition: ...a new design contest in a bid to solve the controversy over MPs' second homes; deadline: July 31- The Architects' Journal (UK)

East German Airplane to Become Luxury Digs: ...once used as a government aircraft...will now be outfitted with a whirlpool and sauna. A Dutch entrepreneur wants to turn the Soviet-built airplane into a luxury hotel -- with the Cold War-era cockpit still intact..."The Dutch like crazy sleeping accommodations"- Der Spiegel (Germany)

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



-- Pugh + Scarpa: Step Up on Fifth, Santa Monica, California
-- Morphosis: NOAA Satellite Operations Facility, Suitland, Maryland

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