

Today's News - Tuesday, July 7, 2009

- We lose Bernard Zimmerman, who "will be best remembered as the conscience of his profession."
- A review of London's "particularly poignant" 7/7 Memorial, which opens today.
- Ouroussoff sees much more at stake if Kurokawa's 1972 Nakagin Capsule Tower is allowed to be demolished: "This is not only an architectural tragedy, it is also a distortion of history."
- New homes in a New Orleans neighborhood show a "gutsy individuality" - a.k.a. "Post-Katrina Eclectic"; architects critique (judging from the pix, there are some goodies - and some groaners).
- King looks at three teams' visions for "collateral damage from the recession": vacant lots.
- The profession of the future: landscape architecture.
- Of Fisher's museum plans for the Presidio and the "sheer venom" of the NIMBY crowd: "No wonder he pulled the plug on the project."
- Pei's National Gallery East Building façade is getting an \$85 million overhaul.
- Gardner on Gwathmey's "best recent work in New York": Soho Mews possesses "an undeniable dignity."
- The new Beirut Art Center in a former factory is now "a popular destination for Beirutis, tourists and critics across Lebanon."
- A most intriguing look at what life was like living in Koenig's Case Study House No. 22 (and did he really design it?).
- Despite the economy, "interest in sustainability is at an all-time high" (it's good to have LEED after your name on a resumé).
- ENR's Top 100 Green Design Firms.
- A sustainable design survey calls out who architects cite as role models.
- Getting serious about urban farming: in NYC, a massive rooftop vegetable garden, and Milwaukee's Growing Power "is an agricultural Mumbai."
- Australia's National Portrait Gallery takes top prizes.
- Call for entries: international competition to redesign Abbey Green in Barking, East London.

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Obituary: Outspoken California Architect, Bernard Zimmerman, 79:
...an architect, planner, educator, preservationist, mentor, and curator...will be best remembered as the conscience of his profession...who wasn't shy about voicing opinions about what he loved and what he loathed. [slide show]- Architectural Record

Review: Carmody Groarke's July 7 memorial: It's the beautifully-judged treatment of these silver-grey stelae that resolves the problem of representing both individual and collective loss and makes the memorial particularly poignant...You're continually drawn to touch the columns...meant to be "magnetic" and they are...they seem to hold the light. -- Arup; Colvin & Moggridge [link to images]- BD/Building Design (UK)

Future Vision Banished to the Past: A rare built example of Japanese Metabolism...the 1972 Nakagin Capsule Tower is in a decrepit state...the issue is...why certain landmarks...are preserved, and others are not..."Want to save it? Pay for it." Until that mentality changes, landmarks...will continue to be threatened by the wrecking ball...This is not only an architectural tragedy, it is also a distortion of history. By Nicolai Ouroussoff -- Kisho Kurokawa [images]- New York Times

Homes rebuilt in flood-struck Lakeview display gutsy individuality:
...cottages are making way for an infusion of new types, styles and sizes of houses...This bedrock New Orleans neighborhood...has become the setting for disparate design statements...that might be dubbed Post-Katrina Eclectic. -- Ray Bergeron; Robby Cangelosi/Koch and Wilson Architects; Wayne Troyer/studioWTA [slide show]- The Times-Picayune (New Orleans)

Designers who see more than an empty lot: ...three teams...asked to craft visions of how San Francisco - and, by extension, other cities - might deal with collateral damage from the recession... By John King -- PWP Landscape Architecture/Kennerly Architecture; Rebar Group/Chris Roach; Ned Kahn; Heller Manus Architects; HOK; Keating Khang Architecture [images, links]- San Francisco Chronicle

Landscape Architecture Rising: Profession's renewal rides on natural and engineered systems to clean and beautify the environment...From green roofs and green streets to waterfronts and watersheds, from exurbs to "urbs," landscape architects are helping turn eyesores into eye-fuls. -- Conservation Design Forum; Shannon & Wilson; Mithun; SWA Group; TSR Group; Design Workshop Inc.; Nevue Ngan Associates; Thomas R. Tavella [slide show]- Engineering News-Record (ENR)

Only S.F. would snub gift of world-class museum: Yes, sir, you have to get up pretty early in the morning to put one over on San Francisco's not-in-my-backyard crowd...In the area around the Presidio, traffic and crowding are topics worth discussing. But the sheer venom directed at Fisher was appalling. No wonder he pulled the plug on the project...- San Francisco Chronicle

Pieces of Pei: \$85 million overhaul for National Gallery facade:
...museum prepares to remove and remount all 16,200 facade panels of pink Tennessee marble. -- I.M. Pei; Robert Silman Associates- The Architect's Newspaper

Gwathmey's best recent work in New York: Soho Mews: ...the results possess an undeniable dignity...goes back ultimately to Le Corbusier's sundry "unités d'habitation" and beyond...has shown great tact and even imagination in modifying the modernist grid to give interest and

variety to the building... By James Gardner -- Gwathmey Siegel & Associates [image]- The Real Deal (NYC)

Face of War Pervades New Beirut Art Center: ...a 16,000-square-foot space occupying two floors of a former factory, has emerged as a popular destination for Beirutis, tourists and critics across Lebanon...new space for contemporary art...and practically one of its kind in the Middle East. -- Raed Abillama [slide show]- New York Times

Pierre Koenig's Case Study House No. 22 as home: The Stahl children recall growing up in the iconic glass-and-steel structure, which is marking its 50th year...perhaps what's most remarkable is how little people know about the property, despite its fame. [slide show]- Los Angeles Times

Top Green Design Firms: The recession has caused many owners to take a closer look at green's benefits...While some projects are being put on hold or canceled, interest in sustainability is at an all-time high...in most cases there is a return on the investment in building green. -- HOK; HDR; Gensler; LPA; S/L/AM Collaborative;- Engineering News-Record (ENR)

ENR Top 100 Green Design Firms - Architectural Record

Role Models of Sustainability Leadership: 2009 DesignIntelligence Sustainable Design Survey...finds that most firms claim a majority of their projects are environmentally responsible. Of particular interest...are the individuals and organizations that architects cite as role models. -- William McDonough; Ed Mazria; Bob Berkebile; Amory Lovins; Barack Obama; HOK; Perkins+Will; BNIM; Kieran Timberlake; Arup; Mithun; William McDonough + Partners - DesignIntelligence

Six Thousand Feet of Rooftop Vegetables: New York City has very little land that is not covered with buildings...But while some people grow a few herbs on their fire escapes, Ben Flanner is transforming an entire industrial rooftop into a living garden. -- Goode Green [image, links]- GOOD Magazine

Street Farmer: Can Will Allen make the inner city the next front in the good-food movement? Growing Power is an agricultural Mumbai, a supercity of upward-thrusting tendrils and duct-taped infrastructure.- New York Times Magazine

National Portrait Gallery wins top prize for architecture: Canberra's newest architectural marvel has taken out the main honours at this year's Australian Institute of Architects' ACT Architecture Awards...the 2009 Canberra Medallion, the Romaldo Giurgola Award for Public Architecture and the Light in Architecture Prize... -- Johnson Pilton Walker - The Australian

Call for entries: AJ launches 2-stage international competition to redesign Abbey Green in Barking, East London, with Design for London and the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham...Critical...will be understanding the green's role in connecting the town centre with the river...more than just a landscape project; cash prizes; deadline: August 17- The Architects' Journal (UK)

WORDS THAT BUILD: Faster! Deeper! Broader! Tip #16: How to balance high-speed communication with in-depth communication. By Norman Weinstein- ArchNewsNow

A City's Artful Heart: In St. Louis, two formerly vacant downtown blocks on the Gateway Mall have been given new life as Citygarden, a serene urban oasis in the heart of the city. -- Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects; studio[du]rham architects [images]- ArchNewsNow



-- Alberto Campo Baeza: MA: Andalucia's Museum of Memory, Granada, Spain

-- LAM architects: Giraffe House, Rotterdam Zoo, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

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