

Today's News - Thursday, October 1, 2009

- The U.S Senate "stands to create strong, architecturally intensive standards" (we'll believe it when we see it).
- The South Australian state of Victoria becomes the first in the world to effectively inventory the amount of carbon stored in its public forests, parks and reserves.
- A look at the latest signs of progress in making high-performance buildings NYC's "new normal."
- Farrelly on Sydney's dust storm: it was "a reminder of what goes around comes around."
- Is Orange County Great Park plan "a soaring vision or just hot air?"
- Another look at plans "to revive the last moribund chunk of Lower Manhattan" into Greenwich South.
- Dillon offers an eyeful of Mayne's "urban experiment" in Dallas.
- Six new school projects "where circulation not only connects spaces but also takes the learning experience well beyond the classroom."
- River Gym "pods" would ply NYC's waterways while fat burners generate electricity.
- First look at the five finalists in Manchester's Whitworth Art Gallery competition.
- Boscombe beach hut competition has a winner to design four huts for the disabled.
- Graves on designing for the masses: "I was getting tired of people saying if you want good design you have to go to Japan or Italy."
- Alsop's next incarnation: "Will Alsop at RMJM."
- Niemeyer has second surgery in a week (we wish him a speedy recovery).
- Call for entries: Berkeley Prize Student Essay Competition 2010.
- Two we couldn't resist: "Museum of the Phantom City": an iPhone app is a virtual guide to sites where visionary projects were planned but never built; and a 1960s Marin County commune becomes an archaeological dig (how groovy is that).

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Senate Seeks Sustainability: ...Boxer-Kerry bill includes important measures targeted at buildings, among them stricter building codes and retroactive efficiency standards for retrofitted buildings...the Senate stands to create strong, architecturally intensive standards... - The Architect's Newspaper

Victoria Leading the Way for a Low-Carbon Future: The South Australian state has become the first in the world to effectively inventory the amount of carbon stored in its public forests, parks and reserves... - Earthtimes.org

More Than Hope: Now that Climate Week in New York has come and gone, what are the latest signs of progress in making high-performance buildings the City's new normal? Hint: It's more than bricks, steel, glass and mortar...Despite setbacks and reservations, or perhaps because of them, the best design, construction and operations practices are rapidly evolving... By Nancy Anderson -- PlaNYC [links]- The Sallan Foundation

The dust that dare not speak its name: Sydney's dust storm was a reminder of what goes around comes around...How stark a reminder do we need that clear-felling, hard-hoofed, salinating farm practices that now own the country are shortsighted? By Elizabeth Farrelly - Sydney Morning Herald

Is Great Park a soaring vision or just hot air? Plans for a former Orange County air base are so grand that some ask whether it can be built...It could redefine what's possible in building parks -- leading the charge in transforming abandoned land...But the ambition...is strained by politics and money. -- Ken Smith - Los Angeles Times

Filling Downtown's Donut Hole: Downtown Alliance unveils plan to revive last moribund chunk of Lower Manhattan...dubbed Greenwich South...the hope for the long term is to create a bike-, transit-, and pedestrian-friendly boulevard... -- Architecture Research Office (ARO); Beyer Blinder Belle; Lewis.Tsurumaki.Lewis (LTL); Coen + Partners; WorkAC; Morphosis; IwamotoScott [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Morphosis Conducts Urban Experiment with Perot Science Museum: Thom Mayne brought his L.A. road show to Dallas... By David Dillon [slide show]- Architectural Record

Only Connect: There is a psychological importance to the design of educational spaces that outstrips the practical requirements...six newly completed education projects...where circulation not only connects spaces but also takes the learning experience well beyond the classroom. -- Rafael Vinoly Architects; Turner Brooks Architect; Weiss/Manfredi; Christopher V. Ward; Cunningham Group; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

The River Gym - harnessing renewable energy from burnt-off calories: A series of floating vessels captures the energy derived from human motion...'pods' would offer a range of exercise equipment capable of converting energy derived from human motion into usable electric energy... -- Mitchell Joachim [images]- Gizmag (Australia)

Whitworth Gallery shortlisted designs revealed: ...five designs drawn up by finalists in the contest to revamp and extend Manchester's Whitworth Art Gallery -- Amanda Levet Architects; Edward Cullinan Architects; Haworth Tompkins; MJMA; Stanton Williams Architects [images]- The Architects' Journal (UK)

Local firm wins Boscombe beach hut competition:£100,000 scheme to design four huts for disabled users at a Dorset beach attracted 173 firms from around the world... -- Atkins Blair Ings Richardson Architects; Aerea [images]- BD/Building Design (UK)

Right on target: Michael Graves was the first to democratize good product design for the masses...revolutionized the way we see everything from soap bottles to toilet brushes..."I was getting tired of people saying if you want good design you have to go to Japan or Italy. I think we've proven there's plenty of good design here." - Boston Globe

Will Alsop to head new office for RMJM: ...until now, the Stirling Prize winner had insisted he was leaving parent company Archial in order to devote more time to painting and teaching....these pursuits will come second to his role at the helm of the new studio, dubbed "Will Alsop at RMJM" - BD/Building Design (UK)

Brazilian architect Oscar Niemeyer has second surgery: ...the second operation for the 101-year-old in a week...will remain in hospital for observation for a few days... - AFP

Call for entries: Berkeley Prize Essay Competition 2010 for Travel Fellowship or Architectural Design Fellowship; theme: "Sustainable Architecture/Traditional Wisdom"; Stage 1 deadline: November 1 - Berkeley Prize

An iPhone App to Tour the City That Never Was: "Museum of the Phantom City"...what New York City could have looked like if eccentric — or visionary — architects had their way...a virtual map to guide...to sites where projects they describe as "visionary" were planned but never built. -- Irene Cheng; Brett Snyder; R. Buckminster Fuller; Michael Sorkin; Van Alen Institute [images]- New York Times

Groovy artifacts from 1960s Marin County commune sorted: The '60s aren't dead. They're in an archaeological site north of San Francisco...An old commune where the Grateful Dead and other bands used to romp is being excavated and items catalogued by state park archaeologists at Olompali State Historic Park.- Sacramento Bee (California)



-- Zaha Hadid Architects: Cairo Expo City, Egypt
-- Richard Meier & Partners: ECM City Tower, Prague, Czech Republic

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