

Today's News - Thursday, October 22, 2009

- Long on Maggie's Centre's Stirling win: it "represented decent common ground" for a jury that "was unlikely ever to agree on anything much" (and hopes that next year's jury will be "less polarized").
- Lacayo x 2: Rogers vs. Prince Charles - again ("the judges knew perfectly well" they would be "sticking it" to the prince) + Dallas Performing Arts Center: "The buildings are so unlike one another they're barely on speaking terms" - sort of like going "from the raw to the cooked."
- Design to transform an eyesore office block in Glasgow rejected for being an "aesthetic disaster," not dissimilar to the 1970s project it would replace.
- Saarinen's US Embassy in London wins landmark status (the exterior, anyway).
- U.K.'s Rubble Club takes its mission seriously.
- Biemiller bemoans his alma mater's penchant for new buildings that look just like the old, cutting itself off from advances in architecture (comments tend to disagree).
- Hume cheers the transformation of a 1929 Art Deco gem into Canada's greenest convention facility - instead of demolishing it, "which must have been tempting."
- In Madison, WI, a downtown project could spell demolition in an FLW nabe (or not).
- Brussat cheers recent evidence that confirms "the public's good taste" by its preference for traditional architecture.
- Ouroussoff on MoMA's grand plan to draw on "the sudden wealth of underemployed brain power" for a project that might "prod government to think more creatively about our nation's crumbling and outdated fabric."
- McDonald on how the recession is giving Dublin architects "space to be creative."
- Q&A with Dreiseitl on how designers can use innovative, small-scale sustainable water management projects to inform broader policy and regulatory approaches.
- Two takes (with a bit of sour grapes) on Cornell's adventures at this year's Solar Decathlon: "a symbol of what architecture school could be" vs. a misconceived high-tech shed competition.
- Next Generation competition spawns new technologies, some that could very well become mainstream (one of these days).
- Two winners announced in the Guggenheim/Google Design It: Shelter Competition (and eye-fuls of finalists).
- News that saddens us: Columbia GSAPP professor and urban planner Tajbakhsh sentenced to at least 12 years in Iranian prison.

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Kieran Long on the Stirling Prize jury, and why the Maggie's Centre won: ...this jury was unlikely ever to agree on anything much, and that Maggie's Centre represented decent common ground...it's easy to imagine how a jury would be seduced by the feeling of a building doing good. -- Rogers Stirk Harbour - The Architects' Journal (UK)

Richard Rogers vs. Prince Charles: Again...Rogers won't hear of it, but it's hard not to see it that way...even if this year's Stirling was meant as much to recognize the Maggie's Centres in general as it was to honor Rogers' particular version, I'm still thinking the judges knew perfectly well that by giving it to Rogers they would be sticking it to Charles. By Richard Lacayo -- Rogers Stirk Harbour [images] - Time Magazine

Curtains Up at the Dallas Performing Arts Center: The buildings are so unlike one another they're barely on speaking terms, but in their different ways they both answer to what the city has been looking for...To stroll from the Wily to the Winspear Opera House...is to go from the raw to the cooked. By Richard Lacayo -- Koolhaas/OMA; Prince Ramus/REX; Foster + Partners [slide show] - Time Magazine

£65m plan for offices thrown out: Plans to transform an eyesore office block in George Square, Glasgow, have been rejected after the design was branded an "aesthetic disaster"... "I would have no problem with an innovative, bold and modern building going in there, but...this was not one of them. -- Reiach and Hall [images] - Evening Times (Scotland)

Minister lists Saarinen's US Embassy building in London: ...Britain's first modern embassy building, designed by Eero Saarinen and built between 1957 and 1960, has been protected from demolition...his only UK building. - BD/Building Design (UK)

The director of the Rubble Club talks about the serious issues behind the club: ...calls for renovation over demolition...aims to draw attention to the growing popularity of demolishing buildings, rather than finding ways of breathing new life into them. It is a trend totally inconsistent with society's new-found focus on sustainability. -- Gordon Young; Owen Luder; Stephen Furnell/Len Abbott/TP Bennett and Son; Reiach and Hall - The Architects' Journal (UK)

At Franklin & Marshall College, Another New Building by Charles Z. Klauder: I've got nothing against Klauder. Nothing at all, except that the guy's been dead since 1938 and my college...is still putting up Klauder buildings. -- Einhorn Yaffee Prescott; Robert A.M. Stern; Dixon, Balbirnie & Dixon (1850s) - The Chronicle of Higher Education

Revamp of Ex's Automotive Building glorious: ...Art Deco beauty had fallen on hard times before finding new life as the Allstream Centre. Billed as Canada's greenest convention facility...To the credit of the Exhibition Place brain trust, the building wasn't demolished, which must have been tempting. By Christopher Hume -- Douglas Kertland (1929); David Clusiau/Norr - Toronto Star

Proposed Downtown project may involve demolitions, affect Frank Lloyd Wright 1903 Lamp House: But the developer...is also exploring a deal with the city that would save houses...and put housing above a city parking garage across the street. -- Iconica - Wisconsin State Journal

Proofs of the public's good taste: The traditional taste of the masses has been the bane of modern architects for decades...Since the Chelsea Barracks imbroglio, I have collected a sheaf of recent evidence to confirm the public's preference for traditional architecture. By David Brussat - Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

[Future Dangers for a Maritime City: Rising Currents: Projects for New York's Waterfront...research program being inaugurated...at the Museum of Modern Art...to prod government to think more creatively about our nation's crumbling and outdated fabric...By drawing on the sudden wealth of underemployed brain power... By Nicolai Ouroussoff -- Guy Nordenson; Barry Bergdoll; P.S.1 - New York Times](#)

[Recession gives designers the space to be creative: ...generating a ferment of design activity and ideas, initiative, voluntary effort and sheer energy that's emerging...It proves, if proof were needed, that we have more time to think now that the frenetic days of the boom are well and truly over... By Frank McDonald -- Ali Grehan; Designing Dublin; Denis Byrne/Darc; Now What?; Grace Keeley Michael Pike Architects; Culturestruction; Design 21C - Irish Times](#)

[Interview with Herbert Dreiseitl on Designing with Water: ...explains how designers can use innovative, small-scale sustainable water management projects to inform broader policy and regulatory approaches...for creating a larger paradigm shift in the way cities use and manage scarce water resources. -- Atelier Dreiseitl \[images, links\] - The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects \(ASLA\)](#)

[Cornell Solar Decathletes Are An Inspiration for the Study of Architecture: Solar Decathlon team...are the whistle-blowers reminding us that it's the responsibility of architects to do our part...The importance of their Silo House...a symbol of what architecture school could be. By Ann Lui - Cornell Daily Sun](#)

[Solar Decathlon in the Dark: Competition is Misconceived: Not their day in the sun: If Solar Decathlon continues to be a high-tech shed competition, Cornell ought to move on and find another training ground for young practitioners to exercise their skills. - Cornell Daily Sun](#)

[Next Generation Technologies Are Responsive and Result from Inter-Disciplinary Teams: Some new technologies that have come out of the design competition include... -- Susan Szenasy/Metropolis; Materialab; Single Speed Design; Civil Twilight; Neri Oxman \[links\] - The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects \(ASLA\)](#)

[Guggenheim and Google announce two winners of the Design It: Shelter Competition -- David Eltang; David Mares \[images, links\] - Guggenheim Museum](#)

[Kian Tajbakhsh sentenced to at least 12 years in Iranian prison: Instead of teaching at Columbia's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation, urban planning scholar is in solitary confinement. - Columbia Spectator](#)



[-- Studio Daniel Libeskind: Michael Lee-Chin Crystal, Royal Ontario Museum \(ROM\), Toronto, Canada](#)  
[-- Alberto Campo Baeza: Olnick Spanu House, Garrison, New York](#)

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