

Today's News - Thursday, October 29, 2009

- Senate climate change hearings: some excellent ideas, but not all are convinced (why are we not surprised).
- Cannell wonders if "the urgency to appear green may actually stand in the way of good design" (hopefully, it's just "an unfortunate adolescent phase").
- Q&A with Chicago's chief environment officer on the progress of the city's one-year-old Climate Action Plan.
- Nouvel's MoMA tower gets the go-ahead, but is the financing in limbo?
- Scheeren scotches erroneous rumors re: fire-ravaged CCTV hotel project: it does not have to be torn down, and repairs will begin soon.
- Kamin x 2: yesterday, Chicago's "savage streak was on display for all to see" as bulldozers tore into Gropius's Reese campus; and last chance to see Zaha and Ben's Burnham pavilions in Millennium Park - what legacy will they leave?
- It's Hong Kong vs. Singapore vying to become Asia's regional arts hub ("Hong Kong has the edge" says Florida - for the time being).
- Mather's Ashmolean makeover gets two more thumbs-up's: says Merrick: "a virtuoso design" that is "an object lesson in how intelligent architectural contrast can refresh the sacred cows of our cultural landscape"; the museum's "reinvention has written a dynamic new chapter in the history of museums."
- The 500-acre Missouri Innovation Park gets a design team to finalize master plan (actually, it's the former developer's original team).
- Scully receives "long over-due" honor from National Trust for his "lifetime achievement in the field of historic preservation."
- Australian Institute of Architects honors 32 of its own in 2009 National Architecture Awards.
- But jury chair Howard Tanner wonders why Australian architecture isn't more exciting: "Is it that Australia doesn't feel the need for cultural icons?"
- An interdisciplinary symposium in Vienna this weekend will explore the effects of globalization on the development of urban spaces.
- Call for entries: 36 The Calls Design Competition: design "an inspirational landmark" on the Leeds waterfront.

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A New Response to Climate Change: Landscape Conservation Cooperatives: ...Senate committee on the environment and public works kicked off three days of hearings on the latest version of the Kerry-Boxer climate change legislation...However, not all senators were convinced. - The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

From Overwrought to Overly Simple: Is Green Design Anti-Style? In some cases, the urgency to appear green may actually stand in the way of good design...Green design may simply be going through an unfortunate adolescent phase as it evolves...But it would be good to have a eye-popping piece of new work to rally around. By Michael Cannell -- Renzo Piano; Alice Rawsthorn; Robert A.M. Stern; Arthur Erickson; Studio Job; Marcel Wanders; Philippe Starck [images, links]- Fast Company

Interview with Sadhu Johnston, Chicago's Chief Environment Officer, on the City's Climate Action Plan at its one-year anniversary: ...outlines progress in key areas, including green roof and stormwater management infrastructure, building energy efficiency (including new rules on reflective roofs), renewable energy, and sustainable transportation systems. [links]- The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Hines Midtown Tower Approved: Giving the go-ahead to the Museum of Modern Art to add three more floors to its gallery space...tower, which will be as tall as the iconic Chrysler Building, has its fair share of detractors...financing for such a large project could be in limbo. -- Jean Nouvel- Gotham Gazette (NYC)

Plans to rebuild damaged CCTV building under way: The chief architect...said the part of the complex that burned in a massive fire earlier this year can be repaired and does not need to be torn down. -- Ole Scheeren/Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA) [images]- Associated Press (AP)

Chicago back to its wreck-first ways: Demolition crews begin wiping away Gropius' touch at Reese campus. Chicago is a gorgeous city...but it also has a savage streak. On Wednesday, that streak was on display for all to see. By Blair Kamin [links]- Chicago Tribune

Last call for Zaha and Ben: Burnham pavilions in Millennium Park to close Sunday night: The sexiness of the pavilions may have seduced people into caring about planning, if only briefly. What legacy will they leave? What legacy will the Burnham Plan centennial leave? Time will tell. By Blair Kamin -- Zaha Hadid; Ben Van Berkel/UNStudio [images]- Chicago Tribune

Art Wars: Hong Kong vs. Singapore: Longtime rivals in trade and finance...vying to become Asia's regional arts hub, part of a strategy to be crowned Asia's top city...Right now, Richard Florida adds, "Hong Kong has the edge"...Undaunted, Singapore is diligently pushing ahead and has opened several museums and other arts venues while Hong Kong has dithered... - Wall Street Journal

Future classic: The world's first public museum gets a £61m makeover: The Ashmolean in Oxford is a brave mix of ancient and modern...an object lesson in how intelligent architectural contrast can refresh the sacred cows of our cultural landscape...in a way that is dynamic, rather than cowed by historic precedent...a virtuoso design... By Jay Merrick -- Rick Mather Architects [slide show]- Independent (UK)

Cultures successfully crossed at Oxford's Ashmolean: Rick Mather's reinvention...has written a dynamic new chapter in the history of museums...new building is elegant in its logic...The real achievement here is in drawing such large flexibility out of an instrument of refined complexity. The gallery design is a kind of ego-light modernism... -- Charles Robert Cockerell (1845); Metaphor [images]- BD/Building Design (UK)

Missouri Innovation Park gets design team...to complete the 500-acre project's master plan..."have embraced our vision of a vibrant and inviting research park in a park-like setting." -- Treanor Architects; Confluence; Olsson Associates-MSN

Preservationists honor Vincent Scully: ...received the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Louise DuPont Crowninshield Award...recognizes lifetime achievement in the field of historic preservation and was — in Scully's case — long overdue, said Richard Moe...- Yale Daily News

Australian Institute of Architects 2009 National Architecture Awards announced: ...major new arts, theatre and 'culture palaces' from Canberra to Melbourne to New York...32 awards and commendations across 12 categories were awarded... -- Johnson Pilton Walker; Angelo Candalepas Associates; Architectus Melbourne; ARM; Choi Ropiha/Perkins Eastman/PKSB; Woods Bagot/Merivale Group/Hecker Phelan & Guthrie; Durbach Block; BVN Architecture + Gray Pukсанд; Chenchow Little; Neeson Murcutt; Hargreaves Associates/Lahz Nimmo/Lacoste + Stevenson; HASSELL; etc. - Australian Institute of Architects/AIA (formerly RAIA)

2009 Australian Institute of Architects National Architecture Awards: Design has gone digital but we're still waiting for the wonder walls. Architecture in the computer age should be a lot more exciting...Is it that Australia doesn't feel the need for cultural icons and the significant budgets needed for impressive public buildings? By Howard Tanner [slide show]- Sydney Morning Herald

A New "Space Age": Globalisation Is Shaping Urban Development: Artists, architects and scientists are due to meet this weekend at an interdisciplinary symposium to discuss...the effects of globalisation...on the development of urban space...giving rise to a completely new definition of space. -- Institute of Art and Design/Vienna University of Technology- Austrian Science Fund/FWF

Call for entries: 36 The Calls Design Competition: design 'an inspirational landmark' on one of Leeds' last waterfront sites; deadline: December 16- The Architects' Journal (UK)



-- Ricardo Bofill Taller de Arquitectura: W Barcelona Hotel, Barcelona, Spain
-- Cox Rayner + Arup: Kurilpa Bridge, Brisbane, Australia

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