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.

- 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."

- An interdisciplinary symposium in Vienna this weekend will explore the effects of globalization on the development of urban spaces.

- 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?"

- Call for entries: 36 The Calls Design Competition: design "an inspirational landmark" on the Leeds waterfront.

- Q&A with Chicago's chief environment officer on the progress of the city's one-year-old Climate Action Plan.

- 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 eco-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 Ropsha/Perkins Eastman/PKSB; Woods Bagot/Merivale Group/Hecker Phelan & Guthrie; Durbach Block; BVN Architecture + Gray Puksand; Chenowch Little; Neevon Mural; 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