

Today's News - Wednesday, November 4, 2009

- "EcoDistricts" could transform the way urban dwellers live, with Portland, OR, and British Columbia leading the way.
- Kennicott hails Richard Moe's long tenure as head of the National Trust for Historic Preservation as he plans to "step down from the group he helped make the most powerful voice for historic preservation in the country."
- Kamin on two Chicago battles for historic preservation: re: Gropius's Reese hospital complex: "Is Chicago trying to win an Academy Award for the theater of the absurd?"; and Michigan Avenue YWCA - can preservationists prevail in at least preserving its façade?
- U.K. heritage groups "savage" government heritage proposals that treat historic buildings as a burden rather than an asset.
- Lubell cheers AIA/ALA's efforts to change Los Angeles's procurement process for public projects: it's time to base it on design excellence rather than size, experience - and connections.
- Moore hands out (mostly) high praise for Highbury Square: while it "shows how you can fit a lot of homes on an urban site without feeling crowded," it "isn't quite the surprising landmark it could have been."
- Pearman cheers Peter Barber Architects' "novel spatial response to the call for high-density urban domestic architecture - they "are busy reinventing housing."
- King digs into Halprin's living legacy in San Francisco: he "left us a life-size seminar on what makes urban spaces flourish or fail" (even projects that went awry).
- Saffron has high hopes for Philadelphia finally becoming a bike-friendly city with "a hopeful break in the long-running cycle of animosity" between drivers and bicyclists.
- Dyckhoff offers a brief history of how previous recessions have inspired young architects: "If we're lucky, this recession, for a whole new generation, could turn out to be very rewarding."
- A good reason to head to Chicago right now: the inaugural conference of the Association of Architecture Organizations and the Architecture + Design Education Network (with a most impressive list of participants!).
- Available online as of today: the catalogue for the December 3 Art for Architecture auction to benefit the built environment charity Article 25 (talk about an impressive list!).

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Urban Flight: About 150 million people are expected to seek homes in urban settings in the coming years..."EcoDistricts"...could transform the way urban dwellers live. -- Zimmer Gunsul Frasca (ZGF); Portland + Oregon Sustainability Institute (P+OSI); Living Building Challenge; Cascadia Region Green Building Council [links] - Sustainable Industries

National Trust for Historic Preservation's chief retiring: There are few pulpits bullier than the one Richard Moe...has held for more than 16 years. But citing the need for generational change, and his own desire for retirement...will step down from the group he helped make the most powerful voice for historic preservation in the country. By Philip Kennicott - Washington Post

As bulldozers roll at Reese, landmarks commission to discuss National Register of Historic Places nomination for former hospital site: Is Chicago trying to win an Academy Award for the theater of the absurd? By Blair Kamin - Walter Gropius - Chicago Tribune

Michigan Avenue YWCA building: preservationists strive to rescue crumbling landmark that faces Grant Park...at least maintain its impressive facade, a preservationist and residents say. By Blair Kamin -- John M. Van Osdel II (1895) [image] - Chicago Tribune

Heritage bodies attack new planning proposals: ...savaged the government's PPS15 heritage proposals as a serious risk to the nation's historic buildings and places...complaining that PPS 15...treats historic buildings as a burden rather than an asset and urges planners not to stand in the way of innovation and sustainable development. - BD/Building Design (UK)

Op-Ed: Getting the Best: Los Angeles, and its architects, deserve better civic work...architects are hoping to enact some major changes to how the city builds...with a poorly built public environment, the city will continue to lose talent, and investment, to cities that are becoming, quite frankly, better places to live. By Sam Lubell -- AIA/ALA - The Architect's Newspaper

Pride of the Gunners: High praise for Highbury Square: ...shows how you can fit a lot of homes on an urban site without feeling crowded...one of London's greatest urban inventions...isn't quite the surprising landmark it could have been but...This method is not in any manual on good planning, but it seems to work. By Rowan Moore -- Allies and Morrison; Christopher Bradley-Hole - Evening Standard (UK)

Home Office: Peter Barber and associate Phil Hamilton have designed homes for the wealthy and the homeless. In between is their novel spatial response to the call for high-density urban domestic architecture...[they] are busy reinventing housing. By Hugh Pearman [images] - RIBA Journal (UK)

Lawrence Halprin's living legacy in San Francisco: ...left us a life-size seminar on what makes urban spaces flourish or fail. And even the ones that went awry drive home a larger point: The open space around us helps define a city's culture and life. By John King [images] - San Francisco Chronicle

Pedaling in a lane that's their own: ...a hopeful break in the long-running cycle of animosity that seems to divide drivers and bicyclists in Philadelphia...for all the palpable anger on the streets these days, times have never been better for the urban cyclist...For all that, resistance to the new bike lanes remains intense. By Inga Saffron [images] - Philadelphia Inquirer

From Carmody Groarke to EXYZT, recession can inspire young architects: Out of adversity comes creativity. That's the spin that many architects are putting on this particularly vicious recession...If we're lucky, this recession, for a whole new generation, could turn out to be very rewarding. By Tom Dyckhoff - The Times (UK)

Architecture and Design as a Catalyst for Change: inaugural conference of the Association of Architecture Organizations (AAO), and the Architecture + Design Education Network (A+DEN) hosted by the Chicago Architecture Foundation, November 5-7... - Architecture + Design Education Network (A+DEN)

Works by top architects are to go under the hammer to raise money for built environment charity Article 25: Art for Architecture auction on December 3 will feature pieces by David Chipperfield, Richard Rogers, Norman Foster, Zaha Hadid, Toyo Ito and Rafael Viñoly...catalogue will be available to download from November 4 - BD/Building Design (UK)

WORDS THAT BUILD Tip #20: The aim of an opening statement is to open a door to dialogue rather than to persuasively "hook" another into compliance with your message. By Norman Weinstein - ArchNewsNow



-- Santiago Calatrava: Liège Guillemins TGV Station, Liège, Belgium
-- Book: Catherine Corman: "Daylight Noir: Raymond Chandler's Imagined City"

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