Today's News - Thursday, November 5, 2009

- An interesting (and amusing) report from Cityscape 2009 re: wacky banking + wacky buildings: "Never trust a bank with property or a developer with money. It is time for architects and planners to show real solutions rather than changing the wrapping paper on old ones."
- British property magnate espouses on what developers want from architects: "Quality, context, social awareness...we are looking for inventiveness" (we can only hope that's true).
- CTBUH reports at least 50 tall buildings around the world now on hold (except, where else but China).
- Kamin coos over Gang's Aqua tower: Chicago's "boldest - and best - new skyscraper" is "a stunning presence" that "takes us in dazzling new aesthetic directions yet still manages to respond to both its urban environs and to the environment (great pix, too!)."
- Finalists in Auckland's Queen's Wharf competition disappointed (and a little miffed) that plans are put on hold because of "ackluster" and "mediocre" results."
- An eyeful of RIAS Andrew Doolan Best Building in Scotland Award shortlist of 11 (but "Scottish architecture is in rude health," says Olcayto).
- Not all are thrilled that Calgary wants another "designer" pedestrian bridge following the "public furor" over Calatrava's Peace Bridge.
- Fractals reign: an architect challenges current methods of testing the value of sustainable architecture and landscapes: "Are they actually providing us with enhanced well-being?" - and urges the use of "natural design" and "brain-mind analysis."
- Brussat cheers Salingaros' fractal future for sustainable design and why nature nurtures tradition: he "is Moses offering wisdom from on high (whether that of God, science or Christopher Alexander)."
- Bimbaum offers an eloquent tribute to Halprin and his "love of design, people, nature, the shaping of cities and spaces."
- 2010 London Festival of Architecture will (hopefully) feature zero-carbon water- and solar-powered wheelchair lifts.
- New cutting edge laser technology "promises a world kept as if in amber. A virtual past that never dies."
- More than 700 Passive Houses across Europe are opening their doors for 3 days.
- Call for entries: Pilot projects for the Sustainable Sites Initiative.
Sustainable Design” by Nikos Salingaros...is Moses offering wisdom from on high (whether that of God, science or Christopher Alexander). His stone tablets must be popularized... By David Brussat- Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

Lawrence Halprin: a pathbreaking modernist landscape designer... A love of design, people, nature, the shaping of cities and spaces, and the blurring of lines between his personal and professional life energized Larry. By Charles A. Birnbaum/Cultural Landscape Foundation [images]- The Architect’s Newspaper

Firm takes steps for wheelchairs: Matthew Lloyd Architects is working with the Corps of Royal Engineers to design temporary water- and solar-powered wheelchair lifts at the Duke of York steps in central London...zero-carbon lifts, which are part of next year’s London Festival of Architecture, will only be in place for two weeks... Architecture-InsideOut; RIBA [image]- BD/Building Design (UK)

Scots Aim Lasers at Landmarks: ...making laser scans of old monuments may not sound special, but a Scottish team has achieved unprecedented levels of sophistication...destruction held out for midcentury Modernists the prospect of a new urbanism...The new cutting edge of laser technology offers instead a means to preserve and restore whole cities exactly as they once were. It promises a world kept as if in amber. A virtual past that never dies.-- Glasgow School of Art; CyArk [slide show]- New York Times

Building With Whole Trees: Roald Gundersen is an architect who may revolutionize the building industry...a vision developed after spending three years as a project architect on Biosphere 2...a whole, unmilled tree can support 50% more weight than the largest piece of lumber milled from the same tree. -- Whole Tree Architecture and Construction [slide show]- New York Times

Future of Design conference hosted by Dean Monica Ponce de Leon: 30 designers, critics and provocative thinkers brainstormed how design is evolving across disciplines including architecture, landscape architecture, interactive, industrial, and interior design. -- Stan Allen; Will Bruder; Preston Scott Cohen; Maurice Cox; Ned Cramer; Jeanne Gang; Greg Lynn; Gregg Pasquarelli/SHOP; Susan Szenasy; Marc Tsurumaki/Lewis.Tsurumaki.Lewis (LTL); Adam Yarinsky/Architecture Research Office (ARO); Meejin Yoon/MY Studio/Howeler + Yoon; etc. [link to videos]- University of Michigan Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning

Experience the Passive House yourself: 6th International Passive House Days: More than 700 Passive Houses opened Europe-wide November 6, 7 and 8- Informations Gemeinschaft Passivhaus Deutschland” (IG Passivhaus)

Call for entries: Pilot projects to test first national rating system for sustainable landscapes in Sustainable Sites Initiative...projects will be selected to ensure a broad range of project types, sizes, budgets, geographic diversity and phase of development; deadline: February 15, 2010- American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

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"