

Today's News - Monday, November 9, 2009

- ArcSpace brings us Alsop's Chips, and an eyeful of "Bits 'n Pieces" at Material ConneXion in NYC.
- Hatherley minces no words about what he thinks the Stirling Prize has come to represent: "a doubtful legacy...of the short-termism of iconic architecture."
- King is hopeful that the "Vision California" study will result in creating a different political climate when it comes to regional plans for growth.
- Who says saving the planet has to cost a fortune?
- In the New York region, "the recession has not dampened owners' enthusiasm for sustainability."
- The Green Building Council of Australia balks at government pressure to change its environmental standards for sustainable timber.
- Baillieu asks: "Is global warming hot air?" - and really raises some hackles (see comments).
- Bayley cheers "a green hotel is in the vanguard of a movement to reinvigorate a run-down area of south London" (but will it really make Battersea London's Left Bank?).
- Hopes are raised that courts might yet save Ledner's National Maritime HQ (a.k.a. O'Toole building) in Greenwich Village.
- Berlin's plans to mark the "spot where the Iron Curtain cracked wide open" 20 years ago today.
- Foster and Rogers battle it out for £1 billion Barangaroo project in Sydney Harbor.
- Apple opens a store right under the Louvre's glass pyramid (link to great pix, too).
- Architecture schools are basking in new - and refashioned - facilities across the U.S. (great slide show).
- NYT Style Magazine takes on all sorts of design that bridges the generation gap.
- The Cultural Landscape Foundation launches "What's Out There," a free, searchable, database of landscapes and their designers (your input welcome!).
- An eyeful of the 2009 Spark Design Awards winners in architecture & design.

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-- Alsop Architects: Chips, New Islington, Manchester, UK
-- Exhibition: "Bits 'n Pieces," Material ConneXion, New York, NY

Immoral icons: The annual Stirling Prize...winning buildings have left us with a doubtful legacy...of the short-termism of iconic architecture...Perhaps Rogers won...because his Maggie's Centre was the only building the judges could morally justify. By Owen Hatherley -- Prince Charles; Rogers Stirk Harbour; Stephen Hodder; Michael Wilford; Will Alsop; Wilkinson Eyre; Herzog & De Meuron; Foster & Partners; Bauman Lyons; David Adjaye; David Chipperfield; Fielden Clegg Bradley; Eric Parry; AHMM; BDP - New Statesman (UK)

Who Says Saving the Planet Has to Cost a Fortune? One of the nagging issues in the run-up to the Copenhagen climate summit are demands that the US and Europe provide massive aid so poorer countries can buy expensive emissions-free technologies. David E. Martin claims many of the patents for today's low-carbon technologies - including some used in wind power...are already in the public domain. - Der Spiegel (Germany)

State exploring detailed strategy for growth: ...to devise a set of detailed growth scenarios for California, from classic suburban sprawl to compact development focused on older cities...Vision California will begin by pulling together existing regional plans, which rarely have teeth...then explore various what-ifs and compare them using comprehensive and coherent data. By John King -- Calthorpe Associates - San Francisco Chronicle

Still Going Green: Interest in Sustainable Design Continues To Grow Despite Economy...recession has not dampened owners' enthusiasm for sustainability..."The concepts of green or sustainable design can be accomplished at or below the benchmark price for building type. There is no green premium." -- Perkins+Will; Polshek Partnership; Croxton Collaborative Architects - New York Construction News

Green Timber Woes: The independent Green Building Council of Australia is facing unprecedented pressure from State and Federal Governments to change its environmental standards for sustainable timber...calling for the GBC to accept the Australian Forestry Standard (AFS) environmental accreditation scheme. - The Age (Australia)

Is global warming hot air? The RIBA must not be blinkered to the increasing evidence against man-made climate change...it is healthy to question what is being proposed at Copenhagen and whether architects are fully behind a treaty that will give a new governing body powers to limit manufacturing, travel, energy production and anything else that emits carbon, including building. By Amanda Baillieu - BD/Building Design (UK)

Rafayel on the Left Bank: A green hotel is in the vanguard of a movement to reinvigorate a run-down area of south London...The story of the hotel offers real-world insights into the business of architecture today...Falcon Wharf, Battersea cannot yet be confused with St Germain. But, for once, a developer is determined to do something interesting...this is inspirational. By Stephen Bayley -- Burland TM Architects [image] - Observer (UK)

The Return of Cousin St. Vinny: Might the courts override the Landmarks Preservation Commission and save Albert C. Ledner's National Maritime Headquarters [O'Toole building] in Greenwich Village? - The Architect's Newspaper

Where the Berlin Wall First Fell: Historic Border Crossing Finally Gets a Facelift: ...20 years on there is little in this drab corner of East Berlin to indicate its historic significance. That is set to change now that Berlin has commissioned a firm of architects to create a new square to commemorate the events of Nov. 9, 1989. -- Sinai exteriors AW Faust [images]- Der Spiegel (Germany)

Apple Opens Louvre (Paris) ifoAppleStore in the Carrousel du Louvre: "The architects have taken a very minimalist approach to the underground storefront..." -- Bohlin Cywinski Jackson [link to images]- Softpedia

Foster and Rogers battle it out for £1 billion Barangaroo project: Big-hitters...are going head to head for a huge project in Sydney Harbour, Australia...previously known as East Darling Harbour... -- Foster + Partners; Rogers Stirk Harbour [links]- The Architects' Journal (UK)

Teaching By Example: Architecture Programs Get Boost from New Facilities - - Jones Studio; Overland Partners; WTW Architects; BOORA; Garrison Architects; Gluckman Mayner Architects [slide show]- Architectural Record

Just My Size: Design that bridges the generation gap: Cool for School: Architects Design for Education and Get an A+, By Sam Lubell; Child's Paly by Alice Rawsthorn; Empty Nest Syndrome by Fred A. Bernstein; etc. -- Coop Himmelb(l)au; Michael Maltzan; Christopher Ward; Laurent Deroo; Venturi Scott Brown; Erno Goldfinger; Stephanie Goto; Charles Gwathmey; t Gus Wüstemann; Daly Genik [images]- New York Times Style Magazine

"What's Out There": Free, Searchable, Online Database of Parks, Gardens, and Other Landscapes Launched. Wiki-style Site Soliciting Public Input on Landscapes and their Designers- The Cultural Landscape Foundation

2009 Spark Design Awards winners in architecture & design -- Lundberg Design; Perkins Eastman/Choi Ropiha/PKSB; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); IDEO; fuseproject; Elliott + Associates Architects; EHDD Architecture; 4240 Architecture; etc. [link to images]- Spark

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