

Today's News - Tuesday, November 10, 2009

- One of the most comprehensive takes we've seen on Detroit as the poster child of "the ultimate blank canvas" and urban laboratory for radical ideas and "big, audacious dreams."
- The history - and future - of turning industrial eyesores into popular public spaces.
- The latest example: a former arms factory transformed into the Cité du Design in Saint-Etienne, France - where solar panels are an artful part of the architecture (great pix!).
- And coming soon: 3XN tapped to turn a series of disused freight train halls into a cultural center in Denmark.
- Iovine and Menking on NYC's "complex fraternity of agencies has fine-tuned an approach" to involve private-sector architects in public work - "the first step to shaping the city itself."
- Las Vegas master planning for "a new demographic" where residents won't be the only ones to benefit from the shift to a higher-density, more pedestrian-friendly city.
- Hawthorne has some serious doubts about plans for a new stadium on a site "that has little chance of succeeding in urban terms" (though he's a lot kinder about the design itself).
- King cheers the newest building on San Francisco's Market Street, the "third piece of an architectural collage" that displays a "spirit, a quiet pride in putting well-crafted materials to use."
- Risen is revved up about Washington, DC's first stand-alone bicycle storage and rental facility, "part of a larger pro-cycling strategy for the region" - a cross between "a bicycle helmet and Captain Nemo's submarine."
- California's Marin County at forefront of net-zero energy passive house design.
- Q&A with WAF World Building of the Year winner, South African architect Peter Rich: "Architects need to be of service to a broader audience."
- SANAA's Sejima tapped to curate next Venice Biennale, the first architect since Fuksas in 2000 - and the first woman.
- We are saddened by the news that Metropolitan Home will be no more.
- Call for entries: ideas competition to redesign of the area around Montreal's Champ-de-Mars métro station (if you have a business in Canada).
- One we couldn't resist: FIU architecture students walk on water - literally (and video to prove it).

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[Detroit: Urban Laboratory and the New American Frontier: ... one thing this massive failure has made possible is ability to come up with radical ideas for the city...it is big cities that inspire the big, audacious dreams. And that is Detroit...the ultimate blank canvas. \[images, links\] - New Geography](#)

[Green Giants: How urban planners are turning industrial eyesores into popular public spaces...Where we once understood parks to be the manicured places...by legendary landscape architects like Frederick Law Olmsted...they increasingly reflect recent urban history, seeking to create a positive legacy for what were once polluting structures. By Tim Mckeough -- Field Operations and architects Diller Scofidio + Renfro, James Corner Field Operations; Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Julia Czerniak; Richard Haag \(1975\); Peter Latz; Koolhaas; Toit Allsopp Hillier; Quadrangle Architects - The Walrus \(Canada\)](#)

[Quick, Hide the Solar Panels! Cité du Design/International Centre for Design in Saint-Etienne, France shows how to make solar panels look good, without camouflaging them. -- LIN Architects \[images, links\] - Fast Company](#)

[3XN wins competition to turn a series of disused freight train halls in Aarhus, Denmark, into a 9,000sq m cultural centre. -- Nord Arkitekter \[images\] - BD/Building Design \(UK\)](#)

[Editorial: Why We Do City Work: New York City, where a complex fraternity of agencies...has fine-tuned an approach...that is relatively generous in involving private-sector architects in public work, especially as compared to other cities...Municipal architecture may sound too prosaic...but it is also the first step to shaping the city itself. By Julie V. Iovine and William Menking - The Architect's Newspaper](#)

[CityCenter and the 21st-century Strip: Different by design: From desert Disneyland to Paris in the Mojave...residents aren't the only ones who will benefit from the shift to a higher-density, more pedestrian-friendly Las Vegas...Master planning for a new demographic. -- Helmut Jahn, Cesar Pelli, Norman Foster; Rafael Viñoly - MSNBC](#)

[Should we buy into the dream of a football stadium in City of Industry? ...the same qualities that make a piece of land ideal for development...also tend to make it a kind of planning black hole...will catalyze little more than Roski's own dreams of creating an entertainment juggernaut that keeps the rest of the region at arm's length. By Christopher Hawthorne -- Meis Architects/Aedas \[images\] - Los Angeles Times](#)

[Shared spirit in 1 Kearny's styles from 3 eras: The newest building on Market Street in San Francisco...the third piece of an architectural collage started in 1902...What 2009 shares with 1902 is a spirit, a quiet pride in putting well-crafted materials to use. By John King -- William Curlett \(1902\); Charles Moore/Clark & Beuttler \(1964\); Charles Bloszies \[images\] - San Francisco Chronicle](#)

[Free Wheelin': DC gets first stand-alone bike hub on East Coast: The \\$4 million Bicycle Transit Center is neatly wedged on a traffic island between two Daniel Burnham masterpieces...drawing comparisons to half a football, a bicycle helmet, and Captain Nemo's submarine...part of a larger pro-cycling strategy for the region. By Clay Risen -- KGP Design Studio \[images\] - The Architect's Newspaper](#)

[Marin at forefront of growing trend in architecture - 'passive' houses: ... standards go well beyond LEED...has a long way to go in the United States...The primary obstacle is lack of awareness...California...equires that all new buildings be net zero-energy by 2020. "Passive house meets or exceeds the goal for 2020 now" -- Nabih Tahan/Bau Technologies; Graham](#)

[Irwin/Essential Habitat; Passivehaus Institute- Marin Independent Journal \(California\)](#)

[Mapungubwe Interpretation Centre wins World Architecture Festival \(WAF\) World Building of the Year: South African architect Peter Rich is the second winner of the award, for a building on the site of an ancient civilisation..."Architects need to be of service to a broader audience" \[images, video\]- The Architects' Journal \(UK\)](#)

[Sejima Lands Biennale: The president of the Venice Biennale, Paola Barrata announced...that the director of the 12th International Architecture Exhibition will be Japanese architect Kazuyo Sejima of SANAA Architects...the Biennale has chosen a practicing architect for the first time since Massimiliano Fuksas in 2000.- The Architect's Newspaper](#)

[Hachette shuts Metropolitan Home magazine: No shelter from media and real estate storms for upscale home-design magazine that long focused on contemporary aesthetic.- Crain's New York Business](#)

[Call for entries: a nationwide ideas competition for the redesign of the area around the Champ-de-Mars métro station; open to design professionals, students or consortiums whose main place of business is located in Canada; cash prizes; registration deadline: January 15, 2010- Design Montréal / Ville de Montréal](#)

[Florida International University students walk on water: ...an annual ritual that's been going on for nearly two decades, concocted by FIU professor Jaime Canavés...Students spend about half a semester designing and building giant, floating shoes. \[video\]- Miami Herald](#)



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

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