

Today's News - Wednesday, November 11, 2009

- Providence, RI, has a big plan to free up the city's historic waterfront for mixed-use development: it's relocating an Interstate.
- Jacobs says "we should look with new eyes" at the entire Interstate highway system as an opportunity to invent new uses.
- An in-depth (and interesting) look at the "imagineered urbanism" Korea's Songdo City defying "economic gravity": will it succeed or does it "risk becoming a sterile urban theme park"?
- An eyeful of the Punggol Waterfront Housing Design Competition winning team's design for Singapore's first waterfront "resort-like" public housing project.
- We cheer the good news that the Scottish government (via Architecture & Design Scotland) has stepped in to save the Lighthouse architecture center.
- Glancey cheers Bath saving its world heritage status, "but for how long...Dresden proves that UNESCO has teeth."
- Kamin cheers University of Chicago's defying the recession to move ahead with a new (scaled back) arts center.
- Lacayo chats with Mayne about his "really compelling" Cooper Union project.
- Houston Ballet moves ahead with its new home that will be "will be the largest in the U.S. devoted specifically to dance" (and no more dancing around rain buckets).
- Levet's whopping plan for News International Wapping HQ gets the go-ahead.
- The Hard Rock Hotel in Las Vegas has some rooms "designed to be decadent, party-like-a-rock-star spaces" (from the great slide show, we'd say that's an understatement).
- Good reasons to be in D.C. and London over the next few weeks: WPA 2.0: Working Public Architecture will debate the future of national infrastructure; and Sustaining Identity: Symposium II will debate whether enduring, uniquely localized, people-centered space is still possible and desirable."
- Call for entries registration deadline extended for Cleveland Design Competition - Project 2009: Lakefront Station.
- One we couldn't resist: 65 of the oddest houses we've ever seen (sadly, no locations or architect info included - but definitely worth a gander!).

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Removing a Barrier: Providence, RI, will relocate Interstate 195 to the city's outskirts, freeing up 39 acres within walking distance of the city's historic waterfront...20 of which will be marketed for development...the vision is for a mix of uses that will foster a new "knowledge-based economy" ... -- Chan Krieger Sieniewicz - *New York Times*

Op-Ed: Revolutionary Road: ... we should look with new eyes at a resource we've failed to take full advantage of: the Interstate highway system...use the opportunity to invent new uses...Consider it a kind of adaptive reuse...There will be many opportunities for job creation and development once we reclaim it for ourselves. By Karrie Jacobs - *New York Times*

Gravity Defying: Whither Korea's bid to build a world-class city entirely from scratch? ...one of the most spectacular examples of what urban theorist Mike Davis calls "imagineered urbanism"...Will Songdo City succeed? The history of purpose-built cities...is not encouraging. Songdo risks becoming a sterile urban theme park, warn some observers. -- Kohn Pedersen Fox (KPF) [images] - *Asia-Pacific Journal/Japan Focus*

Waterfront flats unveiled: Singapore's first waterfront public housing project in Punggol will offer 1,200 flats that feature sky terraces, roof gardens...brings to a close the Punggol Waterfront Housing Design Competition... -- Group8asia; Aedas [slide show] - *The Straits Times (Singapore)*

Lighthouse will continue as architecture centre: Scottish government has stepped in ensure the continuing existence...by transferring a series of Lighthouse programmes to watchdog Architecture & Design Scotland (A&DS). - *BD/Building Design (UK)*

Bath saves its world heritage status ... just: The home of Georgian architecture has managed to hang on to its world heritage status. But for how long? Should anyone in Bath care what Unesco says? I think so...Dresden proves that Unesco has teeth... By Jonathan Glancey - *Guardian (UK)*

Defying recession, University of Chicago says it's ready to move ahead on new arts center: ...\$114 million Reva and David Logan Center for Creative and Performing Arts...is scheduled to open in spring, 2012...[will] shrink in size because it would be built all at once, not in two phases, as originally contemplated. By Blair Kamin -- *Tod Williams Billie Tsien [images] - Chicago Tribune*

A Talk With: Thom Mayne: ...a really compelling project in the East Village..for the Cooper Union...It's striking, it's different, it really brings the streetscape alive and it turns its main interior stairway into a four-story coiling trip. I talked to Mayne mostly about his approach to that project. By Richard Lacayo -- *Morphosis [images] - Time Magazine*

For \$53 Million, Houston Ballerinas Won't Dance Around Buckets: Houston Ballet has struggled with challenging conditions at its headquarters in a former clothing factory since 1984...Not for much longer...six-story building...will be the largest in the U.S. devoted specifically to dance... -- Gensler [image] - *Bloomberg News*

Amanda Levet's Wapping plan approved: Tower Hamlets has granted permission for the re-modelling of the main building at the News International compound...HQ will give a united home to News International, Harper Collins, MySpace, Dow Jones, Fox and related businesses for the first time and will help to regenerate the Wapping site. [images] - *The Architects' Journal (UK)*

Strip Tease: Looking for Inspiration for Hotel Design? Try Violent, Profane Movies: ...a 10-pack of rooms at the recently-opened Paradise Tower at the Hard Rock Hotel in Las Vegas...designed to be decadent, party-like-a-rock-star spaces. -- Mark Zeff/ZeffDesign; Mark Tracy/Chemical Spaces [slide show] - *Fast Company*

[Symposium WPA 2.0: Working Public Architecture: architects, young designers, and policy makers will debate the future of our national infrastructure; presentations by the six WPA 2.0 finalists; November 16 at the National Building Museum, Washington, DC - cityLAB / UCLA Department of Architecture and Urban Design](#)

[Sustaining Identity: Symposium II: a debate about the creation of enduring, uniquely localised, people-centred space is still possible and desirable; participants include: Juhani Pallasmaa; UNESCO; Jane Da Mosto/Venice in Peril; Sean Godsell; Jonathan Kirschenfeld; Pezo von Ellrichshausen; Inaki Abalos; Charles Correa; Gawie Fagan; Arup Associates; Jonathan Glancey; London, November 26 - Royal Institute of British Architects \(RIBA\)](#)

[Call for entries - registration deadline extended to December 18, 2009: Cleveland Design Competition - Project 2009: Lakefront Station - Cleveland Design Competition](#)

[This Odd House: It's hard to believe people actually live in these bizarre homes. \[slide show\] - Chicago Tribune](#)



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

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