

Today's News - Thursday, December 3, 2009

- Weinstein's Words That Build Tip #21: write about meaningful patterns of light by personifying the interplay of architecture and light - keep the conversation light - but shimmering.
- Las Vegas x 2: "there's not a stitch of kitsch" in the city's latest projects that parlay "the unblinking sun into nature-based spectacle" + "CityCenter: Vegas 4.0."
- A struggling Pennsylvania steel town revives Olmsted's 1895 vision; its "green rebirth" is a concept gaining popularity in Rust Belt towns that have few viable options for renewal."
- A call to stem the trend of "gagged development" and "proselytizing NIMBYs."
- Philadelphia picks a team for its Delaware River waterfront development.
- Saffron calls for politicians to leave the waterfront planning to the planners."
- St. Louis's CityGarden lifts "the public's sense of itself and its city."
- Carpenter's glassy High Line tower takes a cut in height, but the "signature design remains largely intact" (and both developer and opponents claim victory).
- Yet another finger wags at the destruction of Gropius's Michael Reese complex in Chicago: beyond destroying "a great architectural legacy which cries out for adaptive reuse," it could also damage Mayor Daley's reputation - internationally.
- Rybczynski cheers Scully Prize winner Alexander: while he's been "both revered and reviled...I would guess that he is one of very few whose work will endure."
- Benyus talks biomimicry: "What would nature do if it sat at the design table?"
- Seward "takes a test drive through transportation's alluring future": could it be Personal Rapid Transit pods?
- As LEED continues to evolve, the question is: What's next?
- ASLA releases a new online resource guide on increasing energy efficiency through sustainable residential landscape architecture.
- 2009 Building for Life awards honor "some of the best housing of this century."
- Israel names winners in competition to design a "layer farm" that addresses veterinary, ecological, and environmental problems of the egg industry (we kid you not).
- One more we couldn't resist (and didn't know whether to laugh or cry): how the Military Industrial Complex is taking steps to reduce its carbon footprint (green weapons of destruction, anyone?).

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[Las Vegas Grows Up: There's not a stitch of kitsch to be found in the resort town's latest iteration of destination buildings + CityCenter: Vegas 4.0](#) -- Daniel Las Vegas Grows Up; Frank Gehry; Pelli Clarke Pelli; Rafael Vinoly/RV Architecture; Helmut Jahn - LA Weekly

[Olmsted's 1895 Pa. steel town seeks green rebirth: ...114 years later, Vandergrift residents...are reviving Frederick Law Olmsted's vision and...investing millions toward environmentally sustainable revitalization — a concept gaining popularity in Rust Belt towns that have few viable options for renewal.](#) - Associated Press (AP)

[United Kingdom: Gagged Development = Stunted Growth = Stagnation: There is I detect a trend for proselytizing nimby's in many local authorities making any new development virtually impossible particularly in conservation areas, and it is time a serious stand was taken...there may be light at the end of the tunnel.](#) - Mondaq (UK)

[Designer picked to create waterfront master plan: Efforts to revitalize Philadelphia's Delaware River waterfront took another step forward with the selection of Cooper Robertson & Partners...team will include KieranTimberlake Associates and Olin -- Marilyn Jordan Taylor/University of Pennsylvania School of Design](#) - Philadelphia Inquirer

[Let the master planners decide how to get to the Delaware waterfront: ...in characteristic fashion, the politicians are laying the dynamite to sabotage the effort...can't bear to leave the planning to the planners. They've already endorsed a route for a new Market Street trolley to the waterfront without bothering to wait for the paid experts to study the matter.](#) By Inga Saffron - Philadelphia Inquirer

[Spirit of St. Louis: A new sculpture park has not only transformed downtown but lifted the city's sense of itself and its future...Citygarden, a 2.9-acre sculpture park...is both a literal and symbolic reflection of the city.](#) -- Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects; Studio Durham Architects [images] - Metropolis Magazine

[Prime Cuts: BSA \[Board of Standards and Appeals\] approves James Carpenter's slightly smaller Meatpacking project...signature design remains largely intact. The decision has left the developers and the preservationists who oppose the project both claiming victory..."It's going to be a very strong building, even at this height."](#) -- Randy Gerner/Gerner, Kronick + Valcarcel [images] - The Architect's Newspaper

[Can Michael Reese Preservation Preserve Mayor Daley's Reputation? I plead guilty to have done nothing to save the Gropius and related buildings...The destruction of these buildings might possibly not just destroy a great architectural legacy which cries out for adaptive reuse, but also the reputation of Mayor Daley internationally...](#) - Chicago Daily Observer

[Do You See a Pattern? An architectural theorist who has inspired smart-growth advocates, counterculture DIY-ers, and computer programmers...Christopher Alexander has been...both revered and reviled; yet in an period burdened by flocks of architectural theorists, I would guess that he is one of very few whose work will endure.](#) By Witold Rybczynski - Slate

[Author Speaks Of "Nature's Blueprint": How can we learn from nature to get water without wells, materials without mining, or cooling without AC? Biomimicry, as Janine M. Benyus puts it, is about asking, "What would nature do if it sat at the design table, from the smallest light bulb to a city or region?"](#) -- Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering - The Harvard Crimson

[Meet the Mod Pods: The opportunities for developing new modes \[of transportation\] that are more efficient, more sustainable, and even faster are lining up behind the concept known as Personal Rapid Transit \(PRT\). Aaron Seward takes a test drive through transportation's alluring future.](#) [images] - The Architect's Newspaper

[The Secret Life of Buildings: Life-cycle assessments gauge the cumulative impact of a building's materials and its operations—and they could be the future of green-building standards...as the LEED standard continues to evolve, the question is: What's next?](#) - GreenSource Magazine

[Sustainable Residential Design: ...a new online resource guide on increasing energy efficiency through sustainable residential landscape architecture.](#) - The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

[Some of the best housing this century: Two winners of the 2009 Building for Life awards have earned the highest scores given to new housing developments since the initiative began in 2002. Seven outstanding schemes have been selected... -- David Richmond + Partners; Pollard Thomas Edwards; Cole Thompson Anders; Levitt Bernstein Associates; Fielden Clegg Bradley; Matthew Lloyd Architects; Tyack Architects/Bespoke Design Co \[links to images/info\]](#) - CABE (Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment, UK)

A new approach for layer farms: Israel Ministry of Agriculture announced the winners in a first of its kind architectural competition...to address a series of veterinary, ecological and environmental problems of the egg industry in Israel. -- Peleg/Burshtein; Nathan Gulman [image] - WorldPoultry.net

Eco-Friendly Fire: Militaries Try Saving the Planet While Killing the Enemy: Call it the Al Gore Effect or just an inconceivable truth, but the Pentagon, among other members of the Military Industrial Complex, actually are taking steps to reduce their carbon footprint. [links] - Fast Company

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