

Today's News - Thursday, December 17, 2009

- Forget Copenhagen. Chakrabarti imagines a city-focused national strategy to make the U.S. healthy, prosperous and green.
- Anderson wonders whether '09 was "the best of times or the worst of times for green progress in New York City and Planet Earth."
- Prince Charles in hot water again for meddling in eco-town policies (he wants them to look like Poundbury).
- Hawthorne finds "a handful of memorable architectural moments" at CityCenter, but wonders "what might have been if a really rip-roaring group of firms, one with a collective taste for scale, color, irony and abandon, had been allowed to drain that \$8.5 billion budget."
- Walker chats it up with the CityCenter dream team (a veritable "starchitect love-in").
- Q&A with Libeskind re: CityCenter, why it's more important than ever to build big, and why he's sick of the bickering over Ground Zero.
- An amusing interview with Gehry: "Don't call me a starchitect" (and "urban planning is dead in the U.S." - who knew?).
- Removing minarets will "not lead to the removal of Muslim architecture from the skylines - it pointed the way for architecture in the West."
- Rosenbaum roles through even more museums with major expansions in the works.
- Buffalo wants to hitch its reputation to vintage architecture to improve its image (lots of restoration/preservation required).
- A onetime Nevada brothel could become conservationists' dream oasis (river included).
- At 90, Soleri might finally get to see one of his bridges built (in Scottsdale).
- Blueprint's picks of the change-makers for 2010.
- Glancey glows in Speirs and Major's architectural lighting: "They're not overawed by or promiscuous with new technology."
- Niemeyer on his birthday: "Turning 102 is crap, and there is nothing to commemorate."
- Call for entries: Architecture for Humanity's 2010 Homeless World Cup Legacy Center in Rio de Janeiro (winner will be built).
- One we couldn't resist: an eyeful of Hadid's "snack-itecture."

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[Being Dense about Denmark: With climate change talks raging in Copenhagen, Vishaan Chakrabarti imagines a city-focused national strategy to make our country healthy, prosperous and green.](#) - Urban Omnibus

[It's Not A Wrap: 2009: Was it the best of times or the worst of times for green progress in New York City, Planet Earth? Just like the Statue of Liberty, New York now can shine its light as the gateway to a world of sustainable cities.](#) By Nancy Anderson - The Sallan Foundation

[How Prince of Wales's aides tried to influence Labour ecotowns policy: ...should follow the model of Poundbury, the controversial neo-Georgian village built to Charles's vision...Hank Dittmar...promoted the prince's view, vigorously disputed by many architects, that new towns should be built using "traditional" styles.](#) By Robert Booth - Guardian (UK)

[In Las Vegas, one final echo of the boom years: The massive CityCenter complex...it's tough not to wander through the place and think...about what might have been if a really rip-roaring group of firms, one with a collective taste for scale, color, irony and abandon, had been allowed to drain that \\$8.5 billion budget.](#) By Christopher Hawthorne -- Daniel Libeskind; Norman Foster; David Rockwell; Cesar Pelli; Rafael Vinoly; Ehrenkrantz, Eckstut & Kuhn; Gensler; Helmut Jahn - Los Angeles Times

[CityCenter's Architect "Dream Team" Builds the Next Vegas: In his role of assembling a team of seven world-famous architects \(as well as over 200 more design teams\) to collaborate on the largest development in U.S. history, there's one question...Arthur Gensler gets asked the most: How the hell did they not kill each other? By Alissa Walker -- Daniel Libeskind; David Rockwell; Rafael Vinoly; Eugene Kohn/KPF; Helmut Jahn; Cesar Pelli \[images - Fast Company](#)

[Q&A with Daniel Libeskind: In Times of Crisis 'People Do Extraordinary Things': Star architect doesn't think small. His current project in Las Vegas is part of the biggest privately funded building project in US history...\[he\] explains why it's more important than ever to build big -- and why he's sick of the bickering over Ground Zero. \[slide show\] - Der Spiegel \(Germany\)](#)

[Frank Gehry: 'Don't call me a starchitect': Is there any future for extravagant, 'wow-factor' buildings? According to the world's most famous living architect there is -- and he has a few more home truths for doubters. As a show celebrates his career, Michael Day gets an earful..."Urban planning is dead in the US." \[slide show\] - Independent \(UK\)](#)

[Not Just Spires and Minarets: Out of 150 mosques, only four mosques in Switzerland have minarets...removing minarets from the skyline does not lead to the removal of Muslim architecture from the skylines...The geometry of Muslim architecture pointed the way for architecture in the West... \[slide show\] - IslamOnline.net](#)

[More Mortar: Updates on Yesterday's Museum Building Story: "Me too!" say museums with major expansions. Hirshhorn's balloon -- not a robin's egg, after all. It's a Brancusi. Who knew? By Lee Rosenbaum -- Gwathmey Siegel; Machado and Silveti; Thomas Phifer; Rick Mather; Zaha Hadid \[links\] - ArtsJournal](#)

[Buffalo charges ahead into past: ...wants to use its fine old buildings to improve its image. Problem is, it has old buildings in two different conditions...a question facing Buffalo and other cities that want to hitch their reputations to vintage architecture: Can an aging cityscape, often a public relations liability, be an asset? -- Frank Lloyd Wright; Louis Sullivan; H.H. Richardson; Richard Upjohn; Saarinen; Frederick Law Olmsted \[slide show, links\] - USA Today](#)

[Onetime Nevada Brothel Could Become Conservationists' Oasis: Nature experts were on hand this month as the Truckee River...was restored to its former course...Legalized prostitution...has made this parcel particularly promising to conservationists because it essentially kept development at bay, improving the chances of restoring the flora and fauna. -- The Nature Conservancy \[slide show\] - New York Times](#)

[Scottsdale Bridge Marks Milestone for Paolo Soleri: Now, at the age of 90, Soleri might finally get to see one of his bridges built. Work is expected to begin in January on a 100-foot-long pedestrian bridge... -- Douglas Architects \[slide show\] - Architectural Record](#)

[2010: the people who are really making change being proactive, maverick and challenging, rather than simply waiting for a change... -- Carlo Ratti/Massachusetts Institute of Technology \(MIT\); Finn Williams; Studio Egret West; East; OKRA; Regina Peldszus; Alan Pert/NORD; Toh Shimazaki Architects; Manifesto Club; Anthony Hoete/What Architecture; Alun Moreton/Scott Brownrigg; David Adjaye; etc. - Blueprint Magazine \(UK\)](#)

[Building with Light: Speirs and Major's architectural approach to lighting goes beyond fixtures and foot candles...They're not overawed by or promiscuous with new technology...beautifying buildings with light is an integral part of the architectural process. By Jonathan Glancey \[images\] - Metropolis Magazine](#)

[Brazil's 102-year-old architect spends 'crap' birthday: Oscar Niemeyer, celebrated his 102nd birthday Tuesday in typical fashion: at work on projects rather than pondering his supercentennial age. "Turning 102 is crap, and there is nothing to](#)

commemorate"... - AFP

Call for entries/Request for proposals: 2010 Homeless World Cup Legacy Center Concept Design - Youth and Women's Leadership Center in Santa Cruz, Rio de Janeiro; winner gets the commission and the building will be built by summer 2010; registration deadline: Jan 1, 2010 - Architecture for Humanity

Zaha Hadid's Award-Winning Snack-itecture Inspired by Doodles, Chips, Fynyuns: We examine her work as it relates to a greasy, sour cream-and-onion-scented heap of Frito-Lays. By Alissa Walker [images] - Fast Company

A Star is Reborn: Fox Oakland Theater and Oakland School for the Arts: A faded movie palace - and the surrounding neighborhood - gets a new lease on life. -- Architectural Dimensions; ELS Architecture and Urban Design; Starkweather Bondy Architecture [images] - ArchNewsNow



-- Zaha Hadid Architects: MAXXI museum, Rome, Italy
-- Rafael Viñoly Architects: Carrasco International Airport, Montevideo, Uruguay

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