

Today's News - Monday, April 5, 2010

- ArcSpace brings us a stunning eyeful of Ron Arad's Design Museum Holon in Israel.
- Rybczynski takes on city planning, and suggests rephrasing Burnham: "make no big plans, only many small ones."
- Arieff takes on rebuilding in Haiti: "there's still time to apply some of the lessons we learned from the missteps following Katrina" with an "emerging (and welcome) shift from starchitect to design collective."
- Vermont spearheads a new approach to flood control: let nature take its course instead of spending billions on levees.
- In Australia, high hopes for big plans with the new Queensland Design Council.
- Ouroussoff ventures to the new Brooklyn Bridge Park and finds "a care and balance that make the park one of the most positive statements about our culture we've seen in years."
- Let there be joy: an architect tours the Lou Ruvo Center in Las Vegas and finds "the real joy of meaningful architecture" and Gehry "at the top of his game."
- Moore x 2: Piano raids the paint box to create a "joyful heart" in a London neighborhood where "the talk of transparency and openness is genuine."
- On the other hand, he calls Kapoor's "Orbit" a "thing, a doo-dad, a wotsit" that "threatens to be an urban lava lamp"; £19 million could have gone to beautifying the area or helped to make the "safety-first architecture of the Olympic buildings a little less boring."
- Czarnecki on the proposed elimination of the Save America's Treasures program: the National Trust for Historic Preservation "is not giving up without a fight."
- A reprieve for Neutra's Gettysburg Cyclorama; Neutra fils responds: perhaps the Park Service should "commission us to repurpose our building."
- On Cape Cod, new life for a Bucky dome (great video tour), but a battle brews over the fate of an "iconic" gas station (from the spooky video, we're not on the preservationists' side on this one).
- Q&A with the SANAA duo: they seem "poised to straddle the line between design and commerce very well."
- Lifson sits down with Kuma: "My essence cannot be altered by changing time, changing technologies, or new materials. That's the profundity of the creative process."
- Yale School of Architecture runs on starpower: "It's important to de-mystify it so people know they're not gods, they're not starchitects. They're just human beings" (well...most anyway).
- An eyeful of the CNU Charter Awards 2010 winners (great presentations).
- We couldn't resist: research finds exposure to a bare, illuminated light bulb is a catalyst to reaching insights (so maybe we won't replace our ceiling fixture).

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Ron Arad Architects: Design Museum Holon, Holon, Israel

Don't Plan On It: Centralized city planning is not the answer to the problems facing America's cities......successful city-building is less about big moves and more about perseverance and day-to-day management...Talk of economic stimulus packages raises the temptation to undertake large publicly planned projects again. This temptation should be resisted. By Witold Rybczynski- *Slate*

Rebuilding in Haiti: ...what lessons could be learned from Katrina......There will be a similar lack of expediency in Haiti, but...there's still time to apply some of the lessons we learned from the missteps following Katrina; Coalitions Beat Charisma; Prefab Fulfills Its Promise — Finally. By Allison Arieff -- Architecture for Humanity; Article 25; Duany Plater-Zyberk; Open Architecture Network [images, links]- *New York Times*

Before the Flood: The U.S. spends billions on levees, but river flooding still causes havoc across the country. Vermont has a better way......If America has any philosophy with regard to its rivers, it's build, baby, build...actually make the floods worse...at its root are outdated science, leadership deficits, decisions that prize short-term profit above all..."solutions fall into the 'too hard' box."- *Miller-McCune*

New Council Spearheads Queensland's Designs on Future Hub: ...a new Queensland Design Council and two international opportunities for the state's designers to showcase in Shanghai and Venice in 2010......a key initiative of the Queensland Design Strategy 2020. - *Sunshine Coast Life (Australia)*

The Greening of the Waterfront: The new Brooklyn Bridge Park......is an attempt to come to terms with the best and worst of our era...[the] design engages all those aspects of contemporary life with a care and balance that make the park one of the most positive statements about our culture we've seen in years. By Nicolai Ouroussoff -- Michael Van Valkenburgh [slide show]- *New York Times*

Lou Ruvo Center design defines purpose of facility: Is it beautiful in some strange, modern way or just plain ugly? This is the rare building that can win arguments as both best and worst building in the city. That's one clue that it's a great piece of architecture...This is obviously a space that has been created to make a difference...Love it or hate it, you know the purpose of the clinic, and that is the real joy of meaningful architecture. By Eric Strain/Studio -- Frank Gehry [images, videos]- *Las Vegas Sun*

Piano's forte: Central Saint Giles, London: Late in his career, Renzo Piano has raided the paintbox for an arresting central London development......he wanted to create a "joyful heart" for the area...dignified and refined, and the talk of transparency and openness is genuine. By Rowan Moore [image]- *Observer (UK)*

Is the Orbit anything more than a folly on an Olympic scale? It's the most extravagant example of the idea that a huge, strange object can affect tens of thousands. This could be the point at which the idea stops working...[it] is a landmark, an icon, a thing, a doo-dad, a wotsit...it threatens to be an urban lava lamp. By Rowan Moore -- Anish Kapoor; Cecil Balmond/Arup- *Observer (UK)*

Lost Treasures: Historic preservation in the United States could face a significant financial blow...Save America's Treasures, a public-private partnership...the only bricks-and-mortar preservation grant program at the national level is proposed for elimination...National Trust for Historic Preservation is not giving up without a fight. By John E. Czarnecki- Guernica Magazine

Judge issues reprieve for Gettysburg Cyclorama building: ...ruling that the National Park Service failed to comply with federal law requiring that it analyze the impact of the Cyclorama demolition and alternatives to destroying the building. -- Richard Neutra (1962); Dion Neutra; Recent Past Preservation Network- Philadelphia Inquirer

Cyclorama Lawsuit: Dion Neutra responds to federal judge's decision: "I know my father in heaven would hope that this reprieve would allow the Park Service to step back and reconsider its plan, and perhaps commission us to repurpose our building..." -- Richard Neutra (1962)- Gettysburg Times

Buckminster Fuller's 'baby': What may be the oldest standing geodesic dome, designed and built by legendary architect is located high on a hill in a Cape village [video]- Cape Cod Times

Seashore aims to raze iconic gas station: ...Cape Cod National Seashore intends to tear down the old Indian Filling Station in Wellfleet...Massachusetts Historical Commission opposes the plan...because the buildings represent the mom-and-pop gas stations on the Cape in the 1930s... [images, video]- Cape Cod Times

An Exclusive Interview With the Pritzker Prize-Winning Architects of SANAA: Is there a Pritzker "bump" like the Oscar bump at the box office? It remains to be seen...seems poised to straddle the line between design and commerce very well. By Patricia Zohn -- Kazuyo Sejima and Ryue Nishizawa- Huffington Post

Q&A: Kengo Kuma - An Architecture of Relationships: "My essence cannot be altered by changing time, changing technologies, or new materials. That's the profundity of the creative process...The 'mother of my design' is always landscape. Architecture is a part of the landscape. It is not independent. That is our tradition; still it is a lesson for us." By Edward Lifson- Metropolis Magazine

School of Architecture runs on stardom: "It's important to de-mystify it so people know they're not gods, they're not starchitects. They're just human beings." -- Gehry; Meier; Mayne; Nouvel; Robert A.M. Stern; Philip Johnson; Hadid; Sejima/Nishizawa/SANAA; Eisenman- Yale Daily News

10th annual CNU Charter Awards 2010 Winners Announced -- Dover, Kohl, & Partners; Duany Plater-Zyberk; Design Collective; Dreiling Terrones Architecture/Crabtree Group; Goody Clancy; Fairfax and Sammons Architects; etc. [images]- Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU)

Bright Ideas: Light Bulbs Stimulate Insights: New research finds exposure to a bare, illuminated light bulb — a universal symbol of bright ideas — is a catalyst to reaching insights. - Miller-McCune

Power to the Past: Cannon Design Regional Offices at The Power House: A design firm transforms a 1928 city landmark to support its highly collaborative, team-oriented work approach that includes space that can be used by the community as well. - ArchNewsNow

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