

Today's News - Wednesday, April 14, 2010

- Jacobs on the rebuilding of Haiti: it needs "less architectural magic and more garden-variety diligence" that will include local people and materials.
- Kansas City's 5 million-square-foot SubTropolis, the world's largest underground business complex (who knew?!?) offers a creative solution to global warming (if you happen to have limestone mines in the nabe).
- In Abu Dhabi, things are still looking up (for the most part).
- Litt brings urban planning lessons from Indianapolis back home to Cleveland.
- Big plans to breathe new life into Swansea's run-down High Street: an urban village for creative types.
- A Seattle architect calls for more gathering places in urban neighborhoods modeled on the city's successful program that used great local talent for its new library branches.
- Meanwhile, a Seattle high-rise that's only 9 years old is too flawed to fix and will be demolished (finger-pointing abounds).
- Campaign underway to save Lubetkin's Finsbury Health Centre in North London from developers.
- Glancey glowers: turning Finsbury into "a boutique hotel or gym would be a betrayal."
- Bernstein considers the "Pritzker conundrum": why have so few laureates designed hotels (and most who have aren't happy with them).
- Who needs a Pritzker when you're on a winning streak like Holl?
- Someday a Filipino architect will win the Pritzker, but "until then, it pays to look outward for beautiful, happiness-inspiring buildings as we delicately nurture our sense of place."
- AIA officials discuss the potential impacts of the new health care reform bill, from new taxes to architect-only insurance policies.
- When you have some extra time, NYT's T Design Spring 2010 has eye-fuls of everything, including a "meticulously restored" 1964 Philip Johnson-designed trophy house (it's only 12,000 sq. ft.).
- Contract magazine's Inspirations Award winners honored for their leadership in socially responsible design.
- Call for entries: World Architecture Festival Awards; Beyond The Hive International Competition for the ideal insect hotel; and Naef Cella Toy International Competition (the last two sound like fun!).

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[Rebuilding Haiti: Local people, using local materials, may be the best solution for the ravaged country...The way to address Haiti's particular set of problems is with less architectural magic and more garden-variety diligence.](#) By Karrie Jacobs -- Joseph Bellomo; Harris Rosen; Andrés Duany; InnoVida; Cameron Sinclair/Architecture for Humanity; Build Change - Metropolis Magazine

[SubTropolis, U.S.A.: A large chunk of Kansas City's real estate lies 100 feet below ground, and offers a creative solution to global warming...With 5 million square feet of leased warehouse, light-industry, and office space, and a network of more than two miles of rail lines and six miles of roads...the world's largest underground business complex — and one of eight or so in the area.](#) - The Atlantic

[While Dubai Stumbles, Abu Dhabi Marches On: Architects from overseas seem to be betting that the growth spurt will continue...have opened offices there...despite few obvious signs of struggles, some projects have stumbled... -- HKS; FXFowle; Leo A Daly; Kohn Pedersen Fox \(KPF\); Solomon Cordwell Buenz; Kostov Greenwood; Perkins Eastman; Carol R. Johnson Associates - Architectural Record](#)

[Indianapolis offers impressive urban planning lessons for Cleveland: ...the city embarked on a quest to turn "Indiana-no-place" into a great Midwestern city...Whether Indianapolis has succeeded completely is open to debate. But its accomplishments are undeniably impressive.](#) By Steven Litt [images] - Cleveland Plain Dealer

[Urban village unveiled for Swansea's High Street: Plans to breathe new life into a rundown area have taken a step forward...based on a series of courtyards linking shops, offices, food and drink outlets and "affordable" apartments...to build a "creative cluster"... -- Holder Mathias \[images\] - BBC \(UK\)](#)

[We need more gathering places in our urban neighborhoods: In 1998, Seattle voters approved a plan to build 22 new branch libraries...we should apply those lessons to our community centers, whose current locations don't help create lively urban centers.](#) By Stuart Silk -- Miller Hull; Olson Kundig Sundberg Allen (now Olson Kundig); Cutler Anderson; Weinstein A|U; Bohlin Cywinski Jackson - Crosscut (Seattle)

[9-year-old Belltown high-rise too flawed to fix: Residents and business owners in the McGuire Building were told over the weekend that the building is not structurally sound and they need to move out as soon as possible. The building's owners, Carpenter's Tower, said it plans to demolish the building.](#) -- Hewitt Architects - Seattle Times

[Campaigners fight plan to sell world-renowned Finsbury Health Centre: North London building designed by Berthold Lubetkin that served as a model for NHS could be sold to developers..."It's perfectly viable both to repair and restore, and to modify." -- Avanti Architects - Guardian \(UK\)](#)

[Finsbury Health Centre: To see the centre turned into a boutique hotel or gym would be a betrayal of not just a great architect and a noble architectural ideal, but of the idea of a progressive public sector doing its very best to offer the finest level of service to local people... By Jonathan Glancey -- Berthold Lubetkin \(1938\) - Guardian \(UK\)](#)

[The Pritzker Conundrum: ...few of the 33 laureates have designed hotels...for the most part, "high architecture" and the hotel business haven't mixed well...Even when hoteliers do work with "name" architects, they bring in mortals to handle the details.](#) By Fred A. Bernstein-- SANAA; Frank Gehry; I.M. Pei; Tadao Ando; Glenn Murcutt; Herzog & de Meuron; Rafael Moneo; Kenzo Tange; Foster + Partners; Cesar Pelli; Rafael Viñoly; Kohn Pedersen Fox (KPF); Richard Meier; Zaha Hadid - New York Times

Steven Holl Prevails in Global Competitions: ...might not have nabbed this year's Pritzker Prize, like some predicted he would, but he is on a winning streak nonetheless with a series of high-profile competition wins. [slide show] - Architectural Record

The architecture of happiness: It will be great if one of our Filipino architects, who can stand side-by-side with the world's best, will be honored with the Pritzker recognition. Until then, it pays to look outward for beautiful, happiness-inspiring buildings as we delicately nurture our sense of place. -- Daniel Libeskind; Frank Gehry; Sejima/Nishizawa/SANAA- Manila Bulletin (Philippines)

Q+A: Building Better Healthcare: AIA officials discuss the potential impacts of the new reform bill...explaining everything from new taxes to architect-only insurance policies. - The Architect's Newspaper

T Design Spring 2010: Arch Sophisticate: A trophy house that Philip Johnson designed in the the 1960s has been meticulously restored, by Pilar Viladas; Jerusalem: Holy Land Hip - The ancient city faces a new chapter; Plot Twists: Three novel solutions to the urban garden; etc. - New York Times Style Magazine

Contract Honors Inspirations Award Winners with \$5,000 Grants: ...celebrates leadership in socially responsible design among commercial interior designers and architects. -- Cooper Carry; BeeDance; Trivers Associates; SERA Architects; The Bommarito Group [video, links]- Contract magazine

Call for entries: World Architecture Festival Awards; registration deadline: July 2- World Architecture Festival (WAF)

Call for entries: Beyond The Hive International Competition: sketch the ideal insect hotel, made out of recycled materials...shortlisted teams will then build their design in one of five public gardens...To coincide with the London Festival of Architecture this summer; deadline: May 7 - British Land / City of London

Call for entries: Naef Cella Toy International Competition; deadline: May 31 - Naef



-- David Chipperfield Architects: Neues Museum, Museum Island, Berlin, Germany
-- David Chipperfield Architects: New Entrance Building, James Simon Gallery, Berlin, Germany

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