

Today's News - Friday, April 30, 2010

- Arndt finds out what some starchitects are up to (or not) during this "global real estate implosion."
- Merrick cheers a new campaign to build 23 Maggie's Centers, "small, architecturally exquisite sanctuaries of care," and highlights inspiring examples from the past.
- Shanghai World Expo opens tomorrow: Minter on why the "\$46 billion hat-tip to the past makes perfect sense" (great World's Fair/Expo history) + NYT special World Expo report + design enthusiasts "waxing poetic" (all have great pix and links).
- Tischler tools around Stanford d.school and finds "every nook, cranny, and fungible wall system has been smartly designed to maximize collaboration."
- The eastern German spa town of Bad Frankenhausen has its own Leaning Tower (what's causing it is more than a bit worrisome - so says slide show).
- A good reason to head to Dallas next week if "landscape design tickles your pickle."
- Weekend diversions:
 - Kennicott is touched by "The Art of Gaman" in D.C. that showcases arts and crafts by Japanese in internment camps; it gives "texture to the improvised social life and bleak architecture of far-away, often dusty places."
 - In Berlin, "Housing in Vienna" offers a comprehensive overview of residential development from its beginnings up to the present.
 - Daniell is intrigued by Takehara exhibition in Tokyo that finally gives face to "a paradoxical figure in the Japanese architecture world: universally admired...yet largely ignored by the critical discourse."
 - In Manhattan, Iovine digs a show about "richest dirt on Earth" at the Skyscraper Museum; and Freudenheim finds that "Modern Art, Sacred Space" at the Jewish Museum "raises more questions than it answers."
 - Rawsthorn says Grudin's "Design and Truth" points out designers who were and weren't true to themselves; his "take on design is enjoyable and eclectic, if a tad old-fashioned."
 - Weber's "The Bauhaus Group" fosters "an appreciation of the lengths these dreamers would go to for their art while prompting the wonder of where our next generation of dreamers might come from."
 - An eyeful of "London At Night" - from the air (some truly amazing shots).
 - Cotton's "Princeton Modern" highlights the post-1950s architecture on the Princeton University campus.
 - Two Wright books just right for kids (dachshund included - we kid you not).

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Hard Times for Star Architects: The global real estate implosion killed off scores of their designs, some of which are still hibernating and many of which will never be built. By Michael Arndt -- Daniel Libeskind; Gensler; Perkins+Will; HOK; Foster + Partners; Frank Gehry; Calatrava; Zaha Hadid - Bloomberg/BusinessWeek

An architectural design for life: Can architecture improve cancer survival rates? A new campaign to design and build 23 Maggie's Centres says beautiful buildings do make a difference...small, architecturally exquisite sanctuaries of care, designed for no fee by some of the world's most famous architects. By Jay Merrick -- Charles Jencks; Richard Murphy (1996); Zaha Hadid; Frank Gehry; Rogers Stirk Harbour; Edward Cullinan; Rem Koolhaas; Kisho Kurokawa; Alvar Aalto; Berthold Lubetkin/Tecton; Gpy Architectos; Josef Hoffman [slide show] - Independent (UK)

China Rules the World at Expo 2010: ...in Shanghai, where the future is an obsession, this reported \$46 billion hat-tip to the past makes perfect sense...organizers view the six month event as nothing less than Shanghai's coronation as the next great world city. By Adam Minter -- Ralph Miller & Associates; John Körmeling; Paper Team; Haim Dotan; Buchner Bründler; Foster + Partners; Thomas Heatherwick; Clive Grout [slide show, links] - The Atlantic

Expo Offers Shanghai a Turn in the Spotlight: China has spent more to mount an elaborate World Expo than it did on the 2008 Olympics...preparations have not been without embarrassing moments + Shanghai Puts on a Green Face + Using Nature and Waste for Walls and Ceilings -- Atelier Feichang Jianzhu; Giampaolo Imbrighi; Buchner Bründler Architekten [images, links] - New York Times

Dream Weavers: Shanghai World Expo kicks off...design enthusiasts are taking notice, waxing poetic about Thomas Heatherwick's hedgehog-esque British pavilion, deconstructing Bjarke Ingels Group's [BIG] Little Mermaid cocoon for the Danes...Another enticing design that has received less notice so far: the Shanghai Corporate Pavilion [by] ESI Design. images, links] - Metropolis Magazine

Stanford d.school Proves You Really Can Design a Space for Innovation: ...every nook, cranny, and fungible wall system has been smartly designed to maximize collaboration. By Linda Tischler [images, links] - Fast Company

The Leaning Tower of Bad Frankenhausen: A church steeple in the eastern German spa town is slanted at an impressive angle. But it could disappear soon because no one knows what will happen to the subsiding earth beneath it and rescue efforts have fallen short. [slide show] - Der Spiegel (Germany)

Landscape On The Range: ...if landscape design tickles your pickle then you might want to hightail it down to the Lone Star State..."Landscapes For Living: Post War Years In Texas," a symposium on modern landscape architecture in Texas at the Dallas Museum of Fine Art...May 6 to 8 -- Cultural Landscape Foundation; Charles Birnbaum; Mark Gunderson; Laurie Olin; Doug Reed; Fritz Steiner; ;Frank Welch; Arthur and Marie Burger; Lawrence Halprin; Philip Johnson; Dan Kiley [images] - The Architect's Newspaper

"The Art of Gaman": Life behind walls we were too scared to live without...A showcase of arts and crafts created by the Japanese kept in

internment camps during World War II at the Renwick Gallery...give texture to the improvised social life and bleak architecture of...far-away, often dusty places. By Philip Kennicott- Washington Post

"Housing in Vienna - Wiener Wohnbau: innovative. social. ecological.": ...a comprehensive overview of residential development in Vienna – from its beginnings up to the present...May 5 – June 10 -- Baumschlager Eberle Architects; Dietrich/Untertrifaller; Hubert Riess; Kaufmann/Kaufmann; Jean Nouvel; Coop Himmelblau; Wehdorn Architects; Artec; Pool Architects; Delugan Meissl; Walter Stelzhammer- Architecture Forum Aedes (Berlin)

"Yoshiji Takehara, Just as it is" at Tokyo's Gallery MA: ...staunch combination of reticence and conviction that has made him such a paradoxical figure in the Japanese architecture world: universally admired...yet largely ignored by the critical discourse. The buildings speak for themselves. By Thomas Daniell -- Moo Architect Workshop [images]- Artscape (Japan)

Wall Street: The Richest Dirt on Earth: A new exhibit at the Skyscraper Museum, "The Rise of Wall Street," shows that there is nothing abstract about how monetary might has expressed itself along Wall Street for centuries...In terms of physical grandeur, this may be Wall Street's finest and final hour. By Julie V. Iovine- Wall Street Journal

Abstraction in the Synagogue: In one extraordinary exhibition, viewers may catch a glimpse of the 1950s New York art world, postwar American architecture, suburban demographic trends..."Modern Art, Sacred Space"...raises more questions than it answers. -- Peter Blake; Erich Mendelsohn; Philip Johnson; Frank Lloyd Wright; Minoru Yamasaki; Max Abramovitz; Walter Gropius; Louis Kahn; Percival Goodman- Wall Street Journal

Heroes and Villains in the Pantheon of Design: Robert Grudin...argues in "Design and Truth" that designers need to be true to themselves by, in part, pointing out those who were and those who weren't...Along the way, [he] finds examples of honest design...[his] take on design is enjoyable and eclectic, if a tad old-fashioned. By Alice Rawsthorn -- Minoru Yamasaki; Charles Eames- New York Times

Politics and personality in art: "The Bauhaus Group: Six Masters of Modernism" by Nicholas Fox Weber...While sometimes indulgently overlooking the frailties and egos of his favorite personalities...fosters an appreciation of the lengths these dreamers would go to for their art while prompting the wonder of where our next generation of dreamers might come from.- Washington Times

"London At Night": aerial photographs by Jason Hawkes [slide show]- Telegraph (UK)

"Princeton Modern: Highlights of Campus Architecture from the 1960s to the Present" by Dale Cotton offers walking tour of post-'50s architecture on the Princeton University campus..."the best architectural account of our current campus that I have seen," said Jon Hlaffer... -- Cesar Pell; Frank Gehry; Rafael Viñoly; Venturi Rauch and Scott Brown; Frederick Fisher; Hillier Group; Davis Brody and Associates [images]- Princeton News

The Wright book for kids: In many ways, the story of Frank Lloyd Wright's life is a very grown-up tale. Yet in many other ways...the famed architect's life story is perfect for children..."Frank Lloyd Wright and His New American Architecture" by Bob Kann...for middle school-aged children.- 77 Square (Wisconsin)

"Moxie: The Dachshund of Fallingwater" by Cara Armstrong shows Fallingwater from a dog's point of view..."It's a wonderful way for children to learn about Fallingwater and develop an early appreciation for architecture." -- Frank Lloyd Wright- Pittsburgh Tribune-Review

Book Review: Sage Architectural Reflections from Architecture's "Athena": Denise Scott Brown's "Having Words" distills a lifetime of theorizing and practice into practical and succinct guidance for thriving through difficult times...trace a trenchant trajectory of learning from Las Vegas to learning from everything. By Norman Weinstein- ArchNewsNow



Dominique Perrault: Olympic Tennis Center, Madrid, Spain

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