Today’s News - Friday, May 7, 2010

- A note from Denise Scott Brown alerted us to the National Park Service's proposed alterations to Philly's Franklin Court (Venturi and Rauch, 1976), her letter objecting to some of them - and request for public comment so "lovers of this project can weigh in on the proposed changes - there is little time."
- Hume on Deutsche Bank HQ's LEED Platinum makeover in Frankfurt: "the complex has nothing to recommend it architecturally, but as an example of corporate enlightenment, it stands tall."  
- Just how did FXFowle win SAP Americas HQ LEED Silver expansion? They asked "What about going for Platinum?"  
- Housey's 10 green building trends for the next decade (#10: "Death to starchitecture").  
- A proposed EPA fly-ash ban could stunt use of green materials.  
- Better news: silent, fully enclosed, bladeless wind turbines are on the way (good news for birds - and the rest of us).  
- Kamin on two of Chicago's urban plazas: one "merits a big thumbs up," the other "a Bronx cheer."  
- Sanders' oh-so thoughtful essay on John Lindsay's "gift for bringing a spirit of joy and "fun" to New York" (sometimes successful, sometimes not) - movies and art, parks and pedestrians included.  
- Oklahoma City digs out its massive 1964 Pei Plan model - and why it "was despised by the city's locals and outdated in the end."  
- Berlin's new Topography of Terror documentation center's "modest metallic gray building is deliberately sparse and functional" ([great slide show]).  
- More on SOM's 5th Ave. campus center for The New School - this time with lots of pix.  
- Despite the bad economy, SF Jazz is "making waves with a bold proposal for a historic expansion" in San Francisco.  
- Rose on Maggie's Centres: "uplifting buildings benefit both body and soul. But are they just an architectural placebo?" ([terrific slide show]).  
- 2nd Annual Architect 50: who leads the pack in terms of profitability, design, and commitment to green (metrics make for some surprises).  
- Call for entries: 7th Annual International AL Light & Architecture Awards (deadline looms!).  
- Weekend diversions:  
  - Iovine tours the Richard Meier Model Museum (it reopens for the season today) with the man himself: "You can see what a lousy model maker I was back then."  
  - UB architecture students go over the top with "The Living Wall" (great video).  
  - Jencks and Heathcote's "The Architecture of Hope" shows off Maggie's Centres' starchitecture, but "most interestingly, however, it shows how much architecture can influence the way people feel."  
  - Bayley's "Liverpool: Shaping the City" charts the city's up's and down's through its buildings.  
  - "Havana Revisited: An Architectural Heritage" is "marvelous."  
  - "Velo: Bicycle Culture and Design" celebrates bicycles as a way of life and icon of modern design.  
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Rehabilitation of Benjamin Franklin Life & Legacy Museum, Philadelphia: Letter of comment from Venturi Scott Brown objecting to some of proposed alterations + Invitation for public comment: deadline: May 15 -- Venturi and Rauch (1976); Quinn Evans Architects - National Park Service

Green and iconic, German bank towers rise above the rest: The Deutsche Bank towers in Frankfurt will be the first renovated skyscrapers to achieve LEED platinum rating...The twin-towered complex has nothing to recommend it architecturally, but as an example of corporate enlightenment, it stands tall. By Christopher Hume -- Toronto Star

SAP Americas Headquarters Expansion: The RFP for the 210,000-square-foot building in Newtown Square, Pa...included a requirement for LEED Silver compliance. One of the reasons SAP chose FXFOWLE Architects was that the firm said: What about going for Platinum? [slide show]-- Architect Magazine

10 for '20: Ten building trends for the next decade: Now that sustainability, at least in some baseline form, is standard practice for the building industry, what's next? By Lance Hosey-- Architect Magazine

Pain in the Ash: EPA fly-ash ban could stunt use of green materials...would designate fly ash and other coal combustion byproducts as hazardous waste...Though the spirit of the law may be to prevent more toxic spills, stakeholders worry that the letter of the law could turn fly ash into a material with the same reputation as asbestos or lead paint...-- The Architect's Newspaper

- Virtualy silent, fully enclosed, bladeless wind turbines on the way: ...patented by Solar Aero, a New Hampshire based not-for-profit scientific research organization. Modeled on the 1913 Tesla steam turbine, the Fuller turbine...avoids many of the drawbacks of bladed turbines such as noise, radar interference, visual pollution and wildlife injuries. - Gizmag (Australia)

- A tale of two urban plazas: Trump's merits a big thumbs up; the Wrigley Building's, a Bronx cheer. By Blair Kamin -- Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Adrian Smith; Peter Schaudt/Hoerr Schaudt. Landscape Architects; L.R. Solomon/J.D. Cordwell & Associates (1957) [images, slide show]-- Chicago Tribune

Adventure Playground: John V. Lindsay and the Transformation of Modern New York. The desire to actively enjoy the existing landscape of the city...was no longer the private, somewhat suspect pleasure of a few eccentric individuals...but had come to be societally approved and officially supported. By James Sanders -- Robert Moses; Richard Dattner; Van Ginkel Associates [images]-- Places Journal

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Downtown Oklahoma City's plan revisited: Model of architect I.M. Pei's 1964 plan for Oklahoma City core to be displayed at Cox Center...included the demolition of more than 500 buildings, was despised by the city's locals and outdated in the end, and met its...
Yesterday's News

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