

Today's News - Thursday, May 13, 2010

- As the world spills oil, blood, and cash, Chakrabarti asks the ultimate question "Do we matter to ourselves?"
- Leinberger explains how a network of privately funded rail lines could save the housing industry, revive the economy, and help meet the booming demand for walkable neighborhoods.
- If we confront our collective denial concerning climate change, "there is much reason to believe that human civilization can still be saved."
- Moving Towards a Green Economy Part 3 looks at Philadelphia's \$1.6 billion Green Infrastructure Plan.
- A look at the U.S. Department of Education's Promise Neighborhoods grant program to implement cradle-to-career services for students in distressed neighborhoods (applications due June 25).
- "Sprawlanta" video sets the stage for CNU's New Urbanism: Rx for Healthy Places conference in Atlanta next week.
- Szenasy is "saddened no end" by Gehry's derogatory remarks about green design.
- More on Beijing's plans for the now-trendy Gulou neighborhood: conservationists thought its hutongs were protected, but now fear "the project will wind up as another soulless imitation of Western consumerism in the form of a bogus Old Peking theme park" + Gulou defenders form rescue plan (if you haven't already, be sure to read yesterday's first post).
- Stockholm's new photography museum: is "a triumph of historic preservation" (but ABBA fans disappointed).
- High Museum and 306090 to present American Pavilion at 2010 Venice Biennale, spotlighting "projects with a focus on research and social engagement" (an impressive list it is).
- An architect who came in second challenges a bid winner because it failed to credit other firms for projects it presented in RFQ.
- NYC's Storefront for Art and Architecture names Spanish architect Eva Franch as director.
- Kevin Spacey has big plans for disused spaces underneath London's Waterloo station.
- Big plans for abandoned trolley station underneath Washington, DC's Dupont Circle + the official RFP for its redevelopment.
- Winners all: ReSource: 2010 Architectural League Prize for Young Architects and Designers; and an eyeful of the 2010 Buckminster Fuller Challenge finalists (great presentation).

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Spill, Baby, Spill: Given that New Delhi, not New York, has converted its entire bus, taxi and rickshaw fleet to compressed natural gas, is a Honda Insight in a huge suburban garage really that insightful? ...as we feed our cravings by pouring money into roads instead of rails, care instead of prevention, and oil wars instead of renewable resources, we finally arrive at the gaping sprawl of our deficit. By Vishan Chakrabarti-Urban Omnibus

Here Comes the Neighborhood: Private rail networks could save the housing industry, revive the economy, and help meet the booming demand for walkable neighborhoods. History offers plenty of encouragement. By Christopher B. Leinberger - The Atlantic

American Psychosis: We've got to confront our collective denial concerning climate change...if a new 'human movement' working beside today's environmentalists can help more people see that we are the first adults in history to pose the single greatest threat facing our children, there is much reason to believe that human civilization can still be saved." -- Bill McKibben; 350.org - Utne Reader

Moving Towards a Green Economy Part 3: Philadelphia's Cutting-edge \$1.6 billion Green Infrastructure Plan: ...the city is calling for a triple-bottom line approach, aiming for: more green spaces, improved public health, and more green jobs. - The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

A Promise Worth Keeping: Willy Staley speaks with PolicyLink President Judith Bell about the Department of Education's Promise Neighborhoods program...\$10 million in competitive grants...to plan for "the implementation of cradle-to-career services designed to improve educational outcomes for students in distressed neighborhoods"...Applications are due on June 25- Next American City

"Sprawlanta" Video Sets Stage for Game-Changing Atlanta Conference: Experts across disciplines to explore sprawl solutions...American Makeover explores the benefits of a real-life implementation of Atlanta's Glenwood Park, a walkable neighborhood of homes, offices, shops and restaurants built on a post-industrial brownfield. [video]- Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU)

You Are So Wrong, Frank Gehry! ...[his] derogatory remarks about green design...cavalierly called out LEED ratings...as "political" and "bogus"...What if...the stars of architecture admitted that great architecture could also be kind to people and the environment? Would such an act of involvement diminish their star status? I don't think so. By Susan S. Szenasy - Metropolis Magazine

"Untouchable" area of old Beijing under threat: ...demolition of traditional hutongs surrounding the capital's Drum and Bell Towers...to make way for a controversial "Beijing Time Cultural City" development...Conservationists had thought hutongs...were protected by cultural preservation orders...But Gulou has become trendy...fear that the area will suffer the fate of the formerly bustling Qianmen street...replaced with a lifeless Qing-dynasty pastiche... -- Michael Aldrich - Xinhua News (China)

Gulou defenders form rescue plan: ... new roundtable discussion would be the first in a series of international seminars...Plans to redevelop area befitting a tourist attraction, including an underground museum, mall and parking complex...demolish existing Drum and Bell Tower area structures to make way for two public squares. Other parts of the

area will be remodeled to resemble recreations of the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) dynasties. - Global Times (China)

ABBA Fans Shed a Tear for Stockholm's New Photography Museum: Fotografiska spring from the shell of an early 20th-century pier building, a triumph of historic preservation... By Suzanne LaBarre -- Ferdinand Boberg (1910); AIX [images]- Fast Company

High Museum Selected to Present American Pavilion at 2010 Venice Biennale: ...co-organizer 306090...to present the exhibition "Workshopping: An American Model of Architectural Practice"...explores the role of the trans-disciplinary collaborations in architecture, spotlighting seven architecture projects with a focus on research and social engagement. -- Archeworks; cityLAB at UCLA/AUD/Roger Sherman Architecture; Hood Design Studio; MOS; Anthony Fontenot/Guy Nordenson/Catherine Seavitt; John Portman; Terreform/Michael Sorkin- ArtDaily.org

Architect claims bid winner on rec center didn't credit other firms: ...a violation of the American Institute of Architects' professional practices code...asking city officials to grant his firm the bid as the runnerup, or hold another competitive process for new bids. -- Gould Evans; Wannemacher Jensen Architects - St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

No Vacancy at Storefront: Spanish architect Eva Franch to lead famed New York architecture center...takes over from Joseph Grima, who departed earlier this year to take up a new position with Domus magazine... -- Storefront for Art and Architecture; OOA/Office of Architecture Affairs - The Architect's Newspaper

London's Old Vic to show art in labyrinthine tunnels: The theatre run by actor Kevin Spacey plans to hold screenings, performances and exhibitions in the disused spaces beneath Waterloo station- The Art Newspaper (UK)

Tunnel Vision: D.C. trolley station seeks new life as art gallery underneath Dupont Circle: Dupont Underground's campaigning finally swayed the D.C. city government. -- Julian Hunt/Hunt Laudi Studio [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Call for entries/Request for Proposals/RFP: Redevelop The Historic Dupont Trolley Station
Dupont Circle, Washington DC; deadline: June 3- District of Columbia Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development

ReSource: 2010 Architectural League Prize for Young Architects and Designers (formerly Young Architects Forum) -- Austin+Mergold; Bittertang; FAR frohn&rojas; Abruzzo Bodziak Architects; ESKYIU; PEG office of landscape + architecture- Architectural League of New York

2010 Buckminster Fuller Challenge Finalists: ...advanced from a pool of 215 entries... -- UrbanLabs; BK Farmyards; Barefoot College; Living Building Institute; Africa Centre For Holistic Management; Watery Greenhouse [links to images, info]- Buckminster Fuller Institute



Exhibition: "Feelings are facts": Olafur Eliasson & Ma Yansong, Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA), Beijing, China

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