Today's News - Thursday, October 14, 2010

- Zumthor tapped to tackle 2011 Serpentine Gallery ("design folk probably won't be too bothered by the rule-bending").
- Speck offers up the 10 Worst Things About Suburban Sprawl: "It's a good time to step back and remind ourselves what we're still up against" (great slide show essay with some most amusing captions).
- Boulton calls for architects to lead urban growth: "It is our civic duty to engage the realms outside of our day-to-day firm operations and help guide the evolution of the places we live in. What better way to assert that Architecture Matters."
- Q&A with BSA President Chan: he has "distinct views of what a city should be and what his profession can accomplish."
- Q&A with Van Valkenburgh re: "ecological urbanism" and "landscape urbanism," terms that are very important to what he calls "the emancipation of landscape architecture."
- Beha and Gensler team to develop New England Conservatory's Campus Master Plan.
- More details on UNESCO's plan to conserve Hassan Fathy's New Gourna village (great pix).
- Bahrain's Saar Central is completed, with 82 villas "ranging from simply elegant to modern to luxurious."
- It's being called the "bonfire of the quangos" as the U.K. axes and reorganizes hundreds of them (CABE is safe - so far).
- City Gallery Prague completes renovations on an artist's home, now open to the public again.
- LaBarre on "I-am-kind-of-an-ET" designer's first foray into architecture: a quirky eco-retreat "from the queen of quirk herself."
- Foster rebuilds Bucky's Dymaxion car - this becomes #4 (great images and links).
- City Gallery Prague completes renovations on an artist's home, now open to the public again.
- More details on UNESCO's plan to conserve Hassan Fathy's New Gourna village (great pix).
Saar Central construction completed: ...offers a mix of 82 villas of varied size and appointment, ranging from simply elegant to luxurious at the popular Saar area of Bahrain. -- Baker Wilkins & Smith; Modern Architect-TradeArabia Business News

Cabe’s future still uncertain as quango cull kicks off: Cabe, the Homes & Communities Agency and English Heritage have survived the first bonfire of the quangos – in part...The Design Council is to become a charity...will cost thousands of public sector workers their jobs...The cost of winding up the quangos is likely to run into hundreds of millions of pounds. -- Paul Finch-BD/Building Design (UK)

A talking house: The former residence of artist František Bílek is again open to the public...City Gallery Prague has completed its renovations on artist’s home, which he designed and built himself..."you would not find many of this type of building in Hradcany," -- Zdeněk Lukeš [images]- The Prague Post

An Experimental (and Faintly Cultish) Eco-Lodge Rises in Africa: Matali "I-am-kind-of-an-ET" Crasset’s first foray into architecture is every bit as otherworldly as the designer herself...a quirky "eco-retreat" is rising from the queen of quirk herself...Matali Crasset...The Dar HI lodge in the tiny village of Nafta, Tunisia, is a sort of spa-cum-walled city... By Suzanne LaBarre [images, links]- Fast Company

Norman Foster rebuilds Bucky Fuller’s Dymaxion car: ...as part of a Madrid retrospective on Buckminster Fuller’s work...Fuller’s collaborator for 12 years has rebuilt his hero’s Dymaxion car. -- Foster + Partners [images, video, links]- Gizmag (Australia)

Restoration of the century - the winners: ...judges were unusually sorry to have to choose their winners. In large part, this was because visiting the 15 shortlisted properties across the five regions of England was so inspiring. [images]- Country Life Magazine (UK)


Flex Space: AECOM Design + Planning has a New York office that's as flexible as its corporate style - and LEED Gold to boot. -- Michielli + Wyetzner Architects [images]- ArchNewsNow

Renzo Piano Building Workshop: Resnick Pavilion, LACMA Expansion - Phase II, Los Angeles