Today's News - Monday, October 25, 2010

- ArcSpace brings us an eyeful of BIG's 8 House in Copenhagen: it's "a three-dimensional neighborhood rather than an architectural object."
- Move over Burj Khalifa: CTBUH names a brand new, 23-story "rusting" tower in Leeds as best tall building in the world.
- Hawthorne on the growing disconnect between cheerleaders for and opponents to L.A.'s attempt to be a better connected city.
- Belfast taps Grimshaw to come up with a big plan to connect its harbor to the city center.
- Kennicott x 2: D.C. should follow Arena Stage's lead in redeveloping the area: despite "good urban design principles in much of this new development, the architectural quality of almost all these new buildings is desultory - Bing Thom's new building demands better neighbors"..."There is now a new context for everything that happens near the "brilliant" Arena: the "standard Washington mixed-use, glass-and-faux-stone box" will just not do anymore.
- Moore bemoans the slow disappearance of Samara on the Volga: it could still be "a Russian San Francisco. But it is heading rapidly towards being an assembly of developers' junk"..."The architects don't seem to understand the historic significance of the Barnes (he's seriously ticked).
- Klein takes a hard-hat tour of the new Barnes with Williams and Tsien: with a program shaped by a court decision, the architects "actually had to read the judge's decree" and agree to the project constraints (though perhaps they're not?).
- Campbell gives (mostly) high grades to "one of the most impressive schools I've ever visited"...what a school looks like from the street isn't what matters..."{The architects don't seem to understand the historic significance of the Barnes (he's seriously ticked).
- Corbu + Chandigarh x 2: storm clouds continue to swirl over the loss of his and Jeanneret's furnishings and fixtures to foreign auctions and unreturned drawings and blueprints.
- Kennicott cheers AIA's plans for a new public outreach space, but is the winning design "really the best idea that came out of the competition?"
- WOHA Architects win Singapore prize for Emergent Architecture in Asia.
- Shibley takes the reins as dean of the University at Buffalo School of Architecture and Planning.

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BIG: 8 House, Copenhagen, Denmark: "...a three-dimensional neighborhood rather than an architectural object." – Bjarke Ingels Group

The rusting Leeds tower block that has put the world's tallest building in the shade to scoop architecture prize: Broadcasting Place - with its "love it or hate it" distinctive structure - has walked off with world's best tall building award [from] the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat (CTBUH). - Felden Clegg Bradley Studios [Images]; Daily Mail (UK)

There's a growing disconnect on a better-connected L.A.: The movement for more mass transit meets constant resistance from opponents who view projects through a narrow, car-centric lens. Just look at the Purple Line subway debate. - Christopher Hawthorne -- Los Angeles Times

As it redevelops Southwest, the District should follow the lead of Arena Stage: It is an aesthetic and intellectual challenge to the city and developers to do better than they have done in the past...Despite the incorporation of good urban design principles in much of this new development, the architectural quality of almost all these new buildings is desultory...Bing Thom's new building demands better neighbors. By Philip Kennicott - Washington Post

The Barnes in a New Light: As an architectural commission, the Barnes is controversial and unusually challenging, with a program shaped by a December 2004 court decision. "We actually had to read the judge's decree" and agree to the project constraints..."Our general mantra is to simplify and intensify...One of the things that may be controversial is detailing that is more contemporary." - By Julia M. Klein -- Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects

Zaha Hadid Builds on Garbage-Truck Site, Likes Being Outsider: I ask if Brixton's Evelyn Grace Academy and the Stirling seem like a U.K. breakthrough. "Not particularly," she says. "I still feel I'm on the outside - but that could be a good place to be." - Bloomberg News

Mostly high grades for Newton North High School: Interior is bright and inventive, but exterior lacks a singular identity...one of the most impressive schools I've ever visited...what a school looks like from the street isn't what matters
Design heritage of Le Corbusier's Indian vision is carved up for sale. Amid India's high-speed transformation into a world power, the purpose-built furniture that once filled Chandigarh's chic public spaces is being systematically sold off in the auction rooms of London, New York and Paris. -- Pierre Jeanneret - Independent (UK)

Kiran Joshi hasn't given heritage items back to UT [Union Territory]? The picture is nowhere near pretty for a former senior professor of Chandigarh College of Architecture and some senior designers from City Beautiful who haven't yet returned heritage drawings and blueprints...prepared by Le Corbusier to the UT department of urban planning...The issue of heritage theft and auctions has left Joshi and the first city chief architect MN Sharma at loggerheads with each other. -- Pierre Jeanneret - Times of India

AAADC releases winning design: Is this really the best idea that came out of the competition?...Was there nothing submitted that might actually make a progressive statement about design in Washington?...It will do the job that is asked of it, will look professional and fit comfortably into its environment. But will it say anything? Just asking. By Philip Kennicott -- Hickok Cole-Washington Post

Two architects from S'pore-based firm win SIA-Getz Architecture Prize for Emergent Architecture in Asia -- Singapore Institute of Architecture; Wong Mun Summ/Richard Hassel/WOHA Architects [image, video]- Channel NewsAsia (Singapore)

Robert G. Shibley Named Dean of the School of Architecture and Planning: ...long-time faculty member and a lead developer of both the University at Buffalo and City of Buffalo's comprehensive plans...- University at Buffalo News

Book Review: "The Architecture of Patterns" by Paul Andersen and David Salomon...considers how the Modernist adage "form follows function" has stuck around in a whole new guise. By Ann Lui [images]- ArchNewsNow

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