

Today's News - Tuesday, November 2, 2010

- Soon to lose its claim to the tallest building in America, Chicago faces a "Second City moment"; meanwhile, CTBUH's top honor for a 23-story university building in Leeds, U.K. signals the "biggest is not necessarily best."
- Hong Kong pins high hopes - and bets really big bucks - on a new (and enormous) cultural district to make it one of the greatest cities in the world (great slide show of Foster, OMA, and Rocco designs).
- An in-depth look at "the productive potential of built surfaces" that can produce "not only usable things but also a new public realm...For the architect and landscape architect, the opportunity is ripe."
- Speaking of which, British Columbia can now lay claim to North America's largest living wall, a veritable living piece of art to boot.
- In Beirut, "the backlash against endless urbanization is gathering clout," as an architect calls for more public spaces instead of passing them over "for the pomp of boutique shops, towering offices and sky-rise hotels."
- Developing the capital of the Kyrgyz Republic is a good idea, but "what we are to see in reality?"
- An ode to the Glass House's "forgotten older brother" (it can be yours for a mere \$2 million, too!).
- The 2010/11 London Planning Awards has a shortlist of 24.
- Winners all (with pix): the Lisbon Architecture Triennale's "A House in Luanda: Patio & Pavilion" competition results + Singapore Institute of Architects' Skyrise Greenery Awards 2010.
- Good reasons to travel this month: Faith In The City: The Mosque in the Contemporary Urban West, a two-day (and timely) symposium in London + Greenbuild 2010 International Conference: "Generation Green: Redefining Our Future" in Chicago + Build Boston 2010: "Forward."
- Call for entries/applications: 2011 ULI/Gerald D. Hines Student Urban Design Competition (big cash prizes).
- We couldn't resist: buy art this week and support Architecture for Humanity.

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City's Skyscraper Title Is Going, Going ...: Chicago...soon will not be able to boast about having the tallest building in America...For now...the city's relevance in the skyscraper trade will be in a supporting role to projects elsewhere...CTBUH gave top honors to Broadcasting Place, a 23-story university housing facility in Leeds, England, signaling that in its eyes, at least, biggest is not necessarily best. -- William F. Baker/Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Lynn Osmond/Chicago Architecture Foundation; Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat - [New York Times](#)

High Hopes in Hong Kong: The Asian metropolis is spending \$2.8 billion to construct an enormous cultural district. The goal: to become one of the greatest cities in the world...West Kowloon Cultural District...will be Asia's largest cultural complex... -- Foster + Partners; Rem Koolhaas/Office for Metropolitan Architecture/OMA; Rocco Design Architects [slide show]- [Architectural Record](#)

The Productive Surface: ...architect Mason White illuminates a range of contemporary practices...to emphasize the productive potential of built surfaces...producing not only usable things but also "a new public realm...characterized not by whether it is urban, suburban or rural, but by whether it participates in the cultivation of its necessities, of its energy and food." -- Studio Lindfors; Ebenezer Howard; Patrick Geddes; Tony Garnier; CTRLZ Architectures; Buckminster Fuller; atelier eem; William McDonough + Partners [images]- [Places Journal](#)

North America's largest and most biologically diverse living wall completed: ...at the Semiahmoo Public Library and Royal Canadian Mounted Police Facility in Surrey, British Columbia...a unique design covering nearly 3,000 square feet (279 square meters) and consisting of over 10,000 individual plants. -- Green Over Grey [images]- [Gizmag \(Australia\)](#)

Architect Vladimir Djurovic calls for more public spaces in overly urbanized capital of Beirut: ...Solidere's "Square Four," better known as the Samir Kassir Memorial Garden...is a reminder that even in a city renown for its obsession with glamor, where public spaces have long been passed over for the pomp of boutique shops, towering offices and sky-rise hotels, the basic human need for gardens and places of rest remains undimmed. - [Daily Star \(Lebanon\)](#)

Viewpoint: Future slums: Sometimes...I discover such unforgettable places that make me wonder: is this the capital of our country?...They look like small abandoned boxes...And now come joyful news: town-planning council approved a sketch on development of the central part of Bishkek...The miniature of our future "city" presents us modern buildings. But what we are to see in reality? - 24.kg (Kyrgyzstan/Kyrgyz Republic)

It Started With the Booth House: The Glass House's forgotten older brother re-enters the architecture world...Phillip Johnson's first commissioned home was recently put on the market by architect Sirkka Damora...who lived there for 55 years...why was this modern archetype forgotten?...Perhaps [it] fell off the radar because Johnson made it better just three years later with his masterpiece. [images]- [Metropolis Magazine](#)

24 developments have been shortlisted for the 2010/11 London Planning Awards: Mayor of London Boris Johnson said..."I am particularly pleased to see the emphasis placed on improving our green and open public spaces..." -- dRMM Architects; Gensler; Levitt Bernstein; East Architecture; Pollard Thomas Edwards Architects; etc. - [PlanningResource \(UK\)](#)

"A House in Luanda: Patio & Pavilion" competition results -- Pedro Sousa/Tiago Ferreira/Tiago Coelho/Bárbara Silva/Madalena Madureira; Cristina Peres/Diogo Aguiar/Teresa Otto/Tiago Rebelo de Andrade; Pablo Allen Vizán; João Navas/Fernando Reis Martins/Filipe Zumáran/João Ribeiro da Fonseca/Eduardo Viana/Luís Leocádio [images]- Lisbon Architecture Triennale / Luanda Triennale

Skyrise Greenery Awards 2010: winners recognised for greening efforts in high-rise developments. -- Alexandra Health/Peridian Asia; DCA Architects/COEN Design International; BENT Architecture; Surbana International Consultants [images]- Singapore Institute of Architects (SIA) / National Parks Board

Faith In The City: The Mosque in the Contemporary Urban West: two-day symposium exploring the ways in which religious buildings - in particular the Mosque - shape, and are shaped by, the public life of contemporary western cities; keynote lecture by Michel Abboud/SOMA, consultant for New York's highly debated Park51 Community Centre; November 10-11- The Architecture Foundation (UK)

Greenbuild 2010 International Conference & Expo: "Generation Green: Redefining Our Future"; November 17-19, Chicago- U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC)

Build Boston 2010: "Forward": Now in its 26th year...regional convention and tradeshow with national recognition, participation, and influence; co-located with the 7th International Conference on Justice Design; November 17-19- Boston Society of Architects/BSA/AIA

Call for entries/applications: 2011 ULI/Gerald D. Hines Student Urban Design Competition; 9th annual competition open to graduate-level students in the U.S. and Canada; tackle a real land use challenge in a U.S. city; cash prizes: \$50,000/winning team, finalist teams \$10,000 each; deadline for applications: December 3- Urban Land Institute (ULI)

Support an Artist - and Architecture for Humanity: This week, The Working Proof is showcasing two prints by artists Erik Otto and Justin Richel, who both have designated AFH as their charity of choice to receive 20% of the sale of each print. [images, links]- [Architectural Record](#)

A Meditation on the Beauty of Zaha Hadid's Door Handle: Hadid's design issues a challenge: define beauty by lyrically playing with illusion. By [Norman Weinstein](#)- [ArchNewsNow](#)



-- [Richard Meier & Partners: Coffee Plaza, Hamburg, Germany](#)
-- [Atelier Jean Nouvel: Seguin Island, Paris, France](#)

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