• Forget smart growth vs. sprawl - new lines in the sand seem to be between New Urbanism vs. Landscape Urbanism:
  Duany vs Harvard GSD: he calls it a "coup completed in September" that "was a strategic masterpiece" (Szemeny asks: "is he just looking for a fight, or is there a constructive dialogue to be had here?").
  Meanwhile, Mehaffy questions whether Landscape Urbanism is just "sprawl in a pretty green dress."
  Beirut "politicizes" its "dirty, dangerous green inch" while Djurovic is doing the city's "dirty work by reclaiming every green inch possible" + a Q&A re: his cultural landscapes and the sad state of Lebanon's investments in restoring its public spaces.
  Controversy over new rule to limit glass on buildings in Abu Dhabi: to some, it will force architects to be more creative; for others, not so much.
  Huxtable minces no words about a landmarked Manhattan "jewel box" losing its interior gem in "a perverse form of preservation that begins with a profound misunderstanding" of a Bertoia sculpture's "function as an essential architectural element."
  Much better news re: "mindful preservation" that saved "a seminal work of early modernism" in the Netherlands, garnering the 2010 World Monuments Fund/Knoll Modernism Prize (great pix, slide show!).
  Libleskind tapped to design Finland's second largest indoor arena; re: planning permission, deputy mayors, "We can always ask the court for permission to begin, if the complaints are not relevant" (check out link to slide show - seems there's a lot more planned than just an arena).
  Toronto names an impressive planning, design and compliance team for Athletes' Village for the 2015 Pan/Parapan American Games, and issues an RFQ to design, build and finance the project (deadline: October 31st).
  Brasat at his best dissecting "why ugly buildings get stupid names" with a tip o' the hat to Kieran Long, but London might not be the "world capital of buildings with derisive monikers" (check out Providence, RI: Ice Cube in Diapers, anyone?).
  Ai Weiwei claims the order to demolish his Shanghai studio "a trap," his architect hopes to stave of demolition.
  Per Duany's rant (above), an ode to the designers and caretakers of Harvard's own landscapes: "sustainable outdoor havens" that "make land into art."
  Call for entries: CNU 2011 Charter Awards (how timely considering today's lead stories).
  Yes, Halloween is over, but we couldn't resist an amazing eyeful of "Awesome Arch-O-Lanterns" that prove "Auto-CAD will never beat a good X-Acto knife" wielded by clever designers.
Call for entries: CNU 2011 Charter Awards: recognize outstanding design, development and policy achievements from around the world that embody CNU principles and expand our understanding of their role in transforming communities for the better; deadline: January 12, 2011 - Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU)

Spooky Starchitects: Scary Gehry and 15 Other Awesome Arch-O-Lanterns: Showing just how clever - and skilled! - good designers can be, Kyle May of Abrahams-May and Julia van den Hout of Steven Holl turned their favorite architects, from Mies to Gehry, Zaha to Zumthor, into Jack-O-Lanterns...Auto-CAD will never beat a good X-Acto knife, at least not on All Hallow’s Eve. By Matt Chaban [slide show] - New York Observer

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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