

Today's News - Friday, November 5, 2010

- Waldheim on "agrarian urbanism": "While much has been written about the implications of urban farming...little has been written about the potentially profound implications for the shape and structure of the city itself" (fits well with yesterday's two lead items).
- Meanwhile, a weed-choked sliver of land in the South Bronx is transformed into Farm School NYC: The New York City School of Urban Agriculture ("I don't know how my acrylic tips are going to feel about this").
- The British government cuts its ties to the £9 billion Thames Gateway project, handing it over to the mayor; it's either a "death blow" or it will "halt the relentless multiplication of development bodies in East London," depending on who's talking
- Kamin on Chicago mayor's "flip-flop" on preserving Michael Reese building: "the only winners are the politically connected wrecking companies."
- Woodman reflects on the Architect of the Year Awards 2010: "Beautiful bodies of work."
- San Diego Architectural Foundation hands out its annual Orchids & Onions awards: "accolades and finger waggings...point out models of superior design and missed opportunities."
- Weekend diversions:
 - "London Futures" shows city landmarks in an environment transformed by climate change, from rice fields in Parliament Square to Buckingham Palace "marooned" amidst a shantytown (incredible slide show).
 - George Marshall doesn't buy it: climate change "is not a reason to use sensationalist images and language" that "speaks all too well to real prejudices against immigrants 'swamping' British culture" (a most interesting read!).
 - Gehry launches his first solo exhibition in China, noting Beijing's future urban development provides an example to the rest of the world: "I hope it will do it right."
 - "Contemporary Architecture in Hamburg" gives Prague a "taste of the Teutonic."
 - Snøhetta curates "Nordic Models + Common Ground: Art and Design Unfolded" for Scandinavia House in New York.
 - L.A.'s A+D Museum celebrates the work of its founder Stephen Kanner with a retrospective exhibition (and a memorial service tonight).
 - Gwendolyn Wright reflects on the modern kitchen at MoMA's "Counter Space: Design and the Modern Kitchen."
 - NightGallery turns some of Washington's architectural wonders into giant projection screens for FotoWeek DC (sounds amazing).
 - Despite "a mediocre showing last year and a brawl with galleries," Sydney's annual "Sculpture by the Sea" bounces back in dramatic style - for the most part (great slide show).
 - ASLA's online exhibition "Designing Our Future: Sustainable Landscapes" takes stock at this moment in the profession; and a big thumbs-up for its educational section.
 - Daniell's take on (now closed) "U-30: Under 30 Architects" in Osaka: there's "an instructive comparison to be made with those architects who graduated 20 years earlier into another economic downturn."
 - Buntrock's "Materials and Meaning in Contemporary Japanese Architecture: Tradition and Today" is an "erudite and urbane work" that "confirms the fact that, despite the spluttering economy, there is no halt to creativity" (it's also very pricey!).
 - "Frank Lloyd Wright in Buffalo and Western New York" gives these architectural landmarks the recognition they deserve.

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[Notes Toward a History of Agrarian Urbanism: As environmental literacy among designers and scholars has grown, so too has enthusiasm for agricultural production in and around cities...While much has been written about the implications of urban farming...little has been written about the potentially profound implications for the shape and structure of the city itself. By Charles Waldheim -- Frank Lloyd Wright; Ludwig Hilberseimer; Andrea Branzi \[images\]- Places Journal](#)

[School brings farming to Big Apple: ...in a sliver of the South Bronx wedged between Metro-North Railroad tracks and a busy elevated highway...a pocket-sized farm called La Finca del Sur, Spanish for Farm of the South. The formerly weed-choked vacant lot will be a classroom for a new venture called Farm School NYC: The New York City School of Urban Agriculture. - Wall Street Journal](#)

[Coalition severs Gateway ties: The government has officially abandoned responsibility for the Thames Gateway project: The £9 billion drive to build 160,000 new homes on an 80,000 ha swathe of land was hailed as "the most ambitious regeneration in Europe"...a "death blow to... a coherent development..." - BD/Building Design \(UK\)](#)

[Daley's flip-flop on Michael Reese: The mayor breaks a promise \(surprise\) to save a major piece of architecture and medical history...the city's lack of action on Reese looks like a cynical, self-fulfilling prophecy: The building is crumbling \(because the city let it crumble\), so now the city has to tear it down...The only winners are the politically connected wrecking companies. By Blair Kamin -- Walter Gropius; Schmidt, Garden & Martin \(1907\) - Chicago Tribune](#)

[Architect of the Year Awards 2010: Beautiful bodies of work: ...recognise the practices responsible for the best overall arrays of projects in 12 different sectors as well as the most promising young architect. By Ellis Woodman -- DSDHA; Glenn Howells Architects; ORMS Architecture; Peter Barber Architects; Edward Cullinan Architects; Rick Mather Architects; Maccreean Lavington; David Kohn Architects; Dow Jones Architects; ID:SR/Sheppard Robson; Stephen Taylor Architects; Gross Max; Serie Architects \[images\]- BD/Building Design \(UK\)](#)

[Orchids & Onions awards: The good and bad in architecture, landscapes, design in 2010: UCSD wins the top award, port district gets the bottom...Accolades were mixed with finger waggings, the idea being to point out models of superior design and missed opportunities. -- San Diego Architectural Foundation; LMN Architects/Cyril Harris; Jonathon Segal; Studio E Architects; Leach Mounce Architects; Martinez + Cutri Architects; Cooper Roberts Simonsen Associates; Kevin deFreitas Architects/Manish Desai; Marcie Harris Landscape Architecture; Onairos Design/Michael Soriano; MPA Architects/Michael Palmer \[images\]- San Diego Union-Tribune](#)

[London Futures climate change exhibition: ...shows London landmarks in an environment transformed by climate change. From rice fields in Parliament Square to ice-skating on the Thames...by illustrators Robert Graves and Didier Madoc-Jones. \[slide show\]- Guardian \(UK\)](#)

[Fantasy images of climate migration will fuel existing prejudices: Climate change is not a reason to use sensationalist images and language that would be unacceptable in any other public exhibition...the greatest concern with this show is not that it parts with reality, but that it speaks all too well to real prejudices against immigrants "swamping" British culture. By George Marshall/Climate Outreach Information Network- Guardian \(UK\)](#)

[Sculpted buildings: Frank Gehry is happy designing the future, one building at a time: ...staging a solo exhibition in China for the first time. The exhibition, entitled "Frank Gehry Architect" at Sanlitun Village in Beijing...While noting that Beijing has evolved from an ancient city into a modern one, he said its future urban development provides an example to the rest of the world. "I hope it will do it right"... \[images\]- China Daily](#)

[A taste of the Teutonic: "Contemporary Architecture in Hamburg" featuring work from Hamburg brings contemporary inspiration to the Golden City...as part of the ongoing "Days of Hamburg in Prague" celebration proves, historical ties can also help lead to contemporary inspiration...through Dec. 5 -- Herzog & de Meuron; J. Mayer H \[images\]- The Prague Post](#)

["Nordic Models + Common Ground: Art and Design Unfolded": ...curated by Snøhetta offers a visionary look at contemporary](#)

Nordic art and design at Scandinavia House in New York -- Situ Studio; BIG (Bjarke Ingels Group; Bureau Detour; Anttinen Oiva Architects; David Salmela; Hollmén Reuter Sandman; JKMM Architects; NOW for Architecture & Urbanism Oy; Landslag; Atelier Oslo; BC Barindhaug; Helen and Hard; Jarmund-Vigsnæs; Jensen & Skodvin Arkitektkontor; Jorunn Sannes; Wingårdhs Design; etc. [images]- American-Scandinavian Foundation

Stephen Kanner's Many Talents on Display: LA's A+D Museum launches an exhibit celebrating the work of its founder...died this summer at age 54, a tragic loss for the LA architecture community...Many will be surprised by the depth of his talents...A memorial service will be held tonight. - The Architect's Newspaper

Making Do at MoMA's Kitchen Counter: Reflecting on the modern kitchen at MoMA's "Counter Space: Design and the Modern Kitchen" exhibition...reveals diverse cultural currents through a history of iconic kitchen objects by well-known designers... By Gwendolyn Wright -- Grete Schütte-Lihotzky [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

FotoWeek DC: Most of the art isn't on paper: NightGallery...a series of virtual outdoor galleries on city buildings whose facades are being commandeered as projection screens for a series of temporary digital slide shows Nov. 6-13 [slide show]- Washington Post

Signs of new life along the shore: After a mediocre showing last year and a brawl with commercial galleries, Sydney's annual "Sculpture by the Sea" sculpture fest bounces back in dramatic style...a huge improvement on its predecessor...a powerful reaffirmation of the vitality of the concept...until November 14 [slide show]- Sydney Morning Herald

Landscape Architecture for Dummies: "Designing Our Future: Sustainable Landscapes," a new online exhibition by the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)...to take stock at this moment in the profession...the more interesting part of the web site is actually the educational section. [images, links]- Metropolis Magazine

Seven Under Thirty: Last month the Art & Architect Festa (AAF) held "U-30: Under 30 Architects" exhibition...There is an instructive comparison to be made with those architects who graduated 20 years earlier into another economic downturn... By Thomas Daniell -- Kohki Hiranuma; Kikumi Furukawa; Yusuke Omuro (atelier Ichiku), Yusuke Fujita (Camp Design Inc.), Maki Onishi (onishimaki + hyakudayuki), Takashi Yonezawa (HAP + associates), Shuzo Okabe (upsetters architects), Shingo Masuda + Katsuhisa Otsubo, and Hiroshi Nishiyama + Keiko Okudaira (nishiyamahiroshiokudairakeiko) [images]- Artscape (Japan)

Those risky, robust, resplendent architects of Japan: "Materials and Meaning in Contemporary Japanese Architecture: Tradition and Today" by Dana Buntrock...erudite and urbane work, confirms the fact that, despite the spluttering economy, there is no halt to creativity. -- Terunobu Fujimori; Kengo Kuma; Itsuko Hasegawa; Hiroshi Naito; Ryoji Suzuki- Japan Times

"Frank Lloyd Wright in Buffalo and Western New York" by Jan Booth Sheridan gives these architectural landmarks the recognition they deserve...delves into the history behind local Wright structures, including Darwin D. Martin House Complex, the Larkin Administration Building and Derby's own Graycliff Estate. - The Sun (Hamburg, NY)



-- Richard Meier & Partners: Coffee Plaza, Hamburg, Germany
-- Atelier Jean Nouvel: Seguin Island, Paris, France

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