

Today's News - Wednesday, January 5, 2011

- Volner looks into Obama's building boom and whether it has a distinct style: "no one seems to be taking note of his diverse - and-oh-so-green - buildings program...pragmatic, discreet, efficient, innovative, forthright, and in the end - whatever its limitations - quite remarkable."
- As Oman (slowly) hops on the LEED bandwagon, a call to establish its own green rating system (eco-friendly architecture has been a part of the nation's culture for centuries).
- Q&A with ACANigeria president re: the invasion of foreign architecture and the rampant incidents of buildings collapse in the country.
- An architect wonders if we're heading towards another "era of losing talented, budding architects to other industries" (not a new trend, but some new twists).
- Libeskind reportedly to design the "starting-off point" for a planned bridge connecting mainland Italy to Sicily; needed now: a mere(!) 6.5 billion euros (we thought this project was long dead - environmentalists hope it is).
- Part of Versailles to become luxury hotel; some consider it "a pioneering initiative" to save the building; others are not so thrilled with "handing over of a chunk of treasured public heritage to a private operator."
- Among Chicagoans of the Year 2010: Gunny Harboe, who has helped restore some of Chicago's most iconic structures.
- A profile of Habib Fida Ali, "Pakistan's very own Mies van der Rohe."
- Filler at his most amusing best musing on "the name game": architectural firms and "nomenclature fads that now have reached an unprecedented degree of ridiculousness" (this had us laughing out loud - 'er - LOL).
- A "new twist on the humble escalator": new design lets them glide round corners.
- The 2010 AIA Architecture Firm Award winner goes through a name change of its own + other worthy award winners.
- Looming deadline reminders: 2011 AIA/COTE Top Ten Green Projects + 2011 Architectural Record Good Design is Good Business Awards + eVolo 2011 Skyscraper Competition.
- Call for entries: Contract 2011 INSPIRATIONS Awards recognizing social responsibility in commercial interiors.

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Obama's Building Boom: Will His Architecture Legacy Be as Lasting as FDR's? ...from courthouses to border entries, no one seems to be taking note of his diverse - and-oh-so-green - buildings program...It's a series of shared traits that might...constitute a distinct "Obama style" of its own: pragmatic, discreet, efficient, innovative, forthright, and in the end - whatever its limitations - quite remarkable. By Ian Volner -- Mack Scogin Merrill Elam Architects; NBBJ; Perkins+Will- The Daily Beast

A green statement: The push towards eco-friendly architecture may seem like a new concept in Oman, but architects point out that such architecture was already part of the nation's culture even centuries ago...aiming for more eco-friendly architecture needs a push from the government...Oman should establish its own rating system...Architects say...goal should not stop at just enhancing a brand or a corporate identity... -- Haitham al Busafi; Muhammad Sultan al Salmi/Hoehler & Partner- Business Today (Oman)

Why we are against influx of foreign architects: Q&A with Roti Delano re: the invasion of foreign architecture and the rampant incidents of buildings collapse in the country. -- Association of Consulting Architects of Nigeria (ACANigeria); Nigerian Institute of Architects (NIA); FMA/Femi Majekodunmi & Associates- Vanguard (Nigeria)

Lost Generation: Have we entered a new era of losing talented, budding architects to other industries?...how will this influence the practice of architecture?...gravitation of talent to the construction industry...can be seen as either a consequence or accelerator of the historical shift of building becoming a more contractor-driven, rather than designer-driven process, a trend that has been underway for at least the last 30 years. By Michael Liu/The Architectural Team- Metropolis Magazine

Daniel Libeskind to Style Messina Bridge Works: ...to design the starting-off point for a planned bridge connecting mainland Italy to Sicily across the Strait of Messina...will house hotels, a shopping mall, a convention centre and exhibition spaces...government has yet to nail down most of the 6.5 billion euros needed to build the bridge...opposed by environmentalists...- Life in Italy

Part of Versailles Palace to become luxury hotel: But the handing over of a chunk of treasured public heritage to a private operator is an unusual occurrence in France..."a pioneering initiative"...to save the building, which was "in a very dilapidated state" -- Jules Hardouin-Mansart (1680s); Frederic Didier- France 24

Chicagoans of the Year 2010: Gunny Harboe: ...has helped restore some of Chicago's most iconic structures, including the Rookery, the Mies van der Rohe apartments...and the Reliance and Marquette buildings. "Preserving our collective cultural heritage is important to society, particularly in Chicago, where it has international significance. We need to give it a life that will extend beyond us." - Chicago Magazine

The Maestro: Habib Fida Ali: ...recognised worldwide for his contributions to the field of modern minimalist architecture -- Pakistan's very own Mies van der Rohe...declares that he still has much further to go. With over 50 years of experience, he glows at the mention of new projects. [images]- Newline Magazine (Pakistan)

The Name Game: The biggest quandary facing some architects is the wording on the door...architectural firms endured nomenclature fads that now have reached an unprecedented degree of ridiculousness. By Martin Filler- Architectural Record

The Best American Architecture Firms: ...winner of the 2010 AIA Architecture Firm Award changes its name; next year's winners are announced...2011 AIA Gold Medal: Fumihiko Maki; AIA/ACSA Topaz Medallion: Lawrence W. Speck; Whitney M. Young Jr. Award: Sharon Egretta Sutton; Edward C. Kemper Award for Service to the Profession: Chester A. Widom/WWCOT -- Pugh + Scarpa; Brooks + Scarpa; Gwynne Pugh Urban Studio; BNIM- Metropolis Magazine

Professor unveils new twist on the humble escalator: Architects and developers queue up for a chance to install the Levytator -- the moving staircase which can glide round corners...named for its inventor, Jack Levy, professor of mechanical engineering at London's City University...- Independent (UK)

Deadline reminder: 2011 AIA/COTE Top Ten Green Projects; deadline: January 24- American Institute of Architects (AIA)

Deadline reminder: Call for entries: 2011 Architectural Record Good Design is Good Business Awards (formerly the Business Week/Architectural Record Awards); deadline: January 15 [pdf]- Architectural Record

Deadline reminder: Call for entries: eVolo 2011 Skyscraper Competition; cash prizes; late registration deadline: January 11- eVolo Magazine

Call for entries: Contract 2011 INSPIRATIONS Awards recognizing social responsibility in commercial interiors; cash

prizes; deadline: February 4- Contract magazine



[Michael Maltzan Architecture: New Carver Apartments, Los Angeles: ...explores how architecture can create new possibilities for its highly vulnerable, dramatically under-served residents...](#)

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