Today’s News - Thursday, January 6, 2011

- A fascinating - and really in-depth - "memento mori" to phantom highways "that were never built or that were built and later demolished" offering a history to help us "understand to what extent the car and the city can ever be reconciled."
- Hawthorne gives (mostly) thumbs-up to first images of Broad museum: "Although the design lacks the flair usually associated with Diller Scofidio + Renfro, the downtown L.A. project’s beauty and simplicity shine through..." Betsky asks whether Maki deserves the AIA Gold Medal: "I can often not make up my mind whether his designs are boring or delicious, and it is that hovering between the two that makes them so interesting."
- "What happens if you crossbreed the Copenhagen courtyard with the New York high-rise?" -- Bjarke Ingels Group/BIG's Ingels re: the challenges of designing housing in NYC: "What happens if you crossbreed the Copenhagen courtyard with the New York high-rise?" He muses: "Q&A with BIG's Ingels re: the challenges of designing housing in NYC: "What happens if you crossbreed the Copenhagen courtyard with the New York high-rise?""
- Betsky x 2: if Russia does it right, its version of a Silicon Valley could "be a model for how such instant Edge Cities might be developed around the world" + He muses about whether Maki deserves the AIA Gold Medal: "I can often not make up my mind whether his designs are boring or delicious, and it is that hovering between the two that makes them so interesting."
- Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County Going Glassy: CO Architects creates new face for revamping institution, thanks to major gift...The centerpiece of the new pavilion...will be the skeleton of a 63-foot-long fin whale, which will hang from the ceiling via steel cables. By Witold Rybczynski -- Venturi Scott Brown; Robert A.M. Stern; Niles Creative Group [images, video, links] - Slate
- "What happens if you crossbreed the Copenhagen courtyard with the New York high-rise?" -- Bjarke Ingels Group/BIG)
- The Really Big Screen: Video as an architectural element: The Comcast Experience is a kinetic version of the wall and ceiling frescoes that were common in the Renaissance...They are more like Veronese's domestic frescoes -- good-natured, quirky, and just plain fun. By Witold Rybczynski -- Venturi Scott Brown; Robert A.M. Stern; Niles Creative Group [images, video, links] - Slate
- Designing for a Dry World: As climate change exacerbates droughts, architects are focusing on water efficiency...With climate change expected to increase the length and severity of droughts...proponents of water-efficient design argue it will soon move from trendy to mandatory...one of the top reasons to be interested in reducing water use is the financial bottom line. -- Zimmer Gunsul Frasca/GZF Architects; Worrell Water Technologies; Living Machine links] - Sustainable Industries Journal
- Ambitious Plans: German University to Go Ahead with Controversial Daniel Libeskind Building: Lüneburg's university wants to reinvent itself as an elite academic institution and is looking to generate buzz...Student representatives have complained that it is "not practical"...Even local environmental activists are upset...[slide show] - Der Spiegel (Germany)
- A New Ark for Humanity: Floating Hotel Could Defy Rising Sea Levels: A new design by Russian architect Alexander Remizov challenges the tradition of land-based hotel living and would provide a refuge in the future...eco-friendly "Ark" could be constructed in just a few months anywhere in the world... -- resti�studio [slide show] - Der Spiegel (Germany)
- Does Maki Deserve the AIA Gold Medal? ...he is one of the most thoughtful and insightful architects I know....I can often not make up my mind whether his designs are boring or delicious, and it is that hovering between the two that makes them so interesting. By Aaron Betsky [images] - Architect Magazine
- A Danish Architect Brings His Mountain-Making Ideas to New York: Although Bjarke Ingels wasn't able to discuss the details of the project he is working on for the Durst Organization...he talked about the challenges of designing housing in New York and what New Yorkers can learn from the Danes..."What happens if you crossbreed the Copenhagen courtyard with the New York high-rise?" -- Bjarke Ingels Group/BIG)
- The 10 Smartest Cities on the Planet: Songdo, South Korea; Lavasa, India; Skolkovo, Russia; Maeser, UAE; Dubuque, Iowa; etc. By Greg Lindsay [slide show] - Fast Company
- Top 10 Homes for 2010 -- A-Cero; Durbach Block Architects; Zecc Architects/Thomas Haukes; Jensen & Skodvin Arkitekterkontor; Architectural Bureau G. Natkevicius & Partners; Institute of Advanced Architecture of Catalonia (IAAC); Ramón Esteve; grupoSP; Guz Architects [images] - International Business Times
- Rosas and raspberries for 2010: Dr. Downtown scans the horizon...in vain, or almost in vain, for reasons to be optimistic about the future of the beauty of Providence...forced to look outside of Providence to hand out coveted roses. By David Brussat -- Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Studio Providence; InFORM Studio; Robert A.M. Stern; Durkee Brown Viveros & Werenkils Architects; Centerbrook Architects [images] - Providence Journal (Rhode Island)
American Institute of Architects To Sponsor Haiti Rebuilding Conference: AIA Haiti/New Orleans Summit, January 13-14 (no charge) - American Institute of Architects (AIA)

Fred Goodwin steps back from role at RMJM: Practice admits it is not using his services due to "less demanding" workload..."we call on his services as required." - BD/Building Design (UK)

Call for entries: 2011 North American Copper in Architecture Awards to recognize and promote outstanding architectural applications of copper alloys in building design in Restoration/Renovation and New Construction projects in the U.S. or Canada; deadline: January 31 - Copper Development Association/Canadian Copper & Brass Development Association

Now in its 12 year, the Harbin Ice and Snow World display is gaining world renown for the spectacular ice sculptures and lighting. [slide show] - Vancouver Sun

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