

Today's News - Wednesday, January 12, 2011

- Rose visits Haiti and finds many reasons to balance reconstruction with repairing its architectural gems - and "one reconstruction project gives reason for hope."
- Architecture for Health In Vulnerable Environments announces Housing and Health in Haiti competition winners. Q&A with landscape architect Tim Duggan re: Make It Right Foundation's efforts "to re-conceive the role of landscape architecture in post-disaster rebuilding."
- Prince Charles wants to build an eco-friendly "utopia" for 15,000 with an Indian version of Poundbury, turning a "swathe of Indian wasteland on the outskirts of either Calcutta or Bangalore into a 'mini oasis in the desert'" (with inspiration from the shanty town in "Slumdog Millionaire" no less).
- Ouroussoff is none too kind to Broad museum: "there is something alluring about the design," but "early promise gets lost in a muddle of bad or careless decisions - and the city loses" (he's even less kind to its namesake "known as someone with a gift for getting the worst buildings from the most highly regarded talents" - a double ouch!).
- Hawthorne on Broad adding a "new wrinkle": while his desire for outdoor space for his Grand Avenue museum is a good one, it's left his architects (who want the job) and an alphabet soup of city agencies "scrambling": it's "unclear who will get that job - and precisely how the decision will be made." - Russell's rundown on 2011's "banner year" for new museums: H&delM's Miami Art Museum is "one of the few bravura 'destination' designs being built these days."
- Eisenman's City of Culture in Spain opens to cheers - and jeers.
- Rybczynski argues that "demand-side pressures have forged the shape of American cities, not the grand visions of designers" (do we really need "bold new models like Masdar City" when so much of today's cities work so well?).
- Residents of Robin Hood Gardens pick their favorite plan for redevelopment, but who knows when a decision will be made (at least preservationists are "heartened by delays to its proposed demolition").
- Lasky cheers on Denmark's Index Design Challenge 2010 international student competition finalists (we do, too!).
- Call for entries: Azure magazine 1st annual international AZ Awards + IFLA's Urban Boundaries international student competition.

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Haiti: rocked to its foundations: How can Haiti justify repairing its architectural gems when 1.5 million people are living in tents?...talk is no longer of emergency relief but of reconstruction - and the conspicuous lack of it...one reconstruction project gives reason for hope: the Iron Market in Port-au-Prince... By Steve Rose -- Michèle Pierre-Louis/Fokal; Randolph Langenbach; John McAslan - Guardian (UK)

Putting heads and hands together: Kay e Sante nan Ayiti/Housing and Health in Haiti winners announced...all working across disciplines to give a foundation of hope to the people of Saint-Marc, Haiti. These are the ideas that will help rebuild healthier lives. -- Anselmo Canfora/Michael Stoneking/etc.; Lilian Sherrard/Brook K. Sherrard; Marco Ferri/Sara Parlato/Roberto Pennachio/Andrea Tulisi/etc.; Gregory Canaras/Wayne Norbeck/Jordan Rogove; Henry Luis Oquet/Kenneth Lopez/Ariin Morales/Pedro Almonte [images] - ARCHIVE (Architecture for Health In Vulnerable Environments)

Interview with Tim Duggan, Make It Right Foundation: In addition to creating an affordable, sustainable, and safe set of homes...aims to re-conceive the role of landscape architecture in post-disaster rebuilding..."landscape architects have an uncanny ability to know the means to the end of a project and to assist and collaborate with all the folks that have historically not collaborated well." -- William McDonough + Partners; BNIM Architects; Walter Hood; /Siteworks Studio; Diane Jones [images, links] - The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

The Slumdog Millionaire: Prince Charles to build shanty town for 15,000 as an Indian version of Poundbury: ...an eco-friendly "utopia"...inspired by the shanty town in Slumdog Millionaire...will include schools, shops and 3,000 homes...plans to turn a 25-acre swathe of Indian wasteland on the outskirts of either Calcutta or Bangalore into a "mini oasis in the desert" -- Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment - Daily Mail (UK)

Not All Sweetness in a Honeycomb Museum: Many critical aspects of the design of the Broad Art Foundation miss the mark...important elements were either scrapped during the design process or never fully thought through, so that the overall impression is of a project that falls, with an unpleasant thud, well short of its potential...early promise gets lost in a muddle of bad or careless decisions - and the city loses. By Nicolai Ouroussoff -- Diller Scofidio + Renfro [images] - New York Times

Expanded plaza is a new wrinkle in Broad museum plan: Eli Broad's desire to have an outdoor space...has architects and agencies scrambling...while DS+R...is pushing hard to win the right to design the outdoor space, it's unclear who will get that job - and precisely how the decision will be made...a high-design architecture firm and a landscape office collaborating on plans for public outdoor space - is hardly something L.A.'s various development agencies and politicians are known for. By Christopher Hawthorne -- Diller, Scofidio + Renfro; Martha Welborne - Los Angeles Times

Eli Broad, Wal-Mart Heiress, Ubiquitous Piano Lead Museum Boom: While the recession brought a lull in a two-decade museum building boom, 2011 is looking like a banner year...Miami Art Museum...one of the few bravura "destination" designs being built these days. By James S. Russell -- Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Herzog & de Meuron; Snohetta; Moshe Safdie; Renzo Piano; Tod Williams Billie Tsien; David Chipperfield; Allied Works Architecture; Farshid Moussavi/Foreign Office Architects (FOA) - Bloomberg News

Spain's extravagant City of Culture opens amid criticism: Peter Eisenman's complex in Santiago de Compostela was commissioned during the boom, and has cost four times more than planned..."It is a cemetery for money"...Eisenman said..."The size of the project has been increased several times over the past 10 years, so it is not surprising that the costs have increased." - Guardian (UK)

Witold Rybczynski: Demand Creates Cities, Not Ideas: author of "Makeshift Metropolis: Ideas About Cities"...argued that "demand-side pressures have forged the shape of American cities, not the grand visions of designers"...warned against creating bold new models like Masdar, U.A.E, to address critical environmental issues when so much of today's cities work so well. - The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Robin Hood Gardens residents vote for HTA/Squire & Partners scheme...for the housing estate's redevelopment: Campaigners hoping to save Robin Hood Gardens will also be heartened by delays to its proposed demolition. -- Aedas/Jestic & Whiles/Glenn Howells [image] - BD/Building Design (UK)

Makeover at Grand Hyatt Sheds the Trump Glitter: ...the Pritzkers can be forgiven for wanting to exorcise traces of Trump from the hotel, which is undergoing a \$130 million renovation..."Everything gold and shiny is going"... Ny Fred A. Bernstein -- Bentel & Bentel; Looney & Associates - New York Times

Index Names Design Challenge 2010 Finalists: A collaboration with UNICEF, the challenge is an international student competition to support education in the developing world through innovative products and services. By Julie Lasky [link to images, info] - Design Observer

Call for entries: AZ Awards: 1st annual international competition celebrating excellence in Design, Architecture, Interiors, Concepts, Student; deadline: March 1 - Azure magazine (Canada)

Call for entries: Urban Boundaries international student competition for conceptual proposals that show urban boundaries can be positive transitional elements between the urban landscape and undeveloped land; cash prizes; deadline: March 26 - International Federation of Landscape Architecture (IFLA)

Q&A with James Anderson, LEED AP re: Low Impact Development: LID is an alternative, cost-effective method for those who want to be sensitive to sustainability, but lack the resources to pursue LEED certification. - ArchNewsNow

Book Review: "Cities for People" by Jan Gehl: Copenhagen's urban-space guru explains the principles, practices, and priorities that make cities more livable - beginning, but not ending, with dethroning King Car...He's clearly earned his increasing influence, which this masterful book will help spread and cement By Bill Millard - ArchNewsNow



-- Gwathmey Siegel & Associates: Teel Family Pavilion, Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, California
-- Reiser + Umemoto (RUR): Port and Cruise Service Center, Kaohsiung, Southern Taiwan, ROC

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