Today's News - Friday, January 14, 2011

- Weinstein tackles Thadani's "The Language of Towns & Cities: A Visual Dictionary": it is "vastly entertaining, endlessly provocative, and essential...No better visual dictionary pertaining to any facet of architecture and urbanism has ever been produced" (we think he likes it!).
- A "simmering row" to save RBA Trust could "escalate into civil war."
- King cheers a "stealth infill" project in Berkeley that "deserves study...every city where the need for housing outstrips the supply of obvious land."
- Edinburgh seems to have settled for a "boog standard" (ouch!) revamp of Haymarket station that "could be mistaken for a supermarket."
- Correa is "deeply disturbed" by Bangalore's gated communities: they're "a cause for grave concern. They need to be discouraged."
- Egyptian architect/author Hamid "would love nothing more than to see Egyptian architecture on the rise" (taking lessons from his mentor Fathy would be a good start).
- Ouroussoff finds himself landing in "a digital 3-D version of Oz" at the Museum of the Moving Image (that's a good thing).
- LaBarre is less kind to the "spectacle-laden" Dali Museum that just opened in St. Petersburg, FL: it is "positively Dali-esque. We mean that in all the worst ways."
- Weekend diversions:
  - Pogrebin and Caro get a sneak-peek of "Robert Moses Astride New York" (the musical!); if you're in NYC tomorrow, you can see it for free.
  - Safron cheers Kahn's "still ravishingly beautiful" collaborator Tyng finally getting her due with a ravishing retrospective at Philly's Institute of Contemporary Art exhibit (though "it doesn't completely make up for a lifetime of slights").
  - Amery affirms that "Rietveld's Universe" in Utrecht is a "chance to be totally immersed in his life and work" - and "well worth the journey."
  - The true "gems" of the Ezra Stoller show in NYC are those that "reveal the self-effacing nature of architectural photography: that of an artist recording work of another artist" (great pix!).
  - "MIT 150" celebrates "what nerds have wrought": a lot of things we use every day - and "some other gizmos that seem more like weird science."
  - Karni's "Terror and Wonder" is "poignant and timely," underscoring "the importance of thinking critically about design in a time when opulence becomes a liability and natural disasters demand the reorganization of our nation's fundamental priorities."
  - Rawsthorn on "Sustainism Is the New Modernism": billed as a "cultural manifesto," it's "more like a branding exercise...designers are already well aware of the principles outlined in the book, most of which have been analyzed in greater depth elsewhere."
- Another posthumously-published tome: "75 Years of Contemporary Iranian Architecture" (in two volumes).
Triumphs and Failures in Retrospect: "Terror and Wonder: Architecture in a Tumultuous Age" by Blair Kamin...Poignant and timely...underscores the importance of thinking critically about design in a time when opulence becomes a liability and natural disasters demand the reorganization of our nation's fundamental priorities. - The Architect's Newspaper

Sustainism: It's Got a Name, Now Do It: "Sustainism Is the New Modernism: A Cultural Manifesto for the Sustainist Era" by Michel Schwarz and Joost Elffers bills itself as a "cultural manifesto"...is more like a branding exercise than a conventional book...designers are already well aware of the principles outlined in the book, most of which have been analyzed in greater depth elsewhere. By Alice Rawsthorn - New York Times

A Decades-Long Study Is Finally Published: After more than 50 years, a study of Louis Sullivan’s Chicago architecture has come to fruition...the Richard Nickel Committee...identified and analyzed about 250 buildings for "The Complete Architecture of Adler & Sullivan"... By Eve M. Kahn - New York Times

"75 Years of Contemporary Iranian Architecture" by the deceased veteran Iranian architect Seyyed Hadi Mirmiran...His brother Seyyed Hamid and architect Iraj Etesam have completed the unfinished book...Cosponsored by the Mirmiran Architecture Foundation, Iran’s Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and the Naghshe-Jahan Pars Consulting Engineers...published in two volumes. - Tehran Times (Iran)

Q&A with James Anderson, LEED AP: 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

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