Today's News - Tuesday, January 18, 2011

- Bevan on UTS going "utterly giddy" over Gehry, and why Sydney "needs to take a leaf from Melbourne's book and begin mulching local talent" so that "a thousand architectural flowers may bloom" (all "trophy architects" do is "design tall poppies").
- Lui on Chicago being the "likely birthplace for what could be the largest-ever smart-grid pilot program" and how smart grids "will directly impact architects' design strategies."
- Another pilot program hopes to get beyond measuring a building's energy-efficiency to quantifying how location affects its carbon footprint (commuters included).
- A look at a few British eco homes that are "both carbon neutral and architecturally outstanding" (ranging from a "nostalgic reproduction of an ancient British chieftain's hut" to something a Teletubby would love).
- How six Harvard GSD grads are transforming the lives of 400,000 Rwandans - and many others - by questioning why the category of humanitarian architecture is even necessary: "The two terms should be synonymous. Because sound building practices can and should lead to social justice."
- A French architect is transforming the public green spaces in Vietnam.
- Developers in Thailand are digging the fact that landscape architecture adds value in a competitive property market, but face a shortage of talent as newly-graduated landscape architects gravitate to more lucrative foreign markets.
- The youngest member of the "Sarasota Schoo"l of Modernist architects finds the current state of architecture "very depressing at times. They are putting these old-fashioned Disney World light fixtures downtown with lousy, glaring light. Memory is great, but not nostalgia."
- An alternate take on how Ai Weiwei's Shanghai studio met its end (the official version, it seems).
- On the auction block tomorrow (and yours for £800-1,000): the world's first skyscraper design (yes, it seems the Brits "pipped the Americans" on designing tall).
- The 2011 Civic Trust Awards finalists announced - 57 strong.
- Call for entries: 2011 Landslide nominations for landscapes threatened with destruction or irreversible damage; deadline: March 31.
- Q&A with Architecture for Humanity's Sinclair re: the current state of Haiti, what countries are still in need, and ultimately what options there are for all of us to help, too.
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Call for entries/proposals: 2011 FIGMENT Minigolf Course on Governors Island: “Bugs and Features”; registration deadline: February 15 - FIGMENT / Governors Island Preservation and Education Corporation (GIPEC)

Call for entries: SMPS 2011 National Marketing Communications Awards for excellence in marketing communications by professional services firms in the design and building industry; deadline: March 7 - Society for Marketing Professional Services (SMPS)


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