

Today's News - Monday, January 24, 2011

- It's a Gehry kind of day: ArcSpace brings us an eyeful of his New World Symphony in Miami Beach, scheduled to open tomorrow.
- A passel of critics weigh in (who wasn't in Miami over the last few days?!?): Ouroussoff: "the first Gehry building I have fallen in love with in years"; Hawthorne: "a piece of architecture that dares you to underestimate it or write it off at first glance"; Dunlop: "boxy New World Center sings on the inside"; and Kennicott: "it works brilliantly" (they also (mostly) like West 8's park).
- Angotti weighs in on NYC's Vision 2020 plan for its waterfronts: what the blueprint does - and doesn't do.
- LaBarre on a "radical proposal" to turn "an old Chinese farming town into a sort of Portland of the East."
- Debating building subways in Chinese cities: are they "environmentally friendly traffic solution or waste of public money?"
- Also from China: "the interior design sector has come of age" (for medium to large firms; not so swell for the little guys).
- Pedersen on the "Nexus" concept, "an unprecedented overhaul" of New Orleans' education system to "make neighborhood schools central to the economic and cultural rebirth of New Orleans" (and it might actually happen!).
- Davidson gives thumbs-up to Leeser's Museum of the Moving Image expansion - inside and out: "He has bottled air."
- Litt cheers a Cleveland museum's plan to build the city's first passive house.
- Non-profs and animals are winners all: designNYC's 2011 match-up of a new crop of designers meet their designated nonprofits + ARC International Wildlife Crossing competition winner will help migratory wildlife cross a an otherwise deadly interstate in Colorado.

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[Gehry Partners: New World Symphony, Miami Beach, Florida](#)

[Gehry Design Plays Fanfare for the Common Man: Can an architect save classical music? ...New World Symphony...spills over with populist ideas, sometimes to the point of distraction...the first Gehry building I have fallen in love with in years — not because it is perfect but because of the values it embodies.](#) By Nicolai Ouroussoff -- West 8 - New York Times

[New World Center in Miami Beach: A box wrapped in mere glass and white plaster — this is a Frank Gehry design? Yep...toys with first impressions...the interplay between rectangular containers and their virtuosic architectural contents gives the design a shifting, unpredictable vitality. This is a piece of architecture that dares you to underestimate it or write it off at first glance.](#) By Christopher Hawthorne -- West 8; Yasuhisa Toyota - Los Angeles Times

[Frank Gehry's boxy New World Center sings on the inside: A remarkable building deserves a remarkable landscape...Technology gives the building an edge here, but it is the architecture - the immediacy, the intimacy, even the urgency of the architecture - that expresses it.](#) By Beth Dunlop -- West 8; Raymond Jungles [images, links] - Miami Herald

[In Miami, the shape of things to come: New World Symphony...one of Frank Gehry's best buildings in years, an introspective structure that gathers the wisdom of his earlier work on concert halls...it works brilliantly...technology does not feel like an invasion into the 19th-century concert space, but an essential element of a newly emerging entertainment form.](#) By Philip Kennicott -- West 8; Yasuhisa Toyota - Washington Post

[On the Waterfront Plan: Real Estate Dreams and Future Conflicts: New York City's Vision 2020 plan for its shoreline has more to do with business development than recreation or nature...what the blueprint does - and doesn't do...Behind the frothy rhetoric designed to garner public support, Vision 2020 is really a business plan.](#) By Tom Angotti [links] - Gotham Gazette (NYC)

[In China, a Radical Proposal to Turn an Old City Green: Woods Bagot, HOK, and CW Group are about to turn Langfang, an old Chinese farming town, into a sort of Portland of the East...trying to make the city a nice place to live.](#) By Suzanne LaBarre [images, links] - Fast Company

[Debate: Building subways: Environmentally friendly traffic solution or waste of public money? Stop craze for underground lines vs. Chinese cities need more metros](#) - China Daily

[Developing a fine taste for the high life: ...scores of midsize to large foreign and Chinese architectural design firms...have prospered from the property boom..."The interior design sector has come of age. We're beginning to consider the environment, build, materials, water, soil, power, et cetera when drafting the blueprint"...](#) -- Massimo Bagnasco/Progetto CMR; Zou Huiying/China Institute of Interior Design (CIID); Hank M. Chao/MoHen Design International; Hong Kong Interior Design Association (HKIDA) - China Daily

[Education: Advanced Placement: The key to New Orleans's rebirth may lie in an unprecedented overhaul of its education system that puts public schools at the center of community services...a six-phase master plan \[to\] rebuild or renovate the entire system - unprecedented for an American city...The "Nexus" concept...](#) By Martin C. Pedersen -- Steven Binger/Concordia; Planning Alliance; DeJong & Associates; William A. Gilchrist - Metropolis Magazine

[Up Into the Dark: The Museum of the Moving Image gets a lofty new wing...Instead of trying to imitate an already simulated world, Thomas Leeser has tailored concrete and steel to the demands of mercurial images. He has bottled air.](#) By Justin Davidson - New York Magazine

[Cleveland Museum of Natural History to build high-tech 'SmartHome Cleveland' that stays warm without furnace: ...the city's first passive house designed to use high-tech windows and insulation plus the power of the sun to stay cozy in the worst weather Northeast Ohio can throw at it.](#) By Steven Litt -- Doty & Miller Architects; HarvestBuild Associates; Passive House Institute U.S.; Passive Haus Institut [image, links] - Cleveland Plain Dealer

[designNYC Announces 2011 Matches: ...new crop of designers, who offer their services pro bono, met their designated nonprofits...](#) -- Abruzzo-Bodziak Architects; Vamos Architects; 590BC/Studio L'Image; Fink & Platt Architects [images, links] - The Architect's Newspaper

[Design Picked for Wildlife Crossing: ARC International Wildlife Crossing Infrastructure Design Competition announced the winner to design a crossing to help migratory wildlife cross a section of Interstate 70 in Colorado.](#) -- Michael Van Valkenburgh; HNTB [images, links] - New York Times

The Ten Commandments of Architecture: Students' questions were astute and concise, including: What makes a good architect? How do I go about getting hired? I went straight to the yellowing Word document... By Jim Childress, FAIA-  
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