

Today's News - Tuesday, January 25, 2011

- We lose Tafel, "the last surviving member of the original Taliesin Fellowship" (on a personal note, we will miss this gentle gentleman stopping by NYC's Center for Architecture to cheer the throngs filling its Tafel Hall).
- Kamin, taken by the Moscow airport attack, revisits his 5th anniversary of 9/11 column, "Hubs of Frustration" (plus ça change...).
- Meanwhile, Ziger/Snead is tapped to design Maryland's 9/11 Memorial (to be dedicated this 9/11, but, alas, no images here).
- Iovine cheers Gehry's "intention to play to the occupants" of the New World Symphony campus instead of "architecture-gawkers...Did [he] take exciting risks? Not really. Has he created an environment where a new generation of musicians can take such chances? Absolutely."
- LaBarre focuses on West 8's "SoundScape" surrounding Gehry's concert hall that is "a performance space in its own right."
- Meanwhile, H&deM's Miami garage is still making waves: "For the ultra-luxury-car set" it "has become an irresistible display case to make their consumption more conspicuous" (though from offline reports, one might want to reconsider planning one's wedding there in mid-January).
- Birnbaum calls some much over-due attention to the garage's landscape by Jungles: "it's all well and good to get excited about a parking garage with retail, but let's remember what Lapidus once quipped, 'I designed Lincoln Road for people - a car never bought anything.'"
- Blueprint offers up an exhaustive report on the Best British Buildings of the 21st Century (and some not so great).
- But one of those Best seems to have parts that "are not fit for purpose" (staffers being "offered fleeces because of the cold").
- Plan to pedestrianize Istanbul's Taksim Square (a major transport hub) has architects and planners calling for public debate.
- Kennicott cheers new Washington, DC, libraries built-from-the-ground-up as "one of the best things to happen to the District, architecturally, in decades."
- Glancey gives us a sneak peek at the new BBC Broadcasting House: "So what does £1bn buy?"
- Moore gives (mostly) thumbs-up to Rogers Stirk Harbour's One Hyde Park: "everything you see is performing a purpose, as well as trying to look good" (at £140m for a penthouse, we would hope it does more than just look good).
- De Monchaux finds pleasure and disappointment in Foster's Museum of Fine Arts Boston addition.
- Koolhaas on his proposal for Hong Kong's \$2.8 billion West Kowloon Cultural District ("biggest prize on the table right now").
- London's Greenwich Millennium Village picks team for next phase.

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Obituary: Edgar Tafel, Wright-Trained Architect, 98: ...the last surviving member of the original Taliesin Fellowship...At the peak of the glass-box movement in American architecture, he took a contrarian tack - something he delighted in doing... By David W. Dunlap - New York Times

The Moscow airport attack: ...one line sticks out from a story I wrote...on the 5th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks: "These days, airport managers and architects even have to worry that airports themselves might become terrorists' targets." Here's the story in full: Hubs of Frustration: Airports - a symbol of our freedom of movement - have become dehumanizing. By Blair Kamin -- Helmut Jahn; Martin Wolf; Steve Lewent/Graf & Lewent Architects; HNTB; A. Epstein & Sons International; C.F. Murphy Associates; Landrum & Brown - Chicago Tribune

Ziger/Snead to Design Maryland's 9/11 Memorial: ...located on the plaza of the World Trade Center in Baltimore's Inner Harbor...will incorporate steel beams from New York's Twin Towers... -- Mahan Rykiel Associates; Robert Silman Associates; Brandston Partnership - Baltimore Citybiz

Gehry Leaves the Risks to the Kids: ...such hardworking but generous gestures...underscores his intention to play to the occupants and frequenters of the New World Symphony campus rather than to architecture-gawkers...Did [he] take exciting risks? Not really. Has he created an environment where a new generation of musicians can take such chances? Absolutely. By Julie V. Iovine -- West 8; Nagata Acoustics - Wall Street Journal

West 8 Steals Gehry's Thunder, With a Green "SoundScape" in Miami Beach: The landscape architects turn 2.5 acres around Frank Gehry's new concert hall into a performance space in its own right. By Suzanne LaBarre [images, links] - Fast Company

A Miami Beach Event Space. Parking Space, Too: A strange marriage of high-end architecture and car storage, a \$65 million parking garage is drawing crowds...For the ultra-luxury-car set here...has become an irresistible display case to make their consumption more conspicuous. -- Herzog & de Meuron - New York Times

In the Shadow of 10 Best Lists: ...the above ground parking garage at 1111 Lincoln Road...has appeared on countless ten best lists...Equally impressive is the new landscape...it's all well and good to get excited about a parking garage with retail, but let's remember what Lapidus once quipped, "I designed Lincoln Road for people - a car never bought anything." By Charles A. Birnbaum/The Cultural Landscape Foundation -- Herzog & de Meuron; Morris Lapidus; Raymond Jungles. - Huffington Post

Best British Buildings of the 21st Century: ...the most significant buildings completed since 2000. -- Zaha Hadid; Caruso St John; Grimshaw; Foster + Partners; Haworth Tompkins; Rick Mather; Gustafson Porter; Herzog & de Meuron; Denton Corker Marshall; Reiach and Hall; Capita Percy Thomas; Rogers Stirk Harbour; Consarc; Kennedy Fitzgerald [images, links] - Blueprint Magazine (UK)

Staff at award winning Civil Justice Centre in Manchester offered fleeces because of the cold: ...dubbed the 'Filing Cabinet'...The Spinningfields centre has just been named one of Britain's 10 best buildings, but unions say parts of it are not fit for purpose. -- Denton Corker Marshall - Manchester Evening News (UK)

Experts call for debate before changing Istanbul's Taksim Square: ...plans to pedestrianize the city's central square are lacking in specifics and should have been developed in consultation with experts and the public, architects and city planners have said. -- Ömer Yilmaz/Arkitera Architecture Center; Haydar Karabey/Limited Architecture - Hürriyet Daily News (Turkey)

New libraries bring contemporary look to District neighborhoods: ...it's clear that a coherent style has emerged, if not intentionally, then organically, in the four stand-alone, built-from-the-ground-up buildings that have replaced some of the most obsolete and ugly...is one of the best things to happen to the District, architecturally, in decades. By Philip Kennicott -- Freelon Group; Davis Brody Bond Aedas; David Adjaye [slide show] - Washington Post

The new BBC Broadcasting House: So what does £1bn buy? It was 10 years in the making, it cost a fortune and it lost its architect along the way. But [it] is finally finished...What stands there now may well be practical, and doubtless works, yet it's hard not to feel that the heart of the building was ripped out before it had even started to beat. By Jonathan Glancey -- George Val Myer (1932); MacCormac Jamieson Prichard; Sheppard Robson [slide show] - Guardian (UK)

One Hyde Park: The best penthouse suite in One Hyde Park will reportedly set you back £140m. But is it worth it?...there is nothing cosmetic: everything you see is performing a purpose, as well as trying to look good...has a quality of conception, proportion and detail that is streets ahead of almost any other new luxury apartment block. By Rowan Moore -- Candy and Candy; Rogers Stirk Harbour - Observer (UK)

Crit> Museum of Fine Arts Boston: Foster + Partners brings neo-modern seriousness to museum addition, but is it enough?...while no doubt effectively addressing some dilemmas particular to this museum, falls short of that mission...a city graced by the modern diligence of Gropius, Sert, Rudolph, and indeed Pei. It deserves something still more glorious. By Thomas De Monchaux [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Greenwich Millennium Village moves to next stage: A design competition...has been won by a team led by Jestico + Whiles, including Peter Barber Architects and Studio 54 Architecture. Whitelaw Turkington, working on landscape, XCO2, advising on low energy solutions, and acoustic consultants Sandy Brown Associates make up the rest of the winning team.- The Construction Index (UK)

Rem Koolhaas Can't Put Down His Pen: ...sketches constantly as he talks me through his proposal for Hong Kong's planned US\$2.8 billion cultural development...biggest prize on the table right now is the West Kowloon Cultural District... -- OMA/Office for Metropolitan Architecture; Rocco Design Architects; Foster + Partners [slide show]- Wall Street Journal

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- ArchNewsNow



Gehry Partners: New World Symphony, Miami Beach, Florida

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