Today’s News - Wednesday, January 26, 2011

• Science + design = "genetic architecture" that could "bridge the gap between biology, artificial intelligence, and architecture" - an "architecture of possible worlds." + What if biology was at the foundation of design teaching?
• Auburn University’s Urban Studio students have a hand in a new vision for creating a design-centered district in Birmingham, Alabama.
• San Diego architects offer "a bold new vision" for their own neighborhood.
• New life for vacant Brooklyn warehouse includes music and food - and a very cool, ultra-thin façade.
• Long goes down the Gopher Hole to meet up with a few of London's new generation of architects "who are interested in more than spending a banker's latest bonus on a vanity project."
• Plans for the renovation of Carnegie Hall Studio Towers include a rooftop gathering spot.
• UKGBC gathers a task force, including architects, to explore how to "simplify regulations to both reduce the burden on business and achieve greater carbon reductions, cost effectively."
• Snøhetta's growing pains: its NYC office "has been hard-pressed to re-create the healthy work-life balance of its Oslo counterpart," but it is "committed to maintaining its ideals as it adjusts to a new place."
• Toronto's B+H Architects is making its mark in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.
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Genetic Architecture: ...an exciting, promising, and highly conceptual field that suggests we can bridge the gap between biology, artificial intelligence, and architecture. The end of result would see not just the integration of living and inert matter, but the radical transformation of the entire planet itself..."architecture of possible worlds"... -- Karl Chu; Mass Studies [images, video]- Institute for Ethics and Emerging Technologies (IEET)

Science and Design: What if biology was at the foundation of design teaching? What designers need now is a basic understanding of science in order to utilize biological systems in making our products. -- Terreform1; Matthieu Lehannue; Design That Matters [images]- Metropolitan Magazine

Daughter of Birmingham Plans Revival: A descendant of the Alabama city's founders, trained in urban planning, has bought up properties with the goal of creating a design-centered district...current master plan for Lakeview was recently completed by fifth-year architecture students at Auburn University's Urban Studio program, directed by Cheryl Morgan. [slide show]- New York Times

Golden Hill's resident architects present a bold new vision for 25th Street: ...FoundationForForm...has a solution: The "You Are Here" plan...The architects/quasi-developers are planning to revitalize a property...by turning it into a mixed-use structure and gateway for the community...-- San Diego Uptown News

Vacant Brooklyn warehouse gets ultra-thin, cutting-edge facade: Motorized door technology adapted from airplane hangars and factory buildings...have been used to create a dramatic, industrial-inspired facade for the Wyckoff Exchange...a live music and performance venue, Radio Bushwick, as well as an organic market and a boutique wine shop. -- Andre Kikoski Architect [images]- Gizmag (Australia)

Meet the future builders: ...a new generation of architects is emerging who are interested in more than spending a banker's latest bonus on a vanity project. By Kieran Long -- Aberrant Architecture; Pie Architecture; Adam Khan Architects- Evening Standard (UK)

Carnegie Hall Announces Studio Towers Renovation: ...a new 61,000-sq.ft. Education Wing...as well as a new research room for the hall's archives, and a new outdoor Roof Terrace to serve as a gathering place...-- I+ Bibliowicz Architects [images]- Contract magazine

Architects join task force on 'greening' non-domestic buildings: UK Green Building Council has assembled the group..."We think government could simplify regulations to both reduce the burden on business and achieve greater carbon reductions, cost effectively." -- Aedas; Bennetts Associates; WSP; Aecom - BD/Building Design (UK)

The Great Equalizers: ...Norwegian firm Snøhetta introduces its egalitarian ways of working to an American architecture world known for rigid, top-down management...must face its own uncomfortable question: Can the firm continue to operate as an enlightened practice as it grows larger and harder to manage?-- Metropolis Magazine

Toronto’s B+H Architects completes plan for the health and wellness resort in Vietnam: ...one of the first Western architecture and design firms to establish a presence in China, has turned its attention to Vietnam...In Ho Chi Minh City...has completed an expansion at the Canadian consulate [and] a new campus for the Vietnam Australia International School...[images]- Daily Commercial News (Canada)

A Jigsaw Puzzle That Sleeps 4: At first glance, the apartment resembles nothing so much as a giant, distinctly high-end Lego project. -- George Ranalli (slide show)- New York Times

Bermondsey Square named London’s best new public space at the London Planning Awards: ...plans to create a new mile-long floating river walk along the north bank of the Thames...won the Mayor’s Award for ‘planning excellence’...”London River Park..."competes with Michael Davis’ London Promenade proposal for the southern bank of the river. -- Geneser [images]- London SE1

Construction Spending Projected to Turn Up in Second Half of the Year, but Won’t Surpass 2010 Levels: Institutional construction should remain steady this year and next; commercial upturn projected for 2012...semi-annual AIA Consensus Construction Forecast...-- American Institute of Architects (AIA)

Billable Hours Down, Hiring Up in Latest ASLA Business Quarterly Survey: ...represented a mixed bag for landscape architecture firms..."We’re confident that the worse of the recession is behind us, but improvement will be frustratingly slow." -- American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Edgar Tafel, 1912-2011: Edgar graciously wrote the introduction to "Wright in Racine," my first book, in 2004..."It may be that Tafel was being seen to emerge as a highly effective, independent architectural genius, which may not have fit Frank Lloyd Wright's view of the proper role of an apprentice"...Independent thinker, and respected architect, he learned well from his
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

Gehry Partners: New World Symphony, Miami Beach, Florida