

Today's News - Friday, January 28, 2011

- We're back from Contract magazine's 32nd Interiors Awards Breakfast, and offer a Q&A with the just-announced Designers of the Year Verda Alexander and Primo Orpilla of Studio O+A.
- McGuigan finds Gehry's "futuristic" New World Symphony "is irresistible even to classical music novices" - it "isn't fussy... Come take a look, and listen, the building seems to say."
- Kamin x 2: two federal buildings in Cleveland and Newark are getting "shrink-wrap" rehabs that "reveal the underlying green streak in Obama's federal building boomlet" (two of GSA's 240 renovation projects - "10 times the number of new projects").
- Litt says the Cleveland plans "will be a skyline-sized loss and gain" and "shows the GSA is doing its best to achieve a harmonious hybrid."
- Young residents-turned-activists in Beirut hope to save remaining architectural gems from developers who see more profits in building new and shiny rather than restoring the city's heritage.
- Wigglesworth offers a way to save Robin Hood Gardens from the bulldozers.
- Webb cheers L.A.'s Steven Ehrlich beats out the starchitects to win commission for UAE Parliament: "At a time when California offices are especially hard-hit, this victory of David over Goliath is a morale booster for every struggling firm."
- Weekend diversions:
 - "Made Up: Design's Fictions" at Pasadena's Wind Tunnel Gallery "turns design on its head, imagining the unimaginable with "objects and processes that can't actually exist, or won't work, or confuse the whole notion of utility. And yes, that's the point."
 - Hawthorne lays the groundwork for his year-long Reading L.A. series and his reading list of "25 of the most significant books on Southern California architecture and urbanism."
 - Leadon lauds Brash's "Bloomberg's New York" that "smartly ties class politics to place-making...A city built only for the 'elites' means that if they go down, we all go down."
 - While Sudjic's "How Much Does Your Building Weigh, Mr Foster?" may seem like a "hero-worshipping tribute...it's clear that there is a lot to hero-worship."
 - "The Power of Pro Bono" is proof positive that pro bono projects are no longer "the lesser-loved stepchildren of architectural practices."
 - A phenomenal slide show of photographer Cartagena's images of "the rapid suburbanization and disappearing natural landscapes of Monterrey, Mexico."
- Call for entries: 8th International Emirates Glass LEAF Awards + Competition Competition 2011: 2nd Annual Prize for Unrewarded Designs.

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[Designers of the Year: Q&A with Verda Alexander and Primo Orpilla of Studio O+A: Today Contract magazine named Verda Alexander and Primo Orpilla of San Francisco's Studio O+A Designers of the Year. We asked them about their experiences during the high and low points of the dot-com era and the ways high-tech continues to influence office design today.](#)- ArchNewsNow

[Frank Gehry Sings a New Tune: ...futuristic concert hall in Miami Beach is irresistible even to classical music novices...\[New World Symphony\] building isn't fussy...The strategy of the design is to lure in the community, especially those who might be put off by classical music. Come take a look, and listen, the building seems to say... By Cathleen McGuigan -- Yasuhisa Toyota \[slide show, links\]- The Daily Beast](#)

[Architectural change you can believe in: ...planned rehab of Cleveland federal building sets a striking, sustainable example...factors...are the same...for a stimulus-backed, double-skin retrofit of the...Rodino Federal Building...scratch the surface of the double-skin plans and they reveal the underlying green streak in Obama's federal building boomlet and the import of the easily overlooked renovations. By Blair Kamin -- Interactive Design Eight Architects; Dattner Architects/Richard McElhiney Architects - Chicago Tribune](#)

[Shrink-wrapping the skyline: Chicago architects unveil design for energy-saving 'double wall' at Cleveland's A.J. Celebrezze Federal Building; Renovation work already has begun on the 16-story Peter W. Rodino Federal Building in Newark, N.J. By Blair Kamin -- Interactive Design Eight Architects; Dattner Architects/Richard McElhiney Architects \[images\]- Chicago Tribune](#)

[GSA designs for new Celebrezze building facades will mute the 1960s look of the tower: ...will be a skyline-sized loss and gain...will be subtly transformed from a shiny legacy of the optimistic, can-do side of the 1960s...to a more veiled and muted symbol of 21st-century worries about national security and energy consumption...shows the GSA is doing its best to achieve a harmonious hybrid. By Steven Litt -- Peter van Dijk \(1967\); Interactive Design Eight Architects \[image\]- Cleveland Plain Dealer](#)

[Beirut's Old Buildings Again Under Threat: Property developers have displaced the mortar shells and rockets of civil war as the primary threat to Beirut's last architectural gems...frustrated by the changing face of their neighborhoods...young residents-turned-activists formed Save Beirut Heritage...argue that there is money to be made in preservation too.- New York Times](#)

[Robin Hood Gardens remodelled: Sarah Wigglesworth Architects has devised a scheme that could save east London flats from the bulldozers...launched her pro-bono scheme...alongside a new book, "Robin Hood Gardens: Re-Visions" published by the Twentieth Century Society... \[images\]- BD/Building Design \(UK\)](#)

[Ehrlich Architects Pulls a Desert Upset: LA firm wins commission for UAE Parliament, beating Foster & Partners, Zaha Hadid, and Massimiliano Fuksas...At a time when California offices are especially hard-hit, this victory of David over Goliath is a morale booster for every struggling firm. By Michael Webb -- Godwin Austen Johnson \[images\]- The Architect's Newspaper](#)

[Design's flexible future: In "Made Up: Design's Fictions," a new show at Pasadena's Wind Tunnel Gallery, turn design on its head, imagining the unimaginable...objects and processes that can't actually exist, or won't work, or confuse the whole notion of utility. And yes, that's the point.- Los Angeles Times](#)

[Reading L.A.: Introducing a yearlong project: Los Angeles, with its car-dominated landscape and unusually dense brand of sprawl, can be a slippery place to get a handle on...a way to take a new and detailed look at the major works in the L.A. canon...I'll be reading through 25 of the most significant books on Southern California architecture and urbanism... By Christopher Hawthorne - Los Angeles Times](#)

[Bloomberg Makes Space in New York: Julian Brash makes it clear that his allegations of class warfare are tied to "the production of space," and it is that focus that makes "Bloomberg's New York: Class and Governance in the Luxury City" worthwhile reading for architects and planners...smartly ties class politics to place-making. By Fran Leadon - The Architect's Newspaper](#)

["How Much Does Your Building Weigh, Mr Foster? A documentary profile of award-winning architect Norman Foster that just about avoids overpraising its subject: Deyan Sudjic has written this hero-worshipping tribute...although its uncritical tone makes it look occasionally like a promotional video, it's clear that there is a lot to hero-worship. - Guardian \(UK\)](#)

[Mensch at Work: A coffee-table-worthy compendium of admirable projects from architectural firms large and small...While it might be true that pro bono projects remain the lesser-loved stepchildren of architectural practice, "The Power of Pro Bono:](#)

[40 Stories about Design for the Public Good by Architects and Clients](#) suggests that a growing number of architects are starting to think otherwise. -- David Adjaye; Shigeru Ban; Make It Right Foundation; Public Architecture; Chan Krieger NBBJ; Marpillero Pollak Architects; Perkins+Will- [Change Observer](#)

[Fragmented Cities: ...Monterrey, Mexico, has grown very quickly, its growth fueled by the usual real-estate suspects...For several years Monterrey-based photographer Alejandro Cartagena has been documenting the rapid suburbanization and disappearing natural landscapes of Monterrey. \[slide show\]](#)- [Places Journal](#)

[Call for entries: 8th International Emirates Glass LEAF Awards to honour the architects designing the buildings and solutions that are setting the benchmark for the international architectural community; three new categories added; deadline: May 15- LEAF Awards](#)

[Call for entries: Competition Competition 2011: Second Annual Prize for Unrewarded Designs; no fee; deadline: February 20- Architizer](#)



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

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