

Today's News - Friday, February 18, 2011

EDITOR'S NOTE: ArchNewsNow.com celebrates its 9th anniversary today! With thanks to our faithful readers...here's to many more!

- Call it re-cladding or re-skinning, "the practice is taking off": "Aging modern towers may be our greatest urban resource."
- Saffron on a major corporate tenant in downtown Philly relocating to the Navy Yard: "Tempting as it is" to see it as "Center City's archenemy...most agree that the business center remains something that Philadelphia can't live without" (with hopes it augurs better public transportation).
- The Early Childhood Center in Chicago will make sure that the children have easy access to the outdoors.
- Fast Company's list of the World's 50 Most Innovative Companies for 2011 has one architecture firm - Snøhetta at #35 - "for design that's both social and beautiful."
- The 2011 AIA Young Architects Award winners indicate an auspicious future for the industry.
- Call for entries: Copa Arquitectura: design a small youth soccer facility for less than \$45,000.
- Weekend diversions:
 - In Chicago, photographs of "aging modernist remains" in African countries is "a contemplative, sensitive" exhibition: "They're not hard to look at, not quite, but neither do they let you forget that what you're seeing is very real, and quietly tragic" (they "won't be appearing in Wallpaper magazine any time ever").
 - Kevin Roche's legacy on view at Yale shows that "he's done his best to either bring in nature with glass...or reflect it in his materials" + "He was really the first to see architecture and nature as one."
 - A nice thought, but hardly true: an extensive FLW retrospective in Milwaukee suggests that "if Wright walked the Earth in 2011, he might be among the foremost exponents of building green as well as living green" + "We're finally catching up with him."
 - In Toronto, "Neighbourhood Maverick" highlights "houses which are designed of our times in contrast to the existing neighborhood aesthetic."
 - McGuirk mulls the Brit Insurance Design awards shortlist on view at London's Design Museum: while it seems to be more about "stuff," it still inspires, showing how design is evolving: "Gradually, almost imperceptibly, our material environment gets better, smarter and lighter."
 - Schumacher's "The Autopoiesis of Architecture" is "surely the longest and, quite possibly, the most opaque manifesto in architectural historiography...it's as confused as any reader will be."
 - King tackles tomes by Glaeser and Calthorpe about urbanism in the age of climate change: "each succeeds at challenging our assumptions" but "neither is vibrant enough to intrigue the skeptic. Still, it's important to add them to the debate."
 - Brooks cheers Glaeser's "terrific new book" that posits "far from withering in the age of instant global information flows, cities have only become more important."
 - Glancey cheers "Borromini's Book" that presents the "baroque solar system" swirling around "an architect who gave us classicism with passion, experimentation, movement, prayer and sensuality."
 - Merrick muses on Millar's "First Woman Architect" that will put Britain's earliest female architect "on a pedestal at precisely the moment that British women architects are objecting to being stashed under their professional pedestal."

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'Reskinning' Gives World's Old Urban Buildings Energy-Saving Facelifts: The practice of 'reskinning' exteriors of aging infrastructure can help retrofit entire cities to be 'more efficient' and 'more beautiful'...the practice is taking off...more commonly known as "recladding"...idea behind the new brand...to make buildings seem more human-like..."Aging modern towers may be our greatest urban resource" -- Ron Dembo/Zerofootprint Foundation; Ivan Saleff, Ted Kesik - SolveClimate News

What does GlaxoSmithKline's move to Navy Yard mean for downtown? Tempting as it is to view South Philadelphia's old Navy Base as Center City's archenemy, an unprincipled rival bent on poaching its best tenants, most...agree that the business center remains something that Philadelphia can't live without. By Inga Saffron -- Robert A.M. Stern - Philadelphia Inquirer

University of Chicago Laboratory Schools' Early Childhood Center: Valerio Dewalt Train Associates and FGM Architects blend indoor and outdoor spaces with a green roof and glass, cantilevered porte-cochere...to make sure that the children have easy access to the outdoors. [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

The World's 50 Most Innovative Companies, 2011: #35 - Snøhetta: For design that's both social and beautiful- Fast Company

11 Architects Selected to Receive the 2011 AIA Young Architects Award- American Institute of Architects (AIA)

Call for entries: Copa Arquitectura: partner with a designer from a 2011 Copa America country to design a small youth football (soccer) facility for less than \$45,000 for liga FOS; cash prizes; deadline: March 21- Architecture for Humanity

African avenues of broken dreams: "Guy Tillim: Avenue Patrice Lumumba"...former photojournalist turned his camera on the aging modernist remains of Angola, the Congo, Madagascar and Mozambique...a contemplative, sensitive solo exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Photography...They're not hard to look at, not quite, but neither do they let you forget that what you're seeing is very real, and quietly tragic. [link to images]- Chicago Tribune

"Kevin Roche: Architecture as Environment" at the Yale School of Architecture: ...while many architects are in a no-win situation when it comes to all the needs of a huge corporate headquarters, he's done his best to either bring in nature with glass...or reflect it in his materials...A bit of Roche's personality also comes out... -- Kevin Roche John Dinkeloo - Hartford Courant (Connecticut)

"Kevin Roche: Architecture as Environment" reviews work of heralded Modernist at the Yale School of Architecture: ...explores his career from the 1960s to the present..."He was really the first to see architecture and nature as one"... -- Kevin Roche John Dinkeloo - Yale Daily News

Frank Lloyd Wright for the 21st Century: Milwaukee Art Museum re-examines Wisconsin's great architect...If Wright walked the Earth in 2011, he might be among the foremost exponents of building green as well as living green...foresaw suburbia as America's future, but his vision scarcely resembled the sprawl that has engulfed the countryside during the past 60 years.- Express Milwaukee

MAM celebrates 100 years of Taliesin; 10 years of Calatrava: Looking at what Wright was doing in the 1930s (and sometimes even earlier) in this show, we realize that we're finally catching up with him..."Frank Lloyd Wright: Organic Architecture for the 21st Century" is a treat for the eyes... - OnMilwaukee.com

"Neighbourhood Maverick" at Architecture at York Quay Centre; ...explores the insertion within the Toronto streetscape of those houses which are designed of our times in contrast to the existing neighbourhood aesthetic. -- Drew Mandel Architects; Reigo & Bauer; studio junction inc. - Canadian Architect

Light is right at the Brit Insurance Design awards 2011: ...the standout objects...have all gone the way of weightlessness...The shortlist feels weaker this year...show falls back on the idea of design as refined objects -- as stuff...What is inspiring...is the sense it offers of watching the design world evolve. Gradually, almost imperceptibly, our material environment gets better, smarter and lighter. By Justin McGuirk -- Thomas Heatherwick; Numen/For Use; SOM;

MVRDV; Herzog & de Meuron [slide show]- Guardian (UK)

The style war continues: "The Autoptosis of Architecture" by Patrik Schumacher...surely the longest and, quite possibly, the most opaque manifesto in architectural historiography...If the book had left the style war manifesto for another time, it may have been more illuminating. As it stands, however, it's as confused as any reader will be. - The Architects' Journal (UK)

Books about urbanism in the age of climate change: "Triumph of the City: How Our Greatest Invention Makes Us Richer, Smarter, Greener, Healthier, and Happier" by Edward Glaeser and "Urbanism in the Age of Climate Change" by Peter Calthorpe...each succeeds at challenging our assumptions about the relation between individual cities and the larger world in which we live...neither is vibrant enough to intrigue the skeptic. Still, it's important to add them to the debate. By John King- San Francisco Chronicle

The Splendor of Cities: ...a point Edward Glaeser fleshes out in his terrific new book, "Triumph of the City"...that far from withering in the age of instant global information flows, cities have only become more important. That's because humans communicate best when they are physically brought together...ideas spread more easily in dense environments. By David Brooks - New York Times

Borromini: the first architect: The creator of the Roman Oratory embodied the spirit of the baroque... the man who gave us classicism with passion..."Borromini's Book" by Kerry Downes...Not only has Downes produced a magnificent play on Borromini and his challenging buildings but he has exposed a baroque solar system...did their best for centuries to thrust a sword through [his] reputation... By Jonathan Glancey - Guardian (UK)

Elizabeth Wilbraham, the first lady of architecture: "First Woman Architect" by John Millar will unveil the extraordinary influence of Britain's earliest female architect on Sir Christopher Wren...putting [her] on a pedestal at precisely the moment that British women architects are objecting to being stashed under their professional pedestal... By Jay Merrick - Independent (UK)



-- BIG-Bjarke Ingels Group: New National Gallery, Nuuk, Greenland -- TNT Nuuk; Ramboll Nuuk Arkitekti
-- Grimshaw Architects: Newport Station, Newport, Wales

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