

Today's News - Tuesday, March 8, 2011

- Fortmeyer reports on the Queensland floods: "as the rebuilding gets under way, many are questioning exactly how to move forward," but one thing is certain: "the approach to urban and regional planning will come under greater scrutiny."
- A new initiative in Delhi is based on what people think the city should be like in 2050: "Inclusive planning is the main motto...We need to find a middle ground, keeping all the sections of population in mind."
- More on the demise of Libya's "architecture boom" going bust.
- Dobrzynski agrees with (almost) everything Betsky thinks is wrong with museum architecture today (with a few right moves thrown in).
- Hume offers a "tale of two projects that highlights an obstacle in the fight to save Toronto's architectural heritage"; one major problem: "a seemingly endless approval process makes demolition a whole lot more appealing."
- A great report on Facebook's Menlo Park charrettes: a smart strategy to persuade "teams of the Peninsula's top architects to work all day pro bono"; the result: ideas that "ranged from the prosaic to utopian."
- Could Vancouver be host to the world's first 30-story skyscraper made almost entirely out of wood? (we'll bet the forestry industry hopes so!).
- Curtis continues his crusade against Holl's Glasgow School of Art project with an open letter to the school (and other architects are beginning to chime in on both sides of the issue).
- It looks like plans for a new Iranian Embassy in London bite the dust; many feel it's "a victory for the people and for common sense."
- Australian National University turns to shipping containers to build a 6-story dorm.
- An impressive team wins Montreal's Saint-Laurent Sports Complex design competition (worth linking to the pix).
- A longgggg - and impressive - list of winners in the U.K.'s 2011 Civic Trust Awards (alas, no pix).

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[Examining the Queensland Floods: Countless buildings were destroyed during the recent floods in northeastern Australia. As the rebuilding gets under way, many are questioning exactly how to move forward...The flooding may not spur dramatic changes to building codes, but sources agree the approach to urban and regional planning will come under greater scrutiny.](#)
By Russell Fortmeyer -- Lindsay Clare; Shane Thompson/BVN Architecture- [Architectural Record](#)

[Unique vision: A group of architects have started an initiative, Vision 2050, to create three different models for the planning of Delhi...will be based on people's aspirations and on what they think Delhi should be like..."Inclusive planning is the main motto...We need to find a middle ground, keeping all the sections of population in mind"... -- arch i; Dutch Design Fashion Architecture](#)
Anne Feenstra; Sneha Khullar- [Frontline \(India\)](#)

[Libya's Architecture on the Brink: ...has been able to keep up with the "architecture boom" that has been on the rise in that region...The international firms that have on-going projects have all vowed that they would never work in Libya, under Gaddafi's regime and have suspended all projects. -- Feilden Clegg Bradley; Edward Cullinan Architects; Aecom; Foster + Partners; Keppie; Capita Symonds; RMJM- \[elan Magazine\]\(#\)](#)

[Are American Art Museums Too Fancy "Big Boxes"? Wal-Mart Versus An Art Museum: What's The Difference, Architecturally Speaking? Not Much, Says Aaron Betsky... By Judith H. Dobrzynski -- Foster + Partners; Renzo Piano; Steven Holl; Allied Works Architecture; Frank Gehry- \[ArtsJournal\]\(#\)](#)

[Giving the past a future: A tale of two projects highlights an obstacle in the fight to save Toronto's architectural heritage...developers, those stalkers of the bottom line, are waking to the economic potential of heritage...the city could make things much easier than they are. By Christopher Hume -- Michael McClelland/ERA Architects; David Pontarini/Hariri Pontarini Architecture- \[Toronto Star\]\(#\)](#)

[Hoping to Win Over a Town, Facebook Wants to Scrap Its Fortress Vibe: ...brought four busloads of architects, designers, and urban planners together for an all-day cram session devoted to re-imagining Menlo Park's Belle Haven...persuaded teams of the Peninsula's top architects to work all day pro bono...the day's ideas ranged from the prosaic to utopian. By Ryan White -- Kevin Norman; John Stewart; Paul Jamtgaard; Gensler \[images\]- \[Fast Company\]\(#\)](#)

[B.C. architect touts plans for first timber skyscraper: A study funded by the B.C. government to help promote the province's forestry sector will conclude that buildings as tall as 30 storeys could be made almost entirely out of wood...Vancouver's potential prototype...would demonstrate the ecological benefits, economic value and structural strength of wood-based construction... Michael Green/McFarlane Green Biggar Architecture- \[Winnipeg Free Press \\(Canada\\)\]\(#\)](#)

[Debate heats up as Steven Holl's Glasgow School of Art goes to planning: Architecture critic William JR Curtis has hit out again...The latest attack...is penned in an open letter to the school...fears have been echoed by other architects... -- Charles Rennie Mackintosh; JM Architects; Alan Dunlop; Chris Stewart/Collective Architecture- \[The Architects' Journal \\(UK\\)\]\(#\)](#)

[Iranian Embassy design shelved: Plans in Kensington by Daneshgar Architects said to have been withdrawn..."a victory for the people and for common sense"... \[images\]- \[BD/Building Design \\(UK\\)\]\(#\)](#)

[To Meet Housing Demand, Australian National University Turns to Shipping Containers: ...six-story residence hall..."We found we could manufacture purpose-built containerized modules in China cheaper and more carbon-efficiently"...appearance and many design features won Quicksmart Homes an Australian Capital Territory Sustainable Cities Award. \[images\]- \[The Chronicle of Higher Education\]\(#\)](#)

[Saint-Laurent Sports Complex - The Saucier + Perrotte Architectes - Hugues Condon Marler Architects/SNC Lavalin team wins the architecture competition \[link to images\]- \[Canada NewsWire \\(CNW\\)\]\(#\)](#)

[2011 Civic Trust Awards: From 333 national and international entries, 57 projects have been recognised -- Hopkins Architects; Edward Cullinan Architects; Anderson Bell Christie; Wasps Studios/Nicoll Russell Studios; MUMA; Govaert & Vanhoutte Architectenburo; Page \ Park Architects; Aidlin Darling Design; Rick Mather Architects; Project Orange; Caruso St John; Karakusevic Carson Architects; etc.- \[Civic Trust Awards \\(UK\\)\]\(#\)](#)

[Architecture as a Social Instrument: Interview with Bjarke Ingels of BIG: cBy Vladimir Belogolovsky \[images\]- \[ArchNewsNow\]\(#\)](#)

[Ryue Nishizawa: Teshima Art Museum, Teshima Island, Seto Inland Sea, Japan](#)



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