

## Today's News - Wednesday, March 16, 2011

- In the wake of Japan's devastation: disaster relief, task force, and reports from Japanese-based firms.
- Firms looking to expand to the Middle East and Africa are finding that "a lack of infrastructure and governmental support pose problems."
- Dvir x 2: a call for the Israel Electric Corporation to pay some attention to its "gem of a Brutalist center in Tel Aviv" + Jerusalem's towering ambitions "may change the city's skyline, but could create islands that struggle to fit within the urban fabric."
- Glaeser, Glancey, and Vidal discuss global urbanization.
- Q&A with Goldberger re: the mainstreaming of design, how technology is simultaneously helping and hurting architecture, and trends he wishes would go away (full disclosure: he also gives a shout-out to ANN!).
- Q&A with Hawken re: why it was time to update "The Ecology of Commerce," the emergence of China, and the problem with solar panels.
- Q&A with SWA's Aquino re: the difference between landscape-urbanism and landscape-infrastructure.
- The Morrison's bail out RMJM with £8m of their own money (sort of).
- Tischler picks The 10 Most Innovative Companies in Architecture.
- The Top Five best new projects in New Orleans (a cheat-sheet for those attending AIA convention in May).
- A South African firm designs a Temple Of Light "infused with love and healing.
- Glancey basks in the glow of the Brit Insurance Design Awards winner, but wonders: "is the design just a bit tricky?"
- Rockwell's (very cool) 18-wheeler will deliver Jamie Oliver's gospel of healthy eating throughout the U.S.
- A good reason to head to Copenhagen in a couple of weeks: SmartGeometry 2011 Conference (an impressive line-up of speakers).
- Call for entries: 2011 Record Interiors Awards + ACADIA 2011 Design + Fabrication Competition.

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Disaster Relief for Japan Earthquake and Tsunami: ...do what you can as a generous contributor to organizations best able to provide the immediate assistance...AIA is forming a Disaster Assistance Task Force...in contact with our colleagues at AIA Japan and the Japan Institute of Architects... -- Clark D. Manus, FAIA, and Robert Ivy, FAIA- American Institute of Architects (AIA)

Architects in Japan react to tsunami: ...have told the AJ how buildings which managed to survive last Friday's (11 March) earthquake were simply swept away or gutted by the following tsunami..."I am sure there are a lot of RIBA registered architects in Japan and it will be helpful if RIBA can support international members like us." -- Takefumi Kamio/Studio Duca; Jane Chan/Jun Mitsui & Associates/Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects Japan; Hiroaki Hoshino/Hoshino Architect; Shigeru Ban; Alastair Townsend/Bakoko- The Architects' Journal (UK)

Market Driven: Architects expand horizons in the Middle East and Africa, but a lack of infrastructure and governmental support pose problems. By Kim A. O'Connell -- Studio27 Architecture; AIA Middle East; Perkins+Will; RTKL Associates; ClarkNexsen Architecture; HOK; Zaha Hadid; Scado Architects; Hanbury Evans Wright Vlattas + Company [images]- Inform Magazine: Architecture + Design in the Mid-Atlantic (Virginia Society of the American Institute of Architects)

Power to the architects: The Israel Electric Corporation's buildings show a commitment to design and not just functionalism. A shame, then, that their gem of a Brutalist center in Tel Aviv has lost its charms. By Noam Dvir -- Gideon and Tova Ziv; Richard Kaufmann; Alexander Brevold; Yosef Berlin; Erich Mendelsohn- Ha'aretz (Israel)

Jerusalem reaches for the heavens: A number of new plans for high-rises may change the city's skyline, but could create islands that struggle to fit within the urban fabric..."Instead of expanding to the west, we are now talking about converging inwardly and condensing the existing city by make it denser and through renewal" By Noam Dvir -- Daniel Libeskind; Yigal Levi; I.M. Pei; Nir-Kotz; Naama Malis; Moti Bodek [images]- Ha'aretz (Israel)

The growth of modern cities: Edward Glaeser, Jonathan Glancey and John Vidal discuss why more than half of the world's population now lives in cities and the economic and social forces behind this trend. -- Andrew Carter/Centre For Cities [podcast]- Guardian (UK)

A Conversation With Paul Goldberger: ...discusses the mainstreaming of design, how technology is simultaneously helping and hurting architecture, and "Hey Jude"... "I worry about students who think they can become architects without ever touching pencil to paper...I've now gotten beyond the belief that filling the world with inventive buildings by brilliant architects will bring us to the promised land."- The Atlantic

Ecology and Commerce, Revisited: Paul Hawken on what has and hasn't changed since he first challenged business to embrace environmentalism... underlying problems not only remain unaddressed but loom even larger today. This may account for the release of an updated edition of "The Ecology of Commerce"...the emergence of China, his new start-up [OneSun], and the problem with solar panels. By Martin C. Pedersen- Metropolis Magazine

What is a Park - Landscape or Infrastructure: Q&A with Gerdo Aquino/SWA Group re: the difference between landscape-urbanism and landscape-infrastructure...Performative (contemporary landscape infrastructure/urbanism) vs. pastoral (ecological restoration vs. reclamation)... [images]- Archinect

RMJM owners forced to bail out firm with £8m of their own money: The Morrison family...unveiled the refinancing deal...claiming that the company would be in "robust shape" to face the future. But sources close to the firm have warned that the cash may not be enough to pay off debts.- The Scotsman (UK)

The 10 Most Innovative Companies in Architecture. By Linda Tischler -- Snohetta; BIG/Bjarke Ingels Group; Foreign Office Architects (FOA); Sanaa/Kazuyo Sejima/Ryue Nishizawa; REX/Joshua Prince-Ramos; Michael Maltzan; Kengo Kuma; T.R. Hamzah & Yeang International; Moshe Safdie; Diebedo Francis Kere- Fast Company

Best New Architecture: The Top Five in New Orleans...The most surprising project...is a sleeper. -- Sizeler Thompson Brown Architects/Woodward Design+Build/Madison Madison International/HMS Architects; Michael Toups Architects; Chase Design Group; Eskew+Dumez+Ripple [slide show]- New Orleans Magazine

Dodeca Architects' Temple Of Light Infuses Love And Healing: South African designers...encourage us to seek our solace elsewhere, from the source of all things. From Nature. [images]- Green Prophet (Middle

East)

Samuel Wilkinson's low-energy lightbulb wins Design of the Year: British designer's 'beautiful and smart' Plumen 001 is overall winner at the 2011 Brit Insurance Design awards...But, is the design just a bit tricky? Could it be even better if it had the simple purity of form found in the maligned incandescent bulb? Perhaps. By Jonathan Glancey -- Hulger - Guardian (UK)

Just Keep Truckin': Designed by David Rockwell, the customized tractor-trailer will deliver Jamie Oliver's gospel of healthy eating throughout the U.S. -- Rockwell Group [images] - Change Observer

SmartGeometry 2011 Conference, April 1-2 in Copenhagen, Denmark: focused on benefitting from innovative design tools, technologies, and methodologies to explore new forms of architectural and structural expression. -- Usman Haque/Haque Design + Research; Ben van Berkel/UN Studio; Billie Faircloth/KieranTimberlake; Craig Schwitter + Gijs Libourel/Buro Happold + Adaptive Building Initiative; IBM Smart Cities; Mette Ramsgaard Thomsen/Center for Information Technology and Architecture (CITA) - Bentley

Call for entries: 2011 Record Interiors: In a nod to the new decade, special consideration will be paid to works that incorporate innovations in design, program, building technology, sustainability, and/or materials; deadline: June 1 - Architectural Record

Call for entries: ACADIA 2011 Design + Fabrication Competition: proposals for inventive, experimental designs in Lighting, Partitions, Furniture; winning designs in each category will be fabricated; deadline: June 1 - ACADIA / FLATCUT\_

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