

Today's News - Thursday, March 17, 2011

- Even with costs of going green going down in the hospitality industry and some hoteliers are recouping in record time, others "see red" when it comes to LEED: "you still need a LEED consultant as interpreter...Hurry up with the LEED conversion to the English language!"
- Russell roams around what will be Columbia University's Manhattanville satellite campus where Piano's science center will rise; but "renderings fall short of suggesting the energy this idea factory hopes to unleash" (he has higher hopes for DS+R/Field Operations project: "Columbia could use some of that pizzazz").
- Ouroussoff x 2: video Q&A's with four starchitects working in Doha and Abu Dhabi + Protests by artists stirring up dust over Gehry's Guggenheim Abu Dhabi.
- Pennsylvania's Westmoreland Museum of American Art picks an impressive shortlist for expansion/renovation project.
- As Kapoor's "Sculpi-Tecture" (a.k.a. ArcelorMittal Orbit) begins to rise, it awaits a nickname and, "at the moment, it looks like some kind of an improbable giant red beanstalk...it might end up looking more like a wilting beanstalk."
- Birnbaum on the importance of viewsheds and an upcoming symposium at Olana "worthy of national attention."
- Brussat finds a Modernist building he actually likes: Gehry's 8 Spruce Street (gasp!) - but he reserves "the right to retract the above opinion of the building upon closer inspection."
- Q&A with director of Parsons' new (and first in the U.S.) undergraduate degree program in urban design.
- Lamster discovers "a little-known architecture school with big ambitions: "Does Woodbury University exemplify a demographic revolution in architecture?"
- Q&A with Shashi Caan re: the IFI Declaration and "the value, relevance, responsibility, culture, business, knowledge, and identity of interior architecture/design."
- A Kenyan architect and landscape architect "has a great desire to make ecotourism work."
- An architect launches a new art and architecture magazine in Pakistan: "It pained me to see that the plethora of quality publications on architecture from our neighboring countries but nothing from Pakistan: there was a vacuum."
- Winners all: 18 projects take center stage in the AIA 2011 Housing Awards (great presentation!) + American Academy of Arts and Letters names 2011 Architecture Award winners.
- Call for entries: Think Space - Geopolitical Borders/The New Global Border (Franch and Cruz involved).

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Has the Price of Going Green Really Dropped? Some Hoteliers See Red: ...even if green materials and construction costs have dropped, the price of hiring a consultant to meet certification standards remains high, some hoteliers complain..."you still need a LEED consultant as interpreter. It's really stupid...Hurry up with the LEED conversion to the English language!" - National Real Estate Investor (NREI)

Columbia University's Cranes Claw Out Brainy, Bland Lab: ...Manhattanville area...will become a 6.7-million square foot satellite campus...Jerome L. Greene Science Center intends to scramble disciplines to collaborate on research of mind-boggling complexity...But the renderings I saw...fall short of suggesting the energy this idea factory hopes to unleash. By James S. Russell -- Renzo Piano; Diller Scofidio + Renfro; James Corner Field Operations [images]- Bloomberg News

Two Cities, Four Architects: ...Doha and Abu Dhabi are the settings for vast construction projects, including major new museums designed by some of the world's most celebrated architects. By Nicolai Ouroussoff -- I.M. Pei; Frank Gehry; Norman Foster; Jean Nouvel [video]- New York Times

Abu Dhabi Guggenheim Faces Protest: More than 130 artists are demanding better conditions for workers building a Guggenheim museum in Abu Dhabi...one of the highest-profile construction projects in the Middle East. It is to be the centerpiece of a sprawling development called Saadiyat Island...if well-known artists in...refuse to be involved, it could open with an embarrassingly thin Middle Eastern collection. By Nicolai Ouroussoff- New York Times

Westmoreland Museum of American Art Narrows Architect Search Down to 5: ...for its expansion/renovation project. -- Allied Works Architecture; Centerbrook Architects and Planners; Ennead Architects (formerly Polshek Partnership); HGA (Hammel, Green and Abrahamson); wHY Architecture and Design- ArtDaily.org

London awaits Anish Kapoor's 'Sculpi-Tecture': ...nobody, not even those building ArcelorMittal Orbit, knows quite what kind of animal it is. Is it a sculpture? A building? A monument to engineering? A tower?...At the moment, it looks like some kind of an improbable giant red beanstalk...Once it starts to sprout droopy tendrils, though, it might end up looking more like a wilting beanstalk. -- Cecil Balmond; Kathryn Findlay- The Economic Times (India)

The Value of View: With the conference Framing the Viewshed...the Olana Partnership is placing the site's character-defining visual and spatial relationships first...worthy of national attention... By Charles A. Birnbaum/The Cultural Landscape -- Frederic Edwin Church; Frederick Law Olmsted; H. H. Richardson; Calvert Vaux [images, links]- Huffington Post

A modernist building I actually like: By über-modernist Frank "O!" Gehry to boot? Can this be so? If so, then it qualifies as a teaching moment...[I reserve the right to retract the above opinion of the building upon closer inspection.] By David Brussat [images]- Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

Teaching Urban Design: Parsons The New School for Design is launching the nation's first undergraduate degree in urban design, which prompted us to ask the program's director, Victoria Marshall, what exactly is being taught and what exactly it means for the training of a new generation of urbanists with a different relationship to the urban realm than the designers that came before. [images]- Urban Omnibus

The Future Belongs to Woodbury: This university in Southern California has a little-known architecture school with big ambitions. Most of its students belong to a minority group and are the first in their families to attend college...Does [it] exemplify a demographic revolution in architecture? By Mark Lamster -- Hadley and Peter Arnold/Arid Lands Institute; Ingalll Wahlroos-Ritter; Norman Mllar; Friendly Office; Louis Molina- Architect Magazine

Q&A with Shashi Caan: The Future of Design: The results of a world-wide survey put interior design at the center of human needs...the IFI Declaration which explores the value, relevance, responsibility, culture, business, knowledge, and identity of Interior Architecture/Design. -- International Federation of Interior Architects/Designers (IFI); Design Frontiers: The Interiors Entity (DFIE)- Metropolis Magazine

Eco-Architecture Finds a Home: "Authentic Ecolodges" by Hitesh Mehta, a Kenyan-born architect and landscape architect...[he] has a great desire to make ecotourism work. -- International Ecotourism Society- The East African (Kenya)

An architect's plea for cross-border trade A publisher's dream and the nightmare reality: ...Maria Aslam Hyder, an architect from IVSAA (Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture, Karachi)...started a new art and architecture magazine in Pakistan with a view to improving the design quality, called ADA (Architecture Design Art).

"It pained me to see that the plethora of quality publications on architecture from our neighboring countries but nothing from Pakistan: there was a vacuum."- The News (Pakistan)

AIA Selects 18 Recipients for the 2011 Housing Awards -- Bohlin Cywinski Jackson; Alchemy; Johnsen Schmalig Architects; Robert M. Gurney, FAIA, Architect; Della Valle Bernheimer/Architecture Research Office (ARO); Interface Studio Architects; Olson Kundig Architects; Finegold Alexander + Associates; Eskew+Dumez+Ripple; David Baker + Partners; Koning Eizenberg Architecture; Overland Partners; William Rawn Associates; Ennead Architects [links to images, info]- American Institute of Architects (AIA)

American Academy of Arts and Letters names 2011 Architecture Award Winners: This year's Brunner Memorial Prize winner is Mack Scogin and Merrill Elam -- William Massie/Cranbrook Academy of Art; Julie VanderBerg Snow/Julie Snow Architects; Sylvia Lavin; Anthony Vidler- World Architecture News (UK)

Call for entries: Think Space - Geopolitical Borders/The New Global Border calls for critical observations of border regions as laboratories from which to imagine new paradigms of urbanization and democratization; deadline: April 26 -- Eva Franch; Teddy Cruz- Zagreb Society of Architects / Think Space



BNKR Arquitectura: Sunset Chapel, Acapulco, Guerrero, Mexico

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