

Today's News - Monday, March 21, 2011

EDITOR'S NOTE: Because of early morning travel plans, we will not be posting tomorrow, but we'll be back Wednesday, March 23.

- ArcSpace brings us WHY Architecture's art center in Venice, CA, and KK's 10 very busy days in L.A.
- Kamin strolls the Dallas Arts District to find a pleasing display of "trophy buildings," but still lacking "urban vitality" - though he does have high hopes for a park spanning a sunken highway that could thread together the city's "fragmented urban fabric."
- The Museum of Design Atlanta may have been the city's best kept secret - but not for long: with new digs (and an architecture firm as landlord) across the street from the High Museum, "MODA will be suddenly hard to miss."
- A retired NYC detective takes on reviving a forlorn upstate New York village, confirming "his status as one of America's best-known progressive developers" (whose guardian angel seems to be Jane Jacobs).
- Litt is a little leery about what could become of Cleveland's downtown: it all depends on who pays for and who carries out (he hopes not a local) an important traffic study.
- An eyeful of Corner's plans for Santa Monica's new Palisades Garden Walk and Town Square: "a collection of colorful and topographically diverse zones."
- Lange minces no words about what could result from Ratner swapping "titanium for brown paper" (a.k.a. thinking prefab) at Atlantic Yards: "there's a thin value engineered line between industrial production and genius."
- We'll know tomorrow if Holl's "contentious" Glasgow School of Art project gets the go-ahead (odds are it will).
- A much warmer reception in store for Texas State's new Performing Arts Center designed with the community in mind.
- London's next Olympic eye-grabber: cable cars crossing the Thames.
- Madin slams plans to demolish his Central Library in Birmingham, U.K. for a £193 million replacement that is "a waste of money and not fit for purpose."
- Correa x 2: architecture "is not a queue in which we all have to line up with the Americans ahead or the Chinese behind" + "In this age of homogenized culture, 'young architects have to stick their neck out to do something new.'"
- Dunlop offers a lovely tribute to Alfred Browning Parker (including an amusing obituary he wrote for himself).

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-- WHY Architecture: L&M Arts, Venice, California

-- KK Letter: Bjarke Ingels, Terry Allen, Dave Hickey, Tadao Ando, Marianne Stockebrand, Robert Irwin, Ed Ruscha, Craig Dykers, and Iwan Baan... 10 busy days in LA

A work in progress: The Dallas Arts District gathers trophy buildings, but still searches for urban vitality...park over the Woodall Rodgers freeway...could be a model for other cities...that have looked into "capping" or "decking" sunken highways...focus will be on outdoor spaces that thread Dallas' fragmented urban fabric, not spectacular objects. By Blair Kamin -- I.M. Pei, Renzo Piano, Norman Foster and Rem Koolhaas; Edward Larrabee Barnes (1984); Joshua Prince-Ramus/REX; Office of James Burnett [images]- Chicago Tribune

Museum of Design Atlanta moves forward: ...with its opening [on Peachtree Street], across the street from the Woodruff Arts Center/High Museum...MODA will be suddenly hard to miss. It hopes to transform from a barely hanging in there shoestring entity into an essential institution that not only represents, but rallies, the city's growing force of design professionals. -- Brenda Galina; Bruce McEvoy/Perkins+Will- accessAtlanta

The Last Townie: A retired New York City detective who saw opportunity in Brooklyn's run-down Red Hook waterfront when nobody else did is trying to repeat the trick in a remote village upstate...In remaking Mount Morris, Greg O'Connell...has confirmed his status as one of America's best-known progressive developers..."I'm about community"... - New York Times Magazine

Public Square traffic studies could determine the character of downtown for decades: ...Rock Gaming [casino] could have decisive influence over whether downtown can become greener, livelier and more beautiful, or whether it's swamped by traffic...Cleveland now has a rare chance to redefine the public realm downtown... By Steven Litt -- James Corner of Field Operations; Nelson Nygaard; Glatting Jackson Kercher Anglin [images]- Cleveland Plain Dealer

Santa Monica Parks and Rec: James Corner Field Operations shows off latest park plans...the Palisades Garden Walk and Town Square...a collection of colorful and topographically diverse zones, each meant for a different use and experience. [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Bad Faith Towers: Never let it be said that Bruce Ratner is not an avid follower of architectural trends. With this latest iteration of building at Atlantic Yards he swaps titanium for brown paper...there's a thin value engineered line between industrial production and genius. By Alexandra Lange- Design Observer

Steven Holl's Glasgow School of Art set for approval: ...contentious £50 million project is expected to be approved tomorrow...local authority's planning officers believe the extension will "make a valuable contribution to the city's wealth and variety of architectural achievements"... [images]- The Architects' Journal (UK)

Texas State unveils Performing Arts Center design: ...will feature a 400-seat theatre, a 300-seat recital hall and rehearsal spaces, staging areas, classrooms and a grand lobby. -- Pfeiffer Partners; Morris Architects [images]- San Marcos Local News (Texas)

Mayor rubberstamps Wilkinson Eyre's River Thames cable car: The Greater London Authority (GLA) has given its final approval...Capable of carrying 2,500 passengers an hour, the new route will link the O2 arena in Greenwich with the Excel exhibition centre in the Royal Docks - both 2012 Olympic venues. [images]- The Architects' Journal (UK)

New Library of Birmingham slammed as 'waste of money' by architect who designed original central library: John Madin...has attacked its £193 million replacement as a waste of money and not fit for purpose..."They asked me to do the design and now they are simply knocking it down. I just think it's

disgraceful." - Birmingham Mail (UK)

"Architects of my generation got inspired by Le Corbusier": Charles Correa feels architecture is not a queue in which we all have to line up with the Americans ahead or the Chinese behind. Each of us has the opportunity to be on the cutting edge of where we live.- The Pioneer (India)

Charles Correa: Architects have to script their own agenda while creating new idioms in this age of homogenised culture..."Young architects have to stick their neck out to do something new"- Sify (India)

Alfred Browning Parker and his sense of place: No Miami architect before or since has exulted so much in the natural environment here (though others came close). By Beth Dunlop- Miami Herald

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