Today's News - Thursday, March 31, 2011

- In Shanghai, "there's every sign that forward-thinking (and upward-rising) Western-inspired architecture" (by starchitects, of course) will continue to shape the city's "urban cool."
- Q&A with urban planner Sorensen re: rebuilding challenges in Japan: it might be better off relocating cities to higher ground - "you need a new kind of settlement system."
- Q&A with architect and urbanist Ramati re: plaza bonuses, street life, and the legacy of NYC's Urban Design Group: "One thing that worries me is the branding of architecture."
- Breussat bristles with the same concern, wishing there was a way to make traditional and modern architecture more compatible: it "can be conceived, but a way to bring architects of all stripes to embrace it is difficult if not impossible to imagine."
- High hopes that Lower Manhattan's Water Street ends up with "that Park Avenue feel."
- Your chance to make that happen: NYC issues an RFP for a Water Street Feasibility Study.
- In Korea, Samsung uses corporate clout in a "lopsided legal battle" with companies with similar names - most notably the 40-year-old architectural firm that actually designed Samsung's Hoam Art Museum in 1982.
- California taps 36 firms - from established names to small but well-regarded offices - to modernize 50 new state courthouses of all sizes.
- Plans for an Anne Frank museum near Ground Zero "would be more evidence that lower Manhattan is becoming a Mecca for religious and cultural groups of all stripes."
- RIBA's Reed and Rich at odds only add to a continuing list of ruffled feathers and discontent: "It is the worst period of RIBA politics in my generation."
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Imams’ girl next door: Anne Frank museum to be Ground Zero mosque neighbor: The windows of the 1 million-square-foot office tower [at 100 Church St.] overlook Park 51...took out ads last year seeking a larger home in order to re-create the “secret annex”...The move would be more evidence that lower Manhattan is becoming a Mecca for religious and cultural groups of all stripes. - New York Post

Ruth Reed in failed bid to oust Harry Rich: RIBA president has failed in a bid to oust chief executive through a vote of ‘no confidence’...News of the top-level debacle came to light just days after the institute announced an embarrassing U-turn on its policy to scrap the RIBA Trust...“It is the worst period of RIBA politics in my generation.” - The Architects’ Journal (UK)

A lopsided legal battle for companies named ‘Samseong’: Samsung uses corporate clout to root out long-established companies with the same name...Samseong Architects, one of the oldest architectural firms in South Korea...changed its name from Samseong...even Samoo Architects and Engineering, which is viewed in the architecture world as a virtual subsidiary of the Samsung Group, chose the name “Samoo” mindful of Samsung. - The Hankyoreh (Korea)

Chinese students steal secrets: James Dyson has warned that Chinese students are infiltrating British universities to steal technological and scientific secrets...said he had evidence that the bugs were left by postgraduates to ensure the thefts continued after they had returned home. [via The Sunday Times]- The Australian

Nanne de Ru of Powerhouse Company Awarded Maaskant Prize for Young Architects 2011- Designer

Book Review: “Immaterial World: Transparency in Architecture”: Marc Kristal crystallizes increasingly complex notions of transparency with a light touch...invites additional research, reflection, and archi-tourism. By Norman Weinstein -- Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Alejandro Aravena; Toyo Ito; Christian de Portzamparc- ArchNewsNow.com

A Tale of Two Pools: Q&A with Paulett Taggart: It was the sunniest of pools, it was the foggiest of pools, but the architectural approach is similar: there is nothing unnecessary. -- Paulett Taggart Architects; Mark Cavagnero Associates [images]- ArchNewsNow

Lundgaard & Tranberg Arkitekter: Charlottehaven, Copenhagen, Denmark