

## Today's News - Thursday, May 5, 2011

- Ignoring the connection between planning for a city's "heart" as much as its "body" could have "just as much to do with failed plans as does the quality of the plan itself."
- Speck (with lots of community input) offers a plan to transform a suburban strip mall in a Long Island town into a lively TOD that could help L.I. "shed itself of its status as the suburban stepchild of New York City."
- Dietsch dissects a study aimed at developing an appropriate design strategy for a new sanctuary for Washington, DC's Third Church of Christ, Scientist, along with an office building (meaning the '71 Pei/ Cassutta church's fate to meet a wrecking ball is a fait accompli?).
- Campbell cheers landscape architects and Providence, RI's Steel Yard: "the best example I know of how an industrial wasteland can be transformed into a new kind of urban beauty" (partly because "landscape architects are invading the arenas once dominated by architects and city planners").
- Brussat makes some interesting connections re: skyscrapers outliving bin Laden, and a "macabre symmetry" between the WTC and the Pruitt-Igoe public-housing complex, in St. Louis.
- Q&A with Shuttleworth re: his controversial, 1-million-square-foot 5 Broadgate in London: "as so often our work looks different, those who can't accept new aesthetics find it difficult to digest."
- BIG wins big (again), beating out Hadid et al. for a major cultural center in Tirana, Albania (lots of pix) + Ingels proposes a "radical tool for liberating urban space" in a slideshow that "makes for pulse-racing eye candy" ("Mess is more," he cheekily concludes").
- Gehry talks about the benefits of "creative play" (and then some).
- New accessibility building standards now in play in Australia: the Premises Standards should be "good for both the building industry and people with disability."
- Green roofs are spreading their roots across the U.S. despite a lousy economy.
- SCI-Arc (finally) finds a permanent home - the one it's been living in (and hoping to own) for 10 years.
- 2011 City of the Year: the "diverse, surprisingly creative Houston" that Kotkin calls "one of the world's next great cities."
- NZIA awards go to the bold, the beautiful - and a bog.
- Canada's 2011 Prix du XXe siècle award for "enduring excellence of nationally significant architecture" goes to four projects dating back to 1966 (great presentation).
- An EOI for an international design competition to rebuild Brisbane's ferry terminals + Call for entries James Dyson Award 2011: design something that solves a problem.

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The Importance of Psychology in Planning: ...most often planning for a city means planning for its body, or its land and built capital...rarely does it entail planning for the city's heart, or its emotion. This is unfortunate because a city's psyche...probably has just as much to do with failed plans as does the quality of the plan itself. - Rust Wire

A reopening rail station promotes retrofit of Long Island workplace hub: The redevelopment of a 500,000 square foot suburban strip mall in Farmingdale, NY...slated to be redeveloped as a walkable, mixed-use town center and transit-oriented development (TOD). -- Speck & Associates [images] - New Urban News

Stitches in Time: Kerns Group Architects studies Washington's 16th Street corridor to develop a framework for the new Third Church of Christ, Scientist...study will help shape an appropriate design strategy for a new sanctuary and an office building on the site. By Deborah K. Dietsch -- I.M. Pei/Araldo Cassutta (1971) [images] - Inform Magazine: Architecture + Design in the Mid-Atlantic (Virginia Society of the American Institute of Architects)

At industrial sites, the landscape shifts: Providence's Steel Yard is a fine case in point...Landscape architects are invading the arenas once dominated by architects and city planners...here is the best example I know of how an industrial wasteland can be transformed into a new kind of urban beauty. By Robert Campbell -- Klopfer Martin Design Group - Boston Globe

Skyscrapers outlive Osama (for now): ...skyscrapers have spent the past decade mocking their obituaries and leaping from height to height...There is a macabre symmetry in the last and the first sets of towers to be felled by the hand of man. The World Trade Center [and] the Pruitt-Igoe public-housing complex, in St. Louis... By David Brussat -- Minoru Yamasaki; James Howard Kunstler - Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

Shuttleworth on 5 Broadgate: 'a sea change in modern architecture': Make founder talks exclusively to the AJ about the practice's controversial scheme: ..."as so often our work looks different, those who can't accept new aesthetics find it difficult to digest." By Richard Waite [images] - The Architects' Journal (UK)

BIG wins the competition to design a major Cultural Center in Tirana, Albania: ... consisting of a Mosque, an Islamic Centre, and a Museum of Religious Harmony....selected out of five finalists, including Andreas Perea Ortega, Architecture Studio, SeARCH, and Zaha Hadid. Bjarke Ingels Group/Martha Schwartz Landscape/Buro Happold/Speirs & Major/Lutzenberger & Lutzenberger/Global Cultural Asset Management [images] - ArchDaily

A maverick architect proposes radical tool for liberating urban space: Cars without drivers: Bjarke Ingels...based his idea that cars autopiloted by computer on smart solar roads could reinvent the city. His slideshow makes for pulse-racing eye candy..."Mess is more," he cheekily concludes... -- Bjarke Ingels Group/BIG [slide show] - Mother Nature Network

Frank Gehry Builds on Virtues of Play: Law professor Robert Benson — part of the panel that offered Gehry the first big commission [Loyola Law School] to draw international attention to his architecture in 1979 — talks to the architect about the benefits of "creative play." [links] - Miller-McCune

New accessibility building standards now in play: Premises Standards...designed to ensure all new and upgraded public buildings in Australia will be accessible to people with a disability...good for both the building industry and people with disability. - Architecture & Design (Australia)

Despite Economy, Green Roofs Bloom: ...U.S. green roof market grew 30% in 2010 despite the challenging economy...green roofs have many financial benefits. [links] - The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

SCI-Arc buys its unorthodox home: The Southern California Institute of Architecture pays \$23 million for the century-old rail freight depot that is a quarter of a mile long and about 37 feet wide. The school has been a tenant in the building for 10 years. -- Eric Owen Moss; Thom Mayne/Morphosis; Frank Gehry; Michael Rotondi; William Fain - Los Angeles Times

Fast Cities: 2011 City of the Year...diverse, surprisingly creative Houston...which urban theorist Joel Kotkin tips as "one of the world's next great cities." [links] - Fast Company

Bold, beautiful and bog scoop New Zealand Institute of Architects Awards -- NZIA; Maxcey Architects; Peddle Thorp; Patterson Associates; Fearon Hay Architects; Warren and Mahoney; Mary Jowett Architects; Mitchell and Stout; Stevens Lawson; Architectural Ecology [slide shows] - New Zealand Herald

2011 Prix du XXe siècle award recognizes the enduring excellence of nationally significant architecture...or a building anywhere designed by a Canadian architect. -- Clifford Wiens; John B. Parkin Architects (successor firm, NORR Limited);

[Arthur Erickson \(2\) \[link to images, info\]](#)- Architecture Canada | Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC)

[Call for entries/Expressions of Interest/EOI: Brisbane Ferry terminal international design competition: winning concept will be used as the design across the eight CityCat terminals, with the winning designer intimately involved in adapting their concept to fit in with each location as a consulting architect; deaqline: May 23-](#) Queensland Government (Australia)

[Call for entries: James Dyson Award 2011: design something that solves a problem; cash prizes; deadline: August 2-](#) James Dyson Foundation



[Roseta Vaz Monteiro Arquitectos: Church of Senhora da Boa Nova, Estoril, Portugal](#)

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