

Today's News - Thursday, May 26, 2011

- Calys and King on Snohetta's plans for SFMOMA (no "black caped architect" here): it "possesses the potential for success as a museum and the potential for brilliance as architecture" and is "a concept that aims to slide a block-long building into the landscape without causing a fuss."
- Jed Perl offers pearls about Piano's Whitney expansion: "Architects are always trying to obliterate their predecessors" + Some straight info with great video.
- We cheer Cooper-Hewitt's 12th Annual National Design Award winners (great presentations).
- Winnipeg is taking serious steps to reinvent its downtown, and "so far, it seems to be working."
- Rochon takes on unhealthy neighborhoods that are "literally sapping people of their ability to live fully" - it's time. "to start funding the radical redesign of inner and outer suburbs" (some frightening statistics for NYC and Toronto!).
- Q&A with Joyce Lee re: NYC's Active Design Guidelines: "We take the message of health practitioners very seriously and have started re-visiting the way we plan, design, and build."
- Karrie Jacobs takes issue with those who consider NYC's transportation commissioner Sadik-Khan a "Roberta Moses": she "has built something stunningly logical, surprisingly monumental, and genuinely new."
- London Assembly report calls for the mayor to clamp down on the privatization of public spaces.
- Teddy Cruz offers research and ideas about planning that are "rooted in a very common sense approach to development."
- Rappaport calls for the reintegration of urban industry into the fabric of our cities.
- An eyeeful of Holl's new building for the National University of Colombia in Bogotá.
- White bemoans Calgary's "paralysis by analysis" in debating the need, site and design for a new library: "How can we consider ourselves the cultural capital when we can't figure out how to build a new central library?"
- Lui challenges LEED to include construction worker health and safety in its rating system.
- A good reason to head to Madrid in July: the IE/IIT Summer School: Atlas on Density: The Battle of Cities for Sustainability.
- Call for entries: 2011 Faith & Form/IFRAA International Awards Program for Religious Art & Architecture.

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SFMOMA expansion: the first glimpse: ...a caringly thought out concept and a process-driven design...the decidedly unglamorous listening to the urban context, the neighborhood, and the street...point to an underlying devotion to the process of evolutionary design...possesses the potential for success as a museum and the potential for brilliance as architecture. By George Calys -- Mario Botta (1994); Craig Dykers/Snohetta [slide show]- San Francisco Examiner

SFMOMA wing gently expands reach in early plans: The details are sketchy, but the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art has released its design concept for a new wing that would double the size of the institution - a concept that aims to slide a block-long building into the landscape without causing a fuss...takes a deferential approach to its neighbors. By John King -- Craig Dykers/Snohetta; EHDD [images]- San Francisco Chronicle

Adrift: Will the Whitney's new home allow it to finally find happiness? At the groundbreaking, Renzo Piano hadn't finished paying his respects to Breuer's Whitney before he was announcing that the Whitney would be "much better here" -- i.e. in the Meatpacking District -- "than up there." Architects are always trying to obliterate their predecessors...simply trading one posh neighborhood for another. By Jed Perl- The New Republic

Whitney Museum's Meatpacking District Construction Begins -- Renzo Piano Building Workshop; Cooper, Robertson & Partners. [images, video]- Huffington Post

Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum Announces Winners and Finalists of the 12th Annual National Design Awards -- Architecture Research Office (ARO); Shelton, Mindel & Associates; Gustafson Guthrie Nichol; Continuum; Knoll [images]- Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum

Winnipeg rethinks suburban sprawl with downtown reinvention: An unprecedented level of development is under way in the Manitoba capital, as Winnipeg attempts to reverse decades of movement out to the suburbs...So far, it seems to be working..."Downtowns have changed and they need to reinvent themselves." - Globe and Mail (Canada)

Unhealthy neighbourhoods play big role in obesity, diabetes epidemic: This is the new crisis of cities: Badly designed neighbourhoods are literally sapping people of their ability to live fully...It's a cruel fate...it seems only economically savvy...to start funding the radical redesign of inner and outer suburbs. It's cheaper to plant a row of trees, after all, than to put somebody on dialysis for life. By Lisa Rochon- Globe and Mail (Canada)

Interview with Joyce Lee, NYC Active Design Program: ...there are "deep-rooted structural issues with the built environment that are creating epidemics of obesity, diabetes, and depression." How will New York City's new Active Design Guidelines solve these major problems? "We take the message of health practitioners very seriously and have started re-visiting the way we plan, design, and build." [images, links]- The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Anatomy of a Takedown: A recent series of negative articles about New York's transportation commissioner has our columnist crying foul: Janette Sadik-Khan has built something stunningly logical, surprisingly monumental, and genuinely new in a city where most commissioners find it hard to simply keep up with potholes. By Karrie Jacobs- Metropolis Magazine

Report urges London mayor to act on privatisation of public space: London Assembly's 'Public Life in Private Hands'...raises concerns about the growing trend for developers to retain control of public space...It urges the mayor to intervene by introducing new planning guidance...highlights examples of bad practice... -- West 8; David Chipperfield- BD/Building Design (UK)

Teddy Cruz and Neighborhood Production: ...he presented research and ideas about planning that were not only socially and politically valuable, but also rooted in a very common sense approach to development...it was easy see how eliminating zoning constraints that foster suburbia but strangle ad hoc development could allow a neighborhood to flourish.- Architectural Record

Vertical Urban Factory: Architectural historian Nina Rappaport analyzes the evolution of factory design and calls for the reintegration of urban industry into the fabric of our cities...By engaging designers and planners in that conversation, she hopes that this will be a first step towards redefining and reinvigorating urban industry. -- Albert Kahn; Giacomo Matte-Trucco; Henn Architekten [images]- Urban Omnibus

[Steven Holl Architects Unveils Design for Doctorate's Building for the Schools of Law and Economic Sciences at the National University of Colombia in Bogotá. -- Leopold Rother/Fritz Karsen \(1930s\) \[images\]- Architectural Record](#)

[Paralysis by analysis hits library: How long have we been debating the need, site and design for a new library? ...It seems strange Calgary is lobbying the federal government to be designated the cultural capital of Canada in 2012. How can we consider ourselves the cultural capital when we can't figure out how to build a new central library? By Richard White/Riddell Kurczaba Architecture- Calgary Herald \(Canada\)](#)

[Sustainability of Workers' Rights: The USGBC's LEED rating system promotes sustainable construction...Should issues of worker health and safety fall beneath the purview of LEED? The simple answer is yes...While \[it\] attempts to stride forward in questions of occupant health, it stays stagnant in regards to worker safety. By Ann Lui- Archinect](#)

[Illinois Institute of Technology College of Architecture, Chicago, and IE School of Architecture, Madrid/Segovia, will join forces to launch the IE/IIT Summer School in Madrid - Atlas on Density: The Battle of Cities for Sustainability, July 18-15- IE School of Architecture \(Madrid\)](#)

[Call for entries: 2011 Faith & Form/IFRAA International Awards Program for Religious Art & Architecture: categories: Religious Architecture, Liturgical/Interior Design, Sacred Landscape, Religious Arts, and Unbuilt Work; deadline: June 20- Faith & Form Magazine](#)



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