Today's News - Wednesday, June 1, 2011

- Gisolfi examines the often misunderstood aspects (and difference between) collaboration and compromise in the design process.
- Echanove and Srivastava bemoan the well-intentioned but misguided $300 house competition that could "do the urban poor more harm than good"; it's the "kind of mistake all too common in the trendy field of social entrepreneurship."
- Kamin on Chicago's "surprising last-minute move" to put Goldberg's Prentice Women's Hospital on the agenda (tomorrow!) to consider it for temporary protected status.
- Two young architects and a biologist in Mexico City have a grand vision of "transformational infrastructure" that would "refresh their dusty megalopolis with a ring of water and parks."
- Saffron cheers a "bumper crop of new parks sprouting in Philadelphia" despite "the keepers of the public treasury" pleading poverty.
- Bolivia expected to pass the world's first "Law of Mother Earth" giving nature 11 new rights (may we have some of those, too, please?!?).
- Lui examines South Korea's "bold new building strategy" that has large and small (and even local) firms capitalizing on the opportunities.
- Klahr calls the critics on their praise for Gehry's Manhattan tower: its "shimmering skin...is indeed lovely," but "it's still a box...that terminates with a dull, boring, horizontal thud."
- "The architect's newspaper" examines the Miller House "a High Modern icon" that "all aspiring titans should examine before building big themselves."
- Architect and school design consultant Nair talks to about the importance of designing 21st century schools instead of buildings that "resemble an Industrial Age factory production line."
- Leaders of the world's top architecture schools are heading to Madrid to debate the future of architectural education (Mayne will be one of the main attractions).
- Winners of the Good Design is Good Business Awards "demonstrate how thoughtful architecture, cohesive collaborations, and sustainable resource management benefit a client's bottom line, productivity levels, and preparedness for the future" (great presentation!).
- The winner of Crafttecture competition will design a pavilion for the Electric Picnic for Ireland's Year of Craft, 2011.
- Plan to spend some time with animated walkthroughs of Solar Decathlon 2011 entries.
- Call for entries: Helsinki's South Harbour Open International Ideas Competition + Treehouses in Paradise Competition 2011 (both have big ash prizes; one includes travel).
- We couldn't resist: "Plan Of The City" is an animated film about NYC's skyline blasting off to Mars - great music - and a goldfish included - the best 13 minutes we've spent in a long time - guaranteed to make your day!!!
- A bumper crop of new parks sprouting in Philadelphia: How is it possible that so many new and improved public spaces are in the pipeline when the keepers of the public treasury...are pleading poverty? For better or worse, outside interests have become the lead player in planning and maintaining an entire generation of what we still like to call public parks. By Inga Saffron -- Studio Bryan Hanes; Digsau; Michael Van Valkenburgh; Simone Collins; Lager Raabe Skafte [slide show]: Philadelphia Inquirer
- Bolivia Expected to Protect Rights of Nature: ...the world's first..."Law of Mother Earth"...Nature would get 11 new rights, including the "right to pure water and clean air; the right to balance; the right not to be polluted"...protected from being "affected by mega-infrastructure and development projects that affect the balance of ecosystems and the local inhabitants communities." - The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)
- Nation Building: ...how South Korea aims to impress the world not only with its tall towers but its large-scale sustainable planning...From big corporate firms...to young, internationally-trained Koreans, architects are capitalizing on opportunities. By Ann Lok Lu -- Kohn Pedersen Fox (KPF); HOK; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); LOT-EK; Joel Sanders; Haeahn Architecture; SO-IL; Counterdesign; Francisco Sanin [images]: The Architect's Newspaper
- It's Still A Box In Search of a Crown: 8 Spruce Street / New York by Gehry: ...its shimmering skin of stainless steel panels...is indeed lovely and...truly an enlivening presence within the skyline of Manhattan...fails to provide a suitable crown...a skyscraper that terminates with a dull,
Boring, horizontal thud. By Douglas Klahr - e-architect (UK)

A Visitor Center Where Poe Heard a Knocking: The Bronx’s Poe Park Visitor Center is rugged yet poetic, without overwhelming the nearby cottage that was Edgar Allen Poe’s last New York home. Splashy new architecture attracts a blaze of attention, but it’s the carefully conceived small projects that have the real impact on everyday lives. By Julie V. Iovine -- Toshiko Mori [image] - Wall Street Journal

The Miller House, Reborn: Designed by three men of exceptional talent, each at the height of his own powers, the Miller House in the heart of Indiana is a High Modern icon and the apogee of the American Century...a house all aspiring titans should examine before building big themselves. By Julie V. Iovine -- Eero Saarinen; Dan Kiley; Alexander Girard - Wall Street Journal

Building futures: Architect and school design consultant Prakash Nair talks to about the importance of designing ‘21st century schools’...“Most of our school buildings resemble an Industrial Age factory production line”...In an age that celebrates the individual, this ‘standardisation’ is hardly in step with the needs of students and also teachers who aim hard at preventing children from becoming another brick in the wall. -- Fielding Nair International - The Hindu (India)

Future of architectural education up for debate in Madrid: The deans and directors of the world’s top architecture schools including the AA, Bartlett and UCLA to meet at the International Architectural Education Summit on June 24-26...hosted by Spain’s IE School of Architecture -- Thom Mayne/Morphosis - BD/Building Design (UK)

13th Good Design is Good Business Awards (formerly BusinessWeek/Architectural Record Awards): ...demonstrate how thoughtful architecture, cohesive collaborations, and sustainable resource management benefit a client’s bottom line, productivity levels, and preparedness for the future. -- Roth + Shepard Architects; Earl Everett Ferguson Architect; Pickard Chilton; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); THA Architecture; Bohlin Cywinski Jackson; Cannon Design; OAB – Office of Architecture in Barcelona; Barkow Leibinger Architects [slide shows] - Architectural Record


Call for entries: South Harbour / Kirjava Satama Open International Ideas Competition for Helsinki’s South Harbour; cash prizes; free registration; deadline: September 30 - City of Helsinki

Call for entries: Treehouses In Paradise Competition 2011: sites are near the beaches of Fiji, Vietnam, China and Maui; cash prizes (and trips); deadline: August 29 - Treehouses In Paradise

"Plan Of The City":...a new animated film by Joshua Frankel, about the architecture of New York City blasting off into outer space and resettling on Mars...audio is composer Judd Greenstein’s “Change,” performed by NOW Ensemble [video] - Vimeo via Joshua Frankel


Yesterday’s News
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