Today's News - Thursday, September 29, 2011

- Phenomenal cosmic skyscrapers — itty bitty environmental savings: Ed Glaeser, in his book The Triumph of Cities, goes so far as to say they’re the savions of our cities...they won’t save the environment. Michael Mehaffy at the New Urban Network has written an extensive paper explaining why. On a pound-for-pound basis, skyscrapers don't make a lot of environmental sense. By Tim De Chant [links] - Grist Magazine

- At the MFA, a look that feels contemporary: Updated Museum of Fine Arts Linde wing is more open and welcoming...an example of how much can be accomplished in architecture by a few deft moves. A lot of what was least about the [1981] I.M. Pei wing remains untouched...though, the improvements are striking. By Robert Campbell -- Accentech; ctb architects; Bergmeyer; Foster + Partners - Boston Globe

- Music Hall plans call for fewer seats, new stage: The size of Springer Auditorium will be reduced...Carriage ways...will be turned into garden courts. Glass doors, now separating the North and South Wings from the main lobby, will be removed...myriad bricked-up windows will be reopened. -- Samuel Hannaford (1878); Jaffe Holden Acoustics; Duncan Hazard/Ennead Architects - Cincinnati Enquirer

- An Opera About A Phantom Train, Set In Abandoned Rail Stations: Oakland composer Paul Crabtree has started a Kickstarter campaign to fund an operatic adaptation of "The Ghost Train" in the perfect - and perfectly spooky - setting...a 1923 play, and later a horror film...With its sensational, vaguey campy plot, it was practically begging to get turned into an opera. By Suzanne LaBarre - Fast Company

- Rice University students design new Menil Collection addition: Rice Building Workshop...to build a cafe near the museum...to serve both visitors and the surrounding neighborhood...was inspired by the style of taco trucks. [images] - Metropolis Magazine

- Modernist Landmark Behind a Court Battle: A New York City court case pits preservationists against each other over how much the Manufacturers Hanover Trust building, a city landmark, should be allowed to change. By Robin Pogrebin -- Gordon Bunshaft (1954); Skidmore, Owings & Merrill/SOM [slide show] - New York Times

- GBCI Announces LEED Fellows of 2011: 34 of the world's most distinguished green building professionals were announced this week. By John Bentley Mays -- Sauerbruch Hutton [slide show] - Boston Globe

- Locus Focus: A night at the symphony or the opera is one of the pinnacles of western artistic experience, yet these corporate arts institutions...have recently begun to close down in record numbers. The atabrostos around the neck...is the performance hall’s outdated architectural language...so impregnated with self-importance and loaded with coded signals of class...The time is right...sweep away the old architectural and anthropological barriers...By Paul Crabtree [images, links] - Metropolis Magazine

- An architect speaks out for cities in colour: Why do cities need colourful homes and buildings? I asked Matthias Sauerbruch this question...a crusader for colour...his campaign is part of a larger struggle to change basic attitudes toward the ways we inhabit cities...."Like music, colour can be horrible, it can be noise. But it can also be a symphony." By John Bentley Mays -- Sauerbruch Hutton [slide show] - Globe and Mail (Canada)

- Witnessing Evolution at the Solar Decathlon: Wakeup call for professional designers. If net zero energy buildings can be designed by students, why aren't architects and engineers designing them?...NZEB's are not only achievable but they are being built by teachers, artists, and political scientists. By Peter Syrett [links] - Metropolis Magazine

- GBCI Announces LEED Fellows of 2011: 34 of the world's most distinguished green building professionals were announced this week. By John Bentley Mays -- Sauerbruch Hutton [slide show] - Boston Globe

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selected for the inaugural class [link to details]- Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI)

Call for entries: 2012 Palladio Awards Honoring Excellence in Traditional Design; deadline: November 23- Traditional Building Magazine / Period Homes

Call for entries: re:CONNECT: an international open ideas competition to dream new possibilities for the future of the Viaducts and the Vancouver's broader Eastern Core; cash prizes; registration deadline: November 2; submission deadline: November 4- City of Vancouver

INSIGHT: Small-Scale Solution to Alternative Energy Resistance: Why the assumption that an industrial-scale response is required to produce green energy in the vast quantities required to power this country is wrong. By Peter Gisolfi, AIA, ASLA, LEED AP- ArchNewsNow.com

Book Review: Pencils that Refuse to Die: Meditations about New Books on Architectural Drawing: Three recent books dealing with architectural drawing by pencil you need to read. By Norman Weinstein- ArchNewsNow

Moshe Safdie: Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, Kansas City, Missouri

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Yesterday’s News

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