Today’s News - Tuesday, October 4, 2011

- Part 2 of ANN's exclusive "You Survived" series looks at how to establish a specific, easy, and brief Go/No Go decision process to quickly determine where to invest limited marketing resources.
- Glancey and Heathcote offer eloquent tributes to Makovecz, the Hungarian architect "whose fairytale designs defied soulless Stalinism"; he was "poetic, charismatic, endlessly generous and indomitable...and a truly great man."
- Will Coop Himmelblau's New Bus for Surf City concept aims to make the half-century-old apartment buildings visually exciting and energy-efficient...there are many ways to turn the old Soviet-era apartment blocks into "eye-catching constructions."
- Saffron settles into Boston for a spell, and finds "Philadelphia could certainly learn a trick or two" from a city once "considered an urban basket case" and "routinely described as a 'hopeless backwater.'"
- Berger minces no words about what’s holding up regional transportation planning along Puget Sound: Seattle "isn’t the paragon of urban design it pretends to be," and other municipalities are weary of what seems like busybodies nagging them to death.
- Foster + Partners has revised the West Kowloon Cultural District master plan to "include ideas from vanquished rivals"; we’re keeping an eye out for announcement of design competition for signature buildings.
- In the wake of Tropical Storm (nee Hurricane) Irene, some developers of major waterfront projects under way in NYC are taking the "approach that building bulkheads or arming the waterfront is not sufficient."
- Politics and budgets close Spain's Niemeyer Center (hopefully only temporarily); politicians promise it "will not become an empty white elephant" to be added to "a growing list of ambitious publicly-funded projects in Spain which have run into trouble."
- In Irene’s Wake, High and Dry Enough? The storm revealed an uncomfortable truth: Much of New York’s development has been in areas most at risk of flooding...major projects under way along the water today...take the approach that building bulkheads or arming the waterfront is not sufficient. - New York Times
- Architects of Jerusalem’s Museum of Tolerance threaten to quit: Moves two weeks before construction at contentious site is set to begin...over differences with the Simon Wiesenthal Center..."The Center drove the architects crazy. It asked for daily briefings and nagged them to death..." - By Nir Hasson and Noam Dvir - Chyutin Architects - Haaretz (Israel)
- In Irene's Wake, High and Dry Enough? The storm revealed an uncomfortable truth: Much of New York's development has been in areas most at risk of flooding...major projects under way along the water today...take the approach that building bulkheads or arming the waterfront is not sufficient. - New York Times
- The Cascadia conundrum: Balkanized transportation: Puget Sound is a poster child for the problems of regional transportation planning. One big roadblock: long-standing distrust of Seattle...[it isn't the paragon of urban design it pretends to be...many suburbs have simply been turning into Seattle, becoming more dense, more diverse, and better places for starving artists to find...cheap housing, and work space. By Knute Berger - Crosscut (Seattle)
- Boston’s secret to success: ...it’s still hard for a Philadelphian not to feel jealous of Boston...But did you know that it was pretty much considered a urban basket case until the start of the 1980s? ..."routinely described as a "hopeless backwater."
- Projects show architects' skills, social concern: In San Francisco - blessed by the presence of designers who take pride in producing work of social merit...some of the nation's best affordable housing. What makes it so good...They understand the need to rebuild neighborhood landscapes as well as individual lives, and their latest projects accomplish this with a nuance that can take decades to master. By John King - Herman & Colver: Architecture; Levy Design; Partners; David Baker - Partners Architects; Andrea Cochran Landscape Architecture; Daniel Solomon Design Partners [images]- San Francisco Chronicle
- Van Dessel Seeks to Beautify the 'Khrushchovka': Architects and heads of department associations met...to discuss ways to make the half-century-old apartment buildings visually exciting and energy-efficient...there are many ways to turn the old Soviet-era apartment blocks into eye-catching constructions. — Peeter Tambo - Estonian Public Broadcasting / Eesti
Architect: Renovating Soviet-Era Houses Not a Solution: The apartment buildings that were mass-constructed throughout Estonia during the 1950s are in such poor condition that even thorough renovation wouldn't bring them up to decent standards...Solutions must be sought fast...the Khruzhchovka will last only for another 20 years. Hopefully none...will collapse, but the possibility exists... -- Ülar Mark/Center of Architecture - Estonian Public Broadcasting / Eesti Rahvusringhääling

Thinking outside the box: ...approached by Creative Spaces, an organisation that finds affordable spaces for artists, the budget for the 3000-square-metre building was a minuscule $300,000...Initiated by the City of Melbourne and Arts Victoria...the architects took up the River Studios challenge. By Stephen Crafti -- Jeremy McLeod/Breathe Architecture [image] - Sydney Morning Herald

Offbeat Corporate Giving: A Park Inspired by Peanuts: A new park called Planters Grove...in a public housing development in the East Village, was developed and paid for by Planters, the snack brand...an offbeat act of corporate philanthropy... -- Ken Smith Landscape Architect - New York Times


When a Train Rumbles Past this Recording Studio, Nobody Hears It: SubCat Studios, Syracuse, NY, has rapidly established itself as a catalyst to rebrand and revitalize the city's core. -- Fiedler Marciano Architecture [images] - ArchNewsNow

EASTERN design office: Three Houses: Keyhole House; A House Awaiting Death; Mountain Opening House. Three poetic residential projects in Japan by architects Anna Naikamua and Taiyo Jinno. 

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Yesterday's News

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