Today's News - Tuesday, October 25, 2011

- Adjaye, Hirsch, and Otero-Pailo have a most interesting discussion about architecture and authorship: Is the architect an author of a building or provider of professional services?
- [A report about Kamin's recent visit to Columbus, OH, where he praised some neighborhoods, but "took aim at nondescript high-rises, which he colorfully described as "filing cabinets" and "buildings with hats on them."].
- Bimbaum on the continuing saga of Minneapolis's Peavey Plaza: what went right - before it went wrong (might Target save the day?).
- Gehry's Guggenheim Abu Dhabi on hold as some construction contracts are canceled (for the time being).
- The Istrian coast "offers visitors a window into the next generation of Croatian architects who are picking up where "heroic modernism" left off: "It's important to not let Croatia be designed by others."
- Predictions of the demise of libraries have fallen flat (just ask some starchitects).
- King cheers UC Davis West Village that "aspires to be the nation's largest zero net energy community" - a quest "that adds layers of site-specific architectural detail."
- Jeh cheers the transformation of King's Cross Granary into the University of the Arts in London that "exudes creativity" in a "subtle balance between engagement and restraint, confidence and humility."
- Rinaldi x 2: Kansas City's Kauffman Center, "gleaming and screaming on a small hill...represents a big leap into the present for both the fine arts and architecture" + he just has to rap as architecture goes hip-hop (how could we resist?).
- Ando talks about his next grand adventure with the Clark Art Institute.
- FLW's long-lost plans for a gas station will be a showpiece at the Buffalo Transportation Pierce Arrow Museum (gas not included).
- Should Venturi and Scott Brown be given this year's RIBA Gold Medal? Yes, says Charles Holland/FAT; but Jack Pringle thinks otherwise (their "buildings failed to live up to their fine words" -ouch!).
- Davidson spends some time with Koolhaas, which is a bit "like interrogating an oracle."
- Kamin has the skinny on the 11 teams shortlisted for Chicago's Navy Pier design competition (team members are just as impressive as the leaders - who isn't on this list?!?!).
- Wainwright on the "clanging alarm bells" going off around one of Leed's most important historic buildings where a partial collapse illustrates "the lethal effects of neglect on a vast but delicate structure."
- LeBlanc cheers an online treasure-trove of Toronto's mid-century architecture.
- One we really couldn't resist: move over Gehry Collection for Tiffany - now we have the H.Stern by Oscar Niemeyer Collection of diamond and gold jewelry (we'd certainly wear it!).
- Call for entries: Letters of Inquiry for second round of ArtPlace grants for creative placemaking + 2011 Open Architecture Challenge: [UN]RESTRICTED ACCESS international architecture competition to re-purpose closed, abandoned, and decommissioning military sites.
Should the Venturis be given this year’s RIBA Gold Medal? Yes, says Charles Holland/FAT; the duo’s contribution is phenomenal; but Jack Pringle claims the pair’s buildings failed to live up to their fine words. -- Robert Venturi; Denise Scott Brown - BD/Building Design (UK)

45 Minutes With Rem Koolhaas: ...talks about the New York buildings he’s never put up...like interrogating an oracle...”Now there is zero communication among architects...We are constantly competing against each other...It’s difficult to remain lucid and friendly.” By Justin Davidson -- Office for Metropolitan Architecture/OMA - New York Magazine

Hadid, Koolhaas firms head 11 teams picked for next phase of Navy Pier design contest: The chosen teams, culled from more than 50...are mostly headed by non-Chicago designers...By Blair Kamin -- AECOM; Aedas Architects; Frederic Schwartz Architects; Gustafson Guthrie Nichol; Jacques Ferrier Architectures; James Corner Field Operations; !melk; OMA/SGA (Studio Gang Architects); SHoP Architects; Xavier Vendrell Studio; Zaha Hadid Architects - Chicago Tribune

For ever Egypt - a northern temple to industry is at serious risk: Has Leeds woken up to the fact that one of its most important historic buildings is in serious danger? The Victorian Society and English Heritage are clanging alarm bells...dramatically illustrated by the partial collapse of Temple Mill...the lethal effects of neglect on a vast but delicate structure... By Martin Wainwright - Guardian (UK)

Reading the narrative of Toronto’s mid-century architecture: ...well represented in Toronto, but...much of it is isolated and difficult to find...Robert Moffatt’s Toronto Modern, a treasure-trove of over 50 entries covering everything from public buildings...to private homes. By Dave LeBlanc -- Ron Thom; Henry Fliess; DOCOMOMO; Moriyama & Teshima Architects; Charles Dolphin; Leslie Rebank; WZMH; Bregman and Hamann; Peter Dickinson; Uno Piti; Taivo Kapsi; Gordon Adamson [slide show] - Globe and Mail (Canada)

Oscar Niemeyer inspires New H.Stern jewelry collection: Niemeyer appears to bend straight lines in his concrete structures, transforming curves into a natural solution for his creations. H.Stern does the same with gold and diamonds. [images] - Philippine Daily Inquirer

Call for entries: Letter of Inquiry for second round of ArtPlace grants for creative placemaking: projects integrating artists and arts organizations into key local efforts in transportation, housing, community development, job creation and more; deadline: November 15 - ArtPlace

Call for entries: 2011 Open Architecture Challenge: [UN]RESTRICTED ACCESS: From military space to civic space - international architecture competition to re-purpose closed, abandoned and decommissioning military sites from Gaddafi’s compound to Guantanamo Bay Detention Center; registration deadline: March 31, 2012; submission deadline: May 1, 2012 - Open Architecture Network / Architecture for Humanity

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