Today's News - Monday, October 31, 2011

- ArcSpace brings us an eyeful of special membrane roof structures that will protect two 5,000-year-old temples on the Island of Malta.
- Goldhagen tackles a sticky wicket: "Can we admire China's urban planning without admiring its government? Judge, yes; but also look and learn." (your must-read of the day!)
- Garcia bemoans San Francisco's lack of "beautiful new buildings and even fewer signature ones" because its skyline has "been shaped by politics as much as sensible urban planning."
- Booth ponders how it could be that bonnie Prince Charles has had a much bigger hand in shaping public legislation (including housing and development) than many people ever knew.
- Glancey gives a thumbs-up to the oft-maligned ArcelorMittal Orbit: it "was always meant to walk on art and engineering's wild side" and just might "push architecture into fresh, and perhaps unsettling, adventures."
- Despite objections, Make's Octopus tower, sheathed in a 50-meter-tall "shroud," gets a green light.
- Larry Speck talks about what goes on between developers and architects, and density.
- Meanwhile, many in Lexington, KY, are more than dismayed that Gang is no longer involved with the CentrePointe project: her "inspiration resurrected the project in the hearts and minds of Lexington's citizens, changing fear to hope" + her "creative approach...charmed a skeptical public."
- Rose reviews the week in architecture: the historic Burlington Arcade might face Marino's "(leather) boot," and Gehry ate "humble pie."
- A good reason to be in NYC this Thursday: Arc Record's Innovation Conference 2011: Crossing Borders & Disciplines (a stellar line-up!).
- Deadline reminder: 2012 Palladio Awards to honor outstanding work in traditional design.

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In pictures: Windermere Steamboat Museum competition shortlist: ...schemes will remain anonymous until they are assessed by the jury next month. -- Carmody Groarke; Adam Khan Architects; Niall McLaughlin Architects; Terry Pawson Architects; Reiach & Hall; 6a Architects; Sutherland Hussey; Witherford Watson Mann [images] - BD/Building Design (UK)

Make's Octopus wins approval in Chiswick: Hounslow councillors resolve to grant permission for 50m-tall LED shroud... "This is meant to be a 24 hour, modern, vibrant, top three world capital city. Let's give it the architecture it deserves. " [images] - BD/Building Design (UK)

The ArcelorMittal Orbit has faced plenty of criticism – but it's a grower: Once people reach the Olympic tower's double-deck viewing gallery and cafe, they may well be persuaded by its unfamiliar charms... was always meant to walk on art and engineering's wild side... Jokes, bars and insults aside, the Orbit might just push architecture into fresh, and perhaps unsettling, adventures. By Jonathan Glancey -- Arup; Anish Kapoor; Cecil Balmond; Ushida Findlay - Guardian (UK)

Constructive criticism: the week in architecture: Burlington Arcade's independent traders face the (leather) boot, Frank Gehry eats humble pie and Scotland gets a bridge made entirely from recycled plastic... who can resist an event called Thrilling Wonder Stories? By Steve Rose -- Peter Marino - Guardian (UK)

Gwynne Pugh Urban Studio; CAPSLO Homeless Service Center Design: ... a facility for individuals and families in need of shelter and support near San Luis Obispo, California. [images] - designboom

Helping birds and buildings avoid collision: Our modern love affair with walls of glass is bad news for birds... ironically, sustainable building practices... also are putting birds at increased risk... Architects don't have to give up glass to make buildings safer for birds... -- Edward Heinen Architectural Consulting; Architectural Alliance; Pelli Clarke Pelli - Minneapolis Star Tribune

Farm in the city could be supermarket of the future: ... "Park Supermarket" - an urban farming project... to grow and sell all the food of a modern supermarket on one plot of land... cuts across the city fringes of Rotterdam and The Hague... how exactly do you create a warm outdoor microclimate on the urban fringes of a north European city? ... it's not as far-fetched or futuristic as it sounds. -- Van Bergen Kolpa Architects [images] - CNN

From XOL to S: AIA Chicago Design Excellence Awards recognize excellence at a variety of scales. By Blair Kamin -- Studio Gang Architects; Skidmore Owings & Merrill (SOM); UrbanLab; Valerio Dewalt Train Associates; Perkins+Will; Ross Barney Architects; Goettsch Partners; Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture; Murphy-Jahn; John Ronan Architects; UrbanWorks; a, Lothan Studio; DeStefano Partners; Landon Bone Baker Architects; etc. - Chicago Tribune

Innovation Conference 2011: Crossing Borders & Disciplines; November 3, NYC -- Bjarke Ingels/Bjarke Ingels Group/BIG; A. Eugene Kohn/Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates KPF); Audrey Matlock/Audrey Matlock Architect; Thom Mayne/Morphosis; Nicholas Holt/Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Alexander P. Lamis/Robert A.M. Stern Architects; Hilary Sample/IOS Architects; Mahadav Ramani/Arup; Charles Renfro/Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Sylvia J. Smith/FXFOWLE; Michael Bierut/Pentagram; James Carpenter/James Carpenter Design Associates; Michel Rojkind/Rojkind Arquitectos; Richard Saul Wurman; Cathleen McGuigan - Architectural Record

Call for entries deadline reminder: 2012 Palladio Awards to honor outstanding work in traditional design for commercial, institutional, public and residential projects (international); deadline: November 23, 2011 - Traditional Building Magazine / Period Homes