

Today's News - Thursday, November 3, 2011

- Benfield and Ramirez cheer Australia's final draft of a report encouraging "world class design" that focuses on both humans and urban form: "A national urban policy, now there's an idea."
- Berger is quite happy about Sustainable Seattle's Happiness Initiative.
- A new generation of apps could "offer potential solutions for two of the trickiest parts of the urban planner's job: sharing data and engaging citizens."
- Move over Cambridge - it's looking like Boston's waterfront is ready to give it a run for its development money.
- Just south of the Olympic Park a "little slice of Swedish design" is looking to take shape with a village built on the principles of Ikea.
- LeBlanc cheers developers who aren't taking the path of least resistance when it comes to a historic stretch of Toronto's Yonge Street.
- King gives two thumbs-ups to a "streamlined and shiny, affirmative and bright" new sports center in a troubled East Oakland neighborhood: "If we're lucky it will have a ripple effect far beyond the activities inside."
- Brussat continues to broil about Maya Lin's design for Newport's Queen Anne Square: "An inauthentic park redesign masquerading as a memorial to a woman who campaigned against inauthenticity in architecture makes no sense."
- After spending its lifetime in secondhand space, NYC's John Jay College gets a (big!) new home of its own.
- A "death row" of 10 urban highways cutting through cities: "We now know what they didn't in Eisenhower's day: it's possible to remove highways from city centers without ruining either the city or the highway."
- Arts Council England plans to focus on "strategic funding" for existing facilities instead of "big, new, brash buildings."
- Dvir reports on what will be Israel's first architecture museum set open in Haifa next year.
- Pearman focuses on the "other" OMA (the ones who aren't Rem): they "may be a bit more mainstream these days, but they'll will never stop asking questions, or giving unexpected answers."
- Meanwhile, Rem "frets" over the future of the EU: Europe "is simply an incomplete machine: It's limping...Unless the machine is constructed the way it's intended, it won't work."
- Two we couldn't take our eyes off of: Halbe's stunning images of Hadid's remarkable bridge in Abu Dhabi + Tobia's photo essay about "egos of the dead" and the "extravagant mausoleums and graves of Philadelphia's 19th-century elite."
- Many recent grads from top architecture schools are re-thinking their futures: "If those frustrated job seekers give up for good, the profession will suffer."
- Something they might find helpful: Arch Record's list of more than two dozen fellowships and grants for architects and designers.
- A good reason to head to Yale tomorrow: "Catastrophe and Consequence" symposium to examine safe building in developing countries with weak or non-existent building code systems.
- A good reason to head to Madrid and Segovia next week: MIT+IE "Considering Cities II" symposium.

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Australia outlines national city design principles: ...released the final draft of a report encouraging "world class design" for the nation's cities..."Creating Places for People" is about design with a purpose...focusing on both humans and urban form...A national urban policy, now there's an idea. By Kaid Benfield and Marissa Ramirez [images, links]- Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)

In Search of a Happier Seattle: It's time to start talking about what really matters when making policy decisions for our city: the happiness of our citizens...It's easy to get caught up in the math wonkery of what makes a good city, but that often misses the point...Sustainable Seattle's Happiness Initiative, which is an effort to focus on general well-being by making that a metric, too... By: Knute Berger- Seattle magazine

Urban Planning in the iPhone Age: A new generation of apps make life easier for urban planners—and urban dwellers...offer potential solutions for two of the trickiest parts of the urban planner's job: sharing data and engaging citizens...Jennifer Evans Cowley makes this case in..."There's an App for that: Mobile Applications for Urban Planning"... [links]- The Atlantic Cities

Spurring Growth on Boston's Waterfront: "Finally, the waterfront is really happening"...The Vertex Pharmaceutical start is a tipping point that makes the waterfront a viable location for commercial development...Huge infrastructure projects have made waterfront development more viable.- New York Times

A London Village Built On The Principles Of Ikea: It's a little slice of Swedish design in England. What would it be like to live in an Ikea world? ...Strand East project, a 2 million-square-foot development...south of the Olympic Park in Stratford...LandProp is currently preparing its application for a planning permit... By Ariel Schwartz [images]- Fast Company

Yonge Street's oldsters make room for a glitzy neighbour: ...about a third of the low-rise, 1880s retail block...is about to undergo a metamorphosis...It's not often developers get to play with such a large chunk of Toronto's most famous street and a handful of heritage architecture... By Dave LeBlanc -- Hariri Pontarini Architects; ERA Architects [slide show]- Globe and Mail (Canada)

East Oakland Sports Center a spark of life: Four months after it opened in a troubled neighborhood that outsiders avoid, the Center still looks great: streamlined and shiny, affirmative and bright...if we're lucky it will have a ripple effect far beyond the activities inside. By John King -- ELS Architecture and Urban Design [images]- San Francisco Chronicle

Let's honor Doris Duke, not Maya Lin: Queen Anne Square proposal has been the talk of the town...An inauthentic park redesign masquerading as a memorial to a woman who campaigned against inauthenticity in architecture makes no sense...pushes Newport toward a future defined by a nihilistic vision that rejects tradition. By David Brussat [images]- Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

With \$600 Million Building, John Jay College Gains a Whole Campus: The college of criminal justice has spent its lifetime in secondhand space...it will open a building of its own, one so large that it amounts to an urban campus..."Good architecture conveys the character of an institution"... By David W. Dunlap -- Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Leslie E. Robertson Associates- New York Times

The Death Row of Urban Highways: 10 roads whose days cutting through cities are nearly numbered: We now know what they didn't in Eisenhower's day: it's possible to remove highways from city centers without ruining either the city or the highway. By Eric Jaffe [slide show, links]- The Atlantic Cities

Arts Council England calls halt to new English galleries: ACE outlines plan for investing £440m of mostly lottery money in 2011-15 on 'strategic funding', with focus on existing facilities..."Previous capital programmes have been about big, new, brash buildings. This capital programme...is more about getting the most out of the existing estate."- Guardian (UK)

Israel's first architecture museum to open in Haifa: Slated to open in March of next year in Haifa...it will be housed in the studio where Amos Gitai's father, Munio Gitai Weinraub, used to work...one of the few Jewish architects who studied at the Bauhaus..."I would like the museum to help return the debate to social and public issues"... By Noam Dvir -- Efrat-Kowalsky Architects- Ha'aretz (Israel)

Tearing up the rule book: OMA might be a successful global brand but that doesn't make it conventional. It's still asking difficult questions and coming up with the solution you least expect – who else would see a library as a refuge for the homeless? ...OMA may be a bit more mainstream these days, but it will never stop asking questions, or giving unexpected answers. By Hugh Pearman -- Rem Koolhaas; Ellen van Loon [images]- RIBA Journal (UK)

Pritzker Star Rem Koolhaas Frets Over EU: ...has watched many a building project fall through in the course of his career. One he'd hate to see die is the construction of Europe...[it] "is simply an incomplete machine: It's limping...Unless the machine is constructed the way it's intended, it won't work." -- Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA); Rotor- Bloomberg News

Sheikh Zayed Bridge by Zaha Hadid Architects: Photographer Roland Halbe has sent us some new images...- Dezeen

Egos of the Dead: A Photo Essay: The Extravagant Mausoleums and Graves of Philadelphia's 19th Century Elite. By Peter Tobia- Obit magazine

The Graduates Gripe: Getting an architecture degree is expensive. Is it worth it in a recession? ...many recent graduates of the top schools also seem to be rethinking their education...If those frustrated job seekers give up for good, the profession will suffer: "This will be a big problem in five years, because a generation could be wiped out." [link to "America's Best Architecture Schools 2012"]- Architectural Record

Fellowships and Grants for Architects and Designers: ...with stipends ranging from a few thousand dollars to \$100,000...a list of more than two dozen programs.- Architectural Record

"Catastrophe and Consequence: The Campaign for Safe Buildings": Yale School of Architecture and The Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation co-host a symposium to examine safe building in developing countries with weak or non-existent building code systems; November 4-5- Yale School of Architecture

IE School of Architecture and Design + MIT Department of Architecture redefine the contemporary city in Madrid and Segovia: MIT+IE "Considering Cities II" symposium November 8 and 9 -- Nader Tehrani; Yung Ho Chang; Alexander D'Hooghe; Martha Thorne; Javier Quintana; Jose Maria Churtichaga; Ricard Frigola- IE School of Architecture (Madrid)



Hagar Qim and Mnajdra Temples, UNESCO World Heritage Site, Island of Malta: To protect the 5,000-years-old temple ruins against further deterioration, engineers developed two special membrane roof structures, which now cover and protect the archaeological excavation. -- Walter Hunziker Architekten; formTL

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