

## Today's News - Monday, November 7, 2011

- ArcSpace offers eyefuls of the Tel Aviv Museum of Art's new addition (at least now we know what Zandberg, on Friday, called "the waterfall of light" looks like).
- Piling on the proliferation of megacities, with examples that "show that megacities don't have to be monstrosities. For many of us, the megacity is our fate. The goal of humanity should be to manage that fate, not succumb to it."
- A report from Yale's "Catastrophe and Consequence" symposium re: remedies for unsafe building practices in developing countries; an international NGO could be one solution - or not.
- The results of a national survey about what Americans think about sustainable communities: they're "fuzzed up" about the terminology, and "that's very frightening given how much these terms are discussed in planning circles."
- Mehaffy and Tachieva discuss new "sprawl retrofit" and strategies and toolkits with "elegant new ideas" to transform "wasteful suburban sites into vibrant, successful centers."
- The next time someone wants to put the kibosh on a bike trail, cite Cincinnati, where "home buyers were willing to pay a premium of \$9,000 to be within 1,000 feet of access to the trail."
- Lindsay looks into "seasteader" plans to move to solid ground in "desperate countries willing to allow the founding of autonomous libertarian cities" ("Appletopia, anyone?").
- Heathcote on the importance of vistas to and from public places as "key to our understanding of a city": the question is will a view of the Shard or 1WTC "become as desirable as a view of St Paul's or the Empire State...frankly, I'm yet to be convinced."
- More details (and lots of pix!) of NYC's Hudson Yards plans: "Finally you're going to get a building as nice as your pocketbooks" (if you like Coach, that is).
- de Monchaux munches on OMA's Milstein Hall at Cornell: "Willful gestures of seemingly laconic practicality...provide the necessary delirium...This conspiracy of constraint and conceit seems just right for an architecture school" (lots of pix, too).
- Mays cheers a young Montreal firm that has "brought striking, fresh reinterpretations of classical European modernism to their hometown's streetscapes...an urbane, machine-age dwelling aesthetic" (with pix to prove it).
- A Belgian artist offers Ai Weiwei the opportunity to rebuild his demolished Shanghai studio in Ghent (and could risk trouble).
- Glancey's review of the week includes Make's octopus to the rescue of an eyesore, Barangaroo, and a big thumbs-up for ANZA, East Africa's first architecture journal.
- Cullinan's Q&A with four Irish women architects heading architectural organizations on both sides of the Big Pond includes some insightful (and amusing) answers.
- Eyefuls of both WAF 2011 World's Best Building winner, a Barcelona office block by Cloud 9; and Future Project of the Year - Integrated Design Associates' airport in the Maldives.
- Welton on why you should be in NYC at the end of the week: the Reconsidering Postmodernism conference has "a roster jam-packed with...a Who's Who of architectural rock stars" in "an effort to return some sheen to the movement."
- London 2012 unveils 12 Olympic and Paralympic posters by British art stars (too bad you have to read the artists' descriptions to figure out which events they've illustrated).
- At least the "Water is Life" poster competition winners and entries cheered us up with some truly inspiring work by students and young artists.
- Call for entries: emerging architects and designers: design (and build) a Folly for Socrates Sculpture Park in NYC.

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[Preston Scott Cohen: Herta & Paul Amir Building, Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Tel Aviv, Israel](#)

[Megacities: By 2050, three-quarters of the world's population will be urban. That means more – and much bigger – metropolises: The examples of Tokyo, Seoul and Shanghai show that megacities don't have to be monstrosities. For many of us, the megacity is our fate. The goal of humanity should be to manage that fate, not succumb to it. By David Pilling- Financial Times \(UK\)](#)

[Architects debate safety practices: "Catastrophe and Consequence: The Campaign for Safe Buildings" symposium brought together 24 speakers...to discuss building safety in developing countries and to propose remedies for unsafe building practices...co-organizers...proposed...a non-governmental organization to act as an international building department...not all agreed...- Yale Daily News](#)

[What do Americans think about Sustainable Communities? Smart Growth America commissioned a national survey..."One of the main findings...was just how fuzzed up the terms 'sustainability', 'livability', and 'smart growth' are for most Americans...And that's very frightening given how much these terms are discussed in planning circles." By David Boyd/Urban Associates Group \[link to survey\]- Citewire](#)

[The Unbearable Cost of Sprawl: How planners can correct some of the worst excesses of the exurbs...We can't afford to throw these places away...New "sprawl retrofit" strategies offer elegant new ideas for turning car-dependent, wasteful suburban sites into vibrant, successful centers. By Michael Mehaffy and Galina Tachieva- The Atlantic Cities](#)

[How Much is a Bike Trail Worth? ...along a 12-mile stretch of the Little Miami Scenic Trail, a former rail line that cuts across the northeastern portion of Cincinnati...home buyers were willing to pay a premium of \\$9,000 to be within 1,000 feet of access to the trail. - The Atlantic Cities](#)

[Former "Seasteaders" Come Ashore To Start Libertarian Utopias In Honduran Jungle: Forgoing the plan to build independent floating cities away from chafing laws, some libertarians...have found something better: desperate countries willing to allow the founding of autonomous libertarian cities within their borders. By Greg Lindsay -- Patri Friedman; Seasteading Institute; Future Cities Development Inc. \[links\]- Fast Company](#)

[Points on views: Vistas to and from public spaces are key to our understanding of a city: ...to look down, across and away and get the bigger picture...The question to ask is whether, one day, a view of the Shard or of Freedom Tower \(One World Trade Center as it is now known\) will become as desirable as a view of St Paul's or the Empire State. And frankly, I'm yet to be convinced. By Edwin Heathcote -- Adalberto Libera; Hal Moggridge; Rafael Viñoly \[salide show\]- Financial Times \(UK\)](#)

[Coach Seated Business Class at Hudson Yards: "Finally you're going to get a building as nice as your pocket books"...Fashion Week will someday take place at the Culture Shed...also a boon to the third and final segment of the High Line, which wraps around the site. -- Kohn Pedersen Fox/KPF; Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Rockwell Group; Michael Van Valkenburgh \[images\]- The Architect's Newspaper](#)

[Crit> Milstein Hall: Thomas de Monchaux considers Koolhaas' new architecture school at Cornell University: The effect is of late Mies squishing into late Corb...Willful gestures of seemingly laconic practicality...provide the necessary delirium. A visibly value-engineered restraint in details is countered by gorgeously gratuitous gadgetry...This conspiracy of constraint](#)

and conceit seems just right for an architecture school. -- Shohei Shigematsu; OMA [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

A cool breeze blows through the Peg: 5468796 Architecture...have brought striking, fresh reinterpretations of classical European modernism to their hometown's streetscapes...an urbane, machine-age dwelling aesthetic – formally simple, anti-romantic, idealistic and democratic – that the firm has so far updated and deployed in some small but notable Winnipeg works... By John Bentley Mays [slide show]- Globe and Mail (Canada)

Artist Wim Delvoye risks "trouble" with offer to Ai Weiwei: Chinese artist's assistants warn of reprisals if he accepts invitation to rebuild wrecked Shanghai studio in Ghent: ...has invited Ai to recreate in Belgium the Shanghai studio that was demolished by the Chinese authorities in January...Ai was planning to design a guest house for the sculpture park when he was arrested in China in April.- The Art Newspaper (UK)

Constructive criticism: the week in architecture: An octopus rescues an eyesore, shops pop up in shipping containers, and Australia ties me Barangaroo down, sport...it is good to see [Anza] the first architecture journal edited and produced in East Africa... By Jonathan Glancey -- Make Architects; Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners; Waugh Thistleton; Boxpark [images, links]- Guardian (UK)

Shaping the future: Four Irish women architects are currently making their mark as elected presidents of architectural organisations in Ireland, Europe, Britain and Canada. So what are their aims? By Emma Cullinan -- Angela Brady/Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA)/Brady Mallalieu Architects; Gerrie Doyle/Ontario Association of Architects; Selma Harrington/Architects' Council of Europe; Michelle Fagan/Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland (RIAI)/FKL Architects- Irish Times

Barcelona office scheme wins WAF 2011 World's Best Building award: Cloud 9's Media-ICT office scheme named as the World Building of the Year at the 2011 World Architecture Festival...Future Project of the Year award went to Integrated Design Associates for its Hanimaadao International Airport, Maldives. [images, links]- The Architects' Journal (UK)

Masters of the Postmodern Universe: Reconsidering Postmodernism, a major conference...is set for Nov. 11 and 12 in New York...features a roster jam-packed with participants sounding like a Who's Who of architectural rock stars... an effort to return some sheen to the movement... By J. Michael Welton -- Tom Wolfe; Suzanne Stephens; John Morris Dixon; Paul Goldberger; Mildred Schmeitz; Michael Graves; Robert A. M. Stern; Stanley Tigerman; Barry Bergdoll; Witold Rybczynski; Robert Adam; Sam Jacob; Peter Pennoyer; Thomas Gordon Smith; Robert Campbell; Charles Jencks; Demetri Porphyrios; Mark Wigley; Andrés Duany- Huffington Post

London 2012: A series of 12 Olympic and Paralympic posters, designed by leading UK artists including Tracey Emin and Chris Ofili, has been unveiled in London..."The first thing to notice about the posters is how abstract they are, and how they could be for the Olympics at any time," says Will Gompertz [slide show]- BBC News

"Water is Life" poster competition: ...students and young artists from all over the world were asked to address this issue...Winning works will travel around the world [images]- Zentralverband Sanitär Heizung Klima/ZVSHK (Central Association of Plumbing Heating Air )

Call for entries/proposals: Folly: an invitation to emerging architects and designers to explore contemporary interpretations of the architectural folly apply with the opportunity to build and exhibit a full-scale project; deadline: January 16, 2012- Architectural League of New York / Socrates Sculpture Park

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