

Today's News - Friday, December 9, 2011

- Reinhold Martin returns to ruminate on the next phase of the Occupy movement and "the counterintuitive idea of a 'privately owned public space,' and its close cousin, the oxymoronic 'public-private partnership.'"
- An architect, a landscape architect, and Berger weigh in on Corner's plans for Seattle's waterfront: it's "not so much 'time to go back to the drawing board' as time to get outside and get real" + a call to keep at least some of the kitsch alive + a call to "to pare back some of the rather frenetic and over-reaching aspects" of the design.
- King thinks SFMOMA's expansion plans are "on the right track": the schematic design "prods us to think about how buildings function, not merely how they look" (though there are some disappointing elements).
- Welton takes a long-overdue look at the landscape surrounding the "neo-Emerald City apparition in the Dubai desert" (a.k.a. Burj Khalifa).
- It looks like high-speed rail in America is dead: its "backers weren't as staunch as its detractors...It's our children's problem now."
- Kamin makes his pick of the best architecture of 2011: "Despite the ongoing construction downturn, much to celebrate."
- AIA anoints Holl with its 2012 Gold Medal, and VJAA with the 2012 AIA Architecture Firm Award.
- Weekend diversions:
- Welton cheers Gwathmey Siegel show at Yale: it's "Charles Gwathmey's humanity that comes across most clearly...In two words, he was a class act."
- "Civic Action" at the Noguchi Museum teams up artists with (unnamed) architects and planners to "take a crack at city planning"; the results "range from site specific to silly."
- Waxman walks through the other Bertrand Goldberg show in Chicago that "asks what can be understood about an architect's practice by examining the artwork and furnishings he surrounded himself with" (toucans and cuff links included).
- Lifson riffs on Lautner in this centennial year of his birth: his hometown in Michigan has honored him with two exhibitions, while the documentary "Infinite Space" explains "the shock of arriving in L.A. after growing up and working in the Midwest."
- In Berlin, "Form Follows Nature" offers a history of nature as a model for developing forms in civil engineering, architecture, and the fine arts.
- Taiwan hosts the Kaohsiung International Container Arts Festival, opening tomorrow, with "New Sweet Style: Arbitat," where imaginations create visions of the "home" using shipping container.
- Q&A with Austin Williams re: "The Lure of the City: From Slums to Suburbs," explaining some common misconceptions about cities: "Sustainability has become a cloak for a misanthropic attitude."
- King's picks for a holiday gift guide of books on architecture.
- Brussat gives (mostly) thumbs-up to "The Language of Towns and Cities: A Visual Dictionary": it "is frankly and boldly an encyclopedia of the New Urbanism, which is really the old urbanism updated for the modern world."
- Two we couldn't resist: Gehry designs the artwork for the 54th Annual Grammy Awards (the poster looks more like Gehry's Greatest Hits - we don't quite get the connection) + A cool video of rapper Ice Cube "professing his love for Charles and Ray Eames" (his take on L.A.'s freeways is actually the most interesting part).

If you could hand your business card to one person in the world, who would it be?

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[Occupy: The Day After: ...the Occupy movement has entered a new phase...what we call public space is not and cannot be truly public...and yet, that we have every right to expect it to be so...underlies the counterintuitive idea of a "privately owned public space," and its close cousin, the oxymoronic "public-private partnership."](#) By Reinhold Martin - Places Journal

[Waterfront designers need a reality check: Corner's presentation seemed either to be oblivious of, or chose to ignore, the constraints of the site, and thus the distinctions of actual place. As a result, his proposals became generic...Not so much "time to go back to the drawing board" as time to get outside and get real.](#) By Iain M. Robertson -- James Corner Field Operations - Crosscut (Seattle)

[The waterfront: keep kitsch alive: Here's hoping the waterfront makeover resists attempts to sanitize...If the waterfront is going to continue to be for everyone, it's going to need its touristy funk and junk, along with everything else. I hope Seattle resists its Scando-Asian tendency to clean everything up too much.](#) By Knute Berger + Waterfront planning: ...need to pare back some of the rather frenetic and over-reaching aspects of James Corner's ideas... By Mark Hinshaw -- James Corner Field Operations - Crosscut (Seattle)

[Proposal for SFMOMA expansion on the right track: What I like best about the schematic design for the transformation of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art is that it prods us to think about how buildings function, not merely how they look...the experience of architecture counts for more than images on a page or on a screen.](#) By John King -- Mario Botta (1995); Snøhetta; EHDD - San Francisco Chronicle

[Landscaping the Burj Khalifa: When \[it\] opened a little more than a year ago, international attention focused, laser-like and rightly so, on this neo-Emerald City apparition in the Dubai desert...Often overlooked at the time, however, was the geometric and intricately patterned landscaping at its base.](#) By J. Michael Welton -- Skidmore Owings & Merrill (SOM); John Wong/SWA Group [images] - Huffington Post

[Requiem for a Train: High-speed rail is dead in America. Should we mourn it? Ultimately, high-speed rail's backers weren't as staunch as its detractors...It's our children's problem now.](#) - Slate

[Best architecture of 2011: Despite the ongoing construction downturn, much to celebrate.](#) By Blair Kamin -- Frank Gehry; John Ronan; Helmut Jahn; James Carpenter; Juan Moreno; Ghafari Associates; Bertrand Goldberg; Holabird & Root; Eero Saarinen; Jeanne Gang - Chicago Tribune

[Steven Holl, FAIA, Awarded the 2012 AIA Gold Medal: Profession's highest honor goes to architect known for humanist approach to formal experimentation.](#) - American Institute of Architects (AIA)

[VJAA Receives 2012 AIA Architecture Firm Award: Minneapolis-based firm noted for research into material innovations and digital practice tools.](#) [images] - American Institute of Architects (AIA)

["Gwathmey Siegel: Inspiration and Transformation" at Yale: ...it's Charles Gwathmey's humanity that comes across most clearly...may have designed houses for celebrities...but he put the lessons he learned there to work on residential work for the less fortunate...In two words, he was a class act.](#) By J. Michael Welton [images, links] - Huffington Post

[Policy, Painted or Set in Stone: When the impetus for urban planning comes from the art studio instead of from public officials, you get the ideas seen in "Civic Action: A Vision for Long Island City" at the Noguchi Museum...four artists to take a crack at city planning...range from site specific to silly.](#) -- Natalie Jeremijenko; Rirkrit Tiravanija; George Trakas; Mary Miss - New York Times

[The butcher block, toucans and cuff links behind the architecture: Curated by architects John Vinci and Goldberg's son Geoffrey..."Bertrand Goldberg: Reflections" asks what can be understood about an architect's practice by examining the artwork and furnishings he surrounded himself with.](#) By Lori Waxman [at the Arts Club of Chicago through Jan. 13] - Chicago Tribune

[Nature And Design Meet In John Lautner's Modern Homes: ...in 2011 — the centennial year of Lautner's birth — his](#)

hometown of Marquette, Mich., has honored him with two exhibitions...In the 2009 documentary "Infinite Space," he explains the shock of arriving in L.A. after growing up and working in the Midwest. By Edward Lifson - National Public Radio (NPR)

"Form Follows Nature": A history of nature as a model for developing forms in civil engineering, architecture, and the fine arts...at Aedes am Pfefferberg, Berlin, 13 December 2011 – 26 January 2012 -- Frei Otto; Carsten Nicolai; Dieter Dolezel; Finsterwalder Architekten [images] - Aedes Gallery (Berlin)

Kaohsiung International Container Arts Festival 2011: "New Sweet Style: Arbitat": International artists exercise their imaginations on the interior or exterior of shipping container to create visions of the "home"; December 10, 2011 - January 31, 2012; Pier 2 Art Center, Taiwan [images] - Kaohsiung Museum of Fine Arts

Q&A: Austin Williams, Urbanist: ..."The Lure of the City: From Slums to Suburbs" by Alastair Donald and Austin Williams...he explains some common misconceptions about cities..."Some eco-cities are merely marketing labels to sell bog-standard urban developments to canny politicians; some have regressive anti-urbanist agendas but masquerade as urbanism." - The Economist / More Intelligent Life (UK)

John King's holiday gift guide: books on architecture: "Bernard Maybeck: Architect of Elegance" by Mark Anthony Wilson; "Old Buildings, New Designs: Architectural Transformations" by Charles Bloszies; "Port City: The History and Transformation of the Port of San Francisco, 1848-2010" by Michael R. Corbett; "Reveal: Studio Gang Architects" by Jeanne Gang; "Design With the Other 90%: Cities" by Cynthia E. Smith; etc. - San Francisco Chronicle

An encyclopedia of cities and towns: "The Language of Towns and Cities: A Visual Dictionary" by Dhru Thadani...journeys deeply into the territory of the urban, using urbanism to map a return to urbane cities and towns...this is frankly and boldly an encyclopedia of the New Urbanism, which is really the old urbanism updated for the modern world. By David Brussat [images] - Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

Frank Gehry Creates Official Artwork for the 54th Annual Grammy Awards: ...will grace the cover of the GRAMMY Awards program book, telecast tickets and promotional poster. [images] - PR Newswire

No Joke: Here's Ice Cube Professing His Love For The Eameses: "They were doing mash-ups before mash-ups even existed"...Made for "Pacific Standard Time"..."They were doing mash-ups before mash-ups even existed," he says of the couple's early prefab Case Study House..."This is going green, 1949 style, bitch...This is going green, 1949 style..." [video] - Fast Company

INSIGHT: At the Intersection of Medicine, Technology, and Design: Hybrid Operating Rooms: Technology has enabled the transformation of classic operating rooms into dynamic, multi-purpose environments - requiring a new design approach for architects. By Ross A. Cole, BAM Architecture Studio - ArchNewsNow



Dominique Perrault: Arganzuela footbridge, Madrid, Spain

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