

## Today's News - Thursday, February 2, 2012

- Pelli's plans to develop a neighborhood around his Arshat Center in Miami look good on paper (now all they need is money and land).
- Schumacher x 2 re: how to make Milwaukee truly remarkable by entertaining, "if briefly, ambitious possibilities."
- Lerner discusses how cities might "deal with their ugliest, least pedestrian-friendly aspects": it's all about "urban acupuncture" (and "sometimes temporary, interventions").
- Jacobs visits SOL Austin development: while it "hasn't quite succeeded in building a subdivision that doubles as a power plant" (i.e. net-zero), it "has created a new type of suburb."
- Caruso and Facticeau explain their research in urban farms that they hope will "challenge nay-sayers and inform policies and regulations that support agriculture in the city."
- Calthorpe explains how "high speed rail would catalyze a new generation of growth" and innovative land use.
- Brussat comes across what looks like, to him, a little piece of heaven outside Guatemala City's "modernist cacophony": a new town that "has few if any peers in the ambition of its classicism" (a Krier creation, of course).
- Farrelly finds herself pleasantly surprised by a number of things in Canberra, but "despairs at the loss of the best music space in Australia" (though not to demolition).
- Dvir talks to the architect of a Modernist apartment building once heralded for its technological innovations (but also decried as Jerusalem's ugliest building): perhaps demolition to make way for a new residential tower wouldn't be so terrible; says the architect: "When I walk past the building today, I look the other way. I can't bear to see what they did to it."
- Demolition of the home of two of China's most revered architects "has horrified heritage experts": developers are ordered to rebuild the house, but "building a replica only makes things worse."
- On a brighter note, McDonald hails a handful of Irish architects who are "making waves" around the world.
- Glancey has an amusing conversation with Farrell re: his KK100 tower in China: "Machismo... the characteristic that drives China's skyscrapers... We won't have the tallest building in Shenzhen for long."
- Rose offers an amusing take on "Hollywood's love affair with the skyscraper" - it "wants to jump off all of them" (great slide show).
- Royal College of Art taps Canadian-born Charles Walker as new head of architecture, an Ab Rogers (Richard Rogers fils) as head of interior design.
- We couldn't resist: The Modern Architecture Game (1,000 questions and Corbu glasses involved).

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Miami arts district master plan is 'aspirational': Ideas for a pedestrian-friendly neighborhood by the Adrienne Arshat Center look good on paper but so far lack funding and land..."It's an effort to create a picture of what you would like to see happen in the neighborhood before it's too late"...city activists found the presentation confounding. -- Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects - Miami Herald

'Remarkable Milwaukee' setting the stage for Milwaukee's future: ...a great way to make an end run around the political structure and the gloom-and-doom talk about economic realities to entertain, if briefly, ambitious possibilities. By Mary Louise Schumacher -- Eric Vogel; Jim Shields/HGA; John Norquist; Diebedo Francis Kere [images, links] - Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

A recipe for a remarkable Milwaukee: Regardless of the project at hand, many people talked about the need to raise the bar in terms of the quality of design here. "I think beauty is a concept that we don't talk about enough, partly because it is so abstract...And yet at the same time, healthy cities are measured by this very concept." By Mary Louise Schumacher -- Grace La/La Dallman Architects; John Norquist; Jill Morin/Creative Alliance - Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Jaime Lerner: "A City Is Like a Family Portrait": So how can cities deal with their ugliest, least pedestrian-friendly aspects? For Lerner, it's all about "urban acupuncture," targeted, sometimes temporary, interventions... -- EMBARQ - The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Off the Grid in the City: A Texas Developer Attempts to Upend the American Subdivision: ...holistic sustainability proved harder to achieve than anticipated...hasn't quite succeeded in building a subdivision that doubles as a power plant...has created a new type of suburb...polished modern architecture combined with an attention to social issues is uniquely of the moment... By Karrie Jacobs -- SOL Austin; Chris Krager/KRDB/ Russell M. Becker/Beck-Reit & Sons [slide show] - New York Times

Seeing Green: Urban Agriculture as Green Infrastructure: Tyler Caruso and Erik Facticeau explain their scientific study of the value of urban farms, an effort to produce hard data that can challenge nay-sayers and inform policies and regulations that support agriculture in the city. [images, links] - Urban Omnibus

A Catalyst for Better Development: ...high speed rail would catalyze a new generation of growth — one more oriented to who we are, what we can afford and what we really need. It, along with innovative land use, will breed the growth we need — urban revitalization and more walkable, compact and affordable communities. By Peter Calthorpe - New York Times

A new classical flower in Guatemala: ...outside Guatemala City's modernist cacophony. Ciudad Cayalá is a new town being built on open land beyond the city center...It incorporates Mayan ornamental detail amid a robust Spanish classicism...So far as I know, Cayalá has few if any peers in the ambition of its classicism. By David Brussat -- Léon Krier; Richard Economakis; María Sánchez/Pedro Godoy/Estudio Urbano [images] - Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

Eve of destruction: With development of the Fitters' Workshop in Kingston inevitable, Elizabeth Farrelly despairs at the loss of a unique music space...the best music space in Australia. Others say it is unique in the world...will soon be crammed with \$4m of partitions and mezzanines and given a new life as a print studio. By Elizabeth Farrelly -- John Smith Murdoch (1916)- The Canberra Times (Australia)

A mixed modernist message: The Amir Center was known as Jerusalem's ugliest building, but the publicity won its architect a raft of projects. It now might be torn down..."this building became famous worldwide because of its innovations. When I walk past the building today, I look the other way. I can't bear to see what they did to it." By Noam Dvir -- David Resnick - Ha'aretz (Israel)

Chinese developers demolish home of revered architects: Demolition of house where Liang Sicheng and his wife Lin Huiyin once worked has horrified heritage experts...one positive aspect...roused an unprecedented level of public interest, debate and civic participation...Dongcheng officials told reporters they had ordered developers to rebuild the house..."Building a replica only makes things worse." - Guardian (UK)

Irish architects making waves abroad: ...winning international design competitions for major schemes in Boston, Budapest, Lima, London and Ramallah. By Frank McDonald -- Grafton Architects; O'Donnell + Tuomey Architects; Heneghan Peng Architects; Emer O'Daly; Andrew Griffin/JDS Architects - Irish Times

The tower and the glory: Terry Farrell's KK100: Looming over the sprawling Chinese city of Shenzhen, this building is the tallest skyscraper ever designed by a British architect..."Machismo...It's the characteristic that drives China's skyscrapers...We won't have the tallest building in Shenzhen for long." By Jonathan Glancey [images] - Guardian (UK)

The height of suspense: Hollywood's love affair with the skyscraper: Nine of the world's 10 tallest buildings are now in Asia – and Hollywood wants to jump off all of them...If there is a crisis, both industries are in denial. The genre-movie production line churns on, and the skyscrapers keep going up. By Steve Rose -- SOM; Rem Koolhaas; Archigram; Leslie Martin; Lionel March; Norman Foster; Renzo Piano [slide show]- Guardian (UK)

Royal College of Art/RCA appoints new head of architecture: Charles Walker, the Canadian-born architect and structural engineer who has worked for both Zaha Hadid and Arup...appointment was made by Alex de Rijke, dean of the school, who also announced designer Ab Rogers, son of Richard Rogers, as head of interior design. - BD/Building Design (UK)

The Modern Architecture Game: Give a wrong answer, and the infamous round glasses of Le Corbusier are passed on to the next player. -- NEXT Architects [images, links]- Dexitner

Book Review: How to be a Useful Architectural Critic: Alexandra Lange's Perspicacious Primer Points the Way: "Writing about Architecture: Mastering the Language of Buildings and Cities" - use it often and you'll never think of the word "critic" pejoratively again. By Norman Weinstein - ArchNewsNow.com



Winning Design: Michael Maltzan Architecture/Tom Leader Studio: "The Lens," St. Petersburg Pier, Florida

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