Today’s News - Wednesday, March 7, 2012

- Berg explains what’s behind the grumbling over TED’s City 2.0 (click through to "The City Two-Point-Ugh" by Diana Lind, too).
- Arvan doesn’t begrudge the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit design team pick, “but we also must give local talent the support and work that will encourage and promote homegrown quality and creativity.”
- Alford gets “choked up” when he dwells on “the beautiful process” that went into the National Museum of African American History and Culture, a “national project filled with Black pride.”
- Arief is at her most eloquent in explaining why we don’t read about architecture: “far too often it feels about as pleasurable as tooth extraction.”
- CABE plans to take on “a viable business model” (i.e. charge for its services) to survive.

• Call for entries: Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts 2012 Steedman Fellowship in Architecture International Design Competition + City of Dreams Pavilion for the Architects are duped in a scam competition.

- Minnesota picks Leo A Daly to design new Fallen Firefighters Memorial (pro bono).
- Lubell cheers the renovation of a Modernist synagogue in Beverly Hills that takes it “from dark to dazzling.”
- Christchurch’s new stadium is an optimistic sign of renewal “emerging across the city’s infrastructure landscape”, it may be temporary, but it “does not feel ‘thrown together’, because Christchurch is tired of temporary.”
- In Las Vegas, “a city that seems to implode its landmarks every few years,” the Smith Center for the Performing Arts “emulates one of Southern Nevada’s earliest construction marvels: Hoover Dam” (great slide show).

- Schumacher finds re-worked design for a casino hotel is “a dramatic improvement,” but does it “fit in with its industrial, kitschy neighbors?”
- Lubell cheers the renovation of a Modernist synagogue in Beverly Hills that takes it “from dark to dazzling.”
- An eyeful of the first-prize winner of the 2011 ThyssenKrupp Elevator Architecture Award for the Istanbul Disaster Prevention and Education Centre.

- Minnesota picks Leo A Daly to design new Firefighters Memorial (pro bono).
- The U.S. Department of the Interior and National Park Service name 13 new National Historic Landmarks + an eyeful of one: FLW’s “Child of the Sun” campus for Florida Southern College.

- Architects are duped in a scam competition.
- Call for entries: Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts 2012 Steedman Fellowship in Architecture International Design Competition + City of Dreams Pavilion for the 2013 summer season on Governors Island.

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What's Behind the Grumbling Over TED's City 2.0: Why some urbanists are skeptical of the conference innovator's plans to crowdsource the city of the future: To start with, there's the perception it already exists. By Nate Berg -- Jake Barton/Local Projects; Change By Us; CEOs for Cities [links]- The Atlantic Cities

AA eye on architecture: Reignite our creative fire: I would like to thank the MOCAD Board for their recent selection of Rice+Lipka Architects and James Corner Field Operations. It gives us the opportunity to discuss a situation that has already long plagued our local creative community...There is no doubt that the selected architects are creative and exciting...There is also no doubt that we have architects here that can do the same kind of great work given the opportunity...Opportunity is the operative word. By Frank X. Avan/FX Architecture; President, AIA Detroit - Model D (Detroit)

Beyond the Rhetoric: A National Project Filled with Black Pride: The Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture will be about Blacks, designed by Blacks...$500 million project will be totally unlike the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Monument which was manipulated and profited by behind the scenes white interests. By Harry C. Alford/NAACP National Black Chamber of Commerce -- David Adjaye; Philip Freelon/Freelon Group; Max Bond/Davis Brody Bond - Washington Informer

Why Don't We Read About Architecture? To the layman--architecture is conveyed as little more than something that costs a lot and causes a lot of grief, rather than something with the potential to enhance our daily lives...far too often the experience of reading architectural writing feels as pleasurable as tooth extraction. By Allison Arief -- Alexandra Lange; Jane Jacobs; Herbert Muschamp; Michael Sokran; Ada Louise Huxtable-New York Times

Design Council Cabe prepares to become self-funding consultancy: The design watchdog...admitted it must turn its services into a viable business model if it is to survive after 2013...Meanwhile, Singapore, South Korea and Queensland and Tasmania in Australia are all looking at buying design review from the watchdog after the state of South Australia decided to do so... -- Paul Finch; Nahid Majid; Kirsteen Mackay - BD/Building Design (UK)

New Christchurch Stadium emerges as a symbol of hope after earthquake: While Christchurch continues the painstaking process of rebuilding after last year's destructive earthquake, optimistic signs of renewal are emerging across the city's infrastructure landscape...the temporary stadium...“does not feel ‘thrown together’, because Christchurch is tired of temporary.” -- Populous [images]-Architecture & Design (Australia)

Las Vegas: Curtains to open on Smith Center for the Performing Arts: "There's very little in Las Vegas that's timeless or deeply rooted," Schwarz said of a city that seems to implode its landmarks every few years...designers decided to have the building emulate one of Southern Nevada's earliest construction marvels: Hoover Dam. -- David M. Schwarz Architects [slide show]- Los Angeles Times

Can a slick Potawatomi hotel fit in with its industrial, kitschy neighbors? ...a dramatic improvement in materials but some telling concessions in terms of refinement, too...Imagine a delicate crystal box from Tiffany's tucked into a cluttered machine-shop shelf, and you start to get the picture. By Mary Louise Schumacher -- Cunningham Group [images]-Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Before+After Seeing the Light: A Modernist synagogue in Beverly Hills goes from dark to dazzling...prior to the renovation the building, already suffering from neglect and designed with a 1960s penchant for tight spaces, suffered perhaps more from a series of unfortunate “upgrades” that had left it cramped, dark, and taste-challenged: By Sam Lubell -- Sidney Eisenstadt (1953); Rios Clementi Hale [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

On the Boards: Istanbul Disaster Prevention and Education Centre: ...the first-prize winner of the 2011 ThyssenKrupp Elevator Architecture Award. -- Radionica Arhitekture [slide show]-Architectural Record

State of Minnesota Selects LEO A DALY to Design New Minnesota Fallen Firefighters Memorial [image] - e-architect (UK)

Secretary Ken Salazar Designates 13 New National Historic Landmarks: "By designating these sites...we are ensuring that future generations will know these important chapters in our nation's story and...help drive tourism and boost local economies." - U.S. Department of the Interior / National Park Service

Florida Southern College's Frank Lloyd Wright-designed "Child of the Sun" campus named National Historic Landmark: ...one of just 13 sites nationwide and one of only two in the Southeast to receive the designation...[slide shows]-Orlando Sentinel (Florida)

Major design competition believed to be scam: Architects duped as BBC and National Geographic deny involvement in Treehouses in Paradise competition...appeared to be run under the auspices of the respected US designer David Greenberg
who ran a legitimate, and free, treehouse competition a decade ago... - BD/Building Design (UK)

Call for entries: 2012 Steedman Fellowship in Architecture International Design Competition; applicants are eligible to compete for up to eight years after receipt of their professional degrees, regardless of age; deadline: April 9 - Washington University School of Architecture/Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts (St. Louis)

Call for entries: City of Dreams Pavilion for the 2013 summer season on Governors Island; registration deadline: April 1; submission deadline: May 1 - FIGMENT/ENYA/AIA/NY/SEAoNY

Book Review: Tracing a Hidden Track from Adolf Loos as Modernist Architect to Jennifer Post as Modernist Interior Designer: "The Looshaus" by Christopher Long, and "Jennifer Post: Pure Space: Elegant Minimalism" by Anna Kasabian...with this unlikely couple, we can air out that beleaguered term "architectural minimalism" and trace a trajectory of what might be better identified as "essentialist architecture." By Norman Weinstein - ArchNewsNow

Allied Works Architecture: Clyfford Still Museum, Denver, Colorado

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