

Today's News - Thursday, March 8, 2012

- Today is International Women's Day, and "there's a flurry of activity about women's roles in the built environment and some have a political thread."
- One year on, Dimmer reflects on "the widely accepted notion" of the Tohoku "triple disaster" of earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear meltdown - it's "a misconception, obscuring the fact that the afflicted areas had already been suffering from deep structural problems for decades," and ponders how infrastructure and architecture can help Japan become more "resilient."
- Ellsworth cheers MOCAD's choice for design team as "an out-of-the-park home run"; if "there are some bruised feelings out there," Detroit architects "pretty much did this to themselves."
- Brussat on the battle that continues to broil around the Eisenhower Memorial that "manages to belittle his greatness...Is that Frank Gehry talented, or what!" (it's time for the profession to shelve its ego and design places people like).
- Kamin hopes design is on the agenda in Chicago's new infrastructure improvement plan: "The key going forward is not how often Mayor Emanuel meets with architects, but whether the principles of good design inform his decision-making."
- China's "high-speed building boom" couldn't be better illustrated than a 30-story hotel that went up in two weeks; a time-lapse video "has left Western architects speechless" (we certainly were!).
- Wang Shu's Pritzker win has many cheering, but some "colleagues and art students back in China are not so impressed."
- Rago reports from Dallas re: the opening of Calatrava's bridge that "evokes Eero Saarinen's Gateway Arch in shape and motivation," and "built as a connector to encourage development and expansion into satellite neighborhoods" (great pix).
- Maltzan now dons the mantle to design the Art Center College of Design's expansion in Pasadena (our fingers are crossed it doesn't devolve a la the Koshalek/Gehry debacle).
- The inaugural Frieze New York taps SO-IL for a "sinuous" Randall's Island pavilion.
- Finalists named in RIBA competition to re-envision a former colliery in Merseyside.
- Koolhaas holds court to talk about his fascination with Japanese Metabolists and "the purity of their celebrity, long before the word 'starchitect' took a negative turn."
- Q+A with Denari re: "where the architecture profession and architectural education are heading - for better and for worse."
- Kolasinski leaves the Smithsonian to oversee Chipperfield's 40-acre plan for The Menil Collection.
- Safdie's "quirky" Habitat 67 might have won the Lego contest, but "the thrill of victory has been tempered by the sting of rejection...Ironically enough, it was originally inspired by Lego blocks."
- Deadline reminder: Call for entries: Architect magazine's 6th Annual R+D Awards (U.S., Canada, and Mexico).

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Women in architecture celebrate, worldwide: Today is International Women's Day...In the world of architecture, there's a flurry of activity about women's roles in the built environment...and some have a political thread. By C.C. Sullivan -- Shelia Cahnman/HOK; MaryAnne Gilmartin/Forest City Ratner; Claire Weisz/WXY Architecture + Urban Design; Cathleen McGuigan; Hana Elhebshi; Norma Merrick Sklarek; Inge Horton; Julia MorganKazuyo Sejima; Zaha Hadid; etc. [links]- SmartPlanet

Letter from Tokyo: Is it possible for post-traumatic Japan to overcome institutionalised problems with infrastructure and architecture in order to become more 'resilient'? ...notion of a 'triple disaster'...is a misconception, obscuring the fact that the afflicted areas had already been suffering from deep structural problems for decades. By Christian Dimmer/frontoffice Tokyo- Australian Design Review

Better Luck Next Time Detroit Architects: MOCAD Made The Right Choice: ...the selection of...Rice+Lipka Architects and James Corner Field Operations, is what I consider an out-of-the-park home run choice...the fact remains there are some bruised feelings out there. The only problem? Local architects pretty much did this to themselves. By Kelly Ellsworth -- M1/DTW; Frank X. Arvan/Principal/FX Architecture/AIA Detroit [links]- Curbed Detroit

The battle over the memory of Ike: The proposed Eisenhower memorial...manages to belittle [his] greatness while simultaneously embarrassing his famous sense of modesty. Is that Frank Gehry talented, or what! ...the profession must heal itself by shelving its ego and designing places people like...people...must tell the profession how to proceed...memorial represents such an opportunity... By David Brussat [images]- Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

Design must be on the agenda as Chicago embarks upon infrastructure improvement plan: Why should you care if architects aren't getting mayoral face time? Because Daley raised the standards for mayoral involvement in urban design...Backsliding shouldn't be an option...The key going forward is not how often Emanuel meets with architects, but whether the principles of good design inform his decision-making... By Blair Kamin- Chicago Tribune

China's high-speed building boom: A 30-story hotel [T-30] in Changsha went up in two weeks. Some question the safety in that, but the builder defends its methods...A time-lapse video...has left Western architects speechless... "It's unfathomable"... -- Ryan Smith; Zhang Li; Amy Lelyveld; Broad Sustainable Building [vdeo]- Los Angeles Times

China's New Global Architecture Superstar Gets Mixed Reviews At Home: ...Wang Shu is bringing culture and soul to Chinese architecture...the first architect working in China to get the profession's highest honor, the Pritzker Prize. But his colleagues and art students back in China are not so impressed. -- Lu Wenyu; Amateur Architecture Studio- Worldcrunch / eeo.com.cn

Building as Icon: Santiago Calatrava's first completed bridge in the United States evokes Eero Saarinen's Gateway Arch in shape and motivation...Spanning the Trinity River, the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge...was built as a connector to encourage development and expansion into satellite neighborhoods of the city. By Danielle Rago [images]- Domus

Art Project: Michael Maltzan to design Art Center College of Design expansion in Pasadena...will design the reuse of an existing post office...adjacent to Daly Genik's 2004 reuse of an existing wind tunnel facility... By Sam Lubell -- Craig Ellwood (1976); Richard Koshalek; Frank Gehry [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Frieze New York Unveils Sinuous Randall's Island Pavilion, Snaking Its Way Into the Armory Week Spotlight -- Richard Objective - Idenburg Liu/SO-IL [images]- Artinfo

Hassell, Hawkins/Brown, Michael Lee Architects and Edward Architecture with Matthew Riley finalists in RIBA competition: ...to create a visitor destination and public open space at the former Cronton Colliery in Knowsley, Merseyside. [images]- BD/Building Design (UK)

"Extreme Beauty and Extreme Vulgarity": Rem Koolhaas Shares His Thoughts on Japanese Metabolist Architecture: ...the process of writing... "Project Japan: Metabolism Talks"...expressed his admiration and love for them as innovators of a bygone era: the purity of their celebrity, long before the word "starchitect" took a negative turn... -- Hans-Ulrich Obrist- Artinfo

Q+A> Neil Denari: Sam Lubell talks with the AIA/LA Gold Medalist about the future of architecture and urbanism...speculated on where the architecture profession and architectural education are heading—for better and for worse. [images]- The

Architect's Newspaper

[Renowned expert leaves the Smithsonian for the Menil Collection: Sheryl Kolasinski to oversee 40-acre plan...designed by David Chipperfield Architects...In nearly two decades with the Smithsonian...she implemented more than \\$1.5 billion in construction projects...](#) - CultureMap Houston

[Montreal landmark wins Lego contest, but no toy set guarantee: ...the thrill of victory has been tempered by the sting of rejection...won an internet vote...Lego has announced there won't be a toy version of the quirky Habitat 67, at least not for now...Ironically enough, it was originally inspired by Lego blocks. -- Moshe Safdie- Guelph Mercury \(Canada\)](#)

[Call for entries: 6th Annual R+D Awards; open to individuals and groups based in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico; deadline: April 13- Architect Magazine](#)

[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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