

Today's News - Tuesday, March 27, 2012

- Webber wends her way through the London Olympics' post-game strategy, from "Games time" to "Legacy-mode" (so that's how all those pieces fit together - a great read).
- A Doha-based architect questions Qatar's urban planning for the 2022 World Cup: "if scrutinized, current progress in urban infrastructure and architecture seems to be frail...Here are age-old lessons of walkable streets, mixed uses...models that are being trampled upon in the rush to create the car-oriented city."
- Ghana's Minister of Environment claims the "continuous deterioration in the country was the failure of practitioners in the development of the built environment (planners, architects, engineers and others included).
- Rothstein cheers the Natural History Museum of Utah: "it is at home."
- Belfast gears up for its own Guggenheim Effect with the "shimmering" Titanic museum: "This is our Eiffel Tower, our Guggenheim" (it sure does shimmer!).
- LOT-EK lands at the Whitney Museum with a new pop-up classroom made entirely of shipping containers (looks cool to us; what would Breuer think?).
- The curtain is about to go up at Williams and Tsien's new U. of C. Logan Center for the Arts: there's "nothing quite like it" in Chicago; a "most unusual complex" where "reaching out to the community stands as a key priority."
- Architect/activist Kruml has spent years fighting the "crime of kitsch - battling the Czech Republic's 'cowboy architecture'" (from the look of things, we're glad somebody's doing it!).
- Pondering whether "design can 'cure' our cities" with "curative" public spaces: "if the High Line can convince New Yorkers to hold hands, then anything is possible."
- Michigan is taking first steps towards Complete Streets by putting streets on "road diets" - "the low-hanging fruit with the most bang for your buck" (with some snags along the way).
- Q&A with "Smart Growth Manual" co-author Lydon re: zoning codes, urban cycling, and the ideal streetscape (with links to Q&As with Dunham-Jones and Norquist).
- Bellamy cheers Winnipeg's Osborne Street Station, a "stunning crown jewel" and "a beacon in a system that could transform this city" (comments are stunningly antagonistic).
- Zeiger finds over,under's "In Form" at the new BSA Space is "a love letter to Boston, increasing the public's understanding of the city."
- AJ announces inaugural Women in Architecture Awards finalists and the shortlist for the Emerging Woman Architect of the Year (a real mix).
- An eyeful of the Art on Chairs International Competition winners (but would we really want to sit in them?).
- One we couldn't resist: in Germany, work is underway to build a medieval monastery using strictly 9th-century building methods - it'll only take about 40 years (ox carts included, but no coffee).
- Call for entries: OPPTA Competition: Emergency Interventions (deadlines extended) + Douglas Haskell Award for Student Journals.

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Passing the Torch: A preview of the Olympian built environment coming online...some 10 million ticketholders will descend on London for the 2012 Olympics where over \$14 billion in construction nears completion. But that's only the prelude...has been developed with two layers: "Games time" and "Legacy-mode." By Gwen Webber -- AECOM; Foreign Office Architects (FOA); Allies and Morrison; Zaha Hadid; Populous/Peter Cook; Hargreaves Associates; James Corner Field Operations; Anish Kapoor; Cecil Balmond; Arup; Fletcher Priest Architects; Allford Hall Monaghan Morris (AHMM); DSDHA; De Rijke Marsh Morgan (dRMM); Make Architects; Hopkins Architects; Erect Architecture [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Local Architect Questions the Logic of Qatar's 2022 World Cup Groundwork: Doha-based Romi Sebastian questions the feasibility of Qatar's urban planning...if scrutinised, current progress in urban infrastructure and architecture seems to be frail...Here are age-old lessons of walkable streets, mixed uses and the use of aged buildings that form still-relevant models for planning cities...these models are being trampled upon in the rush to create the car-oriented city...hasty, spur-of-the-moment approach...is not going to benefit the country or its residents in anyway. - Green Prophet (Middle East)

Sherry Ayittey, the Minister of Environment, Science and Technology, urges architects to design buildings to capture sunlight: "...continuous deterioration in the country was the failure of practitioners in the development of the built environment involving planners, architects, engineers and environmental and social scientists. -- Ghana Institute of Architects (GIA)- GhanaWeb

History Carved Out of the Hills: Most natural history museums are in urban centers, but the Natural History Museum of Utah is housed in the realm it surveys; it is at home. By Edward Rothstein -- Todd Schliemann/Ennead Architects; GSBS Architects; Ralph Appelbaum Associates [images]- New York Times

Disaster Ship Remembered in City that Built It: A striking new museum opens this week in Belfast, the birthplace of the ill-fated Titanic...a century after the cruise ship slammed into an iceberg...a shimmering €116 million (\$154 million) prestige building...on the site of the shipyard where the Titanic was hammered into shape..."This is our Eiffel Tower, our Guggenheim." -- Todd Architects [slide show]- Der Spiegel (Germany)

Ship to Be Square: Meet LOT-EK, The Shipping Container Architects Behind the Whitney's Pop-Up Classroom: ...will have a bold presence in its Madison Avenue courtyard...marking a sharp contrast to the museum's concrete exterior...made entirely of shipping containers...next shipment lands at the Whitney in April. -- Giuseppe Lignano; Ada Tolla [slide show]- Artinfo

University of Chicago's big muse on campus: Expectations rise along with U. of C.'s Logan Center for the Arts: Ten years in the making and \$114 million to build...will loom large in Hyde Park...Nothing quite like it, in fact, ever has arisen in the Chicago area...a most unusual complex...could become an important catalyst for the performing and fine arts in Chicago...reaching out to the community stands as a key priority. By Howard Reich -- Tod Williams Billie Tsien- Chicago Tribune

A crime of kitsch -- battling the Czech Republic's 'cowboy architecture': Architect/activist Jan Kruml has spent years travelling the country documenting the good, bad and downright ugly new constructions. -- Village Renewal Atelier; Association for Village Renewal (Spolek pro Obnovu Vesnice) [images, links]- Czech Position

Journey to the Center of New York: Can Design "Cure" Our Cities? While I find the idea that design should "force" healthiness somewhat paternalistic...I don't think this "medicalized" language is all bad...Delancey Underground (Low Line) urges us to reclaim these old, "sick" places...to see their potential as innovative, "curative" public spaces. After all, if the High Line can convince New Yorkers to hold hands, then anything is possible. By Vanessa Quirk [images, links]- ArchDaily

Complete Streets: Designing roadways for the benefit of all: In Michigan, some budget-wary city planners have been...putting streets on "road diets"...the low-hanging fruit with the most bang for your buck"...Implementation isn't the...only snag. Another hurdle...is education. Misunderstandings regarding costs, context, and how to deploy Complete Streets has stymied its development in some communities. - Model D (Detroit)

Mike Lydon and the Ideal Streetscape: The planner, advocate and Smart Growth Manual co-author [with Andres Duany and Jeff Speck] discusses beneficial zoning codes, the rise of urban cycling and why an ideal streetscape would accommodate all forms of transportation, not pit one against the other. -- Congress for the New Urbanism/CNU [images, links]- Next American City

Rapid transit slowly arrives: Osborne Street Station a beacon in a system that could transform this city: ..references the great train stations of Europe, while its arching trusses evoke Winnipeg's elm tree canopy...a well-designed BRT system...can convey the image of quality and sense of permanence that attracts ridership and TOD... By Brent Bellamy/Number Ten Architectural Group -- GPP Architecture; Friesen Tokar Architects - Winnipeg Free Press (Canada)

"IN FORM: Communicating Boston": over,under's Chris Grimley, Michael Kubo, and Mark Pasnik created an exhibition [at BSA Space] that is in many ways a love letter to Boston, increasing the public's understanding of the city. By Mimi Zeiger -- Boston Society of Architects; Howeler + Yoon; pinkcomma; Peter Chermayeff/Cambridge Seven Associates; Ashley/Myer/Smith; Landing Studio; William Rawn Associates; Ann Beha Architects; Utile [images] - Domus

The finalists for the AJ's inaugural Women in Architecture Awards announced; shortlist for the Emerging Woman Architect of the Year, a design award open to all women architects under 40... -- Alison Brooks; Zaha Hadid; Roisin Heneghan/Heneghan Peng Architects; Amanda Levete; Deborah Saunt/DSDHA; Cindy Walters/Michal Cohen/Walters and Cohen; Sarah Wigglesworth; Fran Balaam/Pie Architecture; Jude Barber/Collective Architecture; Katy Ghahremani/Make Architects; Sophie Goldhill/Liddicoat & Goldhill; Hannah Lawson/John McAslan + Partners; Holly Lewis/We Made That; Pernilla Ohrstedt/Pernilla & Asif; Nathalie Rozencwajg/RARE Architecture [images] - The Architects' Journal (UK)

Art on Chairs International Competition winners: chairs will be prototyped and exhibited at the Art on Chairs International Exhibition in Paredes, Portugal, September 14 to November 11, 2012 -- Vanessa Moreno/Gustavo Reboredo/Louis Sicard/Nenad Katic; Claire James Fernley & Fox; Joana Moreira de Carvalho [link to images] - Paredes Polo do Design de Mobiliá / Paredes Centre of Furniture Design (Portugal)

Ox Carts and No Coffee: Building a Monastery the Medieval Way: Historians, architects, archaeologists and volunteers in Germany are teaming up to build a medieval monastery the old-fashioned way. Working conditions will be strictly 9th-century...will take an estimated 40 years to complete. -- Bert Geurten [slide show] - Der Spiegel (Germany)

Call for entries - deadlines extended (international): OPPTA Competition: Emergency Interventions: 5 sites are areas of risk or emergency situations where intervention will be through immediate action; earlybird (discount) registration deadline: April 20; submission deadline: May 4, 2012 - Pan-American Observatory of Landscape, Territory and Architecture

Call for entries: Douglas Haskell Award for Student Journals: open to any journal (online or print) published by a school of architecture, landscape architecture or planning in the U.S. that is edited by students; cash prizes; deadline: May 1 - Center For Architecture Foundation



-- Caruso St John: Nottingham Contemporary, Nottingham, UK
-- Exhibition: Thomas Demand: Model Studies, Nottingham Contemporary

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