Today’s News - Wednesday, April 18, 2012

- With earthquakes, tsunamis, tornados, volcanoes on the rise, green-building advocates and disaster planners are finding common ground - a LEED rating for resilience could be on the horizon.
- Barn's cardboard Transitional Cathedral for Christchurch gets the go-ahead (great pix!).
- Bernstein reports (with a bit of bristling) on Apple HQ plans moving forward; "one of its objectives to "achieve the security and privacy by eliminating any public access to the site"...the language is jarring in an era when urban planning tends to be about creating, not curtailing, interaction" (though apricot orchard is a nice touch).
- It's an NYC sort of day: Germany's Bauwelt Magazine takes an in-depth look at affordable housing in NYC: "Government-funded housing in the capital of capitalism?"
- Pogrebin digs into the details of the New York Public Library's "public-relations blitz" defending its $300 million plans; critics claim it will turn it into "a glorified Starbucks."
- Dunlap talks to the cheerleaders and nay-sayers of plans to revamp South Street Seaport's Pier 17: "the landmarks commissioners seemed receptive" to changes (the original designers - not so much).
- News from Down Under: Perth presents plans to transform the Swan River waterfront into an "aquatic playground" despite ongoing opposition (no mention of who designed the master plan).
- Sydney approves $1 billion plan to create Australia's biggest entertainment and convention center at Darling Harbor.
- King has high hopes for Walnut Creek's Broadway Plaza plan to become dense and tall: "We've got the chance now to explore new definitions of all that the suburbs can be."
- van Egeraat's Siberian mall "functions as an interiorized public space overlaid on a capitalist bubble" (pix to prove it).
- Does Abu Dhabi need the Guggenheim? Some think not: "The Guggenheim effect is sexy when you are not on the radar. When you are Bilbao..." (harrumph).
- The revamped Palais de Tokyo in Paris, "left under-developed to perfection" with lots of dust, exposed concrete, and dangling electrical wires, could put the "French art scene back into the spotlight" (fun included!).
- Good news/bad news for two Pritzker winners: "Wang Shu's use of materials both exploits and exposes China's reckless approach to building."
- Souto de Moura is having a hard time finding work - lots of invitations to competitions, but who wants to go up against "another 400 or 600 architects" (perhaps having a website might help?).
- Cardew receives the 2012 RAIC Gold Medal: "The quality of his work is consistently high, consistently thoughtful, and timeless...he is an architect to be admired and emulated."
- Ling launches a "Big Bang" atmosphere for SOFA 2012 at the Park Avenue Armory in NYC this weekend: "You will immediately undertake a time-machine-like procession."
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Will Paris’s Revamped Palais de Tokyo Lead the French Art Scene Back Into the Spotlight? ...Labyrinthine rooms and corridors...architects Lacaton and Vassal have left under-developed to perfection...a Berlin-style industrial concrete site that can be both gracious and unyielding...Dust clings...exposed concrete is plentiful and electrical wires hang from the ceiling...The strategy of leaving [it] raw and unfinished...may prove to be very effective indeed. [slide show]- Artinfo

Deconstruction, Reconstruction: Pritzker Prize winner Wang Shu’s use of materials both exploits and exposes China’s reckless approach to building. By Blaine Brownell – Lu Wenyu; Amateur Architecture Studio - Architect Magazine

2011 Pritzker Laureate Eduardo Souto de Moura facing Unemployment? ...he would prefer to work in his homeland, or even nearby in Spain, but the current economic crisis has him extending his search to other parts of Europe...award has caused a sizable increase to the number of invitations to competitions abroad; however, he describes that he must still compete with “another 400 or 600 architects.” - ArchDaily

Peter Cardew, MRAIC, recipient of the 2012 RAIC Gold Medal: “The quality of his work is consistently high, consistently thoughtful, and timeless...[he] is an architect to be admired and emulated.” [images]- Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC)

David Ling creates ‘Big Bang’ atmosphere for SOFA 2012: In celebration of the 15th anniversary of the International Sculpture Objects & Functional Art Fair: SOFA: NEW YORK, [he] will transform the Park Avenue Armory into a veritable work of art...”You will immediately undertake a time-machine-like procession.” (April 20-23) [images]- Auction Central News

SmartGeometry 2012 in Troy, New York; Now in its ninth year, this year’s theme was Material Intensities...at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute’s Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center (EMPAC)...workshops offered the chance for practitioners from top international offices to work side by side with researchers...in a non-competitive and collaborative environment. By Terri Peters – UNStudio; Foster + Partners; SOM; Arup; Aedas; Grimshaw; 3XN; Harvard GSD; Architectural Association; University of Pennsylvania; California College of the Arts; University College London; RMIT Melbourne; University of Oregon; CASE [images, links]- Archinect

2012’s Most Interesting Buildings So Far: London’s new Shard (and Renzo Piano) is set to get all the attention it deserves and then some. Not to be forgotten are smaller firms creating less luxurious but equally bold work. -- Todd Architects; Rojo/Fernández-Shaw; Casanova + Hernández; Dehullu & Partners; Blaison; ACDF; A+D Studio; Aedifica architecture + design; Alterstudio Partners; Dietmar Feichtinger Architects; Nicolas Laisné & Christophe Rousselet; Project Orange; Architects of Invention; Feilden Clegg Bradley [slide show]- The Atlantic Cities

Moshe Safdie & Associates: Khalsa Heritage Memorial Complex, Anadpur Sahib, Punjab, India

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