Today's News - Tuesday, May 1, 2012

- Calys gives two thumbs-up to "Social Media in Action" - an invaluable handbook for A/E professionals who realize that social media is not a passing phenomenon and can play a part in their business.
- Doig x deux (and not a little disjointing): do we really want to live in a "sentient city" where "top-down urbanism" (and high-tech sponsors) treats the residents as a problem to be solved rather than as part of the solution?
- He ponders the consequences of technology helping cities control everything from traffic to disease. But who should control the technology? The smart-city movement is at a crossroads.
- Down Under, Barns calls for Tasmania to end the "hollow" rhetoric about the state "nurturing the creative industries" and begin including architecture and design, "two of the most economically and socially valuable contributors...not luxuries but necessities in a society that wants to prosper."
- Q&A with Koolhaas re: how the economic and cultural changes of the 21st century are transforming world cities as well as the practice of architecture.
- A recent forum looked at establishing "vibrancy and dynamism indicators" as "ways to quantify those unique, often qualitative 'know it when you see it,' characteristics that shape successful neighborhoods.”
- White serves up Round 2 of a "Vegas-style prize fight between Glitter Gulch and Cowtown" (a.k.a. Las Vegas vs. Calgary).
- Quirk moves a bit further afield with a fascinating two-parter re: bursting the myths about Suburbia: if the suburbs are "ripe to be re-imagined, are we up to the challenge?"
- EDITOR'S NOTE: the comment sections in most of the articles above are just about as compelling (informative, challenging, scary, sad...) as the articles themselves.
- Carlson and Goodyear both cheer Nordahl's "Making Transit Fun!": Can transit incorporate playground equipment? "You bet." + It's "a reminder that transit has only lost when it aims low. We should always be looking for joy, even on the bus."
- Walker travels L.A.'s new Expo Line to Santa Monica: "The stations are elegant yet unassuming" - too bad the train car design "put us at the back of the pack."
- The downside to the Expo Line: there's rising anxiety about what will become of Santa Monica's 18-year-old Bergamot Station Arts Center when the trains start to arrive.
- Hadid's next stop: Nuremberg, with a new exhibition center for the NürnbergMesse (green cred included).
- Rosenbaum updates us on the "Goshen commotion" that continues to swirl around the fate of Rudolph's Orange County Government Center.
- "Family Of Schools" exhibition at The Lighthouse in Glasgow "highlights some of the core design qualities we aspire to in all Scottish schools captured in drawings by Rosenbaum.

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How to Make Transit (and Biking and Walking) Sexy: Urban designer and writer Darrin Nordahl thinks it's time for advocates of alternative transportation to stop trying to appeal to reason and go for the gut instead..."Making Transit Fun!"...a reminder that transit has only lost when it aims low. We should always be looking for joy, even on the bus. By Sarah Goodyear [links]- The Atlantic Cities

LA's Transit Dreams Coming True? On the tracks of Los Angeles' new Expo Line: ...on its way to becoming a world-class transit city again...The stations are elegant yet unassuming...train cars also put us at the back of the pack. By Alissa Walker -- Parsons; Gruen Associates; Miyamoto International [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Galleries' survival threatened by railway expansion plans: Uncertainty surrounds future of Santa Monica arts centre: Bergamot Station Arts Center...An 18-year-old art space is being threatened with destruction and gallery owners worry they could be pushed out by rising rents when the new new Exposition Light Rail (Expo) stop opens in 2015. - The Art Newspaper (UK)

Zaha Hadid picked for German exhibition centre: ...revealed plans for a 8,000 m² exhibition centre for the Nuremberg trade fair and conference district (NürnbergMesse) [images]- The Architects' Journal (UK)

Goshen Commotion: Vote Expected Thursday on Endangered Paul Rudolph Orange County Government Center: The cause of the preservationists got a boost from...the Times Herald-Record, which published an editorial urging the legislators to take the pro-Rudolph arguments more seriously. By Lee Rosenbaum -- designLAB architects [links]- ArtsJournal

"Family Of Schools" exhibition at The Lighthouse, Glasgow, highlights some of the core design qualities we aspire to in all Scottish schools captured in drawings by Alan Dunlop.- Architecture and Design Scotland (A+DS)

9th Annual AltBuild / 2012 Alternative Building Materials & Design Expo, May 11-12, Santa Monica, CA: over 40 industry speakers - with special focus on water efficiency, saving through green building (developing, brokering and getting rebates), energy savings, and then looking to the future (free bike valet parking!)- City of Santa Monica (California)

-- Zellnerplus: Matthew Marks Gallery, Los Angeles, California

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