
• A news day for urbanistas: Gisolfi makes the case that "architecture should be concerned primarily with place-making, not object-making."

• Goldhagen at her eloquent best re: the arrival of the megalopolis: "can a high-rise, high-density residential tower ever become more than an oversized packing crate for people?" (policy-makers and architects better figure that out now, before it's too late).

• King on the "most troubling aspect" overshadowing San Francisco's Transbay plan: the project's "far-reaching" shadows - though "planners make a strong case that the overall benefits outweigh the impact."

• Hume takes on a new report showing people want to live in downtowns - the challenge is Rediscovering how to build them: "No kidding...everything else we have built is sprawl."

• Florida takes on his critics and what they get wrong about creative cities, and the "squabbling" going on that "misses the point."

• Doig outlines "the dangers of NIMBYism," and "how tiny bands of refuseniks and wealthy obstructionists" (a.k.a. the 1%) "absorbed so much power" to shape urban landscapes - and how some cities are trying to rein them in.

• A news day for urbanistas: Gisolfi makes the case that "architecture should be concerned primarily with place-making, not object-making."

• Badger looks at new data that explains the "economic power of walkable neighborhoods" that should sway "skeptics of walkability."

• Hinchshaw adds to the argument in favor of urban walkability: "Something quite transformational is going on here. A high regard for the public realm is now the hallmark of healthy and successful cities."

• Davidson offers up a thoughtful (and amusing) defense of driving in NYC: perhaps it's time for "an auto-temperance movement."

• Kamin x 2: he cheers the Chicago Transit Authority's newest station as "a new jewel in the West Loop's crown" that "succeeds as urban design and architecture...elevating construction to art."

• He points out a few of the hurdles that must be overcome if Pelli's three-tower plan for a Wolf Point riverfront complex is to move forward.

• Safdie selected to design a 68-story condo tower in Colombo, Sri Lanka, that "will set a benchmark for future development" and "maintain the delicacy of the skyline" (a bit of leaning included).

• Hopes are high that a "colorful, smooth, shiny and sparkling" new theater will bring Soweto, South Africa, its own Bilbao effect.

• An eyeful of the 2012 AIA Housing Awards for Architecture (great presentation).

• Call for entries (a few deadlines loom): Session proposals for the 12th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth Conference + ENR Best Projects 2012 Awards + 2012 Healthcare Design Remodel/Renovation Competition + AIASF's Architecture at Zero international competition to design a zero net energy building for UC Merced.
Soweto’s inspiring theatrical spot: They wanted something colourful...something smooth, shiny and sparkling. That’s exactly what they got, a building that inspires and invites creativity – a magical theatrical space. -- Afritects; Lewis Levin; Denis Hutchinson [image] - Independent Online/IOL (South Africa)

2012 AIA Housing Awards for Architecture: ...recognized 10 projects in four award categories. ...-- Dirk Denison Architects; Robert M. Gurney, FIAA; XTEN Architecture; Olson Kundig Architects; DCHGlobal; Cook + Fox Architects; David Baker + Partners; David Hovey & Associates Architect; Gray Organschi Architecture; Habib Evans Wright Mattas + Company/Hopkins Architects [link to images, info] - American Institute of Architects (AIA)

Call for Session Proposals: 12th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth Conference: Building Safe, Healthy and Livable Communities, February 7-9, 2013, in Kansas City, Missouri; deadline: June 30 - Local Government Commission (LGC)

Call for entries: ENR Best Projects 2012 Awards honoring the best construction projects in the U.S. and Puerto Rico; deadline: July 2 - Engineering News-Record (ENR)

Call for entries: 2012 HEALTHCARE DESIGN Remodel/Renovation Competition: Pediatric Environments and Facility Art Programs (no fee); deadline: July 27 - Healthcare Design magazine

Call for entries: Architecture at Zero competition (international): design zero net energy (ZNE) student housing or administrative office building for the University of California Merced; open to professionals and students; cash prizes and exhibitions; deadline: October 1 - AIA San Francisco / PG&E / UC Merced

Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects: The Barnes Foundation, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania -- Olin; Ballinger; Fisher Marantz Stone

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