

## Today's News - Monday, March 4, 2013

- Moore takes issue with Kasarda's take on the upside of the aeropolis, especially when it comes to a possible Thames estuary airport: will it "serve the people - or just business? The taxpayer might be asked to stake billions upon billions on something that may not work."
- Hawthorne offers some sage advice to the next mayor of L.A. about "how to fix the worst examples of the city's faulty civic vision."
- Hume bemoans Toronto's continuing stance to make the car "king": the city's "love of the car is the greatest impediment to people-friendly transit options."
- Hollander hails Detroit's Strategic Framework Plan "to manage depopulation" that should serve as a model for other cities facing similar issues (with a few caveats; and no telling where it will stand now the city is under an emergency manager).
- Gallagher goes to the "Saving the Cities" conference in St. Louis to find Detroiters are not alone in financial crisis: "I found much more alike between the two cities...the same urgency to solve the problems before the will and the energy to do something runs out."
- Rubinstein and Brake report on a \$1.5 billion "reboot" of the Domino Sugar site on the Brooklyn waterfront: "One thing this project will not do is fit in" ("Contextualism is an opiate for the masses," says SHoP's Chakrabarti).
- Thom and Sasaki take on redevelopment of 27 acres in Silver Spring, MD: "So far, the local response to the plan has been positive, possibly a sign that NIMBYism is going the way of suburban malls."
- Lubell brings us word that Santa Monica has selected three (impressive) design/development teams for a major downtown project: "This could be OMA's breakthrough in Southern California, a region where Koolhaas' hopes have repeatedly been dashed."
- Holt looks under the skin of MVRDV's Glass Farm in Schijndel, the Netherlands: "is it a polemic or a gimmick?" (great pix).
- A quick look at Tschumi's first project in Italy: a cultural center with façades perforated to look like tree limbs.
- Adjaye tapped to design a major fashion hub for east London's Olympic fringe.
- Rochon solicits students' best ideas to reinvent urban centers - she found them "exhilarating."
- Betsky ponders what office architecture will become with more people working from home: are both work and architecture disappearing?
- Lange introduces the "founding mother" of architectural criticism: Van Rensselaer "worked out the ground rules of the fledgling profession" + Van Rensselaer's 1890 column, "Client and Architect," in which she "analyzed the mutual obligations of the professional and the public...from which alone can grow a healthy, prolific, and truly national art."
- Call for entries: 2013 Berkeley Prize Teaching Fellowship in the field of Universal Design education + International student competition to design the International Gastronomic Center in Brussels.

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**Aeropolis: the city of the future? The cities that thrive in the 21st century will be those that put airports at their centre, says US academic John Kasarda. But will the 'aeropolis' serve the people – or just business? ...if the public does foot the bill, the bet might not pay off.** By Rowan Moore [images]- Observer (UK)

**Los Angeles' major public spaces remain broken works in progress: For the next mayor, advice on how to fix the worst examples of L.A.'s faulty civic vision: LAX, the L.A. River, Pershing Square, the subway to the sea and Grand Avenue.** By Christopher Hawthorne -- Mia Lehrer; HNTB; Michael Maltzan [images]- Los Angeles Times

**Toronto public transit suffers while car is king: Toronto talks about how transit is such a pressing need. So why are cars still given precedence? ...love of the car is the greatest impediment to people-friendly transit options.** By Christopher Hume-Toronto Star

**A Plan To Shrink Detroit (Well): ...Strategic Framework Plan...a compelling plan to manage depopulation...takes a realistic view of what it would take to make it a great city without growing...Today there is an emerging paradigm for escaping the conventional ways of fixing cities facing decline and Detroit's plan articulates it like none other before.** By Justin Hollander-PLANetizen

**St. Louis reminds Detroiters they're not alone in financial crisis: I found much more alike between the two cities: the same mix of vitality and vacancy, the same rainbow of neighborhood types...the same urgency to solve the problems before the will and the energy to do something runs out.** By John Gallagher - Detroit Free Press

**The Valentas' \$1.5 billion vision for the Williamsburg waterfront: ...wants to erect a neighborhood from the remnants of the Domino Sugar factory...All of which, at least architecturally, is a marked departure from the site's original plans...One thing this project will not do is fit in. "It's not contextual...Contextualism is an opiate for the masses."** By Dana Rubinstein -- Vishaan Chakrabarti/SHoP Architects [image]- Capital New York

**A Doughnut at Domino Sugar Site: SHoP Architects and James Corner Field Operations to reboot Brooklyn waterfront for Two Trees...calls for a series of unusually shaped towers lining a waterfront with active recreation..."The goal is to build tall, thinner, lighter architecture"...** By Alan G. Brake [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

**Bing in the Burbs: Major redevelopment could give Silver Spring, MD, a new transit-oriented center..."retrofitting suburbia"...roared back into view in Maryland...an ambitious redevelopment of the 27-acre site...called The Blairs...So far, the local response to the plan has been positive, possibly a sign that NIMBYism is going the way of suburban malls. -- Bing Thom Architects; Sasaki Associates [images]- The Architect's Newspaper**

**And They're Off: Santa Monica selects design/development teams for major downtown project...currently home to two banks and a surface parking lot...This could be OMA's breakthrough in Southern California, a region where Rem Koolhaas' hopes have repeatedly been dashed.** By Sam Lubell -- OMA/TBS/OLIN; Robert A.M. Stern/Brooks + Scarpa; Koning Eizenberg/Rios Clementi Hale/RTKL - The Architect's Newspaper

**Glass Farm: Michael Holt gets beneath the printed glass exterior of MVRDV's Glass Farm, and finds there may be more to it than meets the eye...Does it point at a disappearance in contemporary architecture of buildings that provide strong ideological positions, or does it promote the idea of style for style's sake? In effect: is it a polemic or a gimmick? [images]- Australian Design Review**

**Bernard Tschumi Architects Unveils Designs for Italian Culture Center: His first project in Italy establishes a local identity for the coastal city of Grottammare...Dubbed ANIMA — Art, Nature, Ideas, Music, Actions — it takes the form of a large, white rectangular volume whose façades are perforated to look like tree limbs. -- Alfonso Giancotti [images]- Architect Magazine**

**Adjaye to design major fashion hub for Olympic fringe: Project bankrolled by mayor's post-riot regeneration fund and Network Rail...Architect East has been brought in to work on the public realm, while Adams & Sutherland is the lead architect on the shop-front scheme. - BD/Building Design (UK)**

**The Imaginative City: Lisa Rochon approached Canadian universities for their students' best ideas to reinvent urban centres. The response, she says, was exhilarating. [images]- Globe and Mail (Canada)**

**As the Nature of Work Changes, So Does Architecture: When more and more people work from home and only come in to**

the office for meetings, what will our office architecture become? Aaron Betsky ponders whether both work and architecture are disappearing.- Architect Magazine

Founding Mother: Mariana Van Rensselaer and the Rise of Criticism: ...[she] worked out the ground rules of the fledgling profession...while calling upon her players — architects, clients, public — to do their jobs properly...she described in order to improve, to set out rules that might lead to a better architecture — a better society — all around. By Alexandra Lange -- Esther McCoy; Ada Louise Huxtable; Jane Jacobs [images]- Places Journal

Client and Architect: In September 1890 [in The North American Review] Mariana Griswold Van Rensselaer...analyzed the mutual obligations of the professional and the public, what she described as "the reciprocal loyalty in trust and service from which alone can grow a healthy, prolific, and truly national art."- Places Journal

Call for entries: 2013 BERKELEY PRIZE Teaching Fellowship in the wide field of Universal Design education...a competitive opportunity open to faculty members of undergraduate architectural design studios in accredited schools of architecture throughout the world; proposal deadline: April 1- Berkeley Prize / Department of Architecture, University of California, Berkeley

Call for entries: International Gastronomic Center (IGC) Brussels student competition: create a space for cultural exchange through gastronomy; cash prizes; early registration deadline (save \$\$\$): April 5- Arquideas (Spain)

Nuts + Bolts #2: You Can't SELL if You Can't TELL: You talk all the time but are you communicating clearly? Use your words effectively to build your influence. By Tami D. Hausman, Ph.D.- ArchNewsNow

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