

Today's News - Thursday, March 21, 2013

- Them's fightin' words: Kotkin claims Florida "concedes the limits of the creative class" in spurring economic growth - "the experiment appears to have failed."
- Florida fires back: "Not so fast"; Kotkin "misleads readers when he writes I've 'conceded.' What hogwash."
- Kimmelman calls for "ambitious political leaders" to show a little "moxie" and grab the "fleeting opportunity...to rectify a mistake as colossal as Penn Station, the nation's busiest and most appalling transit hub."
- Litt cheers Akron's transportation chief's call to spend less on new roads, more on transit; with Northeast Ohio's population dwindling, "spending money to reduce congestion by adding highway lanes would simply encourage more sprawl."
- As Brussat heads to Chicago for Beeby's Driehaus Prize celebrations, he ponders Ito's Pritzker: "As individuals, modern architects are as bright and introspective as their classical brethren, but they are in the catbird seat" (he, of course, has high hopes that "classicism is again all the rage").
- U.S. State Department taps five firms to lead overseas embassy renovation projects (with link to other A/E opportunities).
- Melbourne gives the green light to what will be (for the time being) the Southern Hemisphere's tallest tower.
- Mayne is selected as main man to design Lawrence Technological University's new Taubman Engineering, Life Sciences, and Architecture complex.
- Wainwright gives thumbs-up to the London Zoo's new Tiger Territory: "a wander through the zoo is as much an architectural safari as a wildlife one."
- Nigerian architect Adeyemi creates the Makoko Floating School "to address the impacts of climate change and the need for safer, more livable buildings in Lagos."
- The World Congress on Art Deco ventures to Havana to uncover "gems ripe for restoration."
- Pedersen's Q&A with Holl is "an utterly disarming interview (it feels like you're having drinks with him at a bar instead of conducting a formal inquisition)."
- Howerton's A New Humanism: Part 13 explains why "we constantly pursue the competitive edge of the 'next' new thing because survival and stature has depended on it."
- Brits win Grand Prize in Flint's Flat Lot Competition with a mirror-clad Tudor-style house atop a mirrored pedestal (cooling spray included).
- Carbon Trust Scotland Low Carbon Building Award winners are oh so green.

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[Richard Florida Concedes the Limits of the Creative Class: ...\[it\] was supposed to remake America's cities and revive urban wastelands. Now the evidence is in—and the experiment appears to have failed...Investments in "cool" districts...has done little overall for the urban middle class, much less the working class or the poor.](#) By Joel Kotkin - The Daily Beast

[Did I Abandon My Creative Class Theory? Not So Fast, Joel Kotkin: He says I've turned my back on the idea that the creative class spurs economic growth and reinvigorates cities. My response? Bollocks...he misleads readers when he writes I've "conceded." What hogwash.](#) By Richard Florida - The Daily Beast

[Flexibility and Moxie Can Save West Side: New York is at a crossroads...a fleeting opportunity has finally arrived to address the disaster of Penn Station, the nation's busiest and most appalling transit hub...could be a center for development and innovation...Next to never does a city have an opportunity to rectify a mistake as colossal as Penn Station.](#) By Michael Kimmelman [images] - New York Times

[Akron transportation chief Jason Segedy calls for spending less on new roads, more on transit and fixing what's already built: Because Northeast Ohio's population continues to fall, spending money to reduce congestion by adding highway lanes...would simply encourage more sprawl.](#) By Steven Litt - Cleveland Plain Dealer

[Pritzker and Driehaus, head to head: As individuals, modern architects are as bright and introspective as their classical brethren, but they are in the catbird seat while classicists are on the outside looking in...tomorrow I fly to Chicago...to celebrate la difference. I hope to hear that, among classicists at least, classicism is again all the rage.](#) By David Brussat -- Thomas Beeby; Toyo Ito; Thom Mayne; Frank Gehry; Eduardo Souto de Moura; Zaha Hadid; Michael Graves [images] - Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

[U.S. State Department Announces Five Firms Will Lead Overseas Renovation Project: ...overseas embassies are getting a facelift. -- Beyer Blinder Belle Architects; BNIM Architects; Krueck & Sexton Architects; Weiss/Manfredi Architects; Zimmer Gunsul Frasca/ZGF](#) - The Architect's Newspaper

[Melbourne's tallest tower approved: Standing at 108 storeys and 388 metres tall, Australia 108...will become the world's 19th tallest building...will be as iconic as Flinders Street Station and Federation Square and would help concentrate high density living in Melbourne's CBD. -- Fender Katsalidis Architects \[images\] - Architecture & Design \(Australia\)](#)

[Lawrence Technological University \(LTU\) selects architects for Taubman complex: Thom Mayne to design the future A. Alfred Taubman Engineering, Life Sciences, and Architecture Complex \(TELSA\). -- Morphosis; Albert Kahn Family of Companies \[image\] - Tech News \(Lawrence Technological University, Michigan\)](#)

[London Zoo's new Tiger Territory: built for the animals first, and visitors second: London Zoo, one of the oldest in the world, is an architectural jumble. Can its new £3.6m Tiger Territory put things right? ...a wander through the zoo is as much an architectural safari as a wildlife one.](#) By Oliver Wainwright -- Michael Kozdon/Wharmby Kozdon Architects; Berthold Lubetkin (1934); Hugh Casson (1965) [slide show] - Guardian (UK)

[Lagos Shantytown Gets Floating Prototype School: Nigerian architect Kunle Adeyemi creates an innovative Makoko Floating School to address the impacts of climate change and the need for safer, more livable buildings in Lagos. -- NLE \[slide show\] - GreenSource](#)

[Dreams of Saving Art Deco Havana: World Congress on Art Deco is uncovering gems in Havana ripe for restoration: ...the practice of architecture has been downgraded...Private architecture practices no longer exist..."When Cubans see that their house is worth something — that being Art Deco gives it value — and they do it up, that's where this all takes off." \[slide show\] - New York Times](#)

[Q&A: Steven Holl: The art of the watercolor: ...an utterly disarming interview \(it feels like you're having drinks with him at a bar instead of conducting a formal inquisition\)... "A five-by-seven-inch watercolor pad will hold 5.5 million square feet." By Martin C. Pedersen \[images\] - Metropolis Magazine](#)

[A New Humanism: Part 13: The lure of the new: ...we constantly pursue the competitive edge of the "next" new thing because survival and stature has depended on it.](#) By Robert Lamb Hart/Hart Howerton; illustrations by Albrecht Pichler - Metropolis Magazine

[Flat Lot Competition winners announced: Two Islands, a team of architects and designers based in London, have won the \\$25,000 grand prize to design and build a temporary summer pavilion on Flint's central downtown parking lot. \[images\] - Flint Public Art Project / AIA Flint \(Michigan\)](#)

[Carbon Trust Scotland Low Carbon Building Award winners: The Big Shed; Scottish National Portrait Gallery; Noreen and](#)



- Workshop: "Form as (Dynamic) Unknown: Toward an Interactive + Smart Architecture," AA Rome Visiting School, Rome, May 9-19, 2013
- Image Library: Michael Graves: Miramar Resort Hotel, El Gouna, Egypt

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