Today's News - Thursday, April 11, 2013

- Pogrebin reports that MoMA has made up its mind about what to do with Tod and Billie’s neighboring American Folk Art Museum: if you don’t want a gem of a building to come between you and your Nouvel - knock it down (needless to say, we’re aghast, appalled...words fail us).
- Bernstein and Hawthorne offer eloquent tributes to Soleri, who “showed a generation of younger architects an alternative to corporate modernism” (“a desert Obi-Wan Kenobi,” says Alastair Gordon).
- Stott makes the case that “without architects, smart cities just aren’t smart - by using their skills the ‘smart city’ will cease to be a mere buzz word, and truly become an integrated movement towards intelligent urban development.”
- Dyson makes his own case that engineering and design must become the “fourth science” in education, deserving “pride of place alongside biology, chemistry, and physics.”
- Quirk offers a most interesting take on “why China’s copy-cats are good for architecture”: when we “settle into the role of superior scoffer, we fail to look in the mirror at ourselves, and trouble our own unquestioned values and supposed superiority.”
- Without Architects, Smart Cities Just Aren’t Smart: After the grand projects of Masdar and Songdo, pioneers in technology such as IBM and Cisco have forged ahead with new concepts...leaving architects behind...By better employing the skills of architects...the “smart city” will cease to be a mere buzz word, and truly become an integrated movement towards intelligent urban development. By Rory Stott [Images] - ArchDaily
- The Fourth Science: Engineering and design must become core elements of our schools’ curricula: ...if children are so naturally inclined to think like engineers, where are all of the engineers? The problem...lies with education...deserves pride of place alongside...biology, chemistry, and physics. By James Dyson - Metropolis Magazine
- Bunker mentality: Architecture for gun control? Instead of panic rooms in every home and classroom, we need more symbols of awareness. Instead of new building codes and bulletproof doors, let’s open the shades on who we are. By C.C. Sullivan - Peter Normand/Design Posse
- Latest plans for revamped Public Square in Cleveland include trees, food pavilion and room to roam: The drive to improve Public Square and the Mall is part of what has become a loosely organized civic movement...urban landscape design is undergoing a global renaissance. By Steven Litt -- James Corner Field Operations [Image] - Cleveland Plain Dealer
- Science on the waterfront: Exploratorium’s new home on Piers 15-17: The past ten years have seen a veritable torrent of museum building activity in San Francisco by noted architects...The Exploratorium is another winner. By George Calys -- Marc L'Italien/EHDD [slide show] - San Francisco Chronicle
- Toronto's new Bridgepoint Health Care Centre raises the bar for health care facilities: ...a milestone in healthy human architecture...it will be impossible to ignore the rightness...and the sheer common sense and humanity behind its most basic moves...After Bridgepoint, there can be no excuses for horrible hospitals or medical mediocrity. By Christopher Hume -- Stantec; KPMB; HDR; Diamond Tsien Architects - New York Times
- Why China's Copy-Cats Are Good For Architecture: ...when we allow ourselves...to settle into the role of superior scoffer, we do not do just the Chinese, but ourselves, a disservice...we fail to look in the mirror at ourselves, and trouble our own unquestioned values and supposed superiority. By Vanessa Quirk [Images, link] - ArchDaily
- “If children are so naturally inclined to think like engineers, where are all of the engineers? The problem...lies with education...deserves pride of place alongside...biology, chemistry, and physics.” By James Dyson - Metropolis Magazine
- Bunker mentality: Architecture for gun control? Instead of panic rooms in every home and classroom, we need more symbols of awareness. Instead of new building codes and bulletproof doors, let’s open the shades on who we are. By C.C. Sullivan -- Peter Normand/Design Posse
- Kevin Flanagan/NAC Architecture; Edmund Einy/GKKWorks; Thomas Mellins; Fantastic Norway; Thomas de Menthaux--SmartPlanet
- Science on the waterfront: Exploratorium’s new home on Piers 15-17: The past ten years have seen a veritable torrent of museum building activity in San Francisco by noted architects...The Exploratorium is another winner. By George Calys -- Marc L'Italien/EHDD [slide show] - San Francisco Chronicle
- Toronto's new Bridgepoint Health Care Centre raises the bar for health care facilities: ...a milestone in healthy human architecture...it will be impossible to ignore the rightness...and the sheer common sense and humanity behind its most basic moves...After Bridgepoint, there can be no excuses for horrible hospitals or medical mediocrity. By Christopher Hume -- Stantec; KPMB; HDR; Diamond Schmitt [Images] - Toronto Star
- On the Road with the Rudy Bruner Award: South Bronx: Following our site visit to Congo Street Initiative in Dallas, the Bruner Foundation team headed to New York City to our next 2013 Rudy Bruner Award finalist site, Via Verde...illustrates another approach to designing affordable,
sustainable housing, albeit at a larger scale and catalyzed by a different set of circumstances. By Anne-Marie Lubenau – AAANY; Dattner Architects; Grimshaw Architects [images, links] - Metropolis Magazine

Windy words in the Windy City: Louis Sullivan's kidnapping by modern architecture relies much less on the buildings he designed than on the words he wrote - such as "form ever follows function" - and on the purposeful misinterpretation of those words...Don't muddy the water by "capturing territory" that classicists should not want! By David Brussat – Thomas Beeby; David Watkin; Michael Graves; Steven Peterson/Barbara Littenberg/Peterson Littenberg Architecture; Andrés Duany/Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk [images] - Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

AIA selects the 2013 Recipients of the Small Project Awards -- Min | Day; Kariouk Associates; Johnsen Schmaling Architects; Mell Lawrence Architects; Cooper Joseph Studio; Robert M. Gurney, FAIA; WRNS Studio; Edward Ogosta Architecture [links to images, info] - American Institute of Architects (AIA)

Docomomo US National Symposium 2013: Modern Matters; Sarasota, Florida, April 18-21 - Docomomo US

Thomas Jefferson Plunkitt explains it all... [Part 2]: The final turnout of registered voters in LA was admittedly pitiful...TJ Plunkitt: What did you expect from such a boring campaign. - The Planning Report

Call for entries: INSIDE World Interior of the Year Awards 2013; registration deadline: May 24 (submission deadline: May 30) - World Architecture Festival (WAF)

Book Review: "Original Copies: Architectural Mimicry in Contemporary China" by Bianca Bosker: A must-have for those who wish to see a design phenomenon and trend explained in a clear and concise manner without the pretentious tribal signifiers that so plague academic writers. By Christian Bjone - ArchNewsNow

Sambuchi Architects: Rokko Shidare Observatory, Kobe, Japan