

Today's News - Wednesday, May 22, 2013

- Architects and the AIA respond to the Moore, OK, tornado disaster.
- An architect explains why two schools were not built for Tornado Alley despite architects' recommendations (cost - what else), and calls for reconsidering earth-sheltered public buildings (no, it's not a "liberal" idea).
- Q&A with Marxist and social theorist Harvey re: impending "urban class warfare" and "how urbanization will play a key role in social conflicts to come."
- European expats fleeing the euro crisis are contributing to a real estate boom in Rio's favelas (needless to say, not all are pleased).
- Badger reports on a new study that quantifies the cost of sprawl (it's expensive).
- An architect explains why LEED doesn't work in rural Africa; "One size does not fit all...we must consider social and economic factors as well" - and he has high hopes for two alternative grading systems.
- Kamin accesses Corbu's Carpenter Center at Harvard 50 years later: "time has done little to soften the sharp edge of its parachute-in urbanism," but its "faults do not diminish its enduring architectural quality."
- Anderton has lively conversations with some of the key players in the beleaguered "A New Sculpturalism" show in Los Angeles who discuss why they don't want to be "sculpturalists."
- The newest thing in NYC architecture is something old - actually a new brick building that looks like it's always been there.
- Hunter posits that "architectural education needs a proper shake-up" (he blames Eisenman), and what he's planning to do about it - a "21st-century version of apprenticeship."
- Winners all: An eyeful of the Top 50 designs of The Battery Conservancy Americas "Draw Up A Chair" Design Competition (very cool - now vote for your favorite).
- AIA Chicago hands out its Small Firm/Small Project Awards.
- The Association of Siamese Architects names winners in its "Borderless" competition.
- Call for entries: Projects & Architect-in-Residency for Rethinking Urbanity 2013: innovative solutions for the urban fringe of Vienna.

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[Architects Respond to Oklahoma City Tornado Disaster: While the scale of the damage done by the massive tornado that struck Moore, Okla. remains uncertain, architects are preparing now to offer help when called on.](#) - Architect Magazine

[Flattened Oklahoma schools not built for Tornado Alley: Both \[Moore\] schools were built after the 1999 tornado...The school board ignored the architects' recommendation to include storm shelters...The reason given was cost savings...federal demonstration grants for earth-sheltered public buildings were quickly terminated...viewed as being a "liberal" and impractical idea that was not worth the cost.](#) By Richard Thornton - Examiner

[Urban Class Warfare: Are Cities Built for the Rich? Q&A with Marxist and social theorist David Harvey...he discusses how urbanization will play a key role in social conflicts to come...One of the basic theses of his book "Rebel Cities" is that urban development solves the problem of surplus capital. Streets are built and property developed on credit in an attempt to escape recession. \[slide show\]](#) - Der Spiegel (Germany)

[Gringos in the Slums: Expats Move In as Rio Favelas Improve: Now that the notorious drug gangs of Rio de Janeiro's shanty towns have been driven out, the neighborhoods are attracting new residents from Southern Europe. Fleeing the euro crisis back home, the expats are contributing to a real estate boom in the favelas.](#) - Der Spiegel (Germany)

[Quantifying the Cost of Sprawl: Sprawl is expensive...the argument is even more convincing with actual numbers. A new report out today from Smart Growth America...sizes up the scale of the impact this way: Compact development costs, on average, 38% less in up-front infrastructure than "conventional suburban development"...](#) By Emily Badger - The Atlantic Cities

[Why LEED Doesn't Work in Rural Africa and What Will: ...building sustainably in Africa spans far beyond a simple system of design and construction standards. One size does not fit all...we must consider social and economic factors as well...a pair of other systems that better categorize rural development needs and seek to quantify the effects of quality design and development.](#) By Charles Newman/Afritekt -- SEED Network/Social Economic Environmental Design; Jeremy Gibberd [images] - ArchDaily

[Fifty Years Later, Still Scandalizing the Neighbors: What Le Corbusier's only realized project in North America says to us today: While time has proved the Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts's worth and influence, it has underscored old shortcomings and bared new ones...presaged the global trend of "starchitecture"...faults do not diminish its enduring architectural quality...](#) By Blair Kamin [images] - Architectural Record

[MOCA, Drama and "A New Sculpturalism": ...promises an exciting taste of the architecture of tomorrow. On this show, LA architects discuss why they don't want to be "sculpturalists," even as they showcase work in an art museum; and they give us a taste of the latest manifestation of LA's long tradition of architectural experimentation.](#) By Frances Anderton -- Frank Gehry; Thom Mayne/Morphosis; Neil Denari; Christopher Mout; Christopher Hawthorne; Georgina Huljich; Marcelo Spina/P-A-T-T-E-R-N-S; Elena Manferdini; Benjamin Ball/Ball-Nogues; Tom Wiscombe; Michael Webb [images, audio] - KCRW (Los Angeles)

[The newest thing in architecture: Something old: ...when 211 Elizabeth Street was finished, people thought it had always been there..."When we took the scaffolding down, they just thought we had cleaned the building..."](#) -- Kent Barwick; Paul Goldberger; Roman and Williams [images, video] - CBS News

[What is the point of architecture schools? Architectural education needs a proper shake-up...architecture schools as they are currently constituted are becoming great engines of downward mobility...I launched ARFA -- Alternative Routes for Architecture -- to create a postgraduate pathway into the profession connecting study and practice...a 21st-century version of apprenticeship...](#) By Will Hunter - BD/Building Design (UK)

[NYC's Battery Conservancy and NYC Parks announce the Top 50 Designs of The Battery Conservancy Americas "Draw Up A Chair" Design Competition: ...come from 9 countries in the Americas...30% are students and 70% are professional designers. Vote for your favorite.](#) [images] - The Battery Conservancy

Small projects...big talent: The 3rd annual Small Firm/Small Project Award program recognizes high quality work from small Chicago architectural firms and exceptional small local projects. -- Shapiro Associates; SIDE architecture; Architecture Is Fun, Inc.; David Genc; Tigerman McCurry Architects; etc. [[links to images, info](#)]- AIA Chicago

Balloon Float, Bamboo Factory and a Moving Recreation Park: Creative Solutions for ASEAN Border Areas: A "provocative and poetic" solution for the long-running Thai Cambodia border dispute has topped the winners list of Borderless competition... -- Association of Siamese Architects (ASA); Luke Yeung/Architectkidd; H  l  ne Grialou/Sebastien Gafari; Laura van Santen [[link to images, info](#)]- Artinfo

Call for entries: Projects & Architect-in-Residency: Rethinking Urbanity 2013 (international): Rethinking Felberstrasse: Looking for innovative solutions for the urban fringe of Vienna; deadline: June 16- Wonderland (Vienna, Austria)

Nuts + Bolts #4: Spring into Growth Mode: Organize Your Process to Maximize Your Potential: Internal organization, clearly defined workflows, and a focused approach to the things you do best will put you on the right track to long-term growth. By Steve Whitehorn- ArchNewsNow



- SANAA: Mus  e Louvre-Lens, Lens, France
- Moving. Norman Foster on Art, Carr   d'Art, N  mes Museum of Contemporary Art, N  mes, France
- Ingarden & Ew  y: The Malopolska Garden of Arts, Krakow, Poland

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