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02_02.24.2010

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GREEN

FREEWAY PARKING

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LOOKS BACK

IN LIMBO

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27



After four years in the works, a proposed residential tower next to San Francisco's iconic Transamerica Pyramid is getting the runaround from the planning commission. The project, designed by local firm Heller Manus, has been on the docket

twice—and the architects hope the third time, in March, will be the charm.

The 38-story highrise is proposed for 555 Washington, on the same block as the Pyramid, in the city's Financial District. The continued on page 9



INFAMOUS LA HOUSING PROJECT TO BE REMADE AS MIXED-INCOME NEIGHBORHOOD

Opened in the mid-1950s, the 700-unit Jordan Downs public housing complex in Watts is a cold collection of repetitive and poverty, gang violence, social

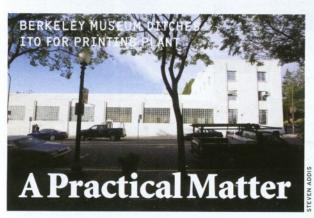
like its cousins in places like Chicago, New York, and St. Louis, become a grim emblem of urban faceless brick buildings that has, isolation, continued on page 10



NEW PLANNING DIRECTORS IN SEATTLE, LA COUNTY, PASADENA

MUSICAL CHAIRS

It's been some time since the West Coast had its last earthquake, but local planning departments recently experienced big tremors. First, Raymond Gastil, Seattle's city planning director since August 2008, resigned on January 28. And on February 1, Richard Bruckner, former director of the Pasadena Planning continued on page 5



The staff at the Berkeley Art for Streamline Moderne. Museum/Pacific Film Archive After ditching plans for a may be on their way to dis- costly Toyo Ito-designed covering a new appreciation building, the institution has of the

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DELVE INTO OUR 3RD ANNUAL COMPILATION OF RESOURCES, WHERE YOU'LL FIND THE CONTRACTORS, CONSULTANTS, SUPPLIERS, AND FABRICATORS THAT MADE AN'S FAVORITE BUILDINGS OF 2009 STAND UP AND STAND OUT, PAGES 15-20

decided to revamp a 1939 printing plant on the planned site, at the intersection of Central and Oxford streets.

Museum director Laurence Rinder told AN that the current plan is to renovate the existing 48,000square-foot structure and build a new addition that will double its size, giving the institution the added space it needs for a viable expansion. The museum board is expected to vote yea or nay on the plan this month.

"It's really an undiscovered gem, and another great part continued on page 12

PRESIDIO'S PARADE GROUND **GETTING CROWDED**

NEWBIE AT THE POST

The Family Violence Prevention Fund, a nonprofit organization based in San Francisco, broke ground last month on its new \$18 million headquarters at the much-scrutinized Presidio Main Post. The project will be located a few buildings from the Walt Disney Family Museum, which opened in the fall, and just down the road from where the recently scrapped Contemporary Art continued on page 3

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"Trex is a fantastic material because it's made of recycled materials (plastic and sawdust), it's durable and low-maintenance, and although it is marketed for decking, it can make an interesting building skin material as a rainscreen." Steven Ehrlich Ehrlich Architects

"Parklex provided a very soft and natural material juxtaposition to the hard-edged metal siding and roofing. It allowed the building to appear to belong in its agrarian setting." Mark Horton Mark Horton Architecture

"Paul Phillips, Sarnafil regional director, is excellent to work with. He will review details for appropriateness and is also very good at translating our design intent into buildable solutions." Thomas Schneider Barton Myers Associates

"CoveringsETC looks both utilitarian and fancy at the same time." Barbara Bestor Bestor Archite







LIGHTING

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"FX Lighting's fixtures are goodlooking and simple. It's hard to find good minimalist lighting." Barbara Bestor

Bestor Architecture

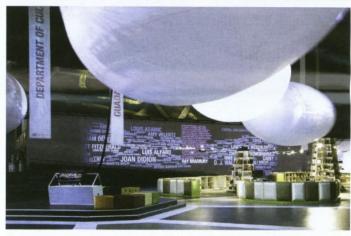
"ALR is a team player, through and through. They showed a knack for listening and understanding the design intent. They offered us budget-wise solutions and worked collaboratively to come back with a few different, workable options." Tracy Wong DES Architects + Engineers

"Auerbach/Glasow is a longtime collaborator with

our firm. They bring to their lighting designs an invaluable combination of technical excellence and theatrical sensibility. Their lighting designs provide valuable support to our architectural strategies." Mallory Scott Cusenbery RossDrulisCusenbery Architecture







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