Today's News - Wednesday, April 1, 2020

- **Cramer offers** an eloquent tribute to Michael Sorkin: "His departure is not only tragically premature, it is cruelly ironic, in part because the seemingly unstoppable political and economic forces that he railed against for decades are presently colliding with the immovable, microscopic wall of the disease that killed him."

- **Grimley**, Kubo & Pasnik's tribute to Michael McKinnell, "the heroic architect behind Boston City Hall" who "only got younger as we spoke about his early principles and failures - his lofty ideals were always tempered by his youthful energy and his mischievous sense of humor."

- **Wainwright** talks to Yasmeen Lari, Pakistan's first female architect and winner of AJ's 2020 Jane Drew Prize, who "looks back on an extraordinary life. She created gilded monuments to corporate excess," but now builds "mud huts for the poor": "I was a starchitect for 36 years. Now I'm atoning."

- **A profile** of Damaris Melo, a recipient of an AIA 2020 Young Architect Award who co-founded a Minnesota chapter of NOMA, began a design workshop for urban youth, and runs her own firm: "I wanted to be a boss lady - until the day I went to college - I started realizing the power of architecture and the social power, the social agenda that can be carried."

- **Birnbaum** makes the case for why National Geographic HQ should not demolish a public plaza sporting a 1984 sculpture by Elyn Zimmerman to make way for a pavilion in a proposed redesign + a Q&A with Zimmerman.

- **Welton x 2**: He looks at how Frederick Fisher Partners created a new structure adjacent to Santa Monica's "beloved 1939 Art Moderne City Hall": "Very gingerly" (while meeting Living Building Challenge standards).

- **He talks** to "Brazilian-born, New York-bred" photographer Paul Clemence re: what he did "with two weeks to himself in between gigs in Europe - six cities and 10 architectural wonders: Not bad for a fortnight of train travel."

Deadlines:

- **Call for** entries (deadline looms!): United Nations Global Call-out to Creatives: "help stop the spread of COVID-19 - translate critical public health messages into work that will engage and inform people across different cultures, languages, communities, and platforms."

- **Call for** entries: Fentress Global Challenge international student design competition to envision an airport of the future; open to graduate and undergraduate students, and recent grads.

- **Call for** entries: Architect mag's 14th Annual R+D Awards (international) that "celebrate the groundbreaking research, materials, and technologies that are advancing the building industry" (regular submission deadline extended!).

- **Call for** entries: Interior Scholarship 2019/2020 - The AIT Scholarship by Sto Foundation (students must be enrolled at a European university).

- **Call for** entries: 2020 AIA National Photography Competition, open to architects registered in the U.S., Assoc. AIA and AIAS student members.

- **Call for** entries: 2020 Drawing Matter Writing Prize: submit an essay on a drawing, open to anyone between the ages of 18 - 40 (and £1.00 - £5.00 entry fee).
COVID-19 news continues - the last item: resources for teleconferencing backgrounds (some quite amusing):

- **Simons**, executive director, Mayor's Institute on City Design, re: how architects and designers can put their "skills to use" in responding to COVID-19 by spotting "opportunities that match their existing expertise and relationships where they can pitch in."

- **Pearman** talks to Architects for Health chair Christopher Shaw re: "how to make emergency Covid-19 wards," and his 18-page "Design note: Covid-19 ward for intubated patients" - it "may not be on everyone's required reading list but it is most definitely required."

- **Lam outlines** OAQ, OAA, AIBC, and TSA's COVID-19 guides for architects working during the coronavirus crisis.

- **Kamin considers** how the coronavirus could/will have "a significant impact" on open-plan workplaces that were already being slammed "as noisy, distracting, stress-inducing, and nowhere near the teamwork booster its designers made it out to be" - many building owners and developers have "already have latched onto the concept of office spaces that promote employee wellness."

- **Speaking** of which: the International WELL Building Institute has "scrapped" its recently updated set of standards to rewrite "recommendations to combat future pandemics in the workplace - now wellness may mean more than just yoga studios and gyms as building amenities."

- **Budds delves** into how the pandemic is affecting the constructing industry, "which employs over 7 million people nationwide - just how essential should construction be considered?"

- **One we couldn't** resist: Free "backgrounds you can use to disguise your messy remote work rooms - or running children and pets" - while teleconferencing.

---

To subscribe to the free daily newsletter [click here](#)

**Ned Cramer:** Sorkin Spoke Truth to Power: Let Michael Sorkin's unflinching advocacy of the commonweal serve as an inspiration to the architecture profession: He couldn't have left the stage at a worse time...was distinct among the critics...not only because of his rare wit and clarity of voice, but because of his consistent bravery in speaking truth to power...I don't have a charming Sorkin story to share, though I did [work] with him on "Spontaneous Interventions" [for] the 2012 Venice Architecture Biennale...His departure is not only tragically premature, it is cruelly ironic, in part because the seemingly unstoppable political and economic forces that he railed against for decades are presently colliding with the immovable, microscopic wall of the disease that killed him. - Architect Magazine

**Chris Grimley, Michael Kubo & Mark Pasnik:** In tribute to Michael McKinnell, the Heroic architect behind Boston City Hall: We first met McKinnell and Gerhard Kallmann in 2007 at the outset of the Heroic project...he was surprisingly open to the idea of his building changing. Far from upholding the original design as a masterwork fixed in time...he felt it needed "younger ideas"...they should be "bold and self-confident"...he only got younger as we spoke candidly about his early principles and failures...Warm and gregarious, fascinating and funny, incisive and generous...lofty ideals were always tempered by his youthful energy and his mischievous sense of humor. -- Kallmann McKinnell & Wood; "Heroic: Concrete Architecture and the New Boston"; OverUnder; Stephanie Mallis- The Architect's Newspaper

**Wainwright:** The barefoot architect: "I was a starchitect for 36 years. Now I'm atoning": She created gilded monuments to corporate excess. But now
Yasmeen Lari is building mud huts for the poor. As she wins the Jane Drew prize, Pakistan’s first female architect looks back on an extraordinary life: She is critical of the “universal solutions” offered by aid agencies and...the urbanised mindset imposed on rural communities...80% of the communities [her Heritage Foundation has] worked with have since been raised above the poverty line...“Everything I do is a collaboration, so I shouldn’t be known as the author of my work.” - Guardian (UK)

Architect draws on life experiences to encourage diversity in her field: The AIA awarded Damaris Melo, who also goes by Damaris Hollingsworth, with a 2020 Young Architect Award...She co-founded a Minnesota chapter of the National Organization of Minority Architects, began a design workshop for urban youth...and runs Design by Melo...While growing up near São Paulo, Brazil, Melo met an architect at the age of 7...she felt inspired to aspire to be like her. “I wanted to be a boss lady - that’s the only reason...until the day I went to college...I started realizing the power of architecture and the social power, the social agenda that can be carried.” -- NOMA; RSP Architects; DLR Group; Thor Cos.; Mohammed Lawal/LSE Architects; DesignSHOP- Sun Sailor (Minnesota)

Charles A. Birnbaum: National Geographic to Demolish Widely Acclaimed Sculpture MARABAR: ...headquarters comprises buildings by Edward Durell Stone and Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM)...a publicly accessible plaza [with 1984] work of art...by award-winning American sculptor Elyn Zimmerman...slated to be demolished to accommodate a new pavilion...proposed redesign would destroy [her] sculpture...Although the plans were approved...it is as yet unclear whether the review board was made aware of the sculpture’s presence...or of its significance...We remain hopeful that [her] sculpture will be reviewed thoroughly and that plans for the new pavilion will be altered accordingly + Q&A with Elyn Zimmerman -- Hickok Cole Architects- The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF)
J. Michael Welton: Looking to the Past and Future in Santa Monica: How does a 21st-century architecture firm, asked to create a new structure adjacent to a beloved 1939 Art Moderne City Hall, move forward? Very gingerly. That’s the direction Frederick Fisher Partners took...to study and design a City Services Building next to a bright-white, iconic design by Parkinson & Estep...“And they wanted it to be part of the Living Building Challenge”... -- Joe Coriaty; Matt Kelley; James Corner Field Operations - Architects + Artisans

J. Michael Welton: Paul Clemence Takes the European Grand Tour: Caught with two weeks to himself in between gigs in Europe, Brazilian-born and New York-bred Paul Clemence did what any enterprising architecture photographer would...Two weeks, six cities and 10 architectural wonders: Not bad for a fortnight of train travel. -- ODA; Piet Blom; Rem Koolhaas/OMA; Renzo Piano; Zaha Hadid; Norman Foster; Oscar Niemeyer; Daniel Libeskind - Architects + Artisans

Call for entries (deadline looms!): United Nations Global Call Out To Creatives - help stop the spread of COVID-19 (international): translate critical public health messages, into work that will engage and inform people across different cultures, languages, communities and platforms; deadline: April 9 - Talenthouse

Call for entries: Fentress Global Challenge international student design competition to envision an airport of the future; open to graduate and undergraduate students, and recent graduates (within the last four years) with a degree in architecture or engineering; cash prizes; deadline: July 31 - Fentress Architects

Call for entries: Architect magazine’s 14th Annual R+D Awards (international): to celebrate the groundbreaking research, materials, and technologies that are advancing the building industry at every scale; reduced registration fee for full-time students and faculty members; early bird submission deadline (save money!): April 17; regular submission deadline (extended!): May 8 - Architect Magazine

Call for entries: Interior Scholarship 2020/2021 - The AIT-Scholarship by Sto-Foundation: up to four students of interior architecture, interior design, etc. enrolled at a European university will receive a monthly grant for one year, totalling 24,000 EUR; deadline: June 19 - AIT-Dialog / Sto Foundation / Sto Stiftung (Germany)

Call for entries: 2020 AIA National Photography Competition: open to architects actively registered in the United States, and Associate AIA, and AIAS student members; deadline: May 1 - AIA St. Louis

Call for entries: 2020 Drawing Matter Writing Prize: submit an essay on a drawing (can be your own); open to anyone between the ages of 18 - 40, with or without a background in architecture or design proceeds from the £1.00 - £5.00 entry tickets will be applied directly to student scholarships for our annual Architectural Drawing Summer School; deadline: June 19 - Drawingmatter.org

Trinity Simons: How Architects and Designers Can Respond to COVID-19: How
do we put our skills to use in the right context, at the right time? Designers must think about the specific skills they have and map them to the mission at hand...examples...not meant to be comprehensive...demonstrate areas where people, firms, and organizations have spotted specific opportunities that match their existing expertise and relationships where they can pitch in... -- AIA New York State; Illya Azaroff; Lori Coppenrath/DLR Group; MASS Design Group- Common Edge

Hugh Pearman: How to make emergency Covid-19 wards: As BDP rapidly turns London’s ExCel Centre into a hospital for coronavirus patients, he talks to Architects for Health chair Christopher Shaw about the priorities and practicalities of emergency conversions: Shaw has written an 18-page guidance note...aimed at existing hospitals but applicable more widely... "Design note: Covid-19 ward for intubated patients" may not be on everyone's required reading list but it is most definitely required. -- Medical Architecture- RIBA Journal (UK)

Elsa Lam: OAQ, OAA, AIBC, TSA issue COVID-19 guides for architects: Provincial and territorial architecture associations are issuing guidelines to their members on working during the coronavirus crisis. -- L'Ordre des Architectes du Québec (OAQ); Ontario Association of Architects (OAA); Architectural Institute of British Columbia (AIBC); Toronto Society of Architects (TSA)- Canadian Architect

Blair Kamin: Will the open-plan office make you vulnerable to coronavirus? Or will the virus crisis force offices to become safer? Even before coronavirus struck, critics were slamming...open plan - as noisy, distracting, stress-inducing, and nowhere near the teamwork booster its designers made it out to be...A growing number of building owners and developers...already have latched onto the concept of office spaces that promote employee wellness...More companies can be expected to follow...because existing employees will demand them...How can workers and bosses, as well as building owners and managers, cope? -- Todd Heiser/Gensler; Joanna Frank/Center for Active Design/Fitwel- Chicago Tribune

Coronavirus Means Building Owners, Companies Need To Look At New Health Standards: The International WELL Building Institute...planned to unveil an updated set of standards March 13...In light of the pandemic, the IWBI scrapped its new standards...to rewrite its list of recommendations to combat future pandemics in the workplace...needed to...add requirements to address commercial real estate and business operations during a pandemic...now wellness may mean more than just yoga studios and gyms as building amenities. It may mean having a plan in place for employees to not have to show up to work and still get their jobs done. - Bisnow Atlanta

Diana Budds: How essential is construction during the coronavirus pandemic? "It's putting a lot of people in really tough positions"...says one general contractor: In construction, time is money, even during a global health crisis...While some of the essential businesses seem uncontroversial - like hospitals and grocery stores - others fall into a gray area. Construction, which employs over 7 million people nationwide, is one of them. While some cities and states are shutting construction down, others are granting exceptions... just how essential should construction be considered?- Curbed
Free Zoom backgrounds you can use to disguise your messy remote work rooms: Express yourselves virtually: Barbara Krasnoff has already told you how you can make use of Zoom’s custom background tool to hide messy backdrops or running children and pets. But if you need some resources on what backgrounds to use as your virtual teleconferencing room, here are a few...plus some of The Verge staff’s favorites. - The Verge

Note: Pages will open in a new browser window. External news links are not endorsed by ArchNewsNow.com. Free registration may be required on some sites. Some pages may expire after a few days.
EDITOR'S NOTE: Tomorrow and Monday will be no-newsletter days. We'll be back Tuesday, April 7. Stay safe…

- **Moss, Mayne**, Holl, Gans, and many others remember Michael Sorkin: "Michael was a character like Cervantes's Don Quixote in the best way."
- **Smith's** thoughtful Sorkin profile - and he talks to Paul Goldberger, "who sparred with him in the 1980s before reconciling in recent years": "He was one of the only radicals I've ever known who had a light spirit to him."
- **Wagley wades** into the LACMA saga: "At first, it was met with cautious optimism. But eight years later, the project has been criticized as 'uninformed' and a 'scorched-earth plan.' There is already a hole in the side of the Ahmanson Building" (project "has been deemed 'essential'" construction).
- **On a brighter** note, Steiner spotlights Diamond Schmitt Architects and Claude Cormier + Associés' 100-acre parcel of the 400-acre Vaughan Metropolitan Centre in Ontario - its "strong ideas about building, landscape and urban design, both on paper and constructed, are abundant."
- **Dickinson** laments "the unique pain of architects: letting go" of altered or demolished projects: "It never stop hurting. I should get over it. But I never will."
- **McMansion Hell**'s Wagner's great Q&A with Andersen & Preissner, curators of "American Framing," the U.S. Pavilion at this year's Venice Biennale, re: the "broader issues of labor, democracy, and suburbia," and their "promise to explore aspects of the system other than its material attributes."
- **A little** eye candy never hurt (unless you think they're eyesores): Mafi brings us "12 buildings that show the beauty of deconstructed architecture, from Zaha Hadid's majestic MAXII to the stunning beauty of Frank Gehry's Vitra Design Museum."

**Weekend diversions (to be enjoyed at home) + Page-turners:**

- **Wainwright** weighs in on "Weird Sensation Feels Good" at Sweden's ArkDes (and online): "This way for brain tingles" in "a shiver-inducing exhibition of ASMRtists provoking the strangely pleasurable autonomous sensory meridian response" (who couldn't use a bit of a "brain tingle" right about now!).
- **The CCA's** new documentary "'What It Takes to Make a Home' considers the questions of how architects might address the intractable urban reality of homelessness, and the meaning of living without a reliable home" (featuring Hagner and Maltzan).
- **AN editors'** "picks for architecture-themed movies and shows to enjoy while housebound - everything from French New Wave classics to sordid 1980s thrillers to dystopian neo-noir epics to trashy (but oh-so-enjoyable) reality TV and more" (with official trailers).
- **Kimmelman** & historian Dolkart stroll NYC's Museum Mile that's "like Gilded Age proto-McMansions along a posh stretch of 5th Avenue" for a virtual tour "intended to be consumed at home, not on foot."
- **Hilburg** brings us exhilarating photos of Jacob Jonas The Company's #CamerasandDancers that "blends contemporary ballet with breakdancing and acrobatics to draw attention to" to stunning architecture of notable
institutions that "has taken on a new poignancy at a time when most, if not all, are now closed."

- **Wainwright** talks to landscape architect Julia Watson re: "Lo-TEK: Design by Radical Indigenism," featuring "tree-bridges and fish that love sewage - indigenous customs could save the planet - but are under threat": "We've got our priorities wrong."

- **Ruthen** cheers Beasley's "Vancouverism": "It's an entertaining ride, rife with stories of the trials and tribulations of working with developers, architects and politicians," and "will be essential reading for years to come."

- **Crook** cheers Provoost's " Beautified China" in which the country's "iconic architecture" is depicted as abstract forms against bright blue skies - influenced by his practice as an architect."

- **Starling** Lyons on her children's book "Dream Builder: The Story of architect Philip Freelon" (with an afterword by Freelon himself): "Once Phil agreed to be a part of the project, I started the process for the book. I interviewed him and his wife Nnenna various times. From there, the story began to unfold."

COVID-19 news continues, ending with Kamin's cure for cabin fever - sigh:

- **Former NYC** parks commissioner, now SVP of The Trust for Public Land Adrian Benepe: "Parks are cathedrals, especially now. Across the country, urban outdoor spaces are playing roles as places of respite and hope. Now is the time to make sure they are kept open as much as public health concerns allow."

- **Russell** talks to Romano, Crispino, and Prochner re: the "daunting challenge" to "deliver thousands of COVID-19 rooms in weeks" as our "healthcare infrastructure is breaking under the strain" ("We're looking at a cathedral").

- **Gerfen parses** MASS Design Group's open-source resource offering "information and best practices developed over a decade of designing to minimize the spread of infection": "There's an incredible amount of need for designers and architects to be of service," sayeth Murphy.

- **Rhode Island-based** architect Baldwin ponders "public life in the time of pandemics. Can we redesign quotidian routines that maintain sociability at a distance, that dim the lights of civic life without switching them all off?"

- **Kamin's** cure for cabin fever: Take a walk - with the world on pause, you've got a chance to hit your own pause button and see things you've never taken the time to see before" (but "be sure to maintain the social distancing").

To subscribe to the free daily newsletter click here

Moss, Mayne, Holl, Gans, and more remember Michael Sorkin, Part 1: "Michael was a character like Cervantes's Don Quixote in the best way. I remember him saying, 'I may not achieve all my visions, but I will die fighting for them'"..."He was...as committed to optimism as to confrontation with injustice, as joyful in his being, as devastating in his wit...We also need the plan that he would have given us to take back our cities after this deluge. Of that plan, we can be sure of one thing - it would be green, democratic, and joyful." -- Eric Owen Moss; Thom Mayne/Morphosis; Steven Holl; Deborah Gans/Gans Studio; Achva Benzinberg Stein; Lesley Lokko/CCNY Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture; Harriet Harris/Pratt Institute School of Architecture; Mike Davis; Dean MacCannell/University of California, Davis; Eyal Weizman/Forensic Architecture; Andrew Ross/New York University (NYU); Daniel Monk/Colgate University; Charles Waldheim/Harvard Graduate School of Design/GSD- The Architect's Newspaper

Harrison Smith: Michael Sorkin, who championed social justice through architecture, dies at 71 from coronavirus: He was a critic, author, teacher and designer, known for emphasizing the link between politics and architecture: “He was probably our most impassioned advocate of architecture as a means toward
social justice,” said Paul Goldberger, who sparred with [him] in the 1980s before reconciling in recent years...[He] was primarily known for his criticism, which he described as “architecture by other means”...His work took aim at architectural giants such as Philip Johnson [and] went after peers such as Goldberger... "he was one of the only radicals I’ve ever known who had a light spirit to him"...-

Washington Post

Catherine Wagley: LACMA’s $750 Million Renovation Was Once Hailed as a Powerful Vision of What a 21st-Century Museum Could Be. Now, It’s a Lightning Rod: At first, it was met with cautious optimism, called “architecturally ambitious” and “powerfully strange.” But eight years later, the...project designed by Peter Zumthor has been criticized - sometimes by the very people who praised it initially - as “uninformed” and a "scorched-earth plan"...There is already a hole in the side of the Ahmanson Building, one of four buildings slated for demolition this month...construction has been deemed "essential"... -- Michael Govan; William Pereira; Hardy Holzman Pfeiffer; Jean Nouvel; Rem Koolhaas; Renzo Piano; Aecom; Joseph Giovannini- artnet News

David Steiner: Smart Growth: SmartVMC, Vaughan, Ontario: The Vaughan Metropolitan Centre (VMC) is 400 acres, owned by various developers and commercial landowners...In one or two decades from now...it will have the density and make-up of a small city: 25,000 residences...commercial offices, institutional buildings, and park space...Diamond Schmitt Architects [and] Claude Cormier + Associés were engaged in 2011 to develop a master plan for the [100-acre] SmartCentres parcel .. linear park and bus terminal location will organize the entire site...bus terminal was the first of nine completed and in-progress [DSAI-designed] buildings...strong ideas about building, landscape and urban design, both on paper and constructed, are abundant.- Canadian Architect

Duo Dickinson: The Unique Pain of Architects: Letting Go: The buildings we design have their own lives (and deaths), whether we like it or not: Almost every building has an invisible expiration date...knowing that doesn’t make the sting of its death any easier...then there are the zombies, still living in this world, but altered beyond all original intentions...our best hopes, defiled...every creator loses control of their creation the minute someone else owns it...When our designs are changed, it...never stop hurting...I should get over it. But I never will. - Common Edge
Kate Wagner: Paul Andersen and Paul Preissner on "American Framing": Q&A with the curators of the U.S. Pavilion at this year's Venice Architecture Biennale about broader issues of labor, democracy, and suburbia: On the face of it, the theme...seems like a safe choice...But [they] promise to explore aspects of the system other than its material attributes..."We're trying to design something that hopefully will be familiar...that people have seen before and see all the time, but maybe not quite in the way that we’re putting them together for the show." -- McMansion Hell- Metropolis Magazine

Nick Mafi: 12 Buildings That Show the Beauty of Deconstructed Architecture: From Zaha Hadid’s majestic MAXII in Italy to the stunning beauty of Frank Gehry’s Vitra Design Museum, these structures elevate the environment they were built in. -- Peter Eisenman; Rem Koolhaas/Office of Metropolitan Architecture (OMA); Daniel Libeskind; Herzog & de Meuron; Ai Weiwei; Alessandro Mendini; Philippe Starck; Coop Himmelb(l)au- Architectural Digest

Oliver Wainwright: This way for brain tingles: ASMR gets a shiver-inducing exhibition: From cucumber-crunchers to cranial exams, YouTube is full of ASMRtists provoking the strangely pleasurable autonomous sensory meridian response. Now they’ve got their own euphoric museum show: James Taylor-Foster...has spent many hours trawling the weirdest depths of YouTube in preparation for "Weird Sensation Feels Good" at ArkDes, Sweden’s national centre for architecture and design...available to view online...Beyond offering a momentary brain tingle, there is a growing belief that ASMR can be used as an alternative form of therapy..."It’s a fascinating reflection of the times"...a future of tingles awaits.- Guardian (UK)

The CCA explores the meaning of living without a home in a documentary short film: "What It Takes to Make a Home"...by the Canadian Centre for Architecture considers the questions of how architects might address the intractable urban reality of homelessness, and the meaning of living without a reliable home: The film interweaves a conversation between Alexander Hagner and Michael Maltzan with the perspectives of individuals affected by homelessness...Directed by Daniel Schwartz, [it] begins to unpack the complexities of homelessness...- Canadian Architect

Here are AN's picks for architecture-themed movies and shows to enjoy while housebound: ...everything from French New Wave classics to sordid 1980s thrillers to dystopian neo-noir epics to trashy (but oh-so-enjoyable) reality TV and more. And for good measure, we’ve thrown in a few serious architecture documentaries, too..- The Architect's Newspaper

Michael Kimmelman: Take a Virtual Tour of New York’s Museum District: With the Metropolitan Museum shut during its [150th] anniversary, our critic strolls with a historian along a posh stretch of Fifth Avenue called Museum Mile: With all that Andrew Dolkart had to say, we managed to cover about half a mile...what follows is...intended to be consumed at home, not on foot...Like Gilded Age proto-McMansions. -- Stanford White; Horace Trumbauer; Julian Abele; McKim, Mead & White; Ogden Codman Jr.; C.P.H. Gilbert; Calvert Vaux; Jacob Wrey Mould; Richard Morris Hunt; Carrère and Hastings; Annabelle Selldorf; Frank Lloyd Wright; Hugh Hardy; Walter Hood; Babb, Cook & Willard- New York Times

Jonathan Hilburg: Jacob Jonas The Company spotlights architecture through
dance: The mingling of soft bodies and hard architectural structures is a guaranteed way to generate high-contrast, memorable photos...JJTC...blends contemporary ballet with breakdancing and acrobatics...collaborating with photographers, other dance companies, and institutions to draw attention to each structure...#CamerasandDancers initiative...has taken on a new poignancy at a time when most, if not all, of these institutions are now closed. -- Herzog & de Meuron; Christ & Gantenbein; Kevin Roche John Dinkeloo; Lorcan O’Herlihy; Zaha Hadid; EFFEKT Architects

Oliver Wainwright: Living bridges and supper from sewage: can ancient fixes save our crisis-torn world? ...tree-bridges and fish that love sewage, indigenous customs could save the planet - but are under threat. Landscape architect Julia Watson shares her 'lo-TEK' vision: ...many examples of light-footed ecological practice [in] "Lo-TEK: Design by Radical Indigenism"..."we've got our priorities wrong. We value and preserve the architectural artefacts of dead cultures...but those of the living are being displaced and forgotten"...She is critical of the unintended impacts of the conservation movement...Many places in her global catalogue look like wonders of the world, on a par with the pyramids. - Guardian (UK)

Sean Ruthen: "Vancouvererism" by Larry Beasley: ...the city’s former co-director of planning, revisits Vancouvererism’s origins, celebrates its successes, and suggests possible solutions for the affordable and social housing crisis...he has been vocal in criticizing the development industry’s preference for building luxury housing...over normal housing stock for locals...book is centred on an exposition on what has worked locally and abroad with the Vancouver Model...It’s an entertaining ride, rife with stories of the trials and tribulations of working with developers, architects and politicians...Trevor Boddy’s 2008 exhibition of the same name...is curiously absent ..For both fans and critics, planning students and municipal planning departments, [it] will be essential reading for years to come..- Canadian Architect

Lizzie Crook: "Beautified China" celebrates the country’s "architectural revolution": Detailed photos of 80 Chinese buildings feature in Kris Provoost's book...spotlights the country's current architectural boom...an expansion of [his 2017]...in which "iconic architecture"...is depicted as abstract forms against bright blue skies...influenced by his practice as an architect...the most predominant trend is a move away from..."iconic architecture"...now focusing on the preservation of existing structures.- Dezeen

"Dream Builder: The Story of architect Philip Freelon" tells story of noted Black architect: A children’s picture book...by Kelly Starling Lyons tells the story of the lead architect and visionary behind many unique structures...“Once Phil agreed to be a part of the project, I started the process for the book. I interviewed him and his wife Nnenna various times...From there, the story began to unfold"...picture book illustrated by Laura Freeman...follows Freelon’s journey from his struggles of reading as a kid...to the impact of the Civil Rights movement in his architectural career. The book closes with an afterword by Freelon himself. -- J. Max Bond Jr.; David Adjaye- The Philadelphia Tribune

Adrian Benepe: Parks are cathedrals, especially now: Appreciating public spaces during a pandemic: As almost every other aspect of normal human life
and interaction has shut down...the parks of New York and many other cities have remained open...Across the country, other urban outdoor spaces are playing similar roles as places of respite and hope...According to my organization’s calculations, more than 100 million Americans...lack access to a close-to-home park...Now is the time to make sure our parks are kept open as much as public health concerns allow...and that we make bold plans for the future... - New York Daily News

James S. Russell: How to Deliver Thousands of COVID-19 Rooms in Weeks: With cases increasing by the thousands every day in New York City, healthcare infrastructure is breaking under the strain...huge surge in demand...may quickly overwhelm hospitals elsewhere in the U.S...Peter Romano...to assemble a team that could rapidly evaluate and design new beds for at least 10 sites. His team includes five architecture firms with healthcare specialties...It’s a daunting challenge...“We’re looking at old treatment areas that had been converted to office space...We’re looking at a cathedral.” -- James Crispino/Gensler; Chris Prochner/Jaros Baum & Bolles - Architectural Record

Katie Gerfen: MASS Design Group Asks: “What is the Role of Architecture in Fighting a Pandemic?” The Boston- and Kigali, Rwanda-based practice is launching a response to the spread of COVID-19, and making available information and best practices developed over a decade of designing to minimize the spread of infection: "We just want to be a resource for people to reach out to and connect," Michael Murphy says...“There’s an incredible amount of need for designers and architects to be of service." - Architect Magazine

Ian Baldwin/DUAL: Public life in the time of pandemics: Can we redesign routines, maintain sociability at a distance, and dim the lights without switching them off? Compared to 1918, or even the SARS scare of 2003, there’s much more we can do on our phones and computers. Still the gap between technology’s ubiquity and its limits reveals how much human productivity depends on putting people into direct contact. Can we redesign quotidian routines that maintain sociability at a distance, that dim the lights of civic life without switching them all off? - ArchitectureBoston magazine (Boston Society of Architects/BSA)

Blair Kamin: Advice for the house-bound: Take a stroll. There’s architectural beauty out there: ...with the world on pause, you’ve got a chance to hit your own pause button and see things you’ve never taken the time to see before. It might even raise your spirits... You just have to be sure to maintain the social distancing...the urban emptiness enforced by the stay-at-home order further enhances your chances for serious seeing. - Chicago Tribune

Note: Pages will open in a new browser window. External news links are not endorsed by ArchNewsNow.com. Free registration may be required on some sites. Some pages may expire after a few days.
Today's News - Tuesday, April 7, 2020

- **Filler pays** eloquent tribute as he reflects on his almost 10 years working with editor and "prescient architectural talent scout" Elizabeth Sverbeyeff Byron, and "her combination of a feverish work ethic, discriminating eye, and endless curiosity" (we will miss her radiant smile and quick wit).

- **Giovannini's** elegant profile of Michael McKinnell, the "architect of a monumental Boston City Hall. His and Kallmann's sculptural and public-minded design helped spur the cityscape's revival in the late 1960s," and "the masterpiece that would hover over the rest of his nearly 60-year career" - if his firm "lost the attention of modernists, it gained the support of a larger audience."

- **TPR's extensive** and thoughtful Q&A with Giovannini re: his call for a "halt to demolition & suburbanization of LACMA": "There's no way forward without jeopardizing the institution, and all for a self-centered building that nobody wants."

- **King parses** a new, detailed report re: how "rising seas threaten the San Francisco Bay Area's economy, infrastructure, and environment - coordinated action is needed sooner rather than later."

- **Lubell's** great profile of MAD's Ma Yansong, "the quiet force behind George Lucas' museum - a man of few words, he lets his images, and his ideas, do the talking. He is not without his detractors," but "he stopped obsessing over criticism long ago."

- **Betsky explains** why he thinks the School of Architecture at Taliesin should be saved, and what he hopes to accomplish during his next chapter at Virginia Tech.

- **Pacheco's** great Q&A with UPenn Weitzman School of Design's Winka Dubbeldam re: "architectural education for the future": "The challenge to architects is to operate at scales greater and smaller than that of the building."

- **Less than** a year after taking the post, Harvard GSD Design Dean Sarah Whiting to "step back" for treatment for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma; Mehrotra and Kirkwood will hold down the fort + her message to the GSD community (we wish her speedy recovery!).

- **On a brighter** note, Harvard GSD has posted its (free) April 2020 virtual events series, with faculty who "will offer looks into their ongoing and upcoming design preoccupations, while voices from outside the school bring welcomed insights and dialogue."

**COVID-19 news continues - still:**

- **Morgan on** the importance of "architecture in a time of a pandemic - architecture allows us to remember who we are. We need buildings as assurances of a commonality in a time of fear," and to "recall times of confidence and vitality."

- **Bozikovic x 2**: He wonders if the coronavirus will "mean the end of density. When we're allowed to go back outside, will we want to? If we don't," it would mean "more highways and more houses, fenced off from each other - a landscape that's alive but not entirely healthy."

- **He wonders** why, if Calgary, Winnipeg, and other cities around the world can reallocate city streets to walking and cycling, why can't Toronto - "city dwellers need room to breathe on the streets."
Davidson minces no words re: NYC's "pathetic" and "grudgingly implemented street-closure mini-program" that was "scrapped" after 10 days "for a collection of spurious and contradictory reasons. Perhaps the mayor worries that successful closures would set a precedent. If that were to happen, it would be one benevolent legacy of an awful time."

The AIA COVID-19 Task Force is "seeking designs for alternative care sites that will be added to an online resource and serve as a research database moving forward" (with links to lots of other info).

AIA also offers the "Architect's Guide to Business Continuity" that "shares lessons learned from previously impacted firms, and helps firms remain open in the face of disruption."

Something we never imagined we'd hear: Cathedral of St. John the Divine in Manhattan (and the largest Gothic cathedral in the world) is removing its thousands of chairs "to make room for a more grim sight: a coronavirus field hospital."

Russell reports that architects hired for NYC projects "were stunned to get orders to stop all ongoing design work" - especially smaller firms hoping "that government jobs would get them through the coronavirus crisis," AIANY and others make the case "that design work now being done remotely, and without plans, construction cannot resume quickly when the crisis has passed."

Hughes delves into how NYC developers are trying to "limp forward" during the city's construction "stop-work order to keep workers safe - that has been met with confusion and resistance."

Wainwright looks on in wonder as "Britain is responding to coronavirus with a new kind of elemental architecture" of mobile morgues (astounding descriptions) and pop-up intensive care wards, particularly BDP's transformation of the ExCel convention centre into NHS Nightingale - "might the whole experience offer some lessons for the future?"

Jessel on BDP's first nine days converting the convention center into NHS Nightingale, and the firm's "instruction manual showing the fit-out processes and strategies used in the hope it will be useful for other emergency facilities" + Q&A with BDP's Hepburn & Johnson.

To subscribe to the free daily newsletter click here

Obituary by Martin Filler: Elizabeth Sverbeyeff Byron, prescient architectural talent scout, 96: ...a longtime architecture editor at several home design magazines...Her combination of a feverish work ethic, discriminating eye...and endless curiosity made her a valued talent scout and interior stylist with a keen instinct for the next and best new thing...we forged a most unlikely but fruitful partnership, sometimes contentious but always rewarding...I had unflagging confidence in [her] impeccable taste...Our good cop/bad cop routine was an essential division of labor...- The Architect's Newspaper

Joseph Giovannini: Michael McKinnell, 84; Architect of a Monumental Boston City Hall: His and Gerhard Kallmann’s sculptural and public-minded design...helped spur the cityscape’s revival in the late 1960s. He died of the coronavirus: Like the Sydney Opera House, the structure...a symbol of the new Boston...the masterpiece that would hover over the rest of [his] nearly 60-year career...by 1974...[they] found themselves out of work...If the firm lost the attention of modernists, it gained the support of a larger audience, and Kallmann McKinnell & Wood went on...to design embassies, academic buildings and museums around the world...He remained the dedicated architect and builder even on his deathbed...He described to his wife the design for a grave site, to be created in their backyard garden... -- Stephanie Mallis- New York Times

Q&A: Joseph Giovannini Calls for Halt to Demolition & Suburbanization of LACMA: "There's no way forward...without jeopardizing the institution, and all for
a building that nobody wants...It's a self-centered building—a kind of “look at me” thing that doesn’t defer to, or support, the immediate and larger contextual urbanism of Wilshire Boulevard, the ceremonial spine of Los Angeles.” -- Peter Zumthor; Michael Govan; Citizens Brigade to Save LACMA- The Planning Report

John King: Rising seas threaten Bay Area economy, infrastructure, environment, says most detailed study yet: ...newly released, 700-page official report argues that without a far-sighted, nine-county response, the region’s economic and transportation systems could be undermined along with the environment...concedes that “the findings in this report may cause some alarm.” But it argues that coordinated action is needed sooner rather than later...“We can’t let perfect solutions be the enemy of workable and fair ones.” - San Francisco Chronicle

Sam Lubell: Ma Yansong takes L.A.: How the quiet force behind George Lucas’ museum makes his mark: ...next to the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum...a raised metallic hulk that looked like the damaged Millennium Falcon undergoing repairs...will eventually be the curved, shimmering Lucas Museum of Narrative Art...he hovers in the background, nonetheless wielding enormous power. This is exactly how he likes things...a man of few words, lets his images, and his ideas, do the talking...Ma is not without his detractors...he stopped obsessing over criticism long ago... -- MAD Architects; Frank Gehry; Zaha Hadid; Peter Eisenman; Daniel Gillen; Flora Lee- Los Angeles Times

Aaron Betsky: Experimental Education, from Taliesin to Virginia Tech: Why the School of Architecture at Taliesin should be saved, and on what his next chapter holds: I believe the [school] should...expand to embrace the design and arts activities Frank Lloyd Wright believed were integral to this purpose...the foundation’s attempts to close it down to replace it with some form of continuing education or education-for-hire is an insult to [FLW’s] legacy...[At VT] I look forward to developing interdisciplinary projects...to build on the school’s achievements to enhance the spirit of experimentation...- Architect Magazine
Antonio Pacheco: UPenn Weitzman School of Design Architecture Chair Winka Dubbeldam on Architectural Education for the Future: ...a founding principal at Archi-Tectonic, highlights some of the latest research and academic endeavors...including the school's new advanced research and innovation lab, innovations in design deliverables, and how the school hopes to integrate recent technological leaps into the design and fabrication process..."The challenge to architects is to operate at scales greater and smaller than that of the building..." - University of Pennsylvania - Archinect

Harvard GSD Design Dean Sarah Whiting to “Step Back” for Cancer Treatment: The new dean has been diagnosed with non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma: The text of Whiting’s community message follows..."Rahul Mehrotra and Niall Kirkwood have agreed to help shoulder day-to-day responsibilities that I won’t be able to attend to..." - Harvard Magazine

Harvard GSD announces April 2020 virtual events series: GSD faculty will offer looks into their ongoing and upcoming design preoccupations, while voices from outside the school bring welcomed insights and dialogue. -- Dan D'Oca/Interboro Partners, Oana Stanescu, Jenny French/French 2D; David Moreno Mateos; Laleh Khalili/Queen Mary University of London; Heinz Emigholz & Anselm Franke, “Goff in the Desert" - Harvard Graduate School of Design (GSD)

William Morgan: Architecture in a Time of a Pandemic: In a world that has been turned upside down by the coronavirus, many of us are struggling to find how to help keep our communities safe and whole...Architecture is absolutely essential in constantly reaffirming who we are...architecture - the physical container of our town - allows us to remember who we are...We need [buildings] as assurances of a commonality in a time of fear [and] recall times of confidence and vitality.- GoLocalProv.com (Providence, Rhode Island)

Alex Bozikovic: Will cities stay healthy, or will the coronavirus mean the end of density? When social distancing is done and we’re allowed to go back outside, will we want to? ...there is a possibility that urbanism will start spinning outward once again...Will some of us fear being around other people? This isn’t a technical question; it’s a cultural one...We’re at a moment in Canadian urbanism when more of us are learning to enjoy living together. Urban density is ascendant...when...it’s safe to go out again...we’ll need to choose to do so...If we don’t...The marks of the virus would be more highways and more houses, fenced off from each other...a landscape that’s alive but not entirely healthy.- Globe and Mail (Canada)

Alex Bozikovic: City dwellers need room to breathe on the streets. Why is that so hard in Toronto? [It] is going to be locked down for a while yet...But one thing remains unclear about how Torontonians are supposed to cope: When we go outside for a walk, where can we go? The answer is clear: in the street...it’s tough to keep two metres away from another person...many sidewalks...are 1.8 metres wide at best...car traffic has dropped dramatically. Our streets are wide. It’s time to reallocate that space to allow for walking and cycling...A number of major cities around the world, even Calgary and Winnipeg, have...But Toronto is resistant. Why? -- Gil Penalosa - Globe and Mail (Canada)

Justin Davidson: Mayor De Blasio’s Street-Closure Mini-Program Was Pathetic, and Now It’s Over: Grudgingly implemented, on far too small a scale, and
prematurely ended: On March 27, the [city] launched...an open-streets pilot program...a total of 1.5 miles. [Sunday], he scrapped the idea, for a collection of spurious and contradictory reasons. It rained, so nobody showed up. But lots of people might show up, and...cops would have to break up groups...[He] was effectively using pedestrian advocates’ arguments against them...widening roads creates more traffic...If you try to reduce crowding by giving people more space, then more people will go out...Perhaps he worries that successful closures would set a precedent...If that were to happen, it would be one benevolent legacy of an awful time. - New York Magazine

AIA COVID-19 Task Force Seeking Designs for Alternative Care Sites: This information will be added to an online resource "to catalog current public health and healthcare facility [responses] and to serve as a research database moving forward." - Architect Magazine

AIA's Architect's Guide to Business Continuity: Guidance for reducing firm disruption: ...guide shares lessons learned from previously impacted firms, builds on and adapts business continuity best practices specifically for the building industry, and helps firms remain open in the face of disruption. - American Institute of Architects (AIA)

Cathedral of St. John the Divine, Including Crypt, Will Become a Hospital: The Manhattan church, the largest Gothic cathedral in the world, will be able to care for at least 200 patients during the coronavirus outbreak: ...the thousands of chairs that normally sit beneath its soaring ceiling and stained-glass windows removed to make room for a more grim sight: a coronavirus field hospital...Nine climate-controlled medical tents...will be erected inside the cathedral by the end of the week...roughly 400 beds were delivered...last week - New York Times

James S. Russell: New York City Halts Public Design Work: Though most construction in NYC has been halted, architects hired for city projects were stunned to get orders...to stop all ongoing design work...The impact...falls heaviest on smaller firms...those architects hoped that government jobs would get them through the coronavirus crisis as private clients put projects on hold...AIA New York [and] local chapters of engineering, construction and labor groups, has petitioned [the mayor]...reminds him that design work is low-risk because it is now being done remotely [and] without plans, construction cannot resume quickly when the crisis has passed. -- Frances Halsband/Kliment Halsband Architects; Matthew Bremer/Architecture in Formation; David Burney-Architectural Record

C. J. Hughes: Construction in New York Limps Forward Despite Shutdown Order: The city is trying to enforce a stop-work order to keep workers safe. But there are exemptions, and many developers want one: “Essential” projects - like hospitals and homeless shelters - were allowed to go forward...in a city...where the real estate industry still has clout...the stop-work order has been met with confusion and resistance...Hotels have been deemed an essential construction type because they can serve as housing for medical workers. - New York Times

Oliver Wainwright: How to build a hospital in nine days: emergency architecture in a pandemic: From mobile morgues to pop-up intensive care wards, Britain is responding to coronavirus with a new kind of elemental architecture - and it needs lots of it: It is an Olympian effort...as existing buildings have been
repurposed in a matter of days...architects, engineers and fabricators are responding...the transformation of the ExCeL convention centre [into] NHS Nightingale...has stretched the building’s flexible nature to the limit...Similar emergency hospitals are under way...Despite the rushed intensity of the process, might the whole experience offer some lessons for the future? -- Portakabin; James Hepburn/BDP architects - Guardian (UK)

Ella Jessel: NHS Nightingale: BDP on the first nine days converting the ExCeL Exhibition Centre in London's Docklands: ...already seen the completion of 500 beds...set to eventually house 4,000 beds...with 'minimum building intervention'...The architects have also drawn up an...instruction manual (see below) showing the fit-out processes and strategies used...in the hope it will be useful for other emergency facilities + Q&A with BDP principal James Hepburn and architect director Paul Johnson - The Architects’ Journal (UK)

Note: Pages will open in a new browser window.  
External news links are not endorsed by ArchNewsNow.com.  
Free registration may be required on some sites.  
Some pages may expire after a few days.
Today's News - Wednesday, April 8, 2020

- Hickman reports that "one of the largest surviving sections" of the Berlin Wall in a "not particularly touristy" suburb was demolished to make way for condos - the Berlin Wall Foundation and others "were left 'horrified,'" but "city officials seemed largely unsympathetic to the outrage."
- Brandon profiles a 1940s-era Las Vegas motel "transformed into a retail and community hub" that "offers a lesson in historic preservation and human resilience in times of social distancing."
- Whiteman profiles "the Australian architects designing homes to withstand bushfires - it's possible to create a fire-resistant home that doesn't resemble a bunker."
- Reiner-Roth reports on the University of Kentucky and Somewhere Appalachia's The Somewhere Project "to transform coal mining sites into arts spaces" - final projects will be presented on May 1 and exhibited at the 2020 Venice Architecture Biennale.
- Australian ABC RN radio's Qada "riffs on creativity, design, and toys" in a Q&A with design critic Alexandra Lange and product design educator Barry Kudrowitz re: how "design and creativity really can work together."

Deadlines & Winners all:

- Call for entries: The Terraforming and Strelka Ma's The Revenge of the Real - "a joint call for papers, projects, and research "to address the core issues of establishing a viable planetarity through the lens of the COVID-19 pandemic and its urban realities."
- Call for entries: Tree House Module international ideas competition to design a tree house for three French castles, open to 18-35-year-olds; cash prizes (early bird registration - save money!).
- Call for entries: The Architect's Newspaper 6th annual Best of Products Awards (early bird registration - save money!).
- Harvard GSD selects three finalists for the $100,000 2020 Wheelwright Prize.
- Eyefuls of the winners of the Kiribati Floating Houses Young Architects Competition.

COVID-19 news continues - last two items are much-needed light-hearted notes:

- McGuigan ponders how "the pandemic is changing how we practice and how we live" - large firms are coping "with relative ease"; it's more difficult for smaller firms; and "architecture schools have had to make dramatic changes as well."
- Ing takes a deep dive into how the roughly 18,000 architecture students in the U.K. are "coping with coronavirus shutdowns - and what it could mean for their futures. Even when students do finish, they face an industry in crisis."
Joyner's great Q&A with architect, design strategist, and Slack's sr. experience designer Evelyn Lee re: "business continuity during a time of crisis": "We are three recessions away from becoming extinct as a profession," which has "never been agile, but it's never too late to start building some of that in."

Lamster: "During the pandemic, it seemed natural to turn to the poet laureate of Dallas architecture Max Levy to find meaning in architecture in this difficult moment" (renderings are splendid!).

A serious look at "how Covid-19 is shaping the future of senior living architecture and design" (from personal experience - it can't happen soon enough!).

As NYC's St. John the Divine transforms to a field hospital, Hickman looks at how Indian Railways is transforming 20,000 "old train cars into coronavirus quarantine coaches that can be deployed to remote and hard-hit areas" - oddly, "air-conditioned carriages are being held for regular passenger use when service resumes" (with links to detailed reports).

Cannon Design's Dylan Coonrad "reimagines public street signs to reflect a world facing coronavirus" (our fave: a plastic yellow Caution Wet Floor stand replaced "with text that reads Celebrate Healthcare Workers - the person icon waving its arms in celebration instead of slipping on a wet surface").

Stinson highlights Zoom's virtual backdrops for video chats inspired by famous rooms of "Friends," "Big Little Lies," "Seinfeld," "Frasier," and more (let's hope they're secure!).

To subscribe to the free daily newsletter click here

Hickman Large section of Berlin Wall demolished to make way for condos: While not particularly touristy...this stretch of graffiti-clad wall...was one of the largest surviving sections...and one of the last pieces of the...inner wall remaining...Berlin Wall Foundation and other historical groups were unaware of plans...they were left "horrified"...City officials, however, seemed largely unsympathetic to the outrage.-- The Architect's Newspaper

Elissaveta M. Brandon: A 1940s-Era Motel in Las Vegas Offers a Lesson in Historic Preservation and Human Resilience: Former motel, Fergusons Downtown, has been transformed into a retail and community hub boasting shops, event spaces, and restaurants. But how can a community stay intact in times of social distancing? "Market in the Alley"...monthly event has become "Virtual Market in the Alley," taking over social media with...online sales, talks, musical performances, and guided meditations...A fine example of adaptive reuse at play here... -- MOSER architecture studio; Bunnyfish studio- Metropolis Magazine

Hilary Whiteman: The Australian architects designing homes to withstand bushfires: ...it's possible to create a fire-resistant home that doesn't resemble a bunker - one that works with the landscape rather than adding fuel to a raging fire...with millions of Australian homes in moderate to extreme fire-risk areas, retrofitting them to meet current standards is all but impossible..."You cannot, no matter how much money you've spent, upgrade it without demolition"...Clever design can help reduce the risk of fire, without razing surrounding land...New materials are also making homes more fire-resistant. -- Nigel Bell/ECOdesign Architects + Consultants; Ian Weir; Kylie Feher; Jiri Lev/Architects Assist; Tim Lee- CNN Style

Shane Reiner-Roth: University of Kentucky and Somewhere Appalachia want to transform coal mining sites into arts spaces: How can the sites of former coal mines, those strange landscapes scarred by decades of digging and desecration, serve the public in a post-industrial America? That was the
question posed to the students of The Somewhere Project [at UKY] College of Design...final projects for the studio will be presented on May 1 [and] exhibited during the 2020 Venice Architecture Biennale. -- Only If- The Architect’s Newspaper

Sana Qada: A riff on creativity, design, and toys: Design and creativity really can work together. We talk with design critic Alexandra Lange and product design educator Barry Kudrowitz who both have an interest in toys - their history, and how they’re created and assessed in the real world. Get your blocks ready to play along.- ABC RN/Radio National (Australia)

Call for entries: To address the core issues of establishing a viable planetarity through the lens of the COVID-19 pandemic and its urban realities, The Terraforming and Strelka Mag are launching The Revenge of the Real - a joint call for papers, projects, and research; deadline: April 24- Strelka Institute for Media, Architecture and Design (Moscow)

Call for entries: Tree House Module: international ideas competition to design a tree house system for France's Chateaus Vibrac, Mothe Chandeniers; total cash prizes: €15,000 (+ realization of 1st Prize winner); must be 18-35 years old; early bird registration (save money!): April 26; late registration: June 21; submissions due June 24- YAC - Young Architects Competitions / Dartagnans

Call for entries: The Architect's Newspaper 6th annual Best of Products Awards; products must have been introduced to U.S. market no earlier than January 2019 and available as of September - December 2020; early bird registration (save money!): April 30 (submission deadline: July 23- The Architect's Newspaper


Winners of the Kiribati Floating Houses Young Architects Competition: design floating structures to tackle the challenges of sea level rise and climate change to give a future to the populations of Kiribati. Cantiere delle Marche. -- Marcin Kitała; JiT/Jinchul Yeon/Goen Kim; Giacomo Caputo; etc.- YAC - Young Architects Competitions / Cantiere delle Marche

Cathleen McGuigan: The Pandemic Is Changing How We Practice and How We Live: The home is no longer just an abode that reflects our tastes; instead, each
of our own houses is a refuge during the COVID-19 crisis: Architecture firms...have had to adjust quickly to the new normal...Big practices, with far-flung projects...have moved with relative ease from staff working collaboratively in offices to working from home...For smaller firms, the shifts...have been more difficult, with leaner staffs and fewer digital tools...Architecture schools...have had to make dramatic changes as well. -- Gensler; James von Klemperer/KPF; Eric Robinson/Paulett Taggart Architects; Sarah Whiting/Jungyoon Kim/Harvard Graduate School of Design (GSD); Jeanne Gang- Architectural Record

Will Ing: School’s out: how are architecture students coping with coronavirus shutdowns...and what it could mean for their futures: ...the academics were already at home orchestrating online learning for the roughly 18,000 architecture students...The ARB was blunt: standards must not slip, not even a little bit, as a result of Covid-19...But can schools really deliver the same quality of teaching without proper access to studios or to one another? ...there will ‘undoubtedly’ be ways in which the ‘big changes’ made in the past couple of weeks feed into normal practice in the future...Even when students do finish, they face an industry in crisis.- The Architects’ Journal (UK)

Sean Joyner: "We are three recessions away from becoming extinct as a profession" - Q&A with Evelyn Lee on Business Continuity During a Time of Crisis: ...architect, design strategist, and Senior Experience Designer at Slack...also the 2020-2021 Treasurer of the American Institute of Architects/AIA and the founder of Practice of Architecture...[discusses] what firms can consider after this crisis has passed, and how we can collectively tackle the challenges ahead: "We have never been an agile profession, but it’s never too late to start building some of that in."- Archinect

Mark Lamster: An architect’s dream ranch house that’s an ethereal refuge: During the pandemic, Dallas’ Max Levy imagines a place of respite in harmony with nature: Among his peers, [he] is thought of as something like the poet laureate of Dallas architecture...his work is an imaginative exploration...the way light and nature and materiality interact in space. It seemed natural to turn to him to find meaning in architecture in this difficult moment.- Dallas Morning News

How Covid-19 Is Shaping the Future of Senior Living Architecture and Design: ...providers are relying on technology...to overcome social isolation, and looking for new ways to remotely connect residents with family members and medical workers. The senior living community of the future will be designed with these scenarios in mind...The challenge for senior living architects and designers will be making such adjustments without shifting to unnecessarily institutional layouts...pocket neighborhoods or village-like campuses...could be cordoned off in the event of a future epidemic or pandemic without bringing the entire community to a full stop. -- David Dillard/D2 Architecture; Jeff Anderzhon/Eppstein Uhen Architects; Dan Cinelli/Joe Hassel/Perkins Eastman; Ann Yearwood/STG Design- Senior Housing News

Matt Hickman: Indian Railways converts old train cars into coronavirus quarantine coaches: ...transforming up to 20,000 old coaches into emergency care units that can be deployed to remote and hard-hit areas...It’s worth noting that the modified cars lack air conditioning, as newer, air-conditioned carriages are being held for regular passenger use when service resumes. 5,000 coaches with the capacity to accommodate 80,000 patients are currently being readied...-
Dylan Coonrad/Cannon Design reimagines public street signs to reflect a world facing coronavirus: A crosswalk sign with the people standing apart and warnings not to shake hands...a reinterpretation of the yellow school zone sign...replaced the plastic yellow Caution Wet Floor stand with text that reads Celebrate Healthcare Workers...the person icon waving its arms in celebration instead of slipping on a wet surface.- Dezeen

Liz Stinson: These Zoom backgrounds let you work from iconic pop culture homes: Virtual backdrops inspired by famous rooms of "Friends," "Big Little Lies," and more: We have plenty of opinions on what constitutes a good video chat background...But you know what’s easier...Borrowing someone else’s...Modsy is getting in on the fun ..Seinfeld’s living room...Blanche’s kitchen in "Golden Girls"...Cher’s closet in "Clueless"...Frasier’s apartment.- Curbed
EDITOR'S NOTE: Tomorrow and Monday will be no-newsletter days (so we have time to explore the last item!). We'll be back Tuesday, April 14. 'Til then, stay safe, please!

- **Franklin** takes a deep dive into how "big things are happening" in Arkansas, "a place that's far from the profession's traditional epicenters," that are pushing it "to the forefront of architectural innovation" - and the many who's who with projects there.

- **Broyles** talks to Wheeler Kearns' Calli Verkamp (a native Arkansan) about how she and her team transformed a former Kraft cheese factory into The Momentary, a new contemporary art space for the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville, and "the latest example of Northwest Arkansas' cultural renaissance."

- **Scholar** and critic Marc Treib pens an open letter making the case that National Geographic should not demolish Zimmerman's 1984 "Marabar": "It is a key representative of American site-specific art, elegant in its form, impressive in its use of stone, and engaging in its effects."

- **Hart Howerton** 2020 Travel Fellow is Sarah Zamler, a Master of Architecture candidate at Columbia GSAPP, who "will study the history and role of 'The Company Town.'"

- **Eyefuls** of Fairy Tales 2020 winners, who "offer tales of warning and hope during uncertain times - through wonderfully crafted short stories and artwork."

- **Barragan** reports that demolition of the first of four LACMA buildings "is being torn down right now - clearing the way for a flashy new building - as long as crews follow safety measures" to prevent the spread of the coronavirus + "some images of the fated buildings as we'll remember them."

- **Call for** entries (deadline - next Wednesday!): Pop-Up Architecture Competition: More Not Less: LACMA not LackMA, sponsored by The Citizens' Brigade to Save LACMA, with $10,000 in prize money.

- **Call for** entries: Dezeen x Samsung Out of the Box Competition (no fee!): design innovative new objects for the home by repurposing cardboard packaging; prizes total $20,000.

Weekend diversions (yes, they still exist!) + Page-turners:

- **Kimmelman** and Berke stroll NYC's East River waterfront promenade that "dazzles," and where ropes dangling from the "nondescript" 90th Street ferry landing are part of the Billion Oyster Project - reminding "everybody that the oysters are returning, gurgle, gurgle, doing their job. The city is at work."

- **A round-up** of 10 "upcoming art fairs, festivals, and exhibitions available for virtual viewing - an intentionally diverse mix that reflects these weird and challenging times."

- **Camilo José Vergara's** "Documenting Crossroads: The Coronavirus in Poor, Minority Communities" is the National Building Museum's online-only exhibition of his "photographs and observations of the urban spaces and people most likely to be affected by COVID-19."

- **Heilmeyer** cheers Vitra Design Museum's "Home Stories: 100 Years, 20 Visionary Interiors" that "creates some important, original, and fun connections between ideas and places" - much of it viewable online + fab
Every Thursday, you can take a virtual tour of a number Frank Lloyd Wright-designed buildings: "The hope is that even though the tours are free, digital visitors might still feel inclined to demonstrate a bit of largesse."

Bozikovic considers Dougherty's tome "Golden Gates" that "examines the housing crisis and how housing and inequality are connected" in the Bay Area and "other prosperous cities. It's a dark picture, and it's hard to imagine how it will grow brighter after the virus" (is the "the traditional cry of NIMBY going to ring out louder"?)

Betsky says: "In these uncertain and gloomy times, it is nice to have voices in architecture that are both forward-looking and filled with humor. If you are looking for such an entertaining (and somewhat acerbic) distraction, I recommend Garcia and Frankowski's "Narrative Architecture: A Kynical Manifesto."

Sisam cheers Miller's "comprehensive and very fine" book, "Toronto's Inclusive Modernity: The Architecture of Jerome Markson," and Norsworthy's images that "reaffirm Christopher Hume's observation that Markson is 'the rare architect who creates cities while designing buildings.'"

COVID-19 news continues (last item is for kids, but it's how we plan to spend the weekend!):

Arieff looks at how "social distancing gives us a rare chance to fix cities" - it is "glaringly apparent how poorly existing systems (and places) have been working for most. Time and tragedy create opportunity to make them work for all" (a great read!!!).

Karrie Jacobs's fab Q&A with Manaugh and Twilley - when they started researching the forthcoming ""The Coming Quarantine" that explores the "connections between quarantine and architecture, they never imagined that they'd be finishing it during a global pandemic."

FXCollaborative's Geier: "The resilient nature of the city itself and its residents allows us to come back stronger than ever - it's uplifting to think of how applying that can-do attitude to other crises could result in a better world for cities and beyond."

On a lighter - but serious - note: "10 magazine covers that offer creative takes on the coronavirus crisis - from somber to defiant ("F*ck off Covid-19" smiley).

One we couldn't resist (and our weekend diversion!): The James Dyson Foundation has come up with "44 engineering challenges for children during lockdown - using common household items."
structure’s industrial past, such as the raw ceilings and quarry tiling along the floors...new elements [include] a glass-ceiled entry...and a glass-encased shipping container-sized gallery that juts off one corner of the now–retro futuristic building. But the most striking new addition is a 70-foot-tall tower, topped with a bar... -- Calli Verkamp; Alice Walton/Walmart- Metropolis Magazine

Scholar and Critic Marc Treib Weighs In on Potential Destruction of MARABAR: ...[he] wrote the following letter to the District of Columbia’s [Washington, DC's] Historic Preservation Review Board asking that body to reconsider its approval of plans that would demolish the sculpture MARABAR at the National Geographic headquarters. Completed in 1984 [by] Elyn Zimmerman: "It is a key representative of American site-specific art, elegant in its form, impressive in its use of stone, and engaging in its effects.- The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF)

Hart Howerton 2020 Travel Fellow Announced: Sarah Zamler, a Master of Architecture candidate at Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, will study the history and role of “The Company Town” and its role in today’s corporate and community relationship.- Hart Howerton

Fairy Tales 2020 Winners Announced: Top entries that offer tales of warning and hope during uncertain times: With submissions from over 65 countries, the award-winning entries explore current events and the creative process through wonderfully crafted short stories and artwork. -- Tamás Fischer & Carlotta Cominetti; Aleksandr Cebotariov & Laura Kuršvietyte; Albert Orozco & Edward Rivero- Blank Space

Bianca Barragan: LACMA is being torn down right now: Demolition is clearing the way for a flashy new building: Demolition of the Leo S. Bing Center is underway now. The remaining three edifices...will also be razed over the next several months...construction has been allowed...as long as crews follow safety measures aimed at preventing the spread of the novel coronavirus...Video...showed those construction workers pulling chunks of the unlucky buildings down + some images of the fated buildings as we'll remember them. -- Peter Zumthor; William Pereira and Associates; Hardy Holzman Pfeiffer Associates - Curbed Los Angeles
Call for entries: Pop-Up Architecture Competition (international): More Not Less: LACMA not LackMA for an encyclopedic museum; $10,000 in prize money to winners: deadline: April 15 - The Citizens’ Brigade to Save LACMA

Call for entries: Dezeen x Samsung Out of the Box Competition (international): design innovative new objects for the home that can be made by repurposing cardboard packaging; no fee; prizes total $20,000; deadline: May 29 - Dezeen

Michael Kimmelman: The East River Waterfront Dazzles. Take a Virtual Tour: With views of the water, skyline, bridges and piers, the promenade encapsulates New York’s history. A walk with the architect Deborah Berke: “90th Street pier is nondescript. But what’s interesting about it is how people use it differently...A simple piece of infrastructure serves many public functions...all the blue-green ropes that hang from the pier as part of the Billion Oyster Project...The ropes remind everybody that the oysters are returning, gurgle, gurgle, doing their job. The city is at work.”- New York Times

Art shows in age of pandemics: 10 virtual festivals and fairs to check out...upcoming art fairs, festivals, and exhibitions available for virtual viewing. It’s an intentionally diverse mix that includes small art fairs that support local artists, regional festivals, major international art happenings, and special online-only exhibitions that reflect these weird and challenging times. Columbus College of Art & Design Spring Art Show; Frieze New York; Fusebox Festival; Open! (Russian Pavilion at the Venice Biennale 2020); Singapore Biennale; Sydney Biennale; etc. - The Architect's Newspaper

National Building Museum presents "Documenting Crossroads: The Coronavirus in Poor, Minority Communities": Online-only exhibition presents Camilo José Vergara’s photographs and observations of the urban spaces and people most likely to be affected by COVID-19: His commitment to documenting poor, urban neighborhoods and populations has never been stronger..."Now, more than ever, the public needs to see and understand...what's happening- and will be happening...in cities all across the country." - National Building Museum (Washington, DC)

Florian Heilmeyer: "Home Stories: 100 Years, 20 Visionary Interiors" Summons Up a History of 20th-Century Interior Design, Vitra Design Museum, Germany: ...revives 20 iconic interiors. It's an ambitious task, but one that's ultimately successful: After a visit to the exhibition, your head will spin...[show] creates some important, original, and fun connections between ideas and places...300-plus-page catalog...richly documents all 20 interiors...with contributions by Alice Rawsthorne, Jasper Morrison, and Joseph Grima... - Metropolis Magazine

Matt Hickman: Enjoy virtual tours of different Frank Lloyd Wright buildings every Thursday: ...#WrightVirtualVisits campaign showcases an assortment of FLW-designed buildings every Thursday at 12:00 p.m. Central Time for six weeks (and maybe more)...The hope is that even though the virtual tours are free, digital visitors might still feel inclined to demonstrate a bit of largesse... -- Unity Temple; Hollyhock House; Emil Bach House; Taliesin West; Graycliff; Samara; Gordon House; Fallingwater- The Architect's Newspaper

Alex Bozikovic: How will cities come back, and will neighbours keep saying ‘not in my backyard’? ...even before the coronavirus hit, the politics of housing
development included plenty of fearfulness, tribalism and bad information..."Golden Gates" by Conor Dougherty examines the housing crisis in the San Francisco Bay area and how housing and inequality are connected - not just there, but in other prosperous cities...It’s a dark picture, and it’s hard to imagine how it will grow brighter after the virus, as people become more fearful of being close to others...Density...is at the heart of the story...And now? Dougherty guesses that the traditional cry of [NIMBY] is going to ring out louder. - Globe and Mail (Canada)

Aaron Betsky: In Pursuit of an Honest Architecture: A Manifesto: Cruz Garcia and Nathalie Frankowski deconstruct Modernism in "Narrative Architecture: A Kynical Manifesto": In these uncertain and gloomy times, it is nice to have voices in architecture that are both forward-looking and filled with humor. If you are looking for such an entertaining (and somewhat acerbic) distraction, I recommend [it]...Leavened with Photoshop drawings that combine the romance of mythological landscape painters...with the reality-bending visions of the Modernist masters...[it] professes to be a manifesto, but one that does not take itself so seriously...although their Marxist-tinged language reveals a more trenchant critique. - Architect Magazine

David Sisam: Markson’s Mark: ...comprehensive and very fine..."Toronto's Inclusive Modernity: The Architecture of Jerome Markson" by Laura Miller...focuses on the human quality of his work and on his long relationship - he is 90 years old - to Toronto...Indeed, the book is as much about Toronto as it is about Markson...Scott Norsworthy's images reaffirm Christopher Hume’s observation that Markson is "the rare architect who creates cities while designing buildings"...wisdom extends to a larger view of life as an architect... -- Klein and Sears Architects; Webb Zerafa Menkes; Montgomery Sisam Architects - Canadian Architect

Allison Arieff: The Magic of Empty Streets: Social distancing gives us a rare chance to fix cities: ...efforts to stem the spread of the coronavirus have also offered us a rare experiment...we’re already seeing the impact...On Monday...Los Angeles had the cleanest air of any major city in the world...it’s heartening to see how many people are adapting, turning the city into a pedestrian paradise...Everything about Covid-19 is depressing and tragic. But it’s worth highlighting some clever MacGyvering that has been going on...The 2009 recession gave birth to "tactical urbanism"...Covid-19 presents a wholly different challenge...[we] need to figure out how the world gets put back together...glaringly apparent how poorly existing systems (and places) have been working for most. Time and tragedy create opportunity...to make them work for all. - New York Times

Karrie Jacobs: The Architecture of Quarantine Is No Longer a Thing of the Past: Q&A with Geoff Manaugh and Nicola Twilley about the timely book they’re now writing: A decade ago, when [they] first started researching what would become..."The Coming Quarantine," they never imagined that they’d be finishing it during a global pandemic...Are there clear connections between quarantine and architecture..."You can’t build an entire separate infrastructure to sit there empty in case of a pandemic, but you can build a shadow pandemic architecture into your existing architecture..." -- BLDGBLOG.com - Architect Magazine

Guy Geier/FXCollaborative: Cities will survive the pandemic: Density may make
it easier for the virus to spread, but let’s not forget that cities are in many ways the heart of society, and a springboard of big ideas, inventions, art, and culture: ...we find ourselves wondering if the things we love about living in cities are going to be completely upended...working from home has been a fairly seamless transition for many of us...it’s the abrupt physical distance from our colleagues, friends, and even family members that is more disruptive...The resilient nature of the city itself and its residents...allows us to come back stronger than ever...it’s uplifting to think of how applying that can-do attitude to other crises, such as climate change or homelessness, could result in a better world for cities and beyond.- Building Design & Construction (BD+C)

10 magazine covers that offer creative takes on the coronavirus crisis: Covers range from sombre imagery, such as the biweekly cultural publication New York Magazine's lonely double bass player, to defiant statements like men's fashion and style magazine GQ Portugal's "F*ck off Covid-19"-smiley.- Dezeen

Natashah Hitti: Dyson devises 44 engineering challenges for children during lockdown: ...from making a balloon-powered car to building a bridge from spaghetti....designers from the James Dyson Foundation have come up with...22 science tasks and 22 engineering activities, the Challenge Cards can be completed by children using common household items such as eggs, string and balloons...Foundation has also created some video tutorials...The British technology company also designed a ventilator in just 10 days...and plans to produce 15,000 units in the coming weeks.- Dezeen

Note: Pages will open in a new browser window.
External news links are not endorsed by ArchNewsNow.com.
Free registration may be required on some sites.
Some pages may expire after a few days.

Yesterday's News

© 2020 ArchNewsNow.com
Today's News - Friday, April 10, 2020

To subscribe to the free daily newsletter click here
EDITOR'S NOTE: We've been mourning the loss of our friend and hero Michael Sorkin. Now, we are heartbroken once again with the passing of another friend and hero, Bill Menking of The Architect's Newspaper fame - and so much more. A sad way to start the news day…

- **Shaw** paints a perfect portrait of Bill Menking, co-founder, with Diana Darling, and editor-in-chief of The Architect's Newspaper: "Art was his life and he made life into an art" - he "was always in the right place at the right time, agitating and connecting, breathing life into whatever was around him" (Bergdoll, Weiss, Stern, Lambert, and Franch I Gilabert weigh in).
- **Bernstein**: William Menking "was an indispensable part of the architecture world. His belief that architecture should be a tool for social justice was clear in all of his endeavors."
- **University** of Manitoba's Lisa Landrum pays eloquent tribute to Michael Sorkin and his "propaganda of optimism - a prolific champion of felicitous serendipities. In 1994, I had the privilege of being a student. I have since led multiple urban studios with my own students, some deploying Sorkinesque twists."
- **NYT's science** writer Cornelia Dean delves into how coastal communities are trying "inventive strategies" to save historic structures - "repeated flooding is prompting an urgent rethink, including consideration of an array of unconventional or even bizarre remedies."
- **Donatelli** profiles five female architects who "are shaping Cleveland" by "leveraging their design background in unexpected and impactful ways to shape the larger civic landscape."
- **Reiner-Roth** brings us Sharon Davis Design's rammed earth community hospital in rural Nepal, "primarily built using low-tech construction methods," and sustainable strategies "to make the campus as self-sufficient as possible."
- **The Columbia** University/Pratt Institute team wins the 2020 ULI Hines Student Urban Design Competition with a mixed-use development proposal for a site in Miami "designed around three pillars: ecology, community, and economy."
- **Robert A.M. Stern** Architects' 2020 RAMSA Travel Fellowship goes to Yaxuan Liu, a Master of Architecture candidate at the Harvard GSD, who will "travel along the west coast of Taiwan to document and analyze the historic Qilou building type" and how "cultural influences transformed a single typology over time."
- **A $250,000** National Endowment for the grant will help a University of Arkansas team complete "Housing the Human and the Sacred" that will introduce the "architecture of Fay Jones to a broader audience through interactive gaming technology."
- **Every Friday**, The Architect's Newspaper is livestreaming "Trading Notes," a series that tackles questions such as "Supplying the Front Line: Tips for 3D Printing of Medical Components" and "System Disruption: Managing Project Logistics During the Pandemic" (free registration!).
- **Marcus Fairs** x 2: Dezeen is launching the Virtual Design Festival tomorrow to "complement and support fairs and festivals that have had to be postponed or cancelled, and provide a platform for design businesses, so they can support their supply chains - everything will be free - get involved."
He puts out a call for "video messages from lockdown for Virtual Design Festival."

COVID-19 news continues...

- **Davidson** at his best, from NYC: "Looking out my living-room window, I see terror saunter down vacant streets, reclaiming a city that had forgotten how to fear - it's difficult to grasp what kind of city the epidemic will leave behind."

- **Balderrama** Morley parses "how architecture is exacerbating the coronavirus crisis for minorities and black Americans," and why architects of color "may flee" the field "in greater numbers, damaging diversity in a profession that is already overwhelmingly white."

- **Wainwright**, once again, wonders about "architecture after coronavirus. Is the open-plan office dead? Can skyscrapers survive?" And he "meets the architects already shaping the post-Covid-19 world."

- **Heathcote** considers "closing parks when they're needed most" to be "especially cruel. The inoffensive park seems to have become the shifting site of warfare between the nanny-state advocates and police-state doom mongers."

- **Diaz describes** how cities are "giving pedestrians and cyclists extra elbow room during the coronavirus pandemic" (NYC "experimented with a short-lived pilot program").

- **King considers** whether cars could "emerge with a better image when San Francisco emerges from coronavirus emergency - the problem with cars isn't that they're immoral. It's that they infringe on everything else."

- **Kamin calls** for a revival of the Sunday Drive - "a leisurely car trip with no particular destination. Today, with roads of all sorts practically empty, it stands ready as a relief valve for those bottled up in their homes."

- **Sitz's 2-parter** re: how the pandemic is affecting a who's who of architectural photographers; Part 1: The impact on their livelihoods.  
  - **Part 2:** How architectural photographers are spending their "unexpected free time": "We are taking lots of photos of the kids!"

To subscribe to the free daily newsletter click here

---

Obituary by Matt Shaw: AN co-founder William ‘Bill’ Menking, 72: ...architectural historian and educator...co-founder and editor-in-chief of The Architect’s Newspaper [with Diana Darling]...a prolific curator and writer...tenured professor and trustee at Pratt Institute...curator of the 2008 U.S. Pavilion at the Venice Architecture Biennal...art was his life and he made life into an art...will be remembered as someone who was always in the right place at the right time, agitating and connecting, breathing life into whatever was around him...For me, his influence is palpable: How to avoid the status quo or the cliché...How to do more with less...How to keep the social mission radical. -- Barry Bergdoll; Marion Weiss; Robert A.M. Stern; Phyllis Lambert; Eva Franch I Gilabert- The Architect's Newspaper

Fred A. Bernstein: Obituary: William Menking, 1947-2020: He was an indispensable part of the architecture world long before he and Diana Darling launched [The Architect's Newspaper]. He was an author and curator with a particular interest in the radical architecture movements of the 1960s and 70s..."Bill was ahead of the curve"...His belief that architecture should be a tool for social justice was clear in all of his endeavors..."He spoke truth to power in a profession saturated with elitism and the cult of personality"... -- Sharon Prince/Grace Farms Foundation; Barry Bergdoll; Harriett Harriss/Frances Bronet/Pratt Institute; Deborah Gans; Walter Meyer- Architectural Record
Lisa Landrum: Propaganda of Optimism: A tribute to Michael Sorkin: Creating joyful, just and sustainable cities remains our urgent task! ...a prolific champion of felicitous serendipities tragically succumbed to...COVID-19...tributes extol Michael's exceptional wit, ferocious criticism and visionary verve in fighting for the city as a vital instrument of social justice, while also emphasizing his empowering charisma and generous humanity...the hyperbole is warranted...In 1994, I had the privilege of being a student...That studio was unlike any I had experienced before; and, ever since, I’ve been striving to live up to its playful yet principled expectations...I have since led multiple urban studios with my own students, some deploying Sorkinesque twists...- Canadian Architect

Cornelia Dean: Rising Seas Threaten Historic Houses: Coastal communities try inventive strategies to save significant structures: ...along the eastern seaboard...the ocean has risen about a foot since the middle of the 20th century, and the rise is accelerating...three main approaches to saving historic buildings...moving them inland, armoring them with sea walls, or raising them on stilts. But these techniques can destroy the historic character that makes a property worth preserving in the first place...repeated flooding is prompting an urgent rethink, including consideration of an array of unconventional or even bizarre remedies...sea-level rise is a problem that must be tackled not building by building but rather with a community or regional perspective.- Architectural Record

Jen Jones Donatelli: Female Architects Are Shaping Cleveland: Though their career paths have been far from conventional, Allison Lukacsy-Love, Marika Shioiri-Clark, Jennifer Coleman and Lillian Kuri are paving new possibilities in the 216: Professionally trained architects are now at the helm of organizations such as Ingenuity Cleveland, Ohio City Inc. and more - and with “design thinking” skills now in high demand across industries, chances are more architects will be following in their footsteps...leveraging their design background in unexpected and impactful ways to shape the larger civic landscape.- Cleveland Magazine

Shane Reiner-Roth: Sharon Davis Design completes rammed earth community
hospital in rural Nepal: 7.5-acre campus is designed to accommodate an estimated 100,000 patients a year...[Bayalpata Hospital] primarily built with locally-sourced rammed earth and stone using low-tech construction methods, with the exception of a reusable, plastic lock-in-place formwork implemented to speed up the construction process...several sustainable guidelines were met to make the campus as self-sufficient as possible by including its own water supply and storage, wastewater treatment facilities, and a photovoltaic array... - The Architect's Newspaper

Team Representing Columbia University and Pratt Institute Wins 2020 ULI Hines Student Urban Design Competition with Plan to Redevelop Miami Site: Members of the winning team were awarded a prize of $50,000... three finalist teams...each will receive $10,000...[mixed-use development proposal] "La Mezcla" is designed around three pillars: ecology, community, and economy.- Urban Land Institute (ULI)

Robert A.M. Stern Architects Announces Winner of 2020 RAMSA Travel Fellowship: Yaxuan Liu, a Master of Architecture candidate at the Harvard Graduate School of Design, will be awarded $10,000 to travel along the west coast of Taiwan to document and analyze the historic Qilou building type, which has persisted through waves of cultural influences over nearly three centuries..."Qilou: Where Freedom Takes Shape"...a controlled experiment to trace how a succession of cultural influences transformed a single typology in one region over time.- Robert A.M. Stern Architects

NEH Award Will Help Researchers Expand Work on Fay Jones: "Housing the Human and the Sacred" will introduce the renowned architecture of Fay Jones to a broader audience through interactive gaming technology, made possible by a $250,000 award from the National Endowment for the Humanities.- University of Arkansas News

The Architect's Newspaper introduces "Trading Notes": Architects and designers transitioning to their living rooms...while trade partners labor on building sites - where they remain open, that is. Who counts as "essential" and "nonessential" in this scenario? Have we been measuring productivity wrong? And what new techniques might emerge to bridge the gap? Friday at 1:00 p.m., [AN] launches...a weekly discussion series that will tackle questions such as these...Registration is free- The Architect's Newspaper

Marcus Fairs: Dezeen announces Virtual Design Festival starting 15 April: With much of the world in lockdown due to the coronavirus pandemic...It will complement and support fairs and festivals around the world that have had to be postponed or cancelled and will provide a platform for design businesses, so they can, in turn, support their supply chains. We are inviting individuals, companies and organisations to get in touch [and] other architecture and design publications...technology companies and developers... everything will be free...get involved... - Dezeen

Marcus Fairs: Send us a video message from lockdown for Virtual Design Festival and we'll publish the best one: ...VDF, which starts on 15 April and runs until 30 June...will include a special montage of video messages to launch the festival, which will be soundtracked by musician Beatie Wolfe.- Dezeen
Justin Davidson: The Return of Fear New York, a child of disaster, remembers its past: Looking out my living-room window, I see terror saunter down vacant streets, reclaiming a city that had forgotten how to fear. I wonder how long the feeling will linger...The hospital tents in Central Park will be dismantled like a melancholy circus...it’s difficult to grasp what kind of city the epidemic will leave behind...coronavirus...exploits the downside of density...I worry about...how long it will take for the artistic infrastructure to regrow, how many storefronts will reopen, how deeply density will be associated with death...[in 2001] I wrote in a letter to my then-3-year-old son..."This is what I wish for you...that New York will remain the same infuriating, overcrowded, expensive, glamorous mess it was when you were born and that you will come to understand what a privilege it is to make a life here." He has.- New York Magazine

Jack Balderrama Morley: How architecture is exacerbating the coronavirus crisis for minorities and black Americans: ...particularly housing...crowded housing in low-income neighborhoods could be facilitating the spread of the disease...One answer...is for communities to invest in predominantly black and brown neighborhoods...will require a mix of policy, development, and design professionals working together, ideally with teams that reflect the communities they’re serving..."architects of color will probably struggle to get back to where they were"...black and other minority architects may flee in greater numbers, damaging diversity in a profession that is already overwhelmingly white. -- Kimberly Dowdell/HOK; National Organization for Minority Architects (NOMA)-The Architect's Newspaper

Oliver Wainwright: Smart lifts, lonely workers, no towers or tourists: architecture after coronavirus: Is the open-plan office dead? Can skyscrapers survive? Will our phones control everything from the lights to ordering coffee? Our writer meets the architects already shaping the post-Covid-19 world: ...our cities and buildings have always been shaped by disease...Form has always followed fear of infection, just as much as function...some have been blaming the density of cities for the rapid spread of the disease...some of the densest cities in the world have proved to be the best at curbing the spread...Some are using the current crisis to take a step back and reassess fundamental assumptions about how cities are structured. -- Design Research Unit; Darren Comber/Scott Brownrigg; Arjun Kaicker; Foster + Partners; Zaha Hadid Architects; Sara Jensen Carr; Wouter Vanstiphout- Guardian (UK)

Edwin Heathcote: Closing parks when they’re needed most is especially cruel: These spaces have always been at centre of power, class warfare and both progressive and far-right politics: The inoffensive park seems to have become the shifting site of warfare between the nanny-state advocates and police-state doom mongers...Urban parks are usually conceived as a public good, but they always embody another agenda. Whether gentrification, slum clearance, inflating real estate value...their accessibility and openness often masks unseen goals...to close the parks when they are needed most looks like a particular cruelty. -- Robert Moses; Joseph Paxton; Frederick Law Olmsted- Financial Times (UK)

Johnny Diaz: Cities Close Streets to Cars, Opening Space for Social Distancing: Boston, Minneapolis, Oakland and other cities...giving pedestrians and cyclists extra elbow room during the coronavirus pandemic: New York City...experimented with a short-lived pilot program...In Oakland, some 74 miles...
of roadway...will eventually be closed to through motor traffic...Boston suburb of Brookline...approved the extension of sidewalks...modifications repurpose parking lanes...Jonathan Berk, a proponent of new urbanism, applauded the efforts...said they allow residents to see their cities in a new light. -- Samuel I. Schwartz - New York Times

John King: Could cars emerge with a better image when SF emerges from coronavirus emergency? ...private automobiles have a role to play in large cities - even ones like San Francisco, where public policy...has focused on trying to carve out space for as many transportation options as possible while also making streets safer and more enticing for pedestrians...as congestion increased with each economic boom, so have initiatives to create alternatives to lone car drivers gridlocking streets...People who rely on cars...bristle...advocates for cycling and walking are upset that changes aren't made more quickly...the problem with cars isn’t that they're immoral. It's that they infringe on everything else. - San Francisco Chronicle

Blair Kamin: Revive the Sunday Drive - suddenly it's once again a great way to escape home and see your city: Those of a certain age will remember...It was...a leisurely car trip with no particular destination...Today, with roads of all sorts practically empty, [it] beckons anew....Judging by the number of car parades that have popped up to celebrate birthdays and other milestones, the authorities aren’t cracking down on pleasure driving...Advocates of pedestrian-friendly cities and mass transit may be shocked to hear me championing the Sunday Drive. But...in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, [it] stands ready as a relief valve for those bottled up in their homes... - Chicago Tribune

Miriam Sitz: Pandemic Threatens Architectural Photographers' Livelihoods: RECORD spoke with 10 photographers across the globe about how they’re navigating the rapidly changing landscape...While some shoots have been rescheduled for the summer, others...are on hold until fall at earliest...Travel bans and international flight cancellations ruled out work for others...many have at least part-time help...situation is not so good for freelance assistants...Repercussions of the pandemic will undoubtedly shape the industry going forward, but just how, and how much, is anyone’s guess...."the impact on our clients will ultimately determine the impact on us, the photographers." -- Albert Vecerka/Esto; Danica Kus; Roland Halbe; Nick Merrick/Hall + Merrick; Steve Hall; Kendall McCaughey; Younes Bounhar/Amanda Large/doublespace photography; Casey Dunn; Peter Molick; Ema Peter; Bruce Damonte - Architectural Record

Miriam Sitz: Left with Unexpected Free Time, Architectural Photographers Catch Up and Plan Ahead: With most construction brought to a standstill and photo shoots postponed indefinitely, many photographers are facing an unexpected break in their usual pace...10 professionals [share] the ways they are using that time...“we are taking lots of photos of the kids!” -- Alan Karchmer; Peter Molick; Ema Peter; Casey Dunn; Timothy Hursley; Nick Merrick/Hall + Merrick; Amanda Large/Younes Bounhar/doublespace photography; Albert Vecerka - Architectural Record

Note: Pages will open in a new browser window. External news links are not endorsed by ArchNewsNow.com. Free registration may be required on some sites.
Some pages may expire after a few days.

Yesterday's News

© 2020 ArchNewsNow.com
Today's News - Wednesday, April 15, 2020

- **From across** the Big Pond, Hurst gathers tributes to Bill Menking, who lived in London during the 1990s, from noted British architects, a critic, a journalist, and educators.

- **Also from** the U.K.: London-based architect and author Nathan Silver’s "remarkably detailed plan to convert the U.K. to carbon neutral energy production" that he sent to a chief advisor to the prime minister: "...generating electrical energy from offshore wave power should be easier, quicker and cheaper to achieve than with offshore wind power."

- **The Australian** Institute of Architects pulls out of the 2020 Venice Architecture Biennale: "We know that COVID-19 is presenting architects with significant financial and economic challenges - we are going to reallocate our resources to fund initiatives to help support our members as they navigate through this crisis."

- **Betsy cheers** a Taliesin School of Architecture student’s "nest-like dwelling - a shelter woven out of twigs" that is "a marvel of messy architecture" with "remarkable" qualities. "What makes it even more beautiful is its ephemeral quality."

- **Trend forecaster** Li Edelkoort kicks off Deeen’s Virtual Design Festival today with "a new manifesto of hope for a post-pandemic world."

- **Tomorrow** through Sunday, the Architecture & Design Film Festival offers ADFF: ONLINE, with one film each night (screened twice), and a live introduction and Q&A with the director; "the films are all uplifting and positive."

- **One we couldn’t** resist: Eyefuls of John Margolies’ 40 years of documenting "the fading remnants of a culture of roadside architecture - photos of the bizarre, the surreal and the often downright brilliant examples" - they are, "in a way, as important as the writings of Venturi, Scott-Brown, and Jencks in arguing for a more inclusive and more entertaining canon of modern design."

COVID-19 news continues (it’s not all glum):

- **McGuirk** at his most poetic about empty urban spaces: "Architecture, usually the backdrop to some human drama, becomes instead the figure. It is the presence of strangers that defines public space. Take away the strangers and public space suddenly becomes oppressive."

- **Bonano offers** a "portrait of an empty city" with stunning(!) images by photographer Alexei Hay: "These are middle-of-the-night photos shot in broad daylight. Nothing is visibly wrong, exactly, but everything is wrong."

- **Q&A** with Chakrabarti re: the future of cities from a planning perspective: "I think a lot of the battles that we’ve been fighting in urban planning for the last 10 years have become all but irrelevant - this is going to be a very interesting time to talk about the future of human habitation and environmental design.

- **The Mayors’** Institute on City Design’s Simons’ Q&A with Salisbury, Maryland Mayor Jacob Day, who trained as an architect and urban designer, re: "governing in the time of COVID-19": "I would personally crusade against any effort to tie this disease directly and only to density. Our cities will change after this threat - but we’re the ones that get to write that narrative."

- **Saffron** reports that civic groups are calling on Philly’s mayor to close lanes on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, where "traffic is down at least 37% - to relieve crowding at Schuylkill River park - the administration is currently
'analyzing the benefits of possible additional closures.'

- **Crosbie's** lovely ode (nothing ghoulish) to cemeteries: "In the age of social distancing, their charms are attracting a new audience: At this moment, cemeteries (especially older ones) offer environments that might provide us some perspective on our current crisis."

- **Fazzare** reports on Workshop/APD's "open-source document to help with project sourcing" by compiling "product brands, showrooms, and manufacturers that are still operating," and "what you need to know about placing orders, lead times, stock availability, and customizations."

- **A report** on ULI members who are "mobilizing their businesses" to focus on "supporting health care workers on the front lines, and small businesses and low-income communities reeling from the sudden economic impacts" of the pandemic.

- **Spivack** focuses on the NYC architects are "joining grassroots movements across the country to produce desperately needed personal protective equipment (PPE)" (Studio V's Valgora schlepped his 3D printers home).

- **One we couldn't** resist (your must-read of the day!): "18 NYT writers share moments that lightened their moods": "I'm sure I had better things to do than eavesdrop on my daughter's Zoom session with her second-grade class. Things fall apart. Second grade carries on."

To subscribe to the free daily newsletter click here

Will Hurst: Obituary: Bill Menking, The Architect's Newspaper co-founder: Tributes have been paid to New York-based Menking, a key figure in New York's architecture community...He lived in London during the 1990s, becoming a tutor at the Bartlett, developing his admiration for Archigram and writing for architecture titles in Britain including the AJ and Building Design...Tributes by British figures including New London Architecture chair Peter Murray, journalist Catherine Slessor, architect Rob Gregory, critic and curator Lucy Bullivant, Bartlett professor Murray Fraser; AA director Eva Franch i Gilabert; Alison Brooks; etc.- The Architects' Journal (UK)

Nathan Silver: A Carbon-Neutral Energy Plan for the United Kingdom: Wave Power: The means of achieving this goal is hydrokinetic energy: In February, prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, London-based architect and author Silver submitted a remarkably detailed plan to convert the U.K. to carbon neutral energy production. He wrote to Dominic Cummings, a chief advisor to Prime Minister Boris Johnson. Here is Silver's letter: "...generating electrical energy from offshore wave power should be easier, quicker and cheaper to achieve with than offshore wind power."- Common Edge

Australia pulls out of the 2020 Venice Biennale: The Australian Institute of Architects has announced it will no longer participate in the 2020 Venice Architecture Biennale, scheduled to begin in August: "We know that COVID-19 is presenting architects with significant financial and economic challenges. Therefore we are going to reallocate our resources to fund initiatives to help support our members as they navigate through this crisis."- ArchitectureAU (Australia)

Aaron Betsky: Wall Fitting Revisited: A Study in Organic Architecture: Dylan Pero, a student at the Taliesin School of Architecture, has designed a nest-like dwelling in the desert: ...a shelter woven out of twigs..."Nest"...a marvel of messy architecture...it accommodates a bed as well as weeds...Pero was inspired by experiments in the merging of natural elements with human-made forms, a sort of semi-organic grafting...The project's qualities...are
remarkable...evokes both the history of human shelter and the landscape of the desert. What makes it even more beautiful is its ephemeral quality...- Architect Magazine

Li Edelkoort proposes "World Hope Forum" in manifesto for rebuilding society after coronavirus: People "don’t want to go back" to how things were before coronavirus, claims trend forecaster...in a new manifesto of hope for a post-pandemic world, which is published exclusively on Dezeen today as part of Virtual Design Festival..."The economy of hope has the potential to transform society from within."- Dezeen

ADFF: ONLINE: Architecture & Design Film Festival will offer one film each night, including a live introduction and Q&A with the director; the films are all uplifting and positive. Thursday, April 16 - Sunday, April 19 (2 screenings each night): Boris Benjamin Bertram: "The Human Shelter"; Catherine Hunter: "Glenn Murcutt: Spirit of Place"; Marianne Gerdes: "James Hubbell - Between Heaven and Earth"; Joseph Hillel: "City Dreamers" (Phyllis Lambert, Blanche Lemco van Ginkel, Cornelia Hahn Oberlander, Denise Scott Brown)- Architecture & Design Film Festival (ADFF)

Roadside America: On a series of road trips across the US over 40 years, John Margolies recorded the fading remnants of a culture of roadside architecture...His photos of the bizarre, the surreal and the often downright brilliant examples of 20th century popular architecture...photos were, in their own way, as important as the writings of Robert Venturi and Denise Scott-Brown and Charles Jencks in arguing for a more inclusive and more entertaining canon of modern design.- Reading Design.org

Justin McGuirk/Design Museum: Space Unleashed: The city without citizens is inherently uncanny. Milan's Piazza Duomo deserted at noon...LA's freeways free of cars...a fox roaming casually through Covent Garden. These are the spatial symptoms of an event...This is plague space...This is one of those moments when life starts to imitate art...From Renaissance paintings of ideal cities to contemporary architectural photography, the removal of people has been a potent aesthetic device...Architecture, usually the backdrop to some human drama, becomes instead the figure. The stage set takes a bow...It is the presence of strangers that defines public space...Take away the strangers and public space suddenly becomes oppressive.- e-flux

Christopher Bonano: New York, Four Weeks In: Portrait of an empty city:...after the citywide clampdown began, Alexei Hay, like a lot of photographers, realized this was a fleeting extraordinary moment...These are middle-of-the-night photos shot in broad daylight, snow-day pictures without the snow...panoramic views and super-fine grain of 8x10-inch sheets of film loaded into a view camera [used] a century ago...these new pictures will almost instantly become historical photographs themselves...The very overfamiliarity of some of the sites...is paradoxically what...keeps you looking. Nothing is visibly wrong, exactly, but everything is wrong.- New York Magazine
Q&A with Vishaan Chakrabarti: Consequences of Incompetence: How do you see the city through a planning perspective? "I think a lot of the battles that we've been fighting in urban planning for the last 10 years have become all but irrelevant...There's [a] mindset that says cities are necessary evils, and if you take the necessity away, people will not live in cities anymore. Which belies the fact that human beings actually like human connectedness...Cities are just constant proof of that...this is going to be a very interesting time to talk about the future of human habitation and environmental design." -- Practice for Architecture and Urbanism (PAU)- Frank News

Trinity Simons: Governing in the Time of COVID-19: A Conversation With Salisbury, Maryland, Mayor Jacob Day: People "expect that the city will keep running, but they're looking to me to console and reassure": Trained as an architect and urban designer...we discussed leadership in times of crisis and ruminated on what this might mean for the future of cities: "I would personally crusade against any effort to tie this disease directly and only to density...let's also not forget that the history of cities is tied to public health...Our cities will change after this threat, too, but we're the ones that get to write that narrative."- Common Edge

Inga Saffron: Civic groups call on Mayor Kenney to close Benjamin Franklin Parkway lanes to relieve crowding at Schuylkill River park: ...allowing people to spread out...other U.S. cities have gone further, banning traffic from a variety of key streets to create more elbow room for their residents...urbanist groups...argued that the city needs to create car-free streets in a wider variety of neighborhoods...the administration is currently “analyzing the benefits of possible additional closures... city has a long track record of organizing closures for special events...traffic is down at least 37%.- Philadelphia Inquirer

Michael J. Crosbie: In Praise of Cemeteries: In the age of social distancing, their charms are attracting a new audience: Lately, I've noticed that the cemeteries I visit are more populated with the still-upright...As we strive to devise and practice a coronavirus etiquette of distance without rudeness, a newfound love of cemeteries as places of rest and reflection is bound to blossom...Even a familiar cemetery possesses that universal element of all great public places, surprise...even humor (“I told you I was sick,” declares a headstone in a Key West cemetery)...Before there were many public parks, cemeteries were places of respite...At this moment, cemeteries (especially older ones) offer environments that might provide us some perspective on our current crisis.- Common Edge

Elizabeth Fazzare: On the Bright Side: Workshop/APD Is Making It Easier for Architects and Designers to Do Business During COVID-19: Matt Berman created an open-source document to help with project sourcing: ...compiles product brands, showrooms, and manufacturers that are still operating within their country or state’s respective lockdown regulations, as well as what you need to know about placing orders, lead times, stock availability, and customizations.- Architectural Digest

Confronting COVID-19: ULI Members Give Back to Communities: ...mobilizing their businesses to serve urgent needs...Many of these projects are focused on supporting health care workers on the front lines, as well as the small businesses and low-income communities reeling from the sudden economic
Caroline Spivack: How NYC architects are 3D printing protective gear to help local hospitals: Architects are crafting thousands of face shields for first responders each week: ...joining grassroots movements across the country to produce desperately needed personal protective equipment (PPE)...Studio V Architecture, was among the first to join a statewide effort known as Operation PPE...launched at the fabrication lab of Cornell University’s College of Architecture, Art, and Planning...To keep up with demand, designers are innovating to increase production...in some cases, designers are making enhancements. -- Jay Valgora/Studio V Architects; Gregg Pasquarelli/SHoP Architects; Erik Cederberg/3D Verkstan; BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group; Handel Architects; Kohn Pedersen Fox (KPF); Illya Azaroff; John Meyer/Edg- Curbed New York

One Bright Thing: Need a little lift? Amid the bleakness, 18 Times writers shared moments that lightened their moods: A friendship revived. A musical discovery. A scream fest. As the pandemic rages on, we can all use a lift, no matter how fleeting, especially if it makes us feel connected. Or just makes us feel, period...Manny Fernandez, Houston bureau chief: "I'm sure I had better things to do than eavesdrop on my daughter's Zoom session with her second-grade class...Things fall apart. Second grade carries on." - New York Times

Note: Pages will open in a new browser window. External news links are not endorsed by ArchNewsNow.com. Free registration may be required on some sites. Some pages may expire after a few days.
EDITOR'S NOTE: Tomorrow and Monday will be no-newsletter days. We'll be back Tuesday, April 21. 'Til then, stay safe, please!

● Miranda minces no words re: LACMA announcing the start of demolition "three days after it had begun," which raises questions: "Where are the floor plans" and what will "this container for art actually contain?"

● Brussat cheers Ranalli's design for a theater addition in Doylestown, PA, in a style that "seems to be some sort of 'third way' between traditional and modern architecture - bending the curve toward tradition and beauty" (beware "angry Modernists," George!).

● Ray takes us behind the scenes of the "meticulous restoration" of an "exceptional" FLW office interior that has been sitting in storage at the V&A for the last 15 years - it will "become a highlight" at the DS+R-designed V&A East (sporting some "cosmetic flaws - souvenirs of the room's peripatetic life").

● Call for entries - deadline extended! Radical Innovation Awards: The Power to Shift the Hospitality Industry (fee reduced or waived for professionals; no fee for students).

● Call for entries - deadlines extended! 2020 ASLA Student Awards.

Weekend diversions + Page-turners:

● Block rounds up streaming suggestions: "10 feature films that use architecture in exciting ways to watch as a distraction from coronavirus-induced boredom."

● 10 more films "for architecture fans recommended by Dezeen readers."

● Reiner-Roth parses "Artificial Intelligence & Architecture" at the Pavillon de l'Arsenal in Paris that "seems to have been born for the internet in anticipation of the pandemic" and now lives online.

● Welton cheers the SHoP Architects-designed SITE Santa Fe presenting "Displaced: Contemporary Artists Confront the Global Refugee Crisis" that focuses on "human migrations and displacements of the past, present, and future" by 12 international artists (including Ai Weiwei) - download the great gallery guide!

● An excerpt from Juhani Pallasmaa's "The Eyes of the Skin" in which "he suggests that architectural culture has always privileged the ocular at the expense of the other senses."

● Blander cheers Blauvelt & Wilson's "Ruth Adler Schnee: Modern Designs for Living" that revisits her "enduringly Modernist legacy" - Gropius and Saarinen taught the now 97-year-old - her "works microcosmically document the ebb and flow of streams of Modernism."

● Rosenblum hails "Alan I W Frank House: The Modernist Masterwork by Walter Gropius and Marcel Breuer" that profiles a rarely seen, "transcendently luxurious" house in Pittsburgh by Frank, "a lucid and engaging writer" with "remarkable vintage photos" by Ezra Stoller and new ones by Richard Barnes.

● AN's "picks for design reads to enjoy while housebound" that "thematically converge on the existential, oscillating between the bleak and the restorative" + a "shut-in's guide to must-see movies and TV!"
COVID-19 news continues:

- **A call for** creatives to join the Canadian COVID Creators Network (CCCn) - an initiative to create and distribute face shields that meet Canadian government requirements.

- **dRMM's Lencer** makes the case that "architects must stop following style or theory - Covid-19 favors a culture of reduced carbon impact, minimized waste, and increased regenerative practice - an architecture of circumstance will define our new visual language - weaning us off our unchallenged aesthetic upbringing" (commenters challenge!).

- **Mithun's** Guenther considers how we can design with communities" in a pandemic - "do we wait for social distancing to end or start experimenting and adapting our community outreach models?" She offers some new approaches.

- **Hooper**, a professor of Urban Planning at Harvard GSD, considers "pandemics and the future of urban density," and his experiment to determine if "people's attitudes to urban density might be influenced by hygiene concerns" (fart spray included).

- **Youde talks** to a number of small practices in the U.K. to see how they're "coping with lockdown" and "managing to keep designing and delivering their projects - they may also take a new approach to designing their own studios."

- **KPMB's Marianne** McKenna and Mojo Stumer's Yacobellis weigh in with their views on "how the industry will be forever altered - sparked by the pandemic that has signaled the need to reconsider all assumptions modern architecture."

---

**To subscribe to the free daily newsletter** click here

Carolina A. Miranda: LACMA has begun demolition. Where are the gallery plans? The museum didn’t address the demolition...until April 9, via a blog post...three days after it had begun...described the controversial project as “an important source of job creation”...raises the question of where exactly things stand with the building’s design...no final floor plan has been released...floor plans should never have been affected by coronavirus to begin with. The museum should have released them...months ago...a year ago....questions remain...Namely, what this container for art will actually contain. -- Peter Zumthor; Michael Govan; Greg Goldin; Joseph Giovannini; William Pereira; Hardy Holzman Pfeiffer Associates; Save LACMA; Citizens’ Brigade to Save LACMA- Los Angeles Times

David Brussat: Eyed by Ranalli’s theater: Do the citizens of Doylestown, Pennsylvania, feel as if the new addition to their County Theater is giving them the eye...If so, then [they] probably like [it]...designed by George Ranalli in a style different from his firm’s usual fare...classical? Surely not. Traditional? Well, hardly...seem to be some sort of “third way” between traditional and modern architecture, but...bending the curve toward tradition and beauty...Doylestown now has a building that can stand tall among the historical buildings that make it a beautiful town.- Architecture Here and There

Debika Ray: A Forgotten Frank Lloyd Wright Masterpiece Is Finally Getting Its Due: An exceptional office interior has been hidden away in the V&A’s storage for the last 15 years...behind the scenes of its meticulous restoration: Edgar J. Kaufmann tapped Wright to design a private office for his sprawling department store...it will become a highlight of the [Diller Scofidio + Renfro-designed] V&A East...the freestanding Wright-designed furniture and Loja Saarinen textiles...did
not require conservation treatment...the team maintained some of the office’s cosmetic flaws...souvenirs of the room’s peripatetic life. - Architectural Digest

Call for entries - deadline extended! Radical Innovation Awards: The Power to Shift the Hospitality Industry; fee reduced or waived for professionals; no fee for students!); $10,000 in prizes; deadline: April 30- The Hardy Group

Call for entries - deadline extended! 2020 ASLA Student Awards; new fee deadline: May 15; new submission deadline: May 31- American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

India Block: 10 films with amazing architecture to stream during coronavirus self-isolation: ...feature films that use architecture in exciting ways to watch as a distraction from coronavirus-induced boredom. - Dezeen

10 films for architecture fans recommended by Dezeen readers: In response to our story highlighting films with interesting architecture to stream during coronavirus self-isolation...commenters have recommended 10 more....- Dezeen

Shane Reiner-Roth: "Artificial Intelligence & Architecture" at Paris’s Pavillon de l’Arsenal goes digital: ...currently closed...One of its current main exhibitions, however, seems to have been born for the internet in anticipation of the pandemic...begins with a button that reads "Visit Start"...bilingual wall text introducing the four categories...Modularity, computer-aided design (CAD), parametrics, and artificial intelligence (AI)...includes interviews with Yona Friedman, Ivan Sutherland, Frank Gehry, Patrik Schumacher, and members of the Architecture Machine Group. thru May 5- The Architect's Newspaper

J. Michael Welton: SITE Santa Fe and the Global Refugee Crisis: ... in its new digs by SHoP Architects...“Displaced: Contemporary Artists Confront the Global Refugee Crisis.” It will focus on human migrations and displacements of the past, present and future...in a range of media, artists from around the globe will ask us to witness the highest levels of human displacement on record, and imagine futures where migration is essential for survival...will include the work of 12 internationally acclaimed artists – Ai Weiwei among them. thru September 6- Architects + Artisans

Juhani Pallasmaa: Design for Sensory Reality: In "The Eyes of the Skin" he suggests that architectural culture has always privileged the ocular at the expense of the other senses. Here, he expands that argument to encompass the whole metabolism, proposing that we literally embody architecture. [excerpt]- Reading Design.org

Akiva Blander: Revisiting Ruth Adler Schnee’s Enduringly Modernist Legacy: Gropius and Saarinen taught Adler Schnee - 97 next month - whose works microcosmically document the ebb and flow of streams of Modernism: Based on the 2019 exhibition at Cranbrook Art Museum..."Ruth Adler Schnee: Modern Designs for Living"...[shows] how features of the design matriarch’s personal life - the influences of her Bauhaus-adjacent family, intertwined American, Jewish, and female identities - shaped her career...One aspect...that set [her] apart...is her business acumen...what sticks with the reader more enduringly is [her] full-throttled welcome of the notion of progress itself. -- Andrew Blauvelt & Ian Gabriel Wilson, editors- Metropolis Magazine
Charles Rosenblum: A Bauhaus Masterpiece [in Pittsburgh]: “Alan I W Frank House: The Modernist Masterwork by Walter Gropius and Marcel Breuer”...Frank...primary author and current resident, was 5 years old...when his parents...commissioned [it]... An unconstrained budget allowed...a total work of art in landscape, architecture and industrial design...retains much of the geometric severity of the European projects. Yet it is transcendentally luxurious...12,000 square feet...9 bedrooms, 13 baths [and] a swimming pool...Alan Frank remains a lucid and engaging writer...house went for decades without being published, even though it was [an] example of work by two of the world’s most influential architects...Fortunately, remarkable vintage photos by Ezra Stoller and newer ones by Richard Barnes do the job for you. -- Barry Bergdoll; Kenneth Frampton; Charles Birnbaum- Pittsburgh Quarterly

AN’s picks for design reads to enjoy while housebound: As befits our time of crisis, the following picks thematically converge on the existential, oscillating between the bleak and the restorative...fills to cozy domesticity, incitations toward household intrigue, bleak invocations of abandoned cityscapes, historical reckonings of queasy illness, and implicated in all of them are buildings, interiors, objects...Need something more visceral than a book?...our complementary shut-in’s guide to must-see movies and TV!- The Architect's Newspaper

Call for for creatives to join the Canadian COVID Creators Network (CCCn) - an initiative to create and distribute face shields that will protect front-line community workers from COVID-19. PARTISANS and Puncture design studio have created a website from which anyone can download a 3D file/pattern and printing specs that meet Canadian government requirements.- Canadian COVID Creators Network / PARTISANS

Jonas Lencer/dRMM Architects: The coronavirus crisis calls for a new moral and aesthetic code for architecture: Architects must stop following style or theory: Our context both before and after Covid-19 unequivocally favours a culture of reduced carbon impact, minimised waste, and increased regenerative practice...If we work to create an architecture of circumstance as opposed to one led by style or theory, then buildings will inevitably look different...Different does not mean worse...Authenticity will define our new visual language, breaking down preconceptions and weaning us off our unchallenged aesthetic upbringing..- The Architects’ Journal (UK)

Deb Guenther/Mithun: How Can We Design with Communities While Apart? In the era of the COVID-19 pandemic, do we wait for social distancing to end or start experimenting and adapting our community outreach models? Does the pandemic actually present an opportunity to widen audiences and level the playing field? As we adjust our short- and long-term approaches, here are a few considerations:- The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Pandemics and the future of urban density: Michael Hooper on hygiene, public perception, and the “urban penalty”: The Covid-19 pandemic has raised many challenging questions for planners, architects, and policymakers around the issue of urban density...many efforts to control the spread of virus have explicitly focused on strategies of “de-densification”...there is a substantial body of fascinating tangential evidence that suggests people’s attitudes to urban density might be influenced by hygiene concerns...absence of any direct research...led
me to design an experiment...indicates that density preferences may be more stable [and] efforts to change densities will likely have to be accompanied by extensive efforts to win over skeptical publics.- Harvard Graduate School of Design (GSD)

Kate Youde: Coronavirus: How are small practices coping with lockdown? As architects adopt new ways of working...how small practices are managing to keep designing and delivering their projects: ...could enforced confinement actually lead to an uptick in domestic projects when the restrictions are lifted? Dalston Architecture Collective, a collaborative group of 14 practices...shares knowledge, experience and staff. In response to Covid-19, DAC is offering 45-minute online consultations to potential clients...drawing on different expertise...from across the group....architects may also take a new approach to designing their own studios. -- Lisa Raynes/Pride Road Franchise; Max Dewdney Architects; Nick Hayhurst/Hayhurst & Co; Sophie Griffiths/Campbell & Co; Russell Curtis/RCKa; Keith Carver/Studio Carver; Tim Gibbons/Fieldwork; Annabelle Tugby Architects- The Architects’ Journal (UK)

Jeffrey Steele: Architects Forecast Change For Design In Wake Of COVID-19: The health and economic crisis sparked by the pandemic has signaled the need to reconsider all assumptions modern architecture, say Marianne McKenna/KPMB Architects, and Joe Yacobellis/Mojo Stumer Associates: [They] weighed in with views on how their industry will be forever altered...- Forbes

Note: Pages will open in a new browser window. External news links are not endorsed by ArchNewsNow.com. Free registration may be required on some sites. Some pages may expire after a few days.

© 2020 ArchNewsNow.com
Today's News - Tuesday, April 21, 2020

EDITOR'S NOTE: We are so not happy to hear that so many of our favorite writers across Curbed's cities have been furloughed or let go, along with so many at other publications - we wish them well - and hope they're all back soon!!!

- **Goldin** of the Citizens' Brigade to Save LACMA minces no words re: "Govan's misbegotten remake" of the museum: "The teardown has evoked a cri de coeur - the image of the wreckage, amid so much recent human suffering, suddenly awakening a profound melancholy for a world being left behind. It is not too late to reconsider..."

- **Miranda** parses why, even though demolition has begun, a former LACMA curator, a former Getty Museum director, and the VP and director of the Annenberg Foundation (whose mother endowed LACMA's director's chair, now occupied by Govan - "certainly a head-turner") joined the jury for Goldin and Giovannini's competition to remake LACMA - winners will be announced April 22.

- **Speaking** of April 22 - join the Virtual Design Festival x The World Around x Earth Day online, live and free, with an impressive line-up of "international voices who are leading a new and exciting global discourse on environmental design," led by TWA founder Beatrice Galilee.

- **And celebrate** International Dark Sky Week online: "See how humanity's connection with the night sky has evolved. 'We're making the universe into something heroic, just as our ancestors did, and we're just doing it in a different way,'" says the Griffith Observatory director.

**Winners all:**

- **The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)** announces $2.2 million in grants to humanities projects, "including several projects involving architecture and the built environment."

- **An impressive** list of 17 women (including from Peru & Singapore) named as the Beverly Willis Architecture Foundation 2020 Emerging Leaders.

- **The RAIC** 2020 Architectural Firm Award goes to Calgary-based marc boutin architectural collaborative inc. (MBAC).

- **PARTISANS** and Nine Yards Studio (9Y) each take home the RAIC 2020 Emerging Architectural Practice Award.

- **Teams from** India and the U.K. win top three spots in the 2020 Berkeley Prize Essay Competition: "Designing Civic Buildings."

**COVID-19 news continues:**

- **Chang** delves into how "architects transform the places we live and work" after deadly outbreaks - even before COVID-19, "infectious disease had already molded the places we live - through architecture, design, and urban planning - in enduring ways" - perhaps "social distancing could become a design paradigm."
• Hadden Loh & Leinberger look at "how fear of cities can blind us from solutions to COVID-19. The spread of the virus is driven by crowding behavior, not just density. Walkable urban places" have and will prove "to be extremely resilient in the face of crisis. Policymakers should sustain and feed this resiliency."

• Gold looks at how "COVID-19 puts urban density to the test" in Vancouver, where "living space has suddenly become the all-inclusive pandemic shelter, office, and daycare. And with that - the housing inequities are strikingly apparent" - perhaps it's time for "the five-minute city."

• Tipton talks to a number of Irish architects re: design for a post-pandemic world: "We need to build safer and more lovable places to live and work" - "as human beings, we are both gregarious and private - to truly thrive, we need the best of both."

• Baldan on "Venezia: coronavirus and tourism. Many businesses born to serve the '28 million visitors a year' will no longer be able to continue" - the city "will return to the Venetians - tourist rentals and souvenir sellers will likely no longer exist, at least until the arrival of the much hoped for vaccine."

• Kamin talks to architects re: "layoffs, furloughs, pay cuts" as they see "revenue streams dry up, and economic storm clouds loom"; Julie Hacker offers a note of optimism: "We survived 2008, so we'll survive this."

• Sperber offers a very personal take re: trying to keep her "small architectural firm of four afloat" - if she receives funding from the Payback Protection Program and can keep meeting payroll, "we will pay it forward. I may be naive in offering [pro bono] services at such a precarious time - the one thing I am confident about is that doing good will also help us feel good."

• A look at "how the COVID-19 pandemic may reshape U.S. hospital design to avoid a repeat of the current national crisis" and the lack of "flexibility to accommodate a sudden surge" (free registration).

• Harrouk brings us some of the architects who "are proposing flexible, fast assembled, mobile, and simple structures" to help fight the virus - some "are already implemented and in service, while others remain on a conceptual level, waiting to be adopted."

• NYC's City Council is introducing "legislation to open up 75 miles of streets to pedestrians and cyclists to ease the pressure on crowded parks" during the pandemic (an effort to outdo Oakland's 74 miles?). The mayor is skeptical.

To subscribe to the free daily newsletter click here

Greg Goldin: Last chance to reconsider LACMA's bad plan for a new museum? ...construction is considered “essential” work during the coronavirus shutdown, and the [museum] is racing ahead with...Michael Govan’s misbegotten remake, to the point of no return....the teardown has evoked a cri de coeur - the image of the wreckage, amid so much recent human suffering, suddenly awakening a profound melancholy for a world being left behind...With a hole in the ground where a museum used to be, the plan will have to go forward...foolish and inadequate replacement. It is not too late to reconsider...The museum as planned is not a force for the greater good, which is what we desperately need in this dire time. -- William Pereira; Hardy Holzman Pfeiffer; Citizens' Brigade to Save LACMA- Los Angeles Times

Carolina A. Miranda: LACMA began demolition. But that hasn’t stopped a protest group for an alternate plan: Why would a former LACMA curator [J. Patrice Marandel], a former Getty Museum director [John Walsh], and artist Lauren Bon join the jury for an architectural competition to remake LACMA when demolition has begun? The Citizens’ Brigade to Save LACMA...led by Greg Goldin and Joseph Giovannini, put out an open call..Bon .is also vice president and director of the Annenberg Foundation...Marandel, who worked at LACMA for nearly a quarter century, and Bon, whose mother, Wallis Annenberg, endowed the director’s chair at LACMA, is certainly a head-turner...Other jurors
include...Aaron Betsky...Winka Dubbeldam and William Pedersen. -- Peter Zumthor [winners announced April 22]- Los Angeles Times

Virtual Design Festival x The World Around x Earth Day Live [free] on Dezeen.com April 22: Rethink. Reimagine. Recreate: ...conversations [and films] commissioned from over 20 international voices who are leading a new and exciting global discourse on environmental design. Amid the recent coronavirus (COVID-19) global pandemic, TWA’s Earth Day online symposium remains committed to uniting and mobilizing the global architecture and design community... -- Beatrice Galilee; Kunlé Adeyemi;/NLÉ Harriet Harriss/Pratt; Timothy Morton; Aric Chen; Cameron Sinclair; Walter Hood; Andrés Jaque/Office for Political Innovation (OFFPOLIN); etc.- The World Around

International Dark Sky Week: See how humanity’s connection with the night sky has evolved: As artificial lightning shines over human settlements, stars fade...99% of Americans experience light pollution...Here's how to celebrate online..."We're making the universe into something heroic, just as our ancestors did, and we're just doing it in a different way." - E.C. Krupp, director, Griffith Observatory, Los Angeles- Space.com

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Announces $2.2 Million in Grants to Humanities Projects: ...included several projects involving architecture and the built environment, such as...the University of California, Berkeley; Society of Architectural Historians (SAH); Vanderbilt University; Ruth Toulson/Maryland Institute College of Art; Katherine Bentz/St. Anselm College; and Corning Museum of Glass. -- Cathy Simon/Karen Alschuler/SMWM; Perkins and Will- Architect Magazine

Priorities - Personhood - Profit: Beverly Willis Architecture Foundation (BWAF) 2020 Emerging Leaders: 17 women 5-10 years out of school. -- Daniela Beraún/Reynaldo Ledgard Arquitectos (Peru); Robyn Engeli/ikm architecture; Caitlin Getman/Robert A.M. Stern Architects; Chelsea Hyduk/SHOP Architects; Casie Kowalski/Andrea Steele Architecture; Rebecca McCarthy/Dattner Architects; Savina Nicolini/SNA Design (Singapore); Caroline Shannon/Höheler + Yoon Architecture; Devon Telberg/AAI Architects; etc.- Beverly Willis Architecture
RAIC announces 2020 Architectural Firm Award recipient: marc boutin architectural collaborative inc. (MBAC), a Calgary-based multi-scale firm..."Marc and his team embody a true commitment to architectural education, mentorship, public awareness, and the growth of architects." - Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC)

RAIC announces recipients for the 2020 Emerging Architectural Practice Award: two firms have been selected...PARTISANS, a Toronto-based architecture studio, and the Charlottetown's Nine Yards Studio (9Y), a multidisciplinary design studio...- RAIC / Royal Architectural Institute of Canada

Winners Announced in the 2020 Berkeley Prize Essay Competition: "Designing Civic Buildings: The Architect Works With A Team"; this year's question: How do civic buildings build community?; winning essays, plus the next 10 top-scoring essays are available online. (Travel Fellowship Competition was cancelled for 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic) -- Rhiddhit Paul & Abhradeep Chakraborty, School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal, India; Poonam Parikh & Khushali Haji, C.E.P.T. University, Ahmedabad, India; Michael Tsang & Elisa Ynaraja Rodriguez, University of Bath, UK - Berkeley Prize / Department of Architecture, University of California, Berkeley

Vanessa Chang: The Post-Pandemic Style: After deadly outbreaks, architects transform the places we live and work. This time won't be different: The alarming spread of the coronavirus has rapidly reorganized our bodies in space...we're suddenly living in different cities. But before all of this, infectious disease had already molded the places we live - through architecture, design, and urban planning - in enduring ways...Before the development of medications for tuberculosis, its treatment was environmental. These clinical environments inspired the new modern architecture...modernism...As the sanatorium inspired [early 20th-century] modernist buildings, so too might construction elements from 21st century health care be appropriated for public space...social distancing could become a design paradigm. -- Le Corbusier; Adolf Loos; Alvar Aalto; Michael Thonet; Marcel Breuer; Mies van der Rohe; Richard Neutra- Slate

Tracy Hadden Loh & Christopher Leinberger: How Fear of Cities Can Blind Us From Solutions to COVID-19: There are three natural enemies of urbanism: crime, terrorism, and pandemics...fear can prevent decision-makers from understanding and implementing solutions...The spread of the virus is driven by crowding behavior, not just density...We can repeat past patterns of blaming cities' close quarters and diverse populations for problems, or we can...get to work on fighting this. Walkable urban places have in the past - and most likely will in the future - proved to be extremely resilient in the face of crisis. Policymakers should sustain and feed this resiliency...and foster the same resiliency in suburban and rural places. - Next City (formerly Next American City)

Kerry Gold: COVID-19 puts urban density to the test: Within quarantined Vancouver, living space has suddenly become the all-inclusive pandemic shelter, office and daycare. And with that new crucial use of space, the housing inequities are strikingly apparent...Smaller, cramped units will be increasingly frowned upon in a post-pandemic world that prioritizes livability and flexible use of space...Urban designer Scot Hein says people may come out of the pandemic
with a new appreciation for gathering spaces, mom-and-pop shops and
eighbourhood diversity…urging the city to support…”the five-minute
city”…architect Alan Boniface…also worries about an anti-density post-pandemic
reaction. -- Andy Yan/Simon Fraser University City Program; Duncan
Wlodarczak/ULI/Urban Land Institute BC - Globe and Mail (Canada)

Gemma Tipton: Architects on lockdown: "We need to build safer and more
lovable places to live and work": After Covid-19, will Irish housing design change
for good? And what might it all mean for the future of architecture in general?
many architects…initially zeroed in on the importance of shared and public
space… it could mean that, as human beings, we are both gregarious and
private…to truly thrive, we need the best of both. -- Nathalie Weadick/Irish
Architecture Foundation; Emmett Scanlon; Ciarán Ferrie; Alice Casey/Taka
Architects; Niall McCullough & Valerie Mulvin/McCullough Mulvin; Jennifer
O’Donnell & Jonathan Janssens/Plattenbaustudio; Peter Carroll/A2 Architects;
Michael Pike & Grace Keeley/GKMP; Dominic Stevens/JFOC Architects - Irish
Times

Nino Baldan, La Voce di Venezia: Venezia: coronavirus and tourism. Are we
sure that everything will quickly come back as before? Even if we imagine a
relaxation of the restrictions…it is unlikely that the entire tourism sector…can
hold out in the face of almost decimated numbers…Many businesses born to
serve the “28 million visitors a year” will no longer be able to continue…[The city]
will return to the Venetians…tourist rentals, organized groups and souvenir
sellers will likely no longer exist, at least until the arrival of the much hoped for
vaccine…the post-coronavirus era will introduce new ways for us to live and to
travel…”people will sense the need to travel responsibly, care for their personal
hygiene, and respect the places where residents live (to allow them to also enjoy
them).”- Campaign For A Living Venice

Blair Kamin: Layoffs, furloughs, pay cuts begin as architects see building slow
during coronavirus pandemic and fear worse is ahead: …pandemic is placing a
financial squeeze…as some clients hit the pause button, revenue streams dry
up, and economic storm clouds loom…it appears likely that more architects will
join the 22 million Americans who have filed for unemployment…there are bright
spots. Design work for projects in China…is re-starting…construction continues
[in Chicago] on large-scale projects…staff architects…are working remotely…but
their pay has been cut… -- Kiel Fahnstrom; Andy Koglin/OKW Architects;
Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Foster + Partners; Gina Berndt/Perkins and
Will; Thomas Kerwin/bKL Architecture; Matthew Larson/Goettsch Partners;
Stuart Cohen & Julie Hacker Architects; Kimberly Beals/Gensler; Jeanne
Gang/Studio Gang - Chicago Tribune

Esther Sperber: If My Firm Survives, We Will Pay It Forward: If New York-based
Studio ST Architects receives funding from the Payback Protection
Program…the founder pledges to dedicate some time gained from the lifeline to
pro bono work: Like so many, I have been…trying to keep my small architectural
firm of four afloat…I am deeply grateful to be healthy, sheltered, and able to
work from home…I am making a pledge, and I hope others will join. If I receive
funding…to keep my staff on payroll…my firm will dedicate a significant portion of
the additional work time toward architectural work that does good for the
world…I may be naive in offering my firm’s services at such a precarious time…
During these uncertain times, the one thing I am confident about is that doing
How the COVID-19 Pandemic May Reshape U.S. Hospital Design: ...local officials have been rushing to convert hotels, convention centers, and city parks into new hospital spaces...many physicians, architects, and health care consultants are already talking about how modern hospital designs could change to avoid a repeat of the current national crisis. One clear lesson: Modern hospitals often lack the flexibility to accommodate a sudden surge...As hospital designers convert spaces for temporary use, many are identifying new opportunities for hospital systems that have traditionally emphasized lean and efficient operations. -- Scot Latimer/Gensler; Stan Shelton/HKS Architects-Medscape

Christele Harrouk: Architects Mobilize their Creativity in Fight against COVID-19: As the healthcare infrastructure is becoming overwhelmed...alternative possibilities are emerging...Focusing their knowhow to find fast and efficient design solutions that can be implemented anywhere, architects are proposing flexible, fast assembled, mobile, and simple structures...10 initiatives from architectural platforms... -- Carlo Ratti/CURA; WTA Architecture + Design Studio; JUPE Health; Opposite Office; MASS Design Group; 50SuperReal; Plastique Fantastique; AGX Architects; MMW Architects; Weston Williamson + Partners; VHL_Architecture; HAHA Architects Group; KOTKO; Gonzalo Guzman; INFEKT- ArchDaily

NYC City Council To Introduce Legislation To Open Up 75 Miles Of Streets During Coronavirus: ...to open up a huge amount of streets to pedestrians and cyclists to ease the pressure on crowded parks and give New Yorkers more room to safely spread out...the city needs to start planning for summer, especially at a time when beaches and pools will possibly be closed...Mayor Bill de Blasio has expressed skepticism that an open streets plan modeled after the likes of Oakland...as part of their "slow streets" pilot program, could work here.-- Gothamist (NYC)
Today's News - Wednesday, April 22, 2020

- **Walsh**: "On Earth Day, we reflect on architecture's relationship with the Planet - it is difficult to think of a time where our relationship with the Earth has been so different from normal. What constitutes a 'normal'?"

- **Green**'s great Q&A with SCAPE's Kate Orff on Earth Day: "Today's society faces a climate emergency, social and income stratification, and a biological apocalypse - these forces are rapidly tearing at the fabric of our entangled social and natural worlds - we identify the capacity of design to repair that fabric" (she also touches on COVID-19).

- **Simons’** great Q&A with Christine Hunschofsky, mayor of Parkland, Florida, who has dealt with flooding, a hurricane, and the horrific Stoneman Douglas High School shootings, re: "leadership during and after the crisis, and how arts, design, parks, and public space can be tools to unite and heal."

- **López** Cardozo brings us Toronto's PARTISANS' lively "Serious Playfulness" conversation (via e-mail) with 6 emerging studios around the world - "all engage in play and experimentation, yet are able to build their ambitious works through pragmatism and seriousness."

- **Mun-Delsalle's** Q&A with Hiroshi Nakamura on designing the zero-waste shop/brewery/pub Kamikatz Public House in a mountain village in Japan that "has already attained an 80% recycling rate - the locals who gather at this pub are beginning to truly realize that their actions are fun and creative."

- **The Whitney** Museum's Adam Weinberg and the Association for Public Art's Penny Balkin Bach each pen a letter to Washington, D.C.'s Historic Preservation Review Board calling for "safeguarding" Zimmerman's threatened MARABAR installation at National Geographic's HQ (with links to letters).

- **Welton on** Burning Man's Museum of No Spectators: "Sure, Burning Man's been cancelled this year. But when it returns in 2021, it'll offer a new, countercultural and participatory opportunity" including a gift shop "where visitors do the gifting, not the buying."

- **Baldwin** reports on the Zoomed In virtual photography and architecture festival, running through Friday, that "brings together a diverse international selection of architectural photographers and cross-disciplinary creatives in a series of online talks and discussions, short film screenings, image galleries, and a charity print sale."

- **Call for entries**: Interior Scholarship 2020/2021 - The AIT Scholarship by Sto Foundation (students must be enrolled at a European university).

COVID-19 news continues (last two stories lifted our spirits!):

- **Lazaro looks** at "density in the age of danger - it is false to assume that population density in itself is the culprit" in the spread of COVID-19 - "building compact and connected communities fosters resilience in the face of such dangers."

- **The Ian** McHarg Center's Fleming & Lillehei make the case that, "once the pandemic recedes, we should enact a massive green stimulus that builds out our public infrastructure in beautiful, imaginative, low-carbon ways," which will require "severing the link between private capital [from "capitalist imaginaries"] and the design professions."

- **Sisson makes** the case that "stimulus isn't enough. Our cities need a post-pandemic New Deal" - why not
"replicate one of the largest, most successful government works programs - the Works Progress Administration."

- **le Roux** of the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, offers "four design features from history that offer healthier design. In reacting to the pandemic, architecture can reclaim its impact by conceding its loss of connection with public health, looking beyond Western thinking for its references."

- **Baird-Remba** talks to a number of architects who "are rethinking commercial and public spaces," like offices, restaurants and grocery stores, "to make regular people safer in the age of coronavirus."

- **Iszler** talks to architects about how the coronavirus will change office design: "Think new seating, more cleaning, and hands-free tech. Remote working and virtual meetings will become even more prevalent - will people even want to come back?"

- **Fairs** talks to a Boston doctor working with Eric Höweler and a Harvard GSD team to design a patient isolation hood: "We need designers at every turn, but they are so infrequently consulted" - the project "opened colleagues' eyes to the potential of design to improve healthcare."

- **Two we couldn't** resist: Loos asked architects and artists how they were spending their time in lockdown - "they answered that, despite their fears, the pandemic is proving to be fertile ground - and they sent along some proof" with sketches by Holl, Gehry, and Maya Lin (and some great artists).

- **Venetian** biologist Mangoni "captured mesmerizing video of a jellyfish gliding between reflections of Venetian palaces" through the now-clear waters of the canals of Venice (short - but magical!).

To subscribe to the free daily newsletter click here

**Niall Patrick Walsh:** On Earth Day, We Reflect on Architecture's Relationship with the Planet: ...it is difficult to think of a time where our relationship with the Earth has been so different from normal...in time, the COVID crisis will pass, and the world will return to “normal”. The nature of that normal is, in part, the responsibility of architects and designers. What constitutes a “normal” relationship between us and the Earth? How can the architectural community enhance and improve the relationship between us and the Earth? ...we present a selection of...articles...linked by a common understanding of how architecture relates to the planet...- ArchDaily

**Jared Green:** Interview with Kate Orff on Earth Day 2020: The 50th Anniversary: ...founder and principal of SCAPE...awarded the MacArthur Foundation Fellowship [2017], and...the 2019 National Design Award...from the Cooper Hewitt National Design Museum: What is regenerative living infrastructure and why do communities need it? "Today’s society faces...a climate emergency, increasing social and income stratification, and a biological apocalypse...these forces are rapidly tearing at the fabric of our entangled social and natural worlds...we identify the capacity of design to repair that fabric and regenerate connections...Robust, intact landscapes can’t do everything, but they can absorb a range of intersectional challenges and create immense protective value."- The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

**Trinity Simons/Mayor's Institute on City Design: Q&A with a Mayor Far-Too-Familiar With Crisis Management: Christine Hunschofsky:** Just seven months after being elected mayor of Parkland, Florida in 2016, she was dealing with historic flooding...followed...by Hurricane Irma...in 2018...one of the most notorious school shootings in American history...at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School...In light of COVID-19, [she talks] about leadership during and after the crisis, and how arts, design, parks, and public space can be tools to unite and heal: "It’s ironic that it took physical distancing to make people want to connect with the world and nature again...As a mayor, this moment drives
home...the importance of...giving people those places where they can 'pause' long after this is over. - Common Edge

Sebastián López Cardozo: Serious Playfulness: 6 Young Firms Balancing Experimentation and Pragmatism: Toronto’s Partisans talks with emerging studios around the globe - Young & Ayata, New York; Schaum/Shieh, Houston & NYC; Miracles Architecture, Michan Architecture, Mexico City; Miracles Architecture, Houston; and Paralx, Beirut, Lebanon & Jeddah, Saudi Arabia - about how they dream big while building both their projects and their ethos: ...culminated in an intimate, multi-person dialogue...all engage in play and experimentation, yet are able to build their ambitious works through pragmatism and seriousness. -- Artifizi- Azure magazine (Canada)

Y-Jean Mun-Delsalle: 10 Minutes With Hiroshi Nakamura On Designing A Sustainable, Zero-Waste Wooden Building: We speak about designing Kamikatz Public House in the recycling mountain village town of Kamikatsu, Japan: "The town has already attained an 80% recycling rate...a private-sector business inspired by the principles of this town launched this project...integrating a shop...a brewery and a pub... the locals who gather at this pub are beginning to truly realize that their actions are fun and creative...The space is full of improvisation and discoveries with this creative combination of waste material." - Hiroshi Nakamura & NAP- Forbes

Whitney Museum Director Adam Weinberg and Association for Public Art Director Penny Balkin Bach Call for Safeguarding Threatened MARABAR Art Installation at National Geographic: "Masterpiece" by...artist Elyn Zimmerman is threatened with demolition: ...new letters follow one written by Marc Treib...all were sent to the Washington, D.C., Historic Preservation Review Board... - The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF)

J. Michael Welton: Burning Man’s Museum of No Spectators: Sure, Burning Man’s been cancelled this year. But when it returns in...2021, it'll offer a new, countercultural and participatory opportunity...inspired by [Smithsonian exhibition] "No Spectators: The Art of Burning Man"...illuminated the values of the...event through its guiding 10 principles..."Gifting" in particular resonated with...architect/artist John Marx, artist Absinthia Vermut and builder Jerry James...They’ve worked out a design for nine galleries - and a gift shop...where visitors do the gifting, not the buying.- Architects + Artisans

Eric Baldwin: Zoomed In Virtual Photography and Architecture Festival Launches: Running through April 24, the festival brings together a diverse international selection of architectural photographers and cross-disciplinary creatives in a series of online talks and discussions, short film screenings, image galleries, and a charity print sale to raise funds for those most in need during the current pandemic crisis. - ArchDaily

Call for entries (deadline extended!): Interior Scholarship 2020/2021 - The AIT Scholarship by Sto Foundation: up to four students of interior architecture, interior design, etc. enrolled at a European university will receive a monthly grant for one year, totalling 24,000 EUR; deadline: June 19- AIT-Dialog / Sto Foundation / Sto Stiftung (Germany)
Chris Lazaro: Density in the Age of Danger: Don’t let the ‘D’-word scare you: ...while it’s true that [COVID-19] has spread more rapidly in urban areas than in sparsely populated ones, it is false to assume that population density in itself is the culprit...Crowding...is the more likely offender...Think: grocery stores, places of worship, sporting events...polling places...pandemics are but one danger...mass shootings persist...Climate threats...land desertification...building compact and connected communities fosters resilience in the face of such dangers...When designed and built well...what if neighborhoods are most resilient, not when they follow the conventional suburban pattern, but when they are built compactly? A compact, connected neighborhood also offers another benefit in terms of resilience: redundancy.- Medium

Billy Fleming & Alexandra Lillehei/Ian L. McHarg Center: To Rebuild Our Towns and Cities, We Need to Design a Green Stimulus: The COVID-19 quarantine has exposed the importance of parks, sidewalks, and other public spaces...once the pandemic recedes, we should enact a massive green stimulus that builds out our public infrastructure in beautiful, imaginative, low-carbon ways: ...this will require a shift in the design professions...every square inch of our planet is designed...represent policy decisions capitalist imaginaries translated into concrete reality by designers...There’s simply no way to meet this moment without severing the link between private capital and the design professions...to envision a future design for people and nature and not by markets...- Jacobin magazine

Patrick Sisson: Stimulus isn’t enough. Our cities need a post-pandemic New Deal: With 22 million-plus out of work, we need jobs and public-works vision for the future: ...coronavirus has caused the infrastructure of urban life to shut down. As our cities experience this uncanny, uncertain pause, there may also be a rare opportunity to reflect and rebuild...why shouldn’t the U.S. replicate one of the largest, most successful government works programs in its history, the Works Progress Administration? ...WPA’s accomplishments in the health care field were vast, exemplifying the type of wartime mobilization needed in the fight against [COVID-19]...would also provide opportunities for architects and designers to utilize their skills as a form of national service.- Curbed

Hannah le Roux/University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg: Architecture: four ideas from history that offer healthier design: I’ve compiled a short list of some of the design features of architecture through history that provide useful insights into what COVID-19 has taught us to be mindful of. 1. Waterpoints; 2. Learn from brass: We could learn from Alvar Aalto’s use of brass...given the far faster degradation of viral material; 3. Courtyards, porches and lobbies; 4. Medicinal gardens; In reacting to the pandemic, architecture can reclaim its impact by conceding its loss of connection with public health, looking beyond Western thinking for its references.- The Conversation US

Rebecca Baird-Remba: Designing Offices, Restaurants and Grocery Stores in the Age of Coronavirus: Architects are rethinking commercial and public spaces in an effort to prevent viral spread: [As] communities across the U.S. grapple with the coronavirus outbreak, architects are thinking about how to make regular people safer...whether companies will need to increase or decrease their square footage in the wake of social distancing....both commercial and public spaces may need to become more compartmentalized...grocery stores...may have to completely shift the way they do business. -- Alex Dunham/HLW; Tom
Madison Iszler: How will coronavirus change offices? Think new seating, more cleaning and hands-free tech, architects and designers say: Another likelihood: more employees working out of the office...Companies may try to "de-densify" by having a smaller percentage of a company’s workforce in the office on a given day, and using breakout rooms and shared areas to spread out employees...Investing in better air filtration and mechanical systems can be expensive but could become a priority...Voice-activated technology and hands-free systems may become more common...Remote working and virtual meetings will become even more prevalent...will people even want to come back? -- Jim Shelton/Gensler; Jonathan Smith/Lake | Flato Architects; Andrew Bennett/Victoria Fennewald/BOKA Powell - San Antonio Express-News

Marcus Fairs: Lack of design input in healthcare is putting both patients and doctors at risk, says physician: "We desperately need designers to help organize the environment and products to help keep the correct focus on a patient, and reduce distraction," said Dr Sam Smith...at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. "We need designers at every turn, but they are so infrequently consulted"...Smith [collaborated] with Boston architect Eric Höweler and a team from Harvard's Graduate School of Design [GSD] on the design for a patient isolation hood...Working with Höweler opened colleagues’ eyes to the potential of design to improve healthcare. -- Höweler + Yoon - Dezeen

Ted Loos: Artists Are Hunkered Down, but Still Nurturing Their Inner Visions: Artists and architects may be sheltering at home, but their creativity still flows - and the results surprise even them: When asked how they were spending their time, they answered that, despite their fears, the pandemic is proving to be fertile ground - and they sent along some proof...Steven Holl depicted a pair of struggling lungs, and mourned a close friend [Michael Sorkin] - while continuing to design buildings...Frank Gehry sketched, but his big meeting got Zoom-bombed...As Maya Lin put it, "We’re going to get really interesting creativity out of this." - New York Times

Jellyfish spotted in Venice as lockdown leaves canals clear: Andrea Mangoni, a biologist who works in Venice, captured mesmerising video of a jellyfish gliding between reflections of Venetian palaces...low traffic amid Italy's coronavirus restrictions had increased water transparency...His underwater video shows a range of other aquatic life in the city's unusually still canals. (via Reuters) - RTÉ.ie (Ireland)

Note: Pages will open in a new browser window. External news links are not endorsed by ArchNewsNow.com. Free registration may be required on some sites. Some pages may expire after a few days.
Today's News - Thursday, April 23, 2020

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tomorrow and Monday will be no-newsletter days. We'll be back Tuesday, April 28. 'Til then, stay well. Stay safe. Stay in!

● DeWolf takes a deep, deep dive into future-proofing Asian cities facing climate change and contagions, and talks to architects and urban planners re: what they're doing to "help save us from the worst - they are key players."

● Waite reports on the London borough of Croydon's "plans to ramp up infill housing with 374 homes over 24 sites" via its Brick By Brick housing development arm, and designed to the 10 One Planet Living principles by a goodly number of 'up-and-coming and established' practices.

● Welton talks to Turan Duda of Duda/Paine re: his firm's holistic community center in Winter Park, Florida, "the first of its kind that transforms the meaning of wellness" by merging alternative and traditional medicines.

● The American Academy of Arts and Letters' 2020 architecture award winners: Nader Tehrani/Cooper Union/NADAAA; Bade Stageberg Cox; Jonathan Tate/OJT (Office of Jonathan Tate); Kevin Lippert/Princeton Architectural Press; and John Ochsendorf/MIT.

● Next Wednesday, the American Planning Association launches NPC20 @ Home, a 3-day "digital conference that brings the spirit of the annual APA National Planning Conference directly to you."

Weekend diversions

● Because there's now a microsite for the show: Allen cheers "Eileen Gray" at the Bard Graduate Center in NYC that "reveals there's much still left to be said about the notoriously closed-off matron saint of Modernism, whose full breadth of practice we are just beginning to understand."

● How could we resist: Every Friday, locked-down museums "hold a Twitter showdown to find the world's creepiest exhibit" in weekly a weekly #curatorbattle (images not for queasy stomachs).

The show isn't online, but a number of thoughtful voices have weighed in on Koolhaas's "Countryside, The Future" at the Guggenheim - almost as good as being there:

● Karrie Jacobs thought it would be a show she "would love," but "a show that tackles this most fraught relationship should be a powerhouse: exhilarating and jaw-dropping. It offers little that is moving or visually satisfying" (the catalog is "much more satisfying").

● Zacks says that, while it may not be "wholly satisfying," it is "engaging enough to make the visitor want to keep going - the kind of show we should wish architects engaged in and museums sponsored constantly."

● Tarmy, on the other hand: "Anyone looking for profundity will likely come away disappointed" - it often takes "a bemused, wide-eyed approach to rural life that presupposes its audience is as ignorant as the urbane Koolhaas" (that's just for starters).
Brown's Q&A with Koolhaas and AMO's Samir Bantal re: "why rural communities need investment, and why Trump is on the wrong side of history when it comes to climate change."

A few minutes of Koolhaas showing CBS Sunday Morning around the show as he "contemplates the future of cities - and the countryside."

COVID-19 news continues (we just couldn't resist the last story!):

- BSA's Peterson delves into the Make/Shift collective in Boston that "exemplifies how architects can aid with civic mobilization during crises" and "demonstrates the latent potential of architects and allied professions to labor in the pursuit of a public good."

- Waite parses AJ's latest coronavirus survey of British architects that "paints a bleak picture. While architects are finding innovative ways to adapt to the 'new norm,' there are fears some firms may not outlive the crisis."

- David Thorpe takes a detailed dive into how "building a better world will also speed economic recovery. As we emerge from this global crisis we have an unprecedented opportunity to create a healthier world, a happier and fairer world, and a low carbon world. Here's why."

- The University of Melbourne's Laura Schuijers sees COVID-19 as "an opportunity to reset our environmental future - much will depend on what happens next - whether we choose to harness critical opportunities to promote individual and collective behavior change, and to foster rather than sideline the clean energy transition."

- Committee for Sydney CEO Metcalf: "Kimmelman described pandemics as 'anti-urban.' So should we all flee from our urban nests in a moment of global panic? Let me argue the case against. One reason to be skeptical about the death of the city is that it's been predicted for more than 100 years. Cities are here to stay. Urban living just changed."

- Merlan's text about and Seelie's photos of "the eerie silence of the Las Vegas Strip show the striking toll the coronavirus crisis has taken on fun and leisure" (and "a lone goose waddled down the street").

- Speaking of a goose: "12 photos of animals taking over towns and cities on lockdown: Ever seen ducks crossing a road in Paris? Or peacocks browsing the shops in Dubai?"

To subscribe to the free daily newsletter click here

Christopher DeWolf: Future Proof: Envisioning Asian Cities In A Climate Change-Impacted World: Soaring temperatures, rising sea levels, and contagions are three of the many threats facing Asia’s cities in the coming years - can architects and urban planners help save us from the worst? ...most places in Asia aren’t doing much to prepare for whatever calamity happens next...Here’s what’s happening - and could happen - around the region to get Asia ready for an unpredictable and increasingly hostile future...urban planning and architecture are key players... -- Ren Chao; Carol Marra/Ken Yeh/Marra + Yeh Architects; Kotchakorn Voraakhom/Landprocess; Nicholas Ho/HPA/Ho & Partners Architects; Wai Wing-yun/Spark Architects- Tatler Hong Kong

Richard Waite: Exclusive: Croydon plans to ramp up infill housing with 374 homes over 24 sites: Brick By Brick, Croydon Council’s arm’s length housing development vehicle, has released details of the second wave of its Small Sites Programme of housing on infill sites across the borough...Designed by a mix of 'up-and-coming and established' practices...Brick By Brick has pledged that...about half the homes delivered will be ‘affordable’...has also committed to the 10 One Planet Living principles... -- Hayhurst & Co; Gort Scott; Sarah Wigglesworth Architects; Mary Duggan Architects; Archio; Denizen Works; RUFF Architects; Threefold Architects; Pitman Tozer; Stitch Architects; Mae; Common Ground Architecture- The Architects' Journal (UK)
J. Michael Welton: A Holistic Community Center by Duda/Paine: Created for the community of Winter Park, a suburb of Orlando, it also merges alternative and traditional medicines - so pills and prescriptions may be part of the process, but so is looking at the human condition holistically...a facility that's the first of its kind - a community center that transforms the meaning of wellness...The idea is to empower the people in the community about their choices - and present them with a menu of options.- Architects + Artisans

American Academy of Arts and Letters announces 2020 architecture award winners -- Nader Tehrani/Cooper Union/NADAAA ($20,000 Arnold W. Brunner Memorial Prize); Bade Stageberg Cox; Jonathan Tate/OJT (Office of Jonathan Tate); Kevin Lippert/Princeton Architectural Press; John Ochsendorf/MIT ($10,000 each)- The Architect's Newspaper

American Planning Association Launches NPC20 @ Home: ...a digital conference that brings the spirit of the annual APA National Planning Conference directly to you, April 29 - May 1...Watch sessions live and catch the recordings of any you miss the following day in APA Learn! You'll have access to the recordings for a full year. - American Planning Association (APA)

Lila Allen: "Eileen Gray" at the Bard Graduate Center reveals there’s much still left to be said about the mother of Modernism: ...features freshly conserved furniture, never-before-exhibited photographs, and unpublished plans and drawings of her famous E-1027 villa...Together, they paint a portrait of the notoriously closed-off matron saint of Modernism, whose full breadth of practice we are just beginning to understand. thru July 12 -- Cloé Pitiot [Because the gallery is closed, BGC has launched a microsite dedicated to the exhibition.]- Metropolis Magazine

Museums hold Twitter showdown to find world's creepiest exhibit: Locked-down institutions go online for Yorkshire Museum's weekly 'curator battles': ...a weekly #curatorbattle...with museums from Germany, France, Canada and the USA responding. - Guardian (UK)
Karrie Jacobs: When Reality Upstages a Provocateur: "Countryside, The Future" at the Guggenheim, curated by Rem Koolhaas and AMO, may raise some timely questions, but it fails to live up to the moment: While it is encyclopedic in its aspirations, it is Wikipedic in its execution...a show that tackles this most fraught relationship should be a powerhouse: exhilarating and jaw-dropping...It offers little that is moving, or visually satisfying...The saving grace...the catalog is delightfully undersized [and] much more satisfying...[museum is] closed because of...COVID-19...[It] has been thoroughly upstaged by reality. Even a seasoned provocateur like Koolhaas can't compete. -- Troy Conrad Therrien; Irma Boom - Architect Magazine

Stephen Zacks: Countryside, unnatural nature: At the Guggenheim in New York...we are posed some unsettling questions: "Countryside, The Future," a near full-museum inquiry into everything that constitutes the non-city...a methodology of “big curiosity” in lieu of “big data.” The results, if not wholly satisfying, are engaging enough to make the visitor want to keep going...the kind of show we should wish architects engaged in and museums sponsored constantly, asking big questions that go far beyond the scope of the building project...speaks to how we make the world, for whom, and what are its consequences. An unfair gloss...might be that it fetishizes the non-urban...Rem Koolhaas's hypothesis: the disruptive effects of modernity on country life are every bit as radical as they are on the city. - Abitare

James Tarmy: Rem Koolhaas Makes the Case for Leaving Cities Behind: "Countryside, the Future" at the Guggenheim Museum discovers the joys of rural life - and that was before our current age of coronavirus: Anyone looking for profundity, or anything they can’t find on Wikipedia, will likely come away disappointed. [It] often takes a bemused, wide-eyed approach to rural life that presupposes its audience is as ignorant as the urbane Koolhaas...The format might work in a management consultant’s strategy deck, but a museum...should aim higher. And yet it’s notable that [it] exists at the Guggenheim at all...If the countryside is our future, what’s it doing in a museum? - Bloomberg News

Evan Nicole Brown: How Rem Koolhaas imagines a future beyond cities: Q&A with Koolhaas and Samir Bantal, the director of AMO re: "Countryside, the Future," why rural communities need investment, and why Trump is on the wrong side of history when it comes to climate change: "This is a significant moment for architects because it could be the first moment that clients can be convinced to allow architects to build much more intelligent architecture." -- Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA) - Fast Company / Co.Design

Rem Koolhaas contemplates the future of cities - and the countryside: The star-studded opening at New York's Guggenheim Museum...was a glitzy kickoff for a thought-provoking exhibition ["Countryside, The Future"], one with a few twists. It's a show at an art museum, with virtually no art, its subject - the countryside – being presented in the middle of a city...Koolhaas showed "Sunday Morning" around. -- OMA - CBS Sunday Morning

Ben Peterson: Health, safety, and provision: An inventory of adaptable spaces and sites, Make/Shift exemplifies how architects can aid with civic mobilization during crises: This working collective has been an opportunity for design professionals to offer and apply their knowledge in response to a crisis that just two months ago seemed distant...demonstrates the latent potential of architects...
and allied professions to labor in the pursuit of a public good...solutions are typically quick fixes...that respond to immediate challenges, often working with what exists or what is on hand. -- Dan Arons/Perkins Eastman; Mark Reed/Lab Architect Group; Jeff Galvin/Danielle Santos/Lavallee Brensinger Architects; Susan Blomquist/Payette; Nate Peters/Autodesk; John Swift/Buro Happold; Kristi Dowd/Stantec - ArchitectureBoston magazine (Boston Society of Architects/BSA)

Richard Waite: Tough decisions: AJ survey reveals further cuts as Coronavirus lockdown extended: ...second coronavirus survey shows the abrupt fall-off in work is biting hard. One in 10 of the anonymous respondents thinks their practice might not survive: ...results...paint a bleak picture...AJ’s data echoes the findings from the RIBA’s monthly Future Trends Survey...While architects are finding innovative ways to adapt to the ‘new norm’, there are fears some firms may not outlive the crisis.- The Architects’ Journal (UK)

David Thorpe: Guess what? Building a better world will also speed economic recovery: As we emerge from this global crisis we have an unprecedented opportunity to create a better world, a healthier world, a happier and fairer world, and a low carbon world. It turns out this also represents better value for money than not doing so: The International Energy Agency (IEA) is saying that the top three categories of investments for governments to consider in their economic stimulus packages are energy and resource efficiency, upgrading technology, and infrastructure. Here’s why:- The Fifth Estate (Australia)

Laura Schuijers, University of Melbourne: COVID-19 is an opportunity to reset our environmental future: ...there have already been short-term benefits...But we need to be careful about...claiming an environmental win...much will depend on what happens next...Rather than looking at 2020 as the manifestation of two separate crises, we can look at it [as] experiencing interconnected events...the simple answer to whether the pandemic will have long-term positive effects depends on whether we choose to harness critical opportunities to promote individual and collective behaviour change, and to foster rather than sideline the clean energy transition.- The Fifth Estate (Australia)

Gabriel Metcalf/Committee for Sydney: Coronavirus NSW: How we can still live in cities after social distancing: Michael Kimmelman described pandemics as “anti-urban”...So should we all flee from our urban nests in a moment of global panic? Let me argue the case against...people living in low density environments are also vulnerable...However, our psychological approach to cities is likely to change...The very framework of our cities may have to change in an era of pandemic. One reason to be sceptical about the death of the city is that it’s been predicted for more than 100 years...Cities are here to stay, although we will never quite view them quite the same. Urban living just changed.- Daily Telegraph (Australia)

Anna Merlan. Photographs by Tod Seelie: After the end of the world: the eerie silence of the Las Vegas Strip: The empty strip, shut down for the first time since the JFK assassination, shows the striking toll the coronavirus crisis has taken on fun and leisure: A stone-faced Caesar gestured from a pedestal as a lone goose waddled down the street...When the awful silence from the strip faded away, it was replaced with the hum of life in any major city right now: people riding bikes, walking dogs, cautiously getting groceries.- Guardian (UK)
12 photos of animals taking over towns and cities on lockdown: Ever seen ducks crossing a road in Paris? Or peacocks browsing the shops in Dubai? Wildlife, in some of the world's most human-populated places, is taking advantage of the empty streets by running... wild. - Country Living UK
Today's News - Tuesday, April 28, 2020

- Giovannini parses the 6 leading ideas among the 28 international "scrappy architects" (some impressive names) in the Citizens' Brigade to Save LACMA's "LACMA not LackMA" competition that "bettered" Zumthor's $1 billion design.

- Kamin cheers the (sort of) new Riverview Bridge for pedestrians and bikes over North Branch of the Chicago River - it's "an ingenious piece of urban infrastructure. This is infrastructure the way it should be - serving the needs of both utility and beauty."

- Welton x 2: He cheers HMA2's renovation of the 1980s Westport Library in Connecticut that flipped the library upside down, moving books to a lower level: "It's as much a community center as it is a library now," sayeth Henry Myerberg (or will be when it reopens).

- He talks to Paul Clemence re: his adventure photographing the buildings of Brasilia "that are still as visionary as the day they were designed. 'I was much more in awe than I imagined I would be.' Because this was Oscar Niemeyer, after all."

- Belogolovsky's Q&A with Thom Mayne re: "his fascination with the unfinished" and "an individual's role in architecture and the aesthetic originality of buildings": "What is missing today is the collective discourse; instead, so much energy is spent on criticizing the individual."

- Beam parses the alternatives the National Trust for Historic Preservation considered for flood-mitigation at Mies's Farnsworth House - a hydraulic-lift system won out ("Great architects select great sites. Sometimes great architects make mistakes").

- SOM's David Childs makes the case for preserving Zimmerman's MARABAR sculpture on the SOM-designed (1980s) National Geographic campus: "Washington is noted for its public art, and Marabar is one of its finest examples."

Deadlines & Winners all:

- Call for entries (no fee!): Kaizhou New City International Young Designer Competition open to designers, artists, teachers and students under 40 (cash prizes).

- Call for entries: ISO[NATION]: Home Office competition: "think creatively about work-life habit changes after the worldwide isolation/quarantine" - €5 entry fee "will be donated towards the World Health Organization COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund."

- An impressive shortlist of 8 U.S.- and 4 European-based firms in the running to design the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library in Medora, North Dakota.

- Eyefuls of the AJ Small Projects 2020 Award winner, along with the Sustainable Project and People's Choice winners.

- RAIC names Toronto-based Drew Adams as the 2020 Emerging Architect Award winner (formerly Young Architect Award) - he "stands apart for his drive to affect meaningful change through design."

- Kendall College of Art and Design Wege Prize 2020 Design Competition announces 5 international student
teams as finalists for their redesigns of "how we produce and consume," and now vie for $30,000 in cash prizes; presentations of proposals will be made online on May 29th.

COVID-19 news continues

- **Adele Peters** parses Perkins and Will's proposal to "turn out-of-use school buses into low-cost mobile COVID-19 test labs that could travel" to areas where they're most needed. "They're also freely sharing the design. 'It really is all about creating a solution, not owning it,'" sayeth P+W's Rob Goodwin.

- **NYC will** close 40 miles of streets "to provide more opportunity for recreation and expand space for pedestrians to keep social distance - the ultimate goal calls for 100 miles of 'open streets.' 'The real focus will be on the communities that are hardest hit,'" sayeth the mayor.

- **Lithuania's** capital Vilnius is handing over "vast open-air" public spaces - for free - to nearby cafes and restaurants that will allow physical distancing for customers during the lock-down (18 so far, more to come).

- **Sitz's Q&A** with NOMA President Kimberly Dowdell re: "how systemic disparities have exacerbated COVID-19's effect on communities of color - and how the pandemic's economic repercussions might impact the next generation of designers."

- **Places Journal** presents an impressive "six-part narrative survey of 74 design educators on the massive move to emergency remote instruction" ("Zoom University," mute buttons, establishing boundaries included).

- **The first** in a 3-part series offering deans and program chairs' "institutional responses to the COVID-19 crisis," and their "specific insight into how each institution is responding to the crisis."

- **Fixsen fixes** on how students are dealing with lockdown situation: "Students, frustrated by decreased interaction, lack of equipment, and diminished job and internship prospects, feel left in the lurch."

To subscribe to the free daily newsletter click here

Joseph Giovannini: Alternatives to Peter Zumthor's LACMA Design Are In: 28 international architects responded to a "Call for Ideas" issued...by the Citizens' Brigade to Save LACMA...The Brigade feels there are better, less expensive ways to build a new campus than the $1 Billion scheme now proposed...architects were asked to expand it [and] build enough galleries to accommodate the famous existing permanent collections, which the shrunked Zumthor plan now sends into storage...28 scrappy architects...working pro bono to come up with schemes that bettered Zumthor's design. It took [him] 12 years and more than $10 million...Brigadiers decided on six leading ideas... -- Coop Himmelb(l)au; Paul Murdoch Architects; TheeAe (The Evolved Architectural Eclectic); Reiser + Umemoto; Barkow Leibinger; Kaya Design - Interior Design magazine

Blair Kamin: Want some good news? This new Riverview Bridge for pedestrians over North Branch of the Chicago River: ...the need for other open spaces is crucial...Fortunately, an ingenious piece of urban infrastructure - a gently curving, ultralong pedestrian and bike bridge...is helping to meet that need...officially opened in late November, but only now, with the advent of spring and the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, is it proving its true worth...What makes [it] such a pleasure is...an unconventional design that takes many things into account, including...the trees and vegetation along the river's banks...This is infrastructure the way it should be...serving the needs of both utility and beauty. -- Andrew Metter; Epstein; Greg Osborne - Chicago Tribune

J. Michael Welton: A Library Renovation in Westport, Connecticut, by HMA2: Flexibility with a capital "F" was the key...Originally built in the 1980s, it was a
relic from another era...when libraries were dedicated only to books and those who loved them...strategy was to flip the library upside down and move its books to a 12,000 square-foot lower level...Public space was expanded on the upper level - with a central area that’s like a browser for all activities...“It’s as much a community center as it is a library now,” he says. “It’s a family room, a living room, a concert hall, an exhibition hall, a café, and a recording studio”... -- Henry Myerberg - Architects + Artisans

J. Micahel Welton: Brasilia at 60, in Photos by Paul Clemence: Work began on it in 1956...The results are a Le Corbusier-inspired array of International Style buildings of the future...“They were planning with very utopian goals and ideas,” Clemence says...It’s also a photographer’s delight...He was shooting buildings that are still as visionary as the day they were designed...“I was much more in awe than I imagined I would be.” Because this was Oscar Niemeyer, after all. -- Lúcio Costa; Joaquim Cardozo - Architects + Artisans

Vladimir Belogolovksy: Q&A: Pritzker laureate Thom Mayne on his fascination with the unfinished: ...talks about an individual's role in architecture and the aesthetic originality of buildings: “We all are interested in innovation, but all of us have individual paths. What is missing today is the collective discourse; instead, so much energy is spent on criticising the individual.” - STIR (See Think Inspire Reflect)

Alex Beam: Rising out of the deep: Mies van der Rohe’s Farnsworth House eyes a flood-mitigation idea involving hydraulic lifts: Great architects select great sites for their designs...Sometimes great architects make mistakes...Mies famously elevated the [house]...but it could not save it from the floods...Today, even worse problems bedevil the magnificent [house] and its current owner, the National Trust for Historic Preservation...the Fox River floods more often and more heavily than in years past...NTHP opted for...what it hopes will be a game-
saving solution...a hydraulic-lift system...will raise the house 8 feet... -- Robert Silman Associates, ArchitectureBoston magazine (Boston Society of Architects/BSA)

SOM Chairman Emeritus David Childs Urges Preservation of MARABAR: [He] wrote the following letter to Washington, DC’s Historic Preservation Review Board, asking...to reconsider...plans that would demolish the sculpture: "When I, as a design partner at Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, was commissioned by the National Geographic in the early 1980s, for an addition on their campus...we recommended the commission of a piece of public art by Elyn Zimmerman...upon the conclusion of her presentation...the chairman of the Geographic’s Board led a standing ovation for Elyn’s design...Washington is noted for its public art, and Marabar is one of its finest examples.” - The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF)

Call for entries (no fee!): Kaizhou New City International Young Designer Competition: take a micro approach and small-scale intervention...propose new perspectives, new stages and new focus to enrich daily life; open to young designers, artists, teachers and students...under 40 years old; cash prizes; registration deadline: July 31 (submissions due August 31)- Kaizhou New City Management Committee of Deyang City / Urban Environment Design (UED) Magazine

Call for entries: #mOOO3 ISO[NATION]: HOME OFFICE competition (international): think creatively about work-life habit changes after the worldwide isolation/quarantine; €5 donation to enter will be donated towards the World Health Organization COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund; registration deadline: May 22 (submissions due May 24)- mOOO

Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library group considering 12 architecture firms for project: ...before it picks up to three to submit fleshed-out designs for a formal competition...Each [of up to three finalists] will be paid $50,000 and reimbursed for travel to the site. -- Bohlin Cywinski Jackson; Diller Scofidio [DS+R] + Renfro; Ennead; Studio Libeskind; Selldorf Architects; MASS Design Group; Studio Gang; Lake | Flato; Henning Larsen; Renzo Piano Building Workshop; Snøhetta; Wingårdhs - Grand Forks Herald (North Dakota)

AJ Small Projects 2020 winner revealed: Martin Edwards Architects’ retrofit and extension of a house in North Wales for its wheelchair-using owner has been named winner...Sustainable Project winner to The Cass’ Unit 7 for its CASS Studio prototype...People’s Choice award...was won by BÜF Architecture for Ellis House...- The Architects’ Journal (UK)

RAIC announces 2020 Emerging Architect award winner [formerly Young Architect Award]: Drew Adams, MRAIC, a Toronto-based architect who integrates a passion for sustainability with excellence in built design...An Associate at LGA Architectural Partners, Drew Adams stands apart for his drive to affect meaningful change through design. - Canadian Architect

International Student Teams Redesign How We Produce and Consume: Five Finalist Teams Announced in Wege Prize 2020 Design Competition from Seven Countries, 13 Academic Institutions: ...lauded for real impact and audacious, transformative ideas that promise a better future...teams of finalists - from Ghana to Costa Rica to Grand Rapids - will present their ideas on May 29th to a global online audience, for a $30,000.00 purse of cash prizes. - Kendall College of
Adele Peters: We could turn out-of-use school buses into low-cost mobile COVID-19 test labs: Designers have made a simple kit that makes a conversion easy. “It’s almost like the Ikea for COVID testing”: ...mobile labs that could travel around cities and rural areas bringing tests where they’re most needed, going beyond what’s currently available...designers are now beginning to talk with potential partners about retrofitting buses for a pilot. They’re also freely sharing the design. “It really is all about creating a solution, not owning it”... -- Mariana Giraldo/Rob Goodwin/Perkins and Will- Fast Company / Co.Design

NYC to Close 40 Miles of Streets to Give Walkers More Space: ...to provide more opportunity for recreation and expand space for pedestrians to keep social distance...The plan’s ultimate goal calls for 100 miles of “open streets,” largely near parks, as well as widened sidewalks and additional permanent bike lanes...Mayor de Blasio had resisted the proposal, saying it would create challenges for law enforcement...street closures would be monitored by a partnership between police and neighborhood organizations...“The real focus will be on the communities that are hardest hit.”- Bloomberg News

Lithuanian capital to be turned into vast open-air cafe: Vilnius gives public space to bars and cafes to allow physical distancing during lockdown: “Plazas, squares, streets - nearby cafes will be allowed to set up outdoor tables free of charge this season...measure should help cafes to “open up, work, retain jobs and keep Vilnius alive”...18 public spaces...have been opened up for outdoor cafes and restaurants, city hall said, and more are expected to be added as the summer progresses.- Guardian (UK)

Miriam Sitz: Interview with NOMA President Kimberly Dowdell: The Chicago-based architect talks about how systemic disparities have exacerbated COVID-19's effect on communities of color - and how the pandemic’s economic repercussions might impact the next generation of designers: "We lost nearly a generation of architects in 2008 and 2009, and we don’t want to see that happen again...we look to our local chapters to rally around the emerging professionals who are most vulnerable...We have to be intentional about investing in young people from under-resourced communities." -- HOK; National Organization of Minority Architects; Maurice Cox- Architectural Record

Field Notes on Pandemic Teaching: a six-part narrative survey of 74 design educators on the massive move to emergency remote instruction: Some challenges are practical and logistical; others are more conceptual, political, and even philosophical... -- Reinhold Martin/Columbia GSAPP; Susan Piedmont-Palladino/Virginia Tech; Barbara Penner/Bartlett School of Architecture, UCL; Harriet Harriss/Pratt Institute; Hélène Frichot/University of Melbourne, Australia; Richard J. Williams/University of Edinburgh; Marshall Brown/Princeton University; Sarah A. Lappin/Queens University Belfast; Jonathan Massey/Taubman College; Ifáki Alday/Tulane University; etc.- Places Journal

School of Architecture Deans Voice Institutional Responses to the COVID-19 Crisis, Part I: ...specific insight into how each institution is responding to the crisis...Part 2 will cover how COVID-19 has impacted traditional end-of-the-year activities like final reviews, thesis exhibitions, and other events. Part 3 will focus
Anna Fixsen: As Learning Moves Online, Design Students Across the Nation Grapple With Uncertainty: Students, frustrated by decreased interaction, lack of equipment, and diminished job and internship prospects, feel left in the lurch: …encountering unexpected hurdles, especially in navigating a discipline that straddles digital and physical making…students have implored their schools to reduce their tuition to compensate for what they feel is not the education they paid for…It’s still too soon to assess how COVID-19 will impact the prospects of the next generation... - Architectural Digest
Today’s News - Wednesday, April 29, 2020

- **Parman pens** an appreciation of architectural historian and journalist Sally Byrne Woodbridge, 89, whose passing last November went largely unnoticed: "As a longtime correspondent of Progressive Architecture, she kept the Bay Region's architects visible nationally," and "explained the region to itself - hers was a cosmopolitan, even existentialist sensibility."

- **Goering** delves into how investing in flood prevention now "could save lives and avert economic disaster," and how the World Resources Institute's Aqueduct Floods global online water risk assessment and mapping tool can "evaluate the risks from flooding, and look at how possible interventions might work."

- **Demetriou** brings us eyefuls of Jun Aoki and Tezzo Nishizawa's "contemporary, yet respectful renovation" of Kyoto's landmark Kyocera Museum of Art that adds "a fresh, modern and minimalist edge to the original 1933 building," and "a lighter, more open feel."

- **The "imaginative Harry Weese pulled out all the stops" for a 1961 bank building in Columbus, Indiana, but now its future is uncertain - if it "doesn't survive, the 'Athens of the Prairie' will lose part of its architectural heritage" (+ how other notable buildings in the city are faring - good and bad news).**

- **TCLF's Birnbaum** highlights the sad - or potentially sad - fate of a number of significant landscapes and landscape features designed by women - "particularly notable" in 2020, the centennial of women achieving the right to vote in the U.S.

- **Curbed editor-in-chief** Kelsey Keith pens her final Editor's Note: "Farewell - for now: I woke up pinching myself every day for more than five years because I got to work with my dream team" (but she'll be back as executive producer for Season 2 of Nice Try! this fall!).

Jane's Walk Festival season in the age of lock-down:

- **MAS is offering** Jane's Walk NYC 2020 (from Home!) - "a reimagining of the festival that we hope brings the same joy and inspiration you've come to expect from this annual celebration" (through May 3).

- **Micallef** outlines how Toronto's Jane's Walks - and others - "changed course" when "physical distancing has made the core experience of walking together a non-starter. It's like we're learning how to walk all over again, physically distant, but still engaged with our city."

- **See what** Jane's Walk 2020 is doing (or not) in your country and city via JanesWalk.org.

COVID-19 news continues (ending on a do-good note)

- **Davidson** explains how we can "rethink public space after the pandemic. Flexibility has become one of the most important tools - there's plenty a city can accomplish, given enough ingenuity and tape" ("the low-tech weapon in COVID-19-induced urbanism," along with traffic cones, spray paint).

- **Muggah & Ermacora** offer their take on "redesigning" COVID-19 cities that are "key to leading national and global recovery. We identified nine trends that are likely to play out - expect to see new urban design standards" (some few silver linings: more pedestrian space and a boom in urban farming).
Michael Murphy of MASS Design Group, and Ken Greenberg talk about "how to change the brick-and-mortar world for better human health" in a post-pandemic world.

Silverstein considers "how Covid-19 could remake mixed-use senior living development" that "will be hit the hardest by the new normal. The social drivers that made it popular will likely remain. The execution will have to change."

Parman "on listening to a pandemic - to stop it, everything had to stop. As it did, people noticed. It flips on its head our idea that nature bows to us. The pandemic says no. We need to listen and act."

Anthropology professor Mattern takes a deep (deep!) dive into the ways that we use machines to listen to the city: "How we listen to the city is as important as what we are listening for" as Covid-19 "reshapes the soundscape. These new sounds and silences are so affecting because cities have long been defined by their din."

Designers and artisans have donated to The Invisible Collection's online charity auction - with all proceeds going to charities supporting emergency services in Paris, London, and New York (bids close May 4).

To subscribe to the free daily newsletter click here

John Parman: In appreciation of Sally Byrne Woodbridge, 89: The death in late November 2019 of architectural historian and journalist...went unnoticed even in the San Francisco Chronicle. As a longtime correspondent of Progressive Architecture, [she] kept the Bay Region's architects visible nationally...As the main curator-compiler of a series of guides to its architecture, she explained the region to itself...Coming of age in Paris and Princeton, hers was a cosmopolitan, even existentialist sensibility ..As she observed and wrote, the region was in constant ferment, viewed from within. -- Bernard Maybeck; John Galen Howard-The Architect's Newspaper

Laurie Goering: Flood prevention could bring 'huge' payoff as global risks rise: ...investing now in protection could bring huge savings, researchers say: India could save about $250 per $1 spent on protection...[World Resources Institute's] Aqueduct Floods, a global online water risk assessment and mapping tool....allows governments, companies, aid agencies and others to evaluate the combined risks from coastal and river flooding around the world, and look at how possible interventions might work..."Richer countries...also need to be taking action"...new tool provided insights into how investments in flood defences could save lives and avert economic disaster.- Thomson Reuters Foundation

Danielle Demetriou: Kyoto's landmark Kyocera Museum of Art unveils its contemporary renovation: One of Japan's key cultural landmarks...is preparing to reopen to the public following a contemporary, yet respectful renovation by architects Jun Aoki and Tezzo Nishizawa: The update has added a fresh, modern and minimalist edge to the original 1933 building, designed by Kenjiro Maeda...original materials still shine... Yet contemporary touches create a lighter, more open feel....- Wallpaper*

Innovative bank building faces uncertain future: An iconic Columbus, Indiana, building designed as an Irwin Union Bank branch office...has closed its doors...The [1961] one-of-its kind building by Harry Weese...the most prolific commercial and public building designer in Columbus during the 1950s and 1960s, drew up a provocative vision for the banking center...The imaginative Weese pulled out all the stops...If the Eastbrook building doesn’t survive, the "Athens of the Prairie" - as Columbus is known - will lose part of its architectural heritage. -- Eero Saarinen; Fisher and Spillman; Paul Kennon; Carlos Jimenez;
Deborah Berke - The Republic (Columbus, Indiana)

Charles A. Birnbaum: A Red-Letter Year for Women, but Not for Their Art: There will always be threats to significant designed landscapes and landscape features (the latter include monuments, memorials, and site-specific installations), but in 2020, which marks the centennial of women achieving the right to vote in the United States, the threats to works by women are particularly notable. -- Ellen Shipman; Clermont Lee; Elyn Zimmerman; David Childs/Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM)- The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF)

Kelsey Keith: Farewell - for now: Curbed editor-in-chief shares her final Editor's Notes: Hello - and welcome to a dispatch I didn’t expect to be writing when I returned from maternity leave in March...Here’s the thing: I woke up pinching myself every day for more than five years because I got to work with my dream team...Indulge me in reminiscing about some personal favorites from the Curbed archive these past five years...I’ll be back as executive producer for Season 2 of Nice Try!, which will air in fall 2020.- Curbed

Jane’s Walk NYC 2020 (from Home!): Celebrating Jane Jacobs and New York City: ...a reimagining of the festival that we hope brings the same joy and inspiration you’ve come to expect from this annual celebration... through Sunday, May 3...- Municipal Art Society of New York (MAS)

Shawn Micallef: Walking together is a source of stress under COVID-19. So Jane’s Walks - and others - changed course: Physical distancing has made the core experience of a Jane’s Walk - walking together - a non-starter...May 1 they’ll have between 20 and 30 online and virtual walks ready for the revamped festival in three different formats...MapinHood is a free “personalized pedestrian navigation” app set to launch within two weeks...Heritage Toronto [tours] done from home or while walking...It’s like we’re learning how to walk all over again, physically distant, but still engaged with our city. -- Architecture Conservancy of Ontario- OurWindsor.ca (Canada)

Jane’s Walk 2020 - by country & city- JanesWalk.org

Justin Davidson: How Do We Rethink Public Space After the Pandemic? Start With Rolls of Tape: This is a chance to test new ideas for the urban fabric without expensive build-outs: ...state and local governments may not have the money to throw at long-term plans and vast fixed infrastructure costs. Managing streets and public spaces, though, requires little more than tape, traffic cones, spray paint, and a sense of urgency...As a post-lockdown city edges into view, we’ll have to develop new ways to use the places we share...Prodded by fear and guided by tape, we will develop new social dances...Flexibility...has become one of the most important tools of governance...there’s plenty a city can accomplish, given enough ingenuity and tape.- New York Magazine
Robert Muggah & Thomas Ermacora: Redesigning The COVID-19 City: The outbreak has revealed how urban centers are the front and last lines of defense against outbreaks. They are also the key to leading national and global recovery. Decisions made in the coming months will have generational consequences. How are cities expected to cope? We identified nine trends that are likely to play out. Expect to see new urban design standards. The most successful cities will design-in principles of resilience, sustainability and regenerative economics alongside a radical intolerance for inequality. - NPR / National Public Radio

Cities That Heal: How The Coronavirus Pandemic Could Change Urban Design: Can we design cities that heal? We talk with an architect and urban planner about how to change the brick-and-mortar world for better human health. -- Michael Murphy/MASS Design Group; Ken Greenberg/Greenberg Consultants-WBUR Boston Public Radio/NPR

Jack Silverstein: How Covid-19 Could Remake Mixed-Use Senior Living Development: Mixed-use communities became a popular living arrangement for seniors - thus making it an attractive development opportunity. But the pandemic threatens to change the equations that made that product work, while presenting opportunities for those who see how mixed-use might change. I think mixed-use will be hit the hardest by the new normal...and face the greatest transformation...in the near term, the risks outweigh the rewards...The social drivers that made mixed-use senior housing popular - the desire for human connection and multi-faceted construction - will likely remain. The execution will have to change. - Senior Housing News

John Parman: On Listening To A Pandemic: The rolling nature of this catastrophe...and to stop it, everything had to stop. As it did, people noticed - despite their misery - how quickly the air cleared up...The pandemic gives us insight into what life could be like...that we might find a new operating system beyond...better suited to our planet...a crisis involving all of humanity demands a coordinated, cross-humanity response...a direct, planetary reflection of our health as a species. It flips on its head our idea that nature bows to us. The pandemic says no. We need to listen and act. - Arcade (Seattle)

Shannon Mattern: Urban Auscultation; or, Perceiving the Action of the Heart: How we listen to the city is as important as what we are listening for: Covid-19 reshapes the soundscape wherever it goes. As physicians monitor the rattle of afflicted lungs, the rest of us listen for acoustic cues that our city is convalescing...These new sounds and silences are so affecting because cities have long been defined by their din...In a world defined by climate crisis, surveillance capitalism, and the periodic collapse of global health, we need to think as much about a city's resonance as we do its resilience and livability. - Places Journal

Designers and Artisans Donate Iconic Works for The Invisible Collection’s Charity Auction: All Proceeds to Charities Supporting Emergency Services in Paris, London and New York: 25 iconic works from interior designers and artisans across the globe...donated with great kindness, spontaneity and enthusiasm...proceeds to the Fondation de France in France, the National Emergencies Trust in the United Kingdom and Feeding America in the United States. Final bids will be announced on Monday May 4 at 1pm NYC / 6pm
Today's News - Thursday, April 30, 2020

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tomorrow and Monday will be no-newsletter days. We'll be back Tuesday, May 5. In the meantime, we could have filled Today's News with nothing but COVID-19 news - but the weekend is coming, so we decided some diversions would be in order. 'Til then, stay well. Stay safe. Stay in!

- **ANN feature:** Weinstein cheers Impelluso & Fusaro's "Villas and Gardens of the Renaissance": What better escapist yet relevant book could an architect desire? The splendors of Italian Renaissance architecture illuminate our Dark Age and transform eye candy into brain food.

- **On Monday,** May 4, 6:30pm EST, Diana Darling and Pratt are hosting an online memorial Bill Menking, co-founder and editor-in-chief of The Architect's Newspaper and Pratt professor, with remarks by: Bergdoll, Darling, Hanrahant, Harriss, Iovine, Ivy, Weisz, Wines, and many, many more.

- **Belogolovsky's** Q&A with Beijing-based Li Hua of TAO (Trace Architecture Office): "I try to find my own path, to establish my own history. It is all about questioning and testing - there will always be new questions and new alternatives."

- **A cautionary tale:** Zaha Hadid Architects' servers attacked by hackers, who demanded a ransom, but the firm had everything backed up - ZHA "warns other companies that such breaches may become more common with staffs working from home."

- **Kimmelman's** next 3 virtual tours with exquisite photos by Vincent Tullo (out from behind a paywall!): He tours the sleek "Mad Men"-era buildings of Park Avenue with Annabelle Selldorf: "The Landmarks Preservation Commission can only protect so many buildings, which means some children are left behind, and Union Carbide is one of them. But it's a loss."

- **He tours** the "Art Deco marvel" that is Rockefeller Center with the historian Daniel Okrent, who wrote a book about it - a floor piped for nitrous oxide, a.k.a. laughing gas "to entice dentists," and how the Rockefellers were "no match for a speakeasy business" included.

- **He learns** about the "hidden feats that built New York's towering skyscrapers" because of "the ingenuity of structural engineers" from Guy Nordenson, himself one of the best (plan to spend time with all 3 tours!).

Weekend diversions - films, free online + Page-turners:

- **Bradshaw** parses Moore and Gibbs' "Planet of the Humans" that "takes a pop at green, liberal A-listers" like Al Gore & Bill McKibben as "a pompous and complacent high-priest caste of the environmental movement, who are shilling for a fossil fuel industry that has sneakily taken them over" ("but doesn't dare criticize Greta Thunberg").

- **Stokes,** who focuses on energy, climate and environmental politics, calls "Planet of the Humans" a "gift to Big Oil - it's a nihilistic take, riddled with errors" and "peddles falsehoods. I will lay out the case for why this film should have stayed on the cutting room floor."

- **Milman reports** on the climate experts who are consider "Planet of the Humans" to be "dangerous" and "full of misinformation" that "trades in debunked fossil fuel industry talking points" - and want it taken offline (the filmmakers consider it a "full-frontal assault on our sacred cows").
● "A Machine To Live In" is "an impressionistic portrait" of Brasilia that "boasts a wealth of gorgeous visuals" of Niemeyer's "awe-inspiring buildings" and "startlingly conveys the beauty and coldness of these structures, depicting a city both ahead of its time and in disarray."

● Ciampaglia considers "Building Notre Dame" on PBS to be "a welcome distraction in these pandemic times" that "will leave you with a new appreciation for this marvel of engineering, design, and ingenuity," and "inspires hope that this fragile icon will be rebuilt and restored to stand for another 800 years" (with link to full episode).

● The best 22 minutes we've spent in a long time: Buster Keaton in "One Week" (1920) - h/t to Esto's Erica Stoller: "All architects should see this early silent film about a pre-fab house project gone awry - the end is the best part."

● Medina parses Sarkis, Salgueiro Barrio & Kozlowski's tome "The World as an Architectural Project" that "dives into 50 planet-scale proposals from some of the most interesting architectural thinkers of the 20th century. Not content with despoiling cities and landscapes alone, architects would claim the entirety of the planet as their sandbox!"

● Wainwright cheers "Eileen Gray, Designer and Architect," a book about "the design genius who scared the pants off Corbusier," and "reveals how her sensuous, surreal and sometimes mystical work defied categorization and convention."

● Welton's Q&A with Stoppard, who "offers the promise of sunshine and youth" in "Pools": "What could be more appealing in a time of pandemic than a leisurely tour of the world of summer and swimming pools?" (luscious images!).

● Mortice reports on "The Landscape Architect's Guidelines for Construction Contract Administration Services" - the "long-planned guide" is "the result of input from many landscape architects."

COVID-19 news continues

● Yale's Phil Bernstein: "It's too early to be making nuanced arguments about the future. So, here are 10 first thoughts about how our profession may be impacted, and potentially transformed."

● Lubell parses how "past pandemics changed the design of cities," and offers "6 ways COVID-19 could do the same. Let's learn from this tragedy. Let's find the silver lining" (and he does).

● Adele Peters gets Mike Lydon's take on "how cities are reshaping streets to prepare for life after lockdown," from Milan, Berlin, and Paris, to Brussels, Budapest, and Oakland, California.

● Russell on MASS Design Group's project to adapt NYC's Mount Sinai Hospital "on the fly - to protect health workers as rooms and suites were drastically transformed" - and now "an online case study, available for free - architects are beginning to assemble a roadmap to the future as health care runs as fast as it can into uncharted territory."

To subscribe to the free daily newsletter click here

ANN feature: Norman Weinstein: Book Review: "Villas and Gardens of the Renaissance" by Lucia Impelluso with photography by Dario Fusaro: What better escapist yet relevant book could an architect desire? The splendors of Italian Renaissance architecture illuminate our Dark Age and transform eye candy into brain food.- ArchNewsNow.com

Online Memorial for Professor William (Bill) Menking, co-founder and editor-in-chief of The Architect's Newspaper and Professor at Pratt Institute School of Architecture. May 4th at 6:30 PM (EST), live-streamed via Facebook. Remarks by: Barry Bergdoll, Diana Darling, Thomas Hanrahan, Harriet Harriss, Julie Iovine, Robert Ivy, Rob Rogers, Joel Sanders, Ken Saylor, Michael Webb, Claire Weisz, James Wines, etc.- Pratt Institute School of Architecture
Vladimir Belogolovsky: “I See My Work as Autobiographical”: Q&A with Li Hua of TAO [Trace Architecture Office]: “I try to find my own path, to establish my own history.” What would you say are the main intentions of your architecture? “I don’t start my designs with preconceptions. It is all about questioning and testing.” What new questions would you raise? “For me, the new question is always this - Then what? What is next? What are our limits? ...we will never be satisfied because there will always be new questions and new alternatives.” -- Universal Architecture Studio (UAS); Yung Ho Chang - ArchDaily

Hackers Broke Into Zaha Hadid Architects’ Servers and Demanded Ransom for the Return of Stolen Data: The firm warns other companies that such breaches may become more common with staffs working from home: Fortunately, the security breach was less serious than it could have been, as the stolen data had been previously backed up. - artnet News

Michael Kimmelman: Classic Skyscrapers Define New York. Take a Virtual Tour: The epitome of the ‘Mad Men’ era, the sleek midcentury buildings of Park Avenue glimmer. Our critic strolls with Annabelle Selldorf: She proposed we “meet”...on the pink granite plaza in front of the Seagram Building...”The Landmarks Preservation Commission can only protect so many buildings, which means some children are left behind, and Union Carbide is one of them. But it’s a loss...Citicorp Center...” that awkward, 45-degree angle on the skyline and that crazy cantilever. I still find the gesture of the angle loud and brash.” -- Selldorf Architects; Mies van der Rohe; Philip Johnson; Walter Gropius; Pietro Belluschi; Emery Roth & Sons; Gordon Bunshaft/Natalie Griffin de Blois/Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Norman Foster; William LeMessurier; Hugh Stubbins; Hideo Sasaki - New York Times

Michael Kimmelman: Rockefeller Center’s Art Deco Marvel: A Virtual Tour: When the complex opened in the 1930s, some mocked it. Now it’s a symbol of New York’s glory. Our critic chats with the historian Daniel Okrent: Okrent happens to have written the book on Rockefeller Center: “Great Fortune: The Epic of Rockefeller Center.” He suggested we “meet” on Fifth Avenue, between 49th and 50th Streets, at the entrance to the Channel Gardens...what happened with the triumphal boulevard? ”No matter how powerful the Rockefellers were, in the end even they were no match for the speakeasy business.” -- Raymond Hood; Edward Durell Stone; Donald Deskey - New York Times

Michael Kimmelman: The Hidden Feats That Built New York’s Towering Skyscrapers: The ingenuity of engineers helped build landmarks like Black Rock and the new supertalls...a virtual tour with Guy Nordenson: ...structural engineers, practical poets of often towering imagination and import, have figured out how to scale those heights. “For me, Seagram is the most remarkable high-
rise in New York...Fred Severud...The most creative engineer of his time...Structurally, Black Rock is an important precursor to the Twin Towers." -- Isamu Noguchi; Buckminster Fuller; Eero Saarinen; Eero Saarinen; Phyllis Lambert; Mies van der Rohe; Philip Johnson John Burgee; Charles Luckman; McKim, Mead & White; Frank Kornacker; Paul Weidlinger; Leslie Robertson; Rafael Viñoly; Ahmad Rahimian/WSP; Bill Baker/SOM - New York Times

Peter Bradshaw: "Planet of the Humans" - contrarian eco-doc from the Michael Moore stable: Jeff Gibbs’ film...takes a pop at green, liberal A-listers such as Al Gore - but doesn’t dare criticise Greta Thunberg: Bill McKibben, Van Jones, Robert F Kennedy Jr are attacked...as a pompous and complacent high-priest caste of the environmental movement, who are shilling for a fossil fuel industry that has sneakily taken them over...makes a refreshingly sceptical case...suggesting that unfettered capitalism...is also what is leading us to the cliff edge...Most chillingly of all...appears to suggest that there is no cure for any of this...a little lamely...has no clear lesson or moral, other than the need to take a fiercely critical look at the environmental establishment. Well, it’s always valuable to re-examine a sacred cow. - Guardian (UK)

Leah C. Stokes: Michael Moore produced a film about climate change that’s a gift to Big Oil: "Planet of the Humans" deceives viewers about clean energy and climate activists: The film...is not the climate message we’ve all been waiting for - it’s a nihilistic take, riddled with errors about clean energy and climate activism. With very little evidence, it claims that renewables are disastrous and that environmental groups are corrupt...Given the film’s loose relationship to facts, I’m not even sure it should be classified as a documentary...it peddles falsehoods...As a scholar...I will lay out the case for why this film should have stayed on the cutting room floor. -- Josh Fox - Vox.com

Oliver Milman: Climate experts call for 'dangerous' Michael Moore film to be taken down: "Planet of the Humans"...is 'full of misinformation' says one distributor: ...documentary that takes aim at the supposed hypocrisy of the green movement is...Describing itself as a “full-frontal assault on our sacred cows”, the film argues that electric cars and solar energy are unreliable and rely upon fossil fuels... has provoked a furious reaction from scientists and campaigners...“trades in debunked fossil fuel industry talking points”...Climate activist Bill McKibben, one of the targets for the film: “I am used to ceaseless harassment and attack from the fossil fuel industry...It does hurt more to be attacked by others who think of themselves as environmentalists.” - Guardian (UK)

"A Machine To Live In": Brasilia, through the highly-subjective lens of Yoni Goldstein and Meredith Zielke: ...an impressionistic portrait that evokes the city’s spiritual character - an ambitious undertaking...a generally wandering, meandering air. The result is a fitfully fascinating abstraction that requires patience...hybrid documentary boasts a wealth of gorgeous visuals - many of them courtesy of...awe-inspiring buildings... [it] caters to those who enjoy a little cinematic provocation...startlingly conveys the beauty and coldness of these structures, depicting a city both ahead of its time and in disarray...there’s something entrancing...Visions du Réel Festival, thru May 2 -- Oscar Niemeyer - Screen Daily / Screen International

Dante A. Ciampaglia: "Building Notre Dame" Premieres on PBS: A chance to virtually visit the world’s most famous Gothic cathedral - and see how it was
created - is a welcome distraction in these pandemic times...touches on the 2019 fire in its opening and final moments...will leave you with a new appreciation for this marvel of engineering, design, and ingenuity. And it inspires hope that this fragile icon will be rebuilt and restored to stand for another 800 years. -- Eugène Viollet-le-Duc; Philippe Villeneuve; Ken Follett- Architectural Record

Buster Keaton in "One Week" (1920, 22 min.): Buster and Sybil exit a chapel as newlyweds. Among the gifts is a portable house you easily put together in one week.- Internet Archive

Samuel Medina: Is No Problem Too Big for Architects to Tackle? "The World as an Architectural Project" dives into 50 planet-scale proposals from some of the most interesting architectural thinkers of the 20th century: To the bien-pensant commentator...contemporary architecture is an implacable force of banalization, and [the book] would seem to play right into this characterization: Not content with despoiling cities and landscapes alone, architects would claim the entirety of the planet as their sandbox!...according to Hashim Sarkis and Roi Salgueiro Barrio with Gabriel Kozlowski, derives its cohesion from two prompts: “What does architecture do for the world? And...what does the world do for architecture?”- Metropolis Magazine

Oliver Wainwright: A €22m chair? Eileen Gray, the design genius who scared the pants off Corbusier: Her ravishing interiors shocked Paris, thrilled the avant-garde and gave the world its most expensive chair. But the fast-living aristocrat wasn’t just overlooked - Le Corbusier actually vandalised her work naked: "Eileen Gray, Designer and Architect" a substantial new book...published to accompany the exhibition t the Bard Graduate Center Gallery in New York...paints a complex picture of Gray...as a creator of strange, haunting interiors, unrealised designs of housing for the homeless and the author of an animal-themed ballet...[book] reveals how her sensuous, surreal and sometimes mystical work defied categorisation and convention...she spent the 1930s and 40s designing unrealised hypothetical projects, mostly public...all driven by a desire to extend the privileged domain of architecture to the many...If only she’d had more chances to realise them.- Guardian (UK)

J. Michael Welton: Picturing Life at the Swimming Pool: What could be more appealing in a time of pandemic than a leisurely tour of the world of summer and swimming pools? ...Lou Stoppard offers the promise of sunshine and youth in...“Pools,” along with some of the best swimming-pool photography possible - some of it reaching back to the 1930s.- Architects + Artisans

Zach Mortice: Build it Right: "The Landscape Architect’s Guidelines for Construction Contract Administration Services": A long-planned guide on construction documents for landscape architects is aimed at experienced and emerging professionals alike... the result of input from many landscape architects- Landscape Architecture Magazine / American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Phil Bernstein Shares Ten Thoughts on the Future of Practice: It’s too early to be making nuanced arguments about the future...So, here are 10 first thoughts about how our profession may be impacted, and potentially transformed...Choose two or three as prompts to consider the future once the
crisis has passed...The duration and depth of the downturn will determine the potency of the ideas suggested [here]. -- Yale School of Architecture - Architectural Record

Sam Lubell: Past pandemics changed the design of cities. Six ways COVID-19 could do the same: It’s shaking loose notions of what is “normal” in a field still employing many of the same techniques it did a century ago. And it’s pushing forward promising but still emerging currents, from prefabrication to telecommuting...Let’s learn from this tragedy. Let’s find the silver lining. -- modular construction; adaptive reuse; lightweight fabric construction; Healthy Building Movement; The town square, reconsidered- Los Angeles Times

Adele Peters: How cities are reshaping streets to prepare for life after lockdown: How to prepare for a future where people can’t crowd into trains and buses? Make sure you get more bikers - not more drivers: Milan is beginning to transform 22 miles of local streets, adding temporary bike lanes and wider sidewalks...In Berlin, some parking spots have also become pop-up bike lanes. Paris is fast-tracking long-distance bike lanes that connect suburbs to the city center...Brussels city center will become a priority zone for people on bikes and on foot...if subways and buses can’t be as full as usual...biking and walking will need to fill the gap. But it’s also a way to accelerate plans to cut car use that were already underway... -- Mike Lydon/Street Plans- Fast Company

James S. Russell: MASS Design Group Offers Guidance for Adapting Hospitals on the Fly: Mount Sinai Hospital in Manhattan engaged Boston’s MASS and Ariadne Labs...Their task was to protect health workers...as rooms and suites were drastically transformed...MASS has now released “Redesigning Hospital Spaces on the Fly to Protect Health Workers” (PDF), an online case study of Mount Sinai’s response, available for free to all...focuses...on helping caregivers find their way through bafflingly labyrinthine environments temporarily configured to isolate those exposed or infected...architects are beginning to assemble a roadmap to the future as health care runs as fast as it can into uncharted territory. -- Michael Murphy; Atul Gawande- Architectural Record

Note: Pages will open in a new browser window. External news links are not endorsed by ArchNewsNow.com. Free registration may be required on some sites. Some pages may expire after a few days.

Yesterday's News

© 2020 ArchNewsNow.com
Today's News - Tuesday, May 5, 2020

EDITOR'S NOTE: Giving Tuesday, the global generosity movement, is launching #GivingTuesdayNow, a global day of unity taking place today, May 5, 2020, as a response to the unprecedented need caused by COVID-19; visit https://now.givingtuesday.org/
And apologies for posting so late - the technology gods have been having their fun with us (again).

- de Monchaux & Krotov each pay eloquent (and sometimes humorous) tribute to Michael Sorkin: "Precise prescience was his M.O. He was funnier than I assumed Marxists typically were. It was a winning mode" + "He was not bamboozled by architects, nor by writers. His criticism was scorching."

- Giovannini's rage re: LACMA's "demolition under cover of COVID-19" knows no bounds: "Architecture is not the whim of two guys who think that borrowing swooping architectural curves from 1950s Brazil is cool, damn the cost" - it's time "to reflect on a way forward that will save the museum from institutional self-destruction."

- Fazzare, on a brighter note, offers a look at "London's youngest neighborhood" where "eight architects have designed a city block of new artist and maker spaces - where affordable rent is a guiding principle."

- Kamin takes us on a tour of Chicago's Graceland Cemetery, "an outlet for pent-up pedestrian activity" during lockdown, and "a picturesque expanse that's as notable for its architecture and landscape design as for the notables who are buried there - architects play such a prominent role, both as creators of memorials and subjects of them."

- Speaking of landscapes, "students can now join ASLA free of charge," and will have "access to a suite of educational and professional resources" (after completing a short survey).

- Belogolovsky's audio Q&A with Peter Eisenman, who "reflects on practicing in uncertainty, the notion of authority, and the 'starchitect' myth": "I am not convinced that I have a style."

- James Wines at his curmudgeonly best in the first of Friedman Benda's Design in Dialogue talks with Hobson - part of the Virtual Design Festival: "All cities are becoming exactly alike. A bunch of under-endowed macho men built this world" - and architects' over-dependence on CAD software (cities "are swamped by the exotic shapes you can make with a computer.")

- Curbed is being folded into New York Magazine to make it "more sustainable," says parent Vox Media, and will relaunch later this year (now we know what all those furloughs and layoffs are about).

- Fairs reports that ArchDaily has been sold to products platform Architonic: "The two sites will continue to operate as separate platforms. While some online architecture and design media have continued to thrive, others have closed or been acquired."

- On a (much-needed) lighter note, Joshua Glenn catches up with "celebrated cartoonist" Seth (a.k.a. Gregory Gallant) to talk about his "disciplined daydreaming" and "Dominion," a "sprawling display of jaunty model buildings - fashioned of cardboard harvested from FedEx boxes" with some amazing "vernacular architectural details."

- ICYMI: ANN feature: Weinstein cheers Impelluso & Fusaro's "Villas and Gardens of the Renaissance": What better escapist yet relevant book could an architect desire? The splendors of Italian Renaissance architecture
illuminate our Dark Age and transform eye candy into brain food.

COVID-19 news continues - ending with some welcome light-hearted news

- "Debating Density: Urban space and the coronavirus crisis" is a new series that kicks off with Bruce Schaller, former NYC Deputy Commissioner of Traffic and Planning; Nicole Gelinas of the Manhattan Institute, and Samuel Kling of the Chicago Council on Global Affairs - all well worth the time!
- Lamster makes the case that, with people "strolling, jogging, biking - just happy to be outside," it's time to debunk the tired trope that "Dallas isn't a walkable city. If there has been a silver lining to the lockdown, it has been to disabuse us of this notion - and adapt our streets to better suit the needs of pedestrians."
- A look at how, "in the peak of social distancing," Linstrom of Davis Partnership Architects has adapted a mental health care facility in Colorado, where technology isn't an option for inpatient care. "That's where design comes in."
- Wainwright cheers the V&A "creating a show for our times, targeting the everyday objects taking on new meaning in the coronavirus age" by launching the "Pandemic Objects" online series.
- V&A curator Cormier takes on home-made signs in the first "Pandemic Objects": "I felt a strange closeness to these signs, a gentle guide - the language is almost always polite -you can often pick out strange, humorous and touching personal affects" - they "tell us a lot about power - who has the right to broadcast their messages and who doesn't."
- Artist and visual storyteller Ariel Aberg-Riger brings us an illustrated guide re: "how to discover the history of your neighborhood, without leaving home" (including "things you need" and the "nice to haves").
- One we absolutely couldn't resist! "Schoolchildren in China make creative social-distancing hats - essentially creating a one-meter zone around them" (we love the balloons!).

To subscribe to the free daily newsletter click here

Thomas de Monchaux & Mark Krotov: Precise and Prescient: On Michael Sorkin, 1948-2020: ...Sorkin...is, for me, the pandemic's first celebrity victim, to the extent that an architecture critic can be a celebrity...Whether he was writing prophetically, or critically, or theoretically, or goofing off...precise prescience was his M.O...[He] was...funnier than I assumed Marxists typically were. It was a winning mode: rigorous but approachable, digressive but never at risk of losing the thread. + His master-planning was the kind that seemed to yield to no one master, that answered to no one plan...was not bamboozled by architects, nor by writers. His criticism for the Village Voice was scorching... -- Terreform; Urban Research- n+1 magazine

Joseph Giovannini: LACMA: Demolition Under Cover of COVID-19: The Peter Zumthor building is a celebrity structure...all glamour with little content, all camera angles with no square footage...the worst part is that the building sacrifices the art...as COVID-19 has taken over the country...Under the phony pretense that it suddenly cares for the public...[it] claims its intent is to infuse (mostly public) money into the local economy, as though suddenly this deeply selfish boondoggle had an altruistic purpose: job creation...The recklessness and irresponsibility of the project is epic...Architecture is not the whim of two guys who think that borrowing swooping architectural curves from 1950s Brazil is cool, damn the cost...chance to pause...and to reflect on a way forward that will save the museum from institutional self-destruction. -- Michael Govan- Los Angeles Review of Books

Elizabeth Fazzare: An Inside Look at London’s New Design District Opening
This Year: In Greenwich Peninsula, home of the O2, eight architects have designed a city block of new artist and maker spaces with the hopes of opening later this year: London’s youngest neighborhood is rising around the...the Millennium Dome...where affordable rent is a guiding principle. -- Hannah Corlett/HNNA; 6a Architects; Adam Khan Architects; Architecture 00; BarozziVeiga; David Kohn Architects; Mole Architects; SelgasCano; Schulze+Grasso-
Architectural Digest

Blair Kamin: Chicago's Graceland Cemetery is an unexpected green oasis, with architecture galore. Don’t miss these monuments: ...a picturesque expanse that's as notable for its architecture and landscape design as for the notables...who are buried there...has always attracted strollers...[its] value as an outlet for pent-up pedestrian activity that is allowed during...stay-at-home order can only grow...Cemeteries offer a respite from the city, but...the laws of real estate still apply...choice waterfront plots go to the rich and famous. Still, as in cities, there is infinite aesthetic variety...architects play such a prominent role, both as creators of memorials and subjects of them. -- O.C. Simonds; McKim, Mead & White; Dirk Lohan; Ludwig Mies van der Rohe; Louis Sullivan; Daniel Burnham- Chicago Tribune

Students Can Now Join ASLA Free of Charge: ...any students qualifying for Student, Student Affiliate, or International Student memberships can join...Student ASLA members will gain access to a suite of educational and professional resources...To take advantage of free membership, interested students should fill out this short survey. - American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Vladimir Belogolovsky: Peter Eisenman reflects on practising in uncertainty, and the notion of authority...architecture that is detached from responding to a particular function, and the 'starchitect' myth: "I am not convinced that I have a style." [audio] - STIR (See Think Inspire Reflect)
Benedict Hobson: Cities "are swamped by the exotic shapes you can make with a computer," says James Wines: ...he laments the predominance of digitally created forms in architecture and calls for more buildings that "reach out to people...All cities are becoming exactly alike...A bunch of under-endowed macho men built this world"...But he also laid the blame on architects' dependence on computer-aided design (CAD) software..."you're building some wiggles or convolutions that show you can use your computer well"...acknowledged that the coronavirus pandemic will have a huge impact on the built environment...may mean that the kind of public spaces he enjoys may become harder for architects to create. -- SITE/Sculpture in the Environment; Glenn Adamson/Friedman Benda; Virtual Design Festival/VDF- Dezeen

Curbed folded into New York Magazine: Move makes struggling website “more sustainable,” says parent Vox Media: ...14-year-old but recently hobbled digital publication focused on real estate and urban development, will be folded into New York Magazine on May 1...the company expects to “relaunch Curbed as part of [NY Magazine] later this year”...Curbed’s coverage of the real estate industry will not change under its new umbrella. - The Real Deal (NYC)

Marcus Fairs: ArchDaily sold to products platform Architonic: ... a deal thought to be worth around €10 million...The two sites will continue to operate as separate platforms...deal comes five years after Architonic was itself bought by Swiss media group NZZ...While some [online architecture and design media] have continued to thrive, others have closed or been acquired by larger media brands or e-commerce players. -- Stephan Bachmann; Tobias Lutz;p Nils Becker; David Assael; David Basulto- Dezeen

Joshua Glenn: To roam his dominion: A celebrated cartoonist builds a world in ink and cardboard: “In the studio, nothing changes...the outside world barely exists.” This is how Seth, a well-known Canadian cartoonist, responds when I [ask] how he’s been coping with the COVID-19 lockdown...So when the order came to shelter in place...he simply carried on doing "what I always do - just more of it"..."Seth: A Life, All Play" at the Art Gallery of Guelph [last year]...a breathtaking panoply of the artist’s output...[I] was particularly smitten by a sprawling display of jaunty model buildings - fashioned of cardboard harvested from FedEx boxes..."Dominion"...Peering down [its] implied avenues and alleys, you become a flaneur, delighting in vernacular architectural details..."making up this imaginary city might just end up being my life’s work.”- ArchitectureBoston magazine (Boston Society of Architects/BSA)

ANN feature: Norman Weinstein: Book Review: "Villas and Gardens of the Renaissance" by Lucia Impelluso with photography by Dario Fusaro: What better escapist yet relevant book could an architect desire? The splendors of Italian Renaissance architecture illuminate our Dark Age and transform eye candy into brain food.- ArchNewsNow.com

Debating Density: Urban space and the coronavirus crisis: Bruce Schaller [former Deputy Commissioner of Traffic and Planning, NYC Department of Transportation]: Density Isn’t Easy. But It’s Necessary: Americans have always had a difficult relationship with urban density. But in a crisis, we need what cities can provide. Nicole Gelinas/Manhattan Institute: In New York City, Density Saves Lives, Too: Before coronavirus transformed urban life, New York had achieved a massive public health success, thanks in part to the city’s now-
maligned layout. Samuel Kling/Chicago Council on Global Affairs: Is the City Itself the Problem? There's a long history of blaming urban areas...for physical and moral ills. But density can be an asset for fighting coronavirus - CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

Mark Lamster: With the coronavirus, an opportunity to reinvent Dallas: Faced with adversity, Dallas has always thought big: The idea that “Dallas isn’t a walkable city” is such an accepted truism that you’d think it was our civic motto...If there has been a silver lining to the lockdown, it has been to disabuse us of this notion...people are on [the streets], strolling, jogging, biking...just happy to be outside...should be taking measures to expand accessibility to walkable space...taking immediate steps to implement a linked network of streets closed to automotive traffic...as cities have done...from Oakland to Milan...why not take this opportunity to rapidly paint in bike lanes and adapt our streets to better suit the needs of pedestrians.- Dallas Morning News

COVID-19’s effect on mental health, future design: ...in the peak of social distancing, mental health care facilities are having to adapt...West Springs Hospital in Grand Junction, Colorado...has virtually converted all therapy appointments and group sessions. But for inpatient care, technology isn’t an option. That’s where design comes in...operating under the state guidelines for social distancing is near impossible for effective treatment outcomes...fear and stress...is taking its toll on staff...the shift for architects and health care facilities is toward designing for the next pandemic...to close gaps made clear by COVID-19. -- Robyn Linstrom/Davis Partnership Architects - Colorado Real Estate Real Journal (CREJ)

Oliver Wainwright: Museum of Covid-19: the story of the crisis told through everyday objects: ...V&A’s collectors are creating a show for our times, targeting the everyday objects taking on new meaning in the coronavirus age: There’s nothing like six weeks of house arrest to give you an elevated awareness of your surroundings...Brendan Cormier has turned his team’s attention to thinking about how the coronavirus has reframed the everyday...[launching] Pandemic Objects, an online series...we may never look at everyday objects in the same way again. [home-made signs, flour & yeast, door handles, Google Street View, toilet paper, streaming services, cardboard packaging, balconies, the sewing machines]- Guardian (UK)

Brendan Cormier: Pandemic Objects: Home-Made Signs: ...have come to symbolise a stunning shift in the way we experience the public realm...has been one of the most immediate and visible changes to public space during the lockdown...I felt a strange closeness to these signs, a gentle guide - the language is almost always polite...you can often pick out strange, humorous and touching personal affects...The emergence of these signs tells us a lot about a layer of the city that we don’t talk much about anymore...the editorial layer...tells us a lot about power - who has the right to broadcast their messages and who doesn’t.- V&A / Victoria and Albert Museum

Ariel Aberg-Riger: How to Discover the History of Your Neighborhood, Without Leaving Home: Even during social distancing, you can time-travel back. Here’s how I explored the history of my own street: ...there’s a different way to go wide when you can’t go far, and that’s to go back...."The City-dweller's Guide to Time Travel (while under lockdown)" - Things you need; Nice to haves... - CityLab
Schoolchildren in China make creative social-distancing hats inspired by ancient headwear: Designed and handmade by themselves...essentially creating a one-meter zone around them, the ‘wings’ of the hats makes reference to an ancient design worn by Song Dynasty emperors hundreds of years ago. colored and decorated with the pupil’s individual personality... - designboom

Note: Pages will open in a new browser window.
External news links are not endorsed by ArchNewsNow.com.
Free registration may be required on some sites.
Some pages may expire after a few days.

© 2020 ArchNewsNow.com
Today's News - Wednesday, May 6, 2020

- **ANN feature:** The New Norm: A Report by Peter Piven: The results of a survey of firm principals across the U.S. about the differences they envision in technology/working remotely, in markets and marketing, in work life and culture, and in society in our post-pandemic future.

- **Keane reports** the sad news that Marvin Malecha (only 70!), former AIA President, administrator, educator, architect, industrial designer, and author, died on Monday due to complications from heart surgery: "I see design thinking at the essence of an architectural education."

- **Pacheco** reports that RIBA is on the hunt for a new president "following the temporary recusal of current President Alan Jones" because of a "serious incident" - a new president to be elected in August.

- **Chase Rynd**, executive director of the National Building Museum (and one of our heroes), is retiring - his departure "after a fruitful 17-year run comes at a challenging time for the museum" (you can help!).

- **Hilburg** reports that the "San Francisco Art Institute won't close after all - it looks like reports of the venerable art institution's death were premature."

- **Karrie Jacobs** takes a deep dive into "the future of megaprojects - and the future of New York City - through the lens of Sunnyside Yard" (now that an optimistic Chakrabarti can talk details) - "it's the perfect launch pad for a 'housing moonshot.' And it may just be the future we didn't know we needed."

- **Kimmelman** takes us on another one of his fab virtual tours, this time the Brooklyn Bridge and the neighborhoods on either side, with Marion Weiss and Michael Manfredi - from Brooklyn Heights to the Hudson River. "New York is a city of horizons" (fab photos by Zack DeZon).

- **Q&A** with Spirit of Space studio's Adam Goss, RedMike, and Sam Snodgrass re: "their 15-year journey of creating architecture films": "Film is the next best thing for architecture."

- **ICYMI: ANN** feature: Weinstein cheers Impelluso & Fusaro's "Villas and Gardens of the Renaissance": What better escapist yet relevant book could an architect desire? The splendors of Italian Renaissance architecture illuminate our Dark Age and transform eye candy into brain food.

**COVID-19 news continues:**

- **Raskin:** Large and small "firms open up about pandemic-induced layoffs, furloughs, and pay cuts - enacting a sweeping suite of cost-saving measures to shore up their businesses" - the "seemingly inequitable distribution" of PPP loans has left some "practices scrambling" (and some things are "a bit of a crapshoot").

- **Foreign** Policy magazine asks 12 leading global experts across many fields, from Florida, Glaeser, and Doctoroff, to Katz, Kotkin, and Sadik-Khan, for their take on "how life in our cities will look after the coronavirus pandemic."

- **Density** was going to be "California's cure for the housing crisis. Then came coronavirus. Skeptics of greater urbanization say the pandemic has proved that they were right all along" - but there's lots of "evidence that shows density isn't destiny": "It's not density itself," says urbanist Jay Pitter. "It is the fact that bad density plus social inequality is a deadly mix."
As if to reinforce his point, Kea Wilson explains why "suburbanization is not the answer to COVID-19. Yes, contraction rates are higher in denser cities. No, that doesn't mean that the burbs are safer - and in many ways, they're worse. Here are a few reminders of why."

Massengale offers some ideas that are "both radical and common sense - to permanently change the driving culture" in NYC (Milan, Brussels, and Paris are doing it). "This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

Karrie Jacobs at her most eloquent in parsing "how informal networks of architects mass-produced simple yet lifesaving devices - and in the process charted a new course for humanitarian design. The unflashy pragmatism that's hard-wired into the architectural profession has begun to assume unexpected glamour."

To subscribe to the free daily newsletter click here

ANN feature: The New Norm: A Report by Peter Piven, FAIA: The results of a survey of firm principals across the U.S. about the differences they envision in technology/working remotely, in markets and marketing, in work life and culture, and in society in our post-pandemic future.- ArchNewsNow.com

Obituary by Katharine Keane: Former AIA President Marvin Malecha, 70: Administrator, educator, architect, industrial designer, author...died on Monday May 4 ...due to complications from heart surgery...After 20 years at North Carolina State University College of Design, Malecha assumed the role of president and chief academic officer at the NewSchool of Architecture and Design in San Diego in 2016..."I see design thinking at the essence of an architectural education...We [as architects] begin [solving] problems not just when a client hands us a program, but [also when] we decide on whether the site or the investment is appropriate." - Architect Magazine

Antonio Pacheco: RIBA sets out to choose a new leader: ...has begun the process for selecting a new president following the temporary recusal of current President Alan Jones...[he] stepped aside from the position in March as news of a "serious incident"...being investigated by the police in Northern Ireland...RIBA is choosing to move ahead with an open call to replace Jones at the scheduled end of his term [August 2021]...Currently, RIBA honorary secretary Kerr Robertson is "overseeing presidential responsibilities"...A new president is set to be elected on August 4th... - Archinect

Matt Hickman: Longtime National Building Museum executive director Chase Rynd to retire: retirement after a fruitful 17-year run comes at a challenging time for the museum...Facing uncertainty over when the shutdown in Washington, D.C. will end and what the post-shutdown reality will be for large gatherings, the museum has canceled all events and programming into early fall...Since its closure...[NBM] has released some virtual programming including online-only exhibitions and at-home learning opportunities...Rynd also launched [a campaign] with the aim to raise $100,000 in much-needed funding to help keep the 40-year-old museum afloat. - The Architect's Newspaper

Jonathan Hilburg: The San Francisco Art Institute won’t close after all: ...it looks like reports of the venerable art institution’s death were premature...an April 2 letter signed by over 60 alumni, curators, supporters, and other art world professionals implored the school to find alternate routes forward, and the media coverage, has reportedly helped spur private donations to keep SFAI alive...it's still canceling all of its accredited programming...will hold a series of benefit auctions [of] pieces of its collection, including rare works from Robert...
Mapplethorpe and Wayne Thiebaud...will offer online and in-person art classes (when we can all go outside again)...funded through grants. - The Architect's Newspaper

Karrie Jacobs: What does a good megadevelopment look like? Considering the future of megaprojects - and the future of New York City - through the lens of Sunnyside Yard: The first of my recent conversations about megadevelopments with Vishaan Chakrabarti...took place...when the world was a different place...On April 1, we spoke again. what was striking...was [his] optimism...Imagining a better future with as much detail as possible is both an exercise in sanity and a necessary political strategy...Hudson Yards...does everything wrong...made me start thinking that it might be possible to build a megadevelopment that makes New York a better city...Nothing about the future, near or far, is clear. What happens when [pandemic] is over? ...it's the perfect launch pad for a “housing moonshot.” And it may just be the future we didn’t know we needed. -- Practice for Architecture and Urbanism (PAU); CookFox; SHoP Architects- Curbed New York

Michael Kimmelman: Brooklyn Bridge, Star of the City: Our critic explores the bridge and the neighborhoods on either side with Marion Weiss and Michael Manfredi: They like to walk to work...they start out along the Brooklyn Heights Promenade, jog through Cadman Plaza Park and stroll across the Brooklyn Bridge...The [virtual] walk also takes in City Hall Park and Duane Park, the Woolworth Building, [Frank Gehry's] 8 Spruce Street...the former Western Union Building...a few blocks from the Weiss/Manfredi offices and the Hudson River. -- William M. Kendall/McKim, Mead & White; Cass Gilbert; John Kellum; Leopold Eidlitz; Ralph Thomas Walker- New York Times

"Film is the Next Best Thing for Architecture": Interview with Spirit of Space: ...some architects choose to invite viewers...to experience the building and its surroundings immersively.... The studio...has combined visuals with customized soundtracks...turning it into a multi-sensory experience...Adam Goss, RedMike, and Sam Snodgrass...discuss their 15-year journey of creating architecture films; from storytelling to exceptional music compositions, to cultivating empathy for people and places.- ArchDaily

Laura Raskin: Firms Open Up About Pandemic-Induced Layoffs, Furloughs, and Pay Cuts: ...firms large and small have been enacting a sweeping suite of cost-saving measures to shore up their businesses. While some firms have received short-term loans from the federal Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), the seemingly inequitable distribution has left other practices scrambling. -- Hugh Hochberg/Coxe Group; Gensler; Grimshaw Architects; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Lisa Matkovic/Robert A.M. Stern Architects; Kirstin Sibilia/Dattner Architects; Frederick Bland/Beyer Blinder Belle; Daniel Simons/David Baker Architects; Michael Chen/MKCA- Architectural Record

How Life in Our Cities Will Look After the Coronavirus Pandemic: The pandemic will change urban life forever. We asked 12 leading global experts in urban planning, policy, history, and health for their predictions. -- Richard Florida, Edward Glaeser, Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Kiran Bedi, Thomas J. Campanella, Chan Heng Chee, Dan Doctoroff, Bruce Katz, Rebecca Katz, Joel Kotkin, Robert Muggah, Janette Sadik-Khan- Foreign Policy magazine
Building dense cities was California’s cure for the housing crisis. Then came coronavirus: Skeptics of greater urbanization say the pandemic has proved that they were right all along...there’s lots of evidence that shows density isn’t destiny...the state’s march toward densification had been cast as the safest way forward...Calls for greater density have only escalated as massive, wind-driven fires have rampaged through suburban and urban locales...longtime opponents [of measures] will use the pandemic as another reason to attack them...“It’s not density itself,” Jay Pitter said. “It is the fact that bad density plus social inequality is a deadly mix.” - Los Angeles Times

Kea Wilson: Suburbanization is Not the Answer To COVID-19: Yes, contraction rates are higher in denser cities. No, that doesn't mean that the burbs are safer - and in many ways, they're worse: ...suburbs are isolated, radically unsustainable places that are home to a public health crisis even in the best of times, because of their epidemic levels of traffic violence caused by the excessive driving suburbanites are forced to do because of bad urban planning. And all three things are going to make it that much harder for suburban Americans...to weather this storm. Here are a few reminders of why...- Streetsblog.org

John Massengale: ‘Open Streets’ Must Lead to Permanent Changes in Our City: Milan, Brussels, and Paris are all using Open Street experiments during the pandemic to permanently change the driving culture in their cities. Here are some ideas to do that [in New York City]. The ideas are both radical and common sense - “radical” because everyone reading this has grown up in the age of King Car...There are ways to change the car culture and make city life healthier and more pleasant...This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity; we see a glimpse of a better future.- Streetsblog.org

Karrie Jacobs: The Power of the Printer: How informal networks of architects mass-produced simple yet lifesaving devices - and in the process charted a new course for humanitarian design: In the unprecedented chaos of the moment, the symbol of architectural activism has quickly become the face shield...working together - more or less anonymously - as a loosely knit collective to produce a modest, lifesaving object...conversion of the ExCeL center [and] Javits Center...is precisely the kind of architectural thinking that’s necessary right now...The unflashy pragmatism that’s hard-wired into the architectural profession has begun to assume unexpected glamour. -- Jenny Sabin; KPF; Studio V; Gensler; Weiss/Manfredi; BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group; Grimshaw; 3DVerkstan; Alvin Huang; Perkins and Will; BDP; V. Mitch McEwen; Geoff Manaugh; Nicola Twilley - Architect Magazine

ANN feature: Norman Weinstein: Book Review: "Villas and Gardens of the Renaissance" by Lucia Impelluso with photography by Dario Fusaro: What better escapist yet relevant book could an architect desire? The splendors of Italian Renaissance architecture illuminate our Dark Age and transform eye candy into brain food.- ArchNewsNow.com

Note: Pages will open in a new browser window.
External news links are not endorsed by ArchNewsNow.com.
Free registration may be required on some sites.
Some pages may expire after a few days.
Today's News - Thursday, May 7, 2020

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tomorrow and Monday will be no-newsletter days. We'll be back Tuesday, May 12. 'Til then: Stay well. Stay safe. Stay in!

● Zeiger minces no words re: "the cruelness of demolishing LACMA - half will be erased - all we will be left with is the museum's ambiguous future in the form of a construction shed surrounding a ditch seeping tar" (Citizens' Brigade competition "schemes aren't particularly great. Then again, neither is Zumthor's").

● Gunts reports on an NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission's review of "a seemingly innocuous" schoolyard fence proposal that "turned into a larger, Jane Jacobsean-discussion about urban playgrounds in general" and "creeping privatization" (a faux-ivy vinyl screen and Zoom issues included).

● Q&A with Cooper Robertson's Donald Clinton re: large-scale, mixed-use developments: Can megaprojects become actual neighborhoods? They "can be very successful as true neighborhoods, but to be viable and livable - one of the most important questions is: How does it connect with, and integrate into, the surrounding city?"

● Welton considers Thomas Phifer's North Carolina Museum of Art in Raleigh, 10 years later: "Inside, the building continues to articulate its commanding essay on the power of natural light," and though the museum has gone virtual for now, its art park (the largest in the U.S.) is open. "For life during a time of Coronavirus, that's an exotic visual treat. And it's free" (+ link to video Q&As).

● The Australian Institute of Architects 2020 National Prizes announced: The "architect's architect" John Wardle wins the 2020 Gold Medal ; President's Prize: Sydney Mayor Clover Moore; Leadership in Gender Equity Prize: Parlour; and more!

● Call for entries - deadline looms!: COVID-19 Design Innovation Grants, sponsored by the International Design Awards (IDA) in collaboration with European Product Design Awards (ePDA).

● ICYMI: ANN feature: The New Norm: A Report by Peter Piven: The results of a survey of firm principals across the U.S. about the differences they envision in technology/working remotely, in markets and marketing, in work life and culture, and in society in our post-pandemic future.

● ICYMI: ANN feature: Weinstein cheers Impelluso & Fusaro's "Villas and Gardens of the Renaissance": What better escapist yet relevant book could an architect desire? The splendors of Italian Renaissance architecture illuminate our Dark Age and transform eye candy into brain food.

Weekend diversions + Page-turners:

● Detroit gallery Library Street Collective offers "SITE: Art and Architecture in the Digital Space" that inserts "works by an exciting and diverse coterie of contemporary artists" into James Haefner's "evocative photographs" of some of the city's landmarks (sales proceeds go to good causes).

● The 2020 Barcelona Architecture Week launches today, "this time with a 'from-home' edition," and includes Fundació Mies van der Rohe's virtual exhibition "Architectures on the Waterfront" and the European Conference on Architecture & the Media.
Tokyo-based architect and video blogger Martin van der Linden teams up with the Virtual Design Festival "to present a selection of his best short architecture videos, which explore the urban and architectural landscape of Japan" and "its rather mysterious urbanity."

Morgan cheers Baldwin & Bell's "SLICE: The Inhabited Facade": "Simply put, the concept constructs shallow, usable spaces behind a building's façade," and the book "offers a practical and much needed downtown revitalization tool to save the existing fabric - spelt out in clear language."

Lamster is quite taken by "new revelations" about why La Reunion, a socialist commune, failed in Dallas, found in the late architect James Pratt's "Sabotaged: Dreams of Utopia in Texas" - a "compulsively researched book" that turns "history on its head. Why do communities fail - with "quarantine and our civic institutions under assault, it is a question worthy of examination."

Favermann recommends three "superior graphic novels" that "cleverly explore the highs and lows of architectural theory as well as urban planning and design. They also delve into the practice of the craft."

COVID-19 news continues:

The AIA's Disaster Assistance Committee has "developed the Re-occupancy Assessment Tool to provide public officials, businesses and architects with practices that protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public while businesses, stores, restaurants, etc., reopen."

King talks to park managers as "Bay Area parks brace for another month of perilous popularity" - they "once again will confront the dilemma of being too much in demand" - restrictions will remain in some, others will be closed ("I hope it's the worst thing, professionally, that I ever do," says one park director).

Cheng's Q&A with Woods Bagot CEO Nik Karalis re: "the firm's survival strategy, the importance of collaboration, and the role architecture can play in creating the post-pandemic future": "Ultimately, the important thing is preserving jobs so that we are able to re-scale up."

Yuen parses his architectural software company's 4-day work-week, and what post-pandemic work-life might be: "The workplace shifts we might experience will be less focused on requiring core work hours and more on maintaining consistent communication and connectivity - evidence suggests it's good for business."

To subscribe to the free daily newsletter [click here]

Mimi Zeiger: The cruelness of demolishing LACMA when Angelenos are unable to bear witness should not be ignored: ...she is concerned about what will be left for the city and its residents following coronavirus lockdown: At some point...we will...emerge...Half of LACMA will be erased...all we will be left with is the museum's ambiguous future in the form of a construction shed surrounding a ditch seeping tar...Citizens' Brigade...ideas competition...LACMA not LackMA...Products of a three-week charette, the schemes aren't particularly great. Then again, neither is Zumthor's. He's had seven years. -- Peter Zumthor; Michael Govan; William Pereira; Hardy Holzman Pfeiffer Associates; Renzo Piano; Greg Goldin; Joseph Giovannini; The Citizens' Brigade to Save LACMA; Coop Himmelb(l)au; RUR Architecture; Reiser + Umemoto; Paul Murdoch Architects- Dezeen

Edward Gunts: A schoolyard fence proposal for Greenwich Village raises questions about creeping privatization: ...New York’s Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC)...reviewed a seemingly innocuous proposal to permanently alter a chain-link fence [with a faux-ivy vinyl screen]...turned into a larger, Jane Jacobsean-discussion about urban playgrounds in general and how a property owner’s push for privacy could end up taking life and vitality off city streets..."this is a terrible precedent"...no one liked the ivy screen...schedule another meeting. It was a polite way of suggesting that they go back to the drawing board. --
Frederick Bland/Beyer Blinder Belle; Everardo Jefferson; John Gustafsson; Signe Nielsen/Mathews Nielsen Landscape Architects - The Architect's Newspaper

The Mind Behind Billion-Dollar Megaprojects: Cooper Roberston’s Donald Clinton explains how influential large-scale developments are born and touches on the future of sprawling mixed-use constructions: He reveals the concepts and workflow behind large projects and sustainable urban growth: Can megacomplexes become an actual neighborhood? "[They] can be very successful as true neighborhoods, but...to be viable and livable...one of the most important questions is: How does the development connect with, and integrate into, the surrounding city? We’re seeing rail yards and waterfronts...present great opportunities...Redevelopments of institutional sites or campuses are also emerging as a promising new trend..." - Commercial Property Executive

J. Michael Welton: Thomas Phifer’s North Carolina Museum of Art at 10: “I always hoped the landscape would take over...that’s coming true”...The 75,000-square-foot West Building is sited among 164 acres of land adjacent to the largest art park in the nation...Inside, the building continues to articulate its commanding essay on the power of natural light...though the museum is currently closed, every week it takes a deep dive into content connected to its collection - and sends out movie recommendations, inspired music, yoga moves, meditation, and even coloring pages. Better yet, its art park is now open...For life during a time of Coronavirus, that’s an exotic visual treat. And it’s free. [+ link to video Q&As] -- Mark Johnson/Civitas; Walt Havener/Surface 678- Architects + Artisans

‘Architect’s architect’ John Wardle wins Australian Institute of Architects 2020 Gold Medal: AIA has announced winners of the 2020 National Prizes: President’s Prize: Lord Mayor of Sydney Clover Moore; Leadership in Sustainability Prize: Stephen Choi/Living Future Institute of Australia; Paula Whitman Leadership in Gender Equity Prize: Parlour; Student Prize for the Advancement of Architecture: Chantelle Fry/University of Adelaide - ArchitectureAU (Australia)

Call for entries: COVID-19 Design Innovation Grants (international): put your
talents to work and find new solutions in four categories to combat this global crisis: Architecture/Interior Design: design an in-home isolation pod; Product Design: design life-saving equipment that can be produced at a cost of less than $1,000; Graphic Design: a resource guide; Fashion Design: design a fashionable and reusable mask or other protective gear; deadline: May 15; sponsored by the International Design Awards (IDA) in collaboration with European Product Design Awards (ePDA) - International Design Awards (IDA)

Virtual "SITE: Art and Architecture in the Digital Space" inserts contemporary art into Detroit’s architectural landmarks: ...fine art gallery Library Street Collective has launched a new online exhibition that grants virtual visitors access to the city’s most prized...historic architecture while showcasing...works by an exciting and diverse coterie of contemporary artists...Key in bringing SITE to life was architectural photographer James Haefner, whose evocative photographs of Detroit landmarks serve as a backdrop for the artworks to be inserted.- The Architect's Newspaper

Barcelona Architecture Week is back, this time with a “from-home” edition, May 7-17: includes Fundació Mies van der Rohe’s virtual exhibition "Architectures on the Waterfront" and the European Conference on Architecture & the Media- Barcelona Architecture Week

Architects appear in photographs of their own buildings as "a testimony of the process we went through": In his final contribution to Virtual Design Festival, video blogger and architect Martin van der Linden reveals that he and his team often feature in the photographs of their completed projects...VDF teamed up with [him] to present a selection of his best short architecture videos, which explore the urban and architectural landscape of Japan..."its rather mysterious urbanity"... -- One Minute Architecture; Van Der Architects- Dezeen

William Morgan: "SLICE: The Inhabited Facade": ...a sensible proposal for saving our urban fabric by Ian Baldwin and Jonathan Bell of Dual Studio. It is another instance of the power of smart thinking small...Simply put, the SLICE concept constructs shallow, usable spaces behind a building's facade...deals with a variety of issues from aesthetics to building codes...offers a practical and much needed downtown revitalization tool...a primer on how to save the existing fabric...while bringing more business, residents, and life to established downtowns...spelled out in clear language...- GoLocalProv.com (Providence, Rhode Island)

Mark Lamster: New revelations tell why a socialist commune failed in Dallas. (Hint: It wasn't the socialism): This is the true story of La Reunion, the utopian community on the Trinity: ...established in Dallas in 1855, only to fall apart after little more than a year......That the enterprise collapsed has generally been understood as proof of its own folly...A new, compulsively researched book rewrites that history, turning it on its head. According to "Sabotaged: Dreams of Utopia in Texas" [the late architect James Pratt], [it] was felled neither by its utopian vision nor the practical incapacity of its settlers, but by a complete failure of leadership - by "sabotage." - Dallas Morning News

Mark Favermann: Superior Graphic Novels About Architecture: What do [they] bring to our understanding of the urban experience? They suggest that buildings can be like our memories - they hide as much as they show: Many...are
dystopian in their graphic depiction of city life. Others are set in challenging utopian futures...Three...cleverly explore the highs and lows of architectural theory as well as urban planning and design. They also delve into the practice of the craft. -- "Asterios Poly" by David Mazzucchelli; "Robert Moses: The Master Builder of New York City" by Pierre Christin & Olivier Balez; "The Structure Is Rotten, Comrade" by Viken Berberian & Yann Kebbi- Arts Fuse

Architects release new resource for safer re-occupancy of buildings: AIA’s Disaster Assistance Committee developed the Re-occupancy Assessment Tool to provide public officials, businesses and architects with practices that protect the health, safety and welfare of the public while businesses, stores, restaurants, etc., reopen.- American Institute of Architects (AIA)

John King: Bay Area parks brace for another month of perilous popularity - 'We're the only game in town': ...the people who manage the region's open spaces once again will confront the dilemma of...being too much in demand...neighborhood parks [and trails have] served as relief valves for the region's 7.8 million residents...This balancing act could become trickier now that shelter-in-place restrictions will remain...through the end of May. Even so, park managers...say that behavior for the most part has improved from week to week - and most visitors seem willing to accept the compromises necessary...- San Francisco Chronicle

Negotiating an ‘undefined and uncontained’ crisis: Woods Bagot CEO Nik Karalis: Q&A with ArchitectureAU editor Linda Cheng about the firm’s survival strategy, the importance of collaboration, and the role architecture can play in creating the post-pandemic future...this latest crisis is testing its business model in entirely new ways. "What we don’t want to do is panic and we don’t want to put fear into our decision-making process...Ultimately, the important thing is preserving jobs so that we are able to re-scale up."- ArchitectureAU (Australia)

Robert Yuen, Assoc. AIA: My company’s always had 4-day workweeks: A cofounder of Monograph [architecture software] says the company’s been doing 4-day workweeks since it launched. Will this “forced” trial run of remote work, in turn, make it more commonplace? While still in the thick of the COVID-19 crisis, company management and C-suite executives are beginning to rethink office structure and processes...The 4-day workweek is partially about productivity, but it’s also about the health and well-being of employees. This pandemic specifically brings workers’ wellness front and center...The workplace shifts we might experience after going through the [pandemic]...will be less focused on requiring core work hours and more on maintaining consistent communication and connectivity...evidence suggests it’s good for business.- Fast Company

ANN feature: The New Norm: A Report by Peter Piven, FAIA: The results of a survey of firm principals across the U.S. about the differences they envision in technology/working remotely, in markets and marketing, in work life and culture, and in society in our post-pandemic future.- ArchNewsNow.com

ANN feature: Norman Weinstein: Book Review: "Villas and Gardens of the Renaissance" by Lucia Impelluso with photography by Dario Fusaro: What better escapist yet relevant book could an architect desire? The splendors of Italian Renaissance architecture illuminate our Dark Age and transform eye candy into brain food.- ArchNewsNow.com
Yesterday's News

© 2020 ArchNewsNow.com
Today's News - Tuesday, May 12, 2020

- A sad way to start the day: Bernstein brings us the news that we've lost Cooper Robertson's Jaque Robertson, the architect and planner "known for his extreme erudition and wit - the ideology he best represented was common sense" + Link to a personal tribute by Robert A.M. Stern: "Jaque prevented New York from destroying itself."

- Hewitt's personal tribute to The Architect's Newspaper's Bill Menking: "AN could persist because it stayed focused on bread-and-butter issues, not on fleeting theories or glamorous color spreads. He won't be replaced. He won't be forgotten. His wide-eyed vision will remain in that little newspaper."

- Sidewalk Labs calls it quits (for now) on Quayside, its Toronto Waterfront mega-project - it "considered that the coronavirus crisis has made the smart city-within-a-city project financially unsustainable."

- Wainwright minces no words re: the "miserable mishmash" plans (and its "garbled platitudes") for Gateshead Quays on the River Tyne - the "local authority clearly has more urgent priorities. But that's no excuse to see the waterfront desecrated with such mediocre fare."

- Gaul calls into question the wisdom of walling off ("a big wall of distraction") Charleston, South Carolina's "historic downtown from rising seas and surging storms - just one of a growing number of extravagantly expensive barriers proposed to defend U.S. coastal cities."

- aLL Design's plans for student housing in Cambridge, U.K., is being "compared to a spaceship" by "an architect on steroids" (the spirit of Will Alsop lives!).

- China clamps down on "copies of foreign architecture - 'plagiarizing, imitating, and copycatting' designs is prohibited in new public facilities" (heights of new skyscrapers also limited).

- Dickinson considers "architecture's vernacular in a post-COVID-19 world. Right now, being International is to be endangered - and density has risk. This is not about 'traditional' or "'style.' There is meaning in indigenous materials - the context of our time and our communities. Architecture should aspire to be of our lives, rather than reflect how we want our lives to be."

- Victoria Young, University of St. Thomas Chair of the College of Arts and Sciences, is named president of the Society of Architectural Historians (our heartiest congrats!).

- VJAA's Jennifer Yoos is appointed head of the University of Minnesota's School of Architecture - "the latest in a string of women rising to top spots at architecture schools in recent years."

- Heathcote (not behind a paywall!): "128 Things About the City: 1. Time wandering the streets is never wasted. 97. Ghost signs" (this should make you smile!).

- ICYMI: ANN feature: The New Norm: A Report by Peter Piven: The results of a survey of firm principals across the U.S. about the differences they envision in technology/working remotely, in markets and marketing, in work life and culture, and in society in our post-pandemic future.

COVID-19 news continues (last items - fun stuff for kids and creatives!):

- Crosbie's Q&A with educator and researcher Ashraf Salama re: "how might COVID-19 change architecture
and urban design" and architectural education: Public health issues, biophilic design, environment-behavior studies, and building performance "will be brought from the margins" + Link to peer-reviewed paper on some of his findings.

- **James Hamblin**, M.D., makes the case for opening streets - to people: "The decision to crack down on parks rather than make more space available is a microcosm of America's default to punitive rather than restorative justice. We assume the worst in people. Dynamite the asphalt, sod the land, plant trees and flowers, and do not look back."

- **Ockert delves** into "what coronavirus can teach architecture schools about virtual learning - most institutions are not producing the creative thinkers the world urgently needs - how we currently teach today produces groupthink - the move to online learning is a fantastic opportunity to remove some of the inflexible bureaucracy that has built up over decades."

- **Speaking** of online learning, the Society of Architectural Historians' SAH Archipedia "offers teaching resources, including K-12 lesson plans and research and writing tools for university levels that emphasize the history of the built environment" - and "promote literacy skills and discussion."

- **And now** for the fun stuff: Ravenscroft rounds up "five of the most entertaining architecture, design, and engineering activities for children to ward off the boredom of coronavirus lockdown."

- **A spotlight** on AIANY's Center for Architecture #architectureathome "fun family activities to help kids develop new skill sets while instilling the importance of learning about the built environment - with downloadable PDF content that parents and educators can use."

To subscribe to the free daily newsletter [click here](#)

Fred A. Bernstein: Obituary: Jaquelin Robertson, 1933-2020: A renowned architect and planner, he started his career in New York City government, where his influence remains to this day...helped create...places like Celebration...and WaterColor [in Florida]...the ideology he best represented was common sense...known as a classicist...Yet he helped build...Cooper Robertson - that produced modernist buildings [and] master plans that were style-agnostic...known for his extreme erudition and wit...he and several other architects established the Urban Design Group [1960s] within the City Planning Commission...pushed developers to provide public amenities and shops at street level in return for extra floor area...was devoted to its multidisciplinary approach..."You can't have architecture without urbanism." -- Jeff Speck; Peter Eisenman; Eisenman/Robertson Architects; Steven Semes - Architectural Record

Mark Alan Hewitt: Mr. Menking and His Little Paper: New York lost one of its most unique cultural figures: Bill Menking...co-founder of The Architect's Newspaper...[He] was a unifying force in a city that was often dazed and confused about its role in the world of design, urbanism, and art...In 2003 I called him up to congratulate him on the founding of a little online rag with a very unpretentious title...What was the big idea? Did he really expect to make a go of it with something so dumb, so obvious? He seemed to know that writers and architects would want to know the skinny behind what glossy magazines and academic journals were publishing...AN could persist because it stayed focused on bread-and-butter issues, not on fleeting theories or glamorous color spreads...He won't be replaced. He won't be forgotten. His wide-eyed vision will remain in that little newspaper... - Common Edge

Sidewalk Labs Abandons Toronto Waterfront Megaproject: More than two years into the Quayside project, the Google affiliate announced it will be pulling back, citing global economic uncertainty: ...considered that the crisis has made the
smart city-within-a-city project financially unsustainable...Touted as the world’s first all-mass timber neighborhood, the [IDEA District] called for a focus on sustainability and modular building technologies...wasn’t controversy-free...concerns over privacy, intellectual property, the amount of control a private company should have over public land... -- Daniel Doctoroff - Commercial Property Executive

Oliver Wainwright: ‘What's this, Dignitas north east?’ Plans for Gateshead Quays are a miserable mishmash: Sneaked out under cover of Covid-19 and couched in empty jargon, plans for a £260m waterfront complex are a grim symptom of private-sector power: ...gargantuan new arena, conference centre and hotel complex on the banks of the River Tyne...Just as the future of conferences and other mass events is being called into question, the developers are pressing ahead...It looks like the compromised result of design-by-committee...Public reaction has been caustic...local authority clearly has more urgent priorities. But that’s no excuse to see the waterfront desecrated with such mediocre fare. -- HOK; AHR architects - Guardian (UK)

Gilbert M. Gaul: Fortress Charleston: Will Walling Off the City Hold Back the Waters? Officials in Charleston, South Carolina have endorsed a $2 billion plan to wall off the historic downtown from rising seas and surging storms: ...just one of a growing number of extravagantly expensive...barriers...proposed to defend...U.S. coastal cities...many...are continuing to grow...pit development and profits against...inevitable encroachment of water - with development winning in most cases...a seawall won’t stop flooding in Charleston and may give homeowners a false sense of security...“a big wall of distraction”...will only protect the downtown, which accounts for just 25% of [city's] population of 136,000. - Yale Environment 360 (E360)

St Matthew’s Centre plans: Student accommodation in Cambridge compared to a spaceship: Petersfield ward councillor ...said: “There’s been a long history of people trying to impose development on St Matthew’s Pieces which was originally an open space for local residents and it is under threat yet again....people have said it’s an architect on steroids”...spokesperson for the developers: “The building has been designed by RIBA Stirling Prize-winning architect, aLL Design. It will be a highly sustainable building, achieving a Breeam ‘excellent’ rating..." - Cambridge Independent (UK)

China 'copycat' buildings: Government clamps down on foreign imitations: From English towns, to Alpine villages, to the Eiffel Tower - copies of foreign architecture can be seen across China. ...in order to promote local design. A government statement says “plagiarising, imitating, and copycatting” designs is prohibited in new public facilities...guidelines also clamp down on new skyscrapers - limiting them, in general, to a maximum of 500 metres. - BBC (UK)

Duo Dickinson: Architecture's Vernacular In A Post-COVID-19 World: The Plague will deeply impact the world of aesthetics...The essential perspective of our present Canon is that vernacular realities are seen to trivialize a higher human spirit. But that was before COVID-19. Right now, being International is to be endangered...and density has risk. What was our highest value, our common humanity, may have become a baseline liability...How does architecture respond? This is not about “traditional” precedents, and this is not about “style.” There is meaning in indigenous materials...the context of our time and our
communities. We may be rediscovering that...Without the lilt of vision, or an aesthetic, any attempt at beauty becomes artless commentary...Architecture should aspire to be of our lives, rather than reflect how we want our lives to be. - George Ranalli; Antoine Predock; Dale Mulfinger; House + House Architects; Clay Chapman; Ross Chapin; Michael Imber - ArchDaily

Victoria Young, College of Arts and Sciences Art History Professor and Department Chair, has been named president of the Society of Architectural Historians (SAH): Young has been a longtime member and leader in the global architectural historian field. - University of St. Thomas (Minnesota)

Jennifer Yoos Appointed Head of University of Minnesota’s School of Architecture: ...CEO and a principal of the Minneapolis-based firm VJAA, she is an alumna of UMN and the Architectural Association in London...has taught architecture at Cooper Union, Washington University in St. Louis, the University of Arkansas, and UMN...received a Loeb Fellowship in Urban and Environmental Studies at Harvard’s Graduate School of Design...the latest in a string of women rising to top spots at architecture schools in recent years, joining Lesley Lokko (CCNY Spitzer School of Architecture), Sarah Whiting (Harvard GSD), Michelle Addington (University of Texas at Austin Architecture School), and Deborah Berke (Yale School of Architecture). - Architectural Record

Edwin Heathcote: 128 Things About the City: 1. Time wandering the streets is never wasted. 71. Small old buildings next to skyscrapers. 97. Ghost signs. 103. Sitting alone in a café looking out of the window. - Reading Design.org

Michael J. Crosbie: How Might the COVID-19 Change Architecture and Urban Design? Researcher Ashraf M. Salama on possible outcomes in a post-coronavirus world: ...a professor at the Department of Architecture, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, Scotland...has been following how these disciplines might be changing...I sat down with him to discuss some of the issues he raises, and what their implications might be for the built environment in the future. "...it’s likely that biophilic design...will become a greater part of the discourse in architecture, more mainstream...We cannot solve problems on our own...Transdisciplinary approaches...require hybrid modes of thinking and action." - Common Edge

James Hamblin, M.D.: Don’t Close Parks. Open Up Streets: Give people the public space they need right now: New York City [has] more than 6,000 miles of streets. Much of that is barely used by cars on a typical summer weekend...close them to cars and give people room...The decision to crack down on parks rather than make more space available is of tremendous consequence - and not just to New Yorkers. It is a microcosm of America’s default to punitive rather than restorative justice. We assume the worst in people...people are going outside because they have no other place to go...open [streets] semipermanently with concrete barriers. Open other streets permanently. Dynamite the asphalt, sod the land, plant trees and flowers, and do not look back. - The Atlantic

Darren Ockert/ArchiNEXT: What Coronavirus Can Teach Architecture Schools About Virtual Learning: This pandemic will cause us to re-think learning...most formal education institutions are not producing the creative thinkers the world urgently needs. Solutions to the pandemic require creative thinking, and how we
currently teach in institutions today produces groupthink...move to online learning...will be a matter of adapting and inventing new methods and tools, and perhaps even changing out educators...successful, distributed learning platforms...can inspire and inform traditional learning institutions...There must be flexibility in degree paths...a fantastic opportunity to remove some of the inflexible bureaucracy that has built up over decades.- ArchDaily

SAH Archipedia: Resources for Remote Teaching: ...offers a collection of teaching resources, including K-12 lesson plans and research and writing tools for university levels that not only emphasize the history of the built environment but also promote literacy skills and discussion.- Society of Architectural Historians (SAH)

Tom Ravenscroft: Architecture, design and engineering activities for children in lockdown: ...to ward off the boredom of coronavirus lockdown. Here are five of the most entertaining. Arquitectura para colorear [coloring book] by Carmelina&Aaurelio Taller de Arquitectura; Challenge Cards by James Dyson Foundation; #Architecturefromhome by Foster + Partners; #LetsMakeWednesdays by V&A; Architecture at Home [#ArchitectureAtHome] by the Center for Architecture/AIANY- Dezeen

Center for Architecture creates #architectureathome activities for kids: Known for their K-12 public learning programs, it has found a way to help kids develop new skill sets while instilling the importance of learning about the built environment...partnered with the NYC Department of Youth and Community Development...online resources provide fun family activities...with downloadable PDF content that parents and educators can use...- Archinect

ANN feature: The New Norm: A Report by Peter Piven, FAIA: The results of a survey of firm principals across the U.S. about the differences they envision in technology/working remotely, in markets and marketing, in work life and culture, and in society in our post-pandemic future.- ArchNewsNow.com

Note: Pages will open in a new browser window.
External news links are not endorsed by ArchNewsNow.com.
Free registration may be required on some sites.
Some pages may expire after a few days.

Yesterday's News

© 2020 ArchNewsNow.com
Today's News - Wednesday, May 13, 2020

- **Goldberger's** eloquent (and detailed) tribute to Jaque Robertson, "architect and passionate urbanist - there was no inconsistency between his love of grand classical architecture and his passionate belief in cities" (check out the tale of "The Charlottesville Tapes")!

- **Kamin x 2**: His eloquent tale of Chicago's DuSable Bridge - and why its 100th anniversary tomorrow matters. "A graceful masterpiece of form and function both reflects the city's history and changed the way it was built" - today, almost devoid of cars and people, "it's a mirror of Chicago on hold."

- **He cheers** Pelli Clarke Pelli's residential tower rising on Wolf Point - "though not especially edgy" it "rises to the demands of its showplace site - the big question remains: Will Wolf Point add to downtown Chicago's urban vitality and benefit the public?"

- **Kimmelman** brings us another of his fab virtual tours, today with Sanderson of the Wildlife Conservation Society, on "a stroll through the centuries," imagining what Lower Manhattan was like in 1609 when Henry Hudson arrived: "'Knowing our history, we have the capacity to make better decisions, to do the right thing.' That doesn't mean we will. 'We can hope.'"

- **Moore takes** us on a virtual tour of "the world's top 10 new architecture projects. A few things stand out. One is the quality of work in places not traditionally seen as architectural powerhouses" - and "a related lack of really big names."

- **Ritzel updates** the status of Zimmerman's "Marabar" at the National Geographic Society HQ, that it wants removed, one way or another: the Preservation Review Board didn't understand that "that the society intended to remove the sculpture" when it approved design plans, and "will address the concerns" at its next meeting.

- **In honor** of Brasilia's 60th anniversary, Delaqua invited six architects and urbanists "who live in the city to share their visions and build an interpretation of utopia and reality that Brasilia currently represents."

- **Robert Lamb** Hart, of Hart Howerton, considers "beauty" to be "local, in terms of both place and time. That's why it's been defined in so many different ways - if you want to design 'beautiful' places, first do what you've probably always done: Look at how the local mix of people or culture define 'beauty.'"

- **Architect** Nili Portugali's film "And the alley she whitewashed in light blue" is selected to compete at the Inca Imperial International Film Festival, Lima, Peru, with online screenings starting tomorrow.

- **ICYMI: ANN** feature: The New Norm: A Report by Peter Piven: The results of a survey of firm principals across the U.S. about the differences they envision in technology/working remotely, in markets and marketing, in work life and culture, and in society in our post-pandemic future.

**Deadlines + Winners all:**

- **Call for** entries (deadline extended! no fee! $150,000 stipends for each of 3 finalists!): Urban Confluence Silicon Valley international open ideas competition for activating the most critical urban park in San Jose and Silicon Valley.

- **Call for** entries (no fee, cash prizes!): Theatre Populaire Idea(I) open student competition for the sustainable rehabilitation of a deserted green amphitheater in the city center of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso (deadline - July
14 - don't be confused by the May 31 date at the top).

- **Winners** of the 2020 Architectural League Prize for Young Architects + Designers considered "Value: How are values mediated by the processes of design?" (scroll down for great winner profiles and upcoming online programs).

- **The Society** of Architectural Historians hands out its 2020 SAH Publication Awards and the SAH Award for Film and Video.

COVID-19 news continues:

- **Betsky considers** the "Zoom Effect - people and places crowd a few feet from your face (What's in that bookcase? Is that a cat's tail at the bottom of the screen?) - we are confined to the grid of the Zoom meeting. Limbo Time and Zoom Space are with us to stay."

- **Deans respond** to COVID-19 - Parts 2 & 3: "How COVID-19 has impacted traditional end-of-the-year activities + Architecture leaders share what they view as potential long-term impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on architectural education" (with link to Part 1, if you missed it).

- **Annie Howard** revisits Laing's "The Lonely City," an "ode to urban isolation, in a time of social distancing" - when we "return to the wider social world, inhabited by the physical presence of those who are regularly disregarded in normal life, will we become more compassionate to their loneliness?"

---

To subscribe to the free daily newsletter click here

**Goldberger: Obituary: Jaquelin Taylor Robertson, Architect and Passionate Urbanist, 87:** Devoted to classical architecture, he was equally committed to design that benefits city life and helped establish a New York agency to promote it: ...one of the eager and ambitious young designers who clustered around [NYC Mayor] John V. Lindsay...in 1965... He convinced Lindsay...to establish the Urban Design Group, a special municipal agency intended to help the mayor raise the level of public design in the city...there was no inconsistency between his love of grand classical architecture and his passionate belief in cities...he played an active role in many of Cooper Robertson's larger projects...Celebration [and] WaterColor [in Florida]...awarded the Thomas Jefferson Medal in Architecture in 1998 and the Driehaus Prize...in 2007. -- Peter Eisenman; Alexander Cooper - New York Times

Blair Kamin: Chicago's DuSable Bridge, originally the Michigan Avenue Bridge, turns 100 Thursday. Here's why the centennial matters: A graceful masterpiece of form and function...both reflects the city's history and changed the way it was built: The elegant Beaux Arts bridge...spans the history of two pandemics...a marvel of architecture, engineering and urban planning, presents a reassuring, "I've seen it all before" presence...such a span is about making connections both physical and social, But with the office towers and shops on either side...emptied out, [its] identity has been turned upside down: It's a mirror of Chicago on hold...It's an extraordinary gathering of architecture and infrastructure... -- Daniel Burnham; Edward Bennett - Chicago Tribune

Blair Kamin: The Scottie Pippen of skyscrapers: An impressive No. 2, a new apartment tower stands tall at Wolf Point: Building a bit of hope, [it] stands tall at Wolf Point on the Chicago River....Wolf Point East...the 665-foot-tall high-rise offers a welcome contrast to the brute hulks of concrete that began blighting the area...in the late 1990s...Context-sensitive urban design and an exterior that is handsomely tailored though not especially edgy...the big question remains: Will
Wolf Point add to downtown Chicago’s urban vitality and benefit the public...There are some positive signs, but the jury is still out...new high-rise nevertheless rises to the demands of its showplace site. Quality like this doesn’t go out of style. -- bKL Architecture; Fred Clarke/Mark Shoemaker/Pelli Clarke Pelli; Pappageorge Haymes Partners; Magnusson Klemencic Associates; Soucie Horner Ltd. - Chicago Tribune

Michael Kimmelman: When Manhattan Was Mannahatta: A Stroll Through the Centuries: From lush forest to metropolis, the evolution of Lower Manhattan. Our critic walks with Eric W. Sanderson of the Wildlife Conservation Society: Our “stroll” explored Lower Manhattan. We “met” where the Staten Island Ferry docks...Except that we imagined it was...1609 when Henry Hudson arrived...What was the ecosystem? ”Ecosystems, actually. Manhattan is something like 1% the size of Yellowstone. Yellowstone is 2.2 million acres and has 66 ecosystems. Mannahatta had 55...knowing our history, we have the capacity to make better decisions, to do the right thing.” That doesn’t mean we will. ”We can hope.”- New York Times

Rowan Moore: The world’s top 10 new architecture projects: Making a virtue out of global lockdown...a virtual tour...from a rural Vietnamese preschool to a Belgian folly and a synagogue in Paraguay: The best of these projects are theatres for life...A few things stand out. One is the quality of work in places not traditionally seen as architectural powerhouses, such as Vietnam, Lebanon, Bangladesh...There is a related lack of really big names...Mostly, it’s heartening. There’s energy and invention out there... -- Emilio Tuñón; MVRDV; Rizvi Hassan; La Errería; Atelier Vens Vanbelle; Lina Ghotmeh; Kientruc O; unpareld’arquitectes; Equipo de Arquitectura; Toshiko Mori- Observer (UK)

Rebecca J. Ritzel: Plan to Remove a Million-Pound Granite Sculpture Draws Fire: Museum leaders and others are asking the National Geographic Society to find a way to expand its Washington headquarters without dismantling [“Marabar,” by Elyn Zimmerman]: ...to make room for a new entrance pavilion and a rentable rooftop garden...Officials...defended their decision...asserting that the society had promised to pay to have the boulders...relocated...Historic Preservation Review Board...“will address the concerns” at its meeting later this month...a preservation officer...said that, at the time of the August vote, members had not understood that the society intended to remove the sculpture. -- Charles A. Birnbaum/The Cultural Landscape Foundation/TCLF; David Childs/ Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Edward Durell Stone; Hickok Cole Architects- New York Times

Victor Delaqua: From Utopia To Reality: Brasilia’s 60th Anniversary: ...we invited six professionals - in the field of architecture and urbanism - who live in the city, to share their visions with us and...to build an interpretation of utopia and reality that Brasilia currently represents...with photographs by Joana França. -- Daniel Mangabeira/Blco Arquitetos; Gabriela Cascelli Farinasso & Luiza Dias Coelho/UnB/Arquitetas inVisíveis (inVisible Architects); Maribel Aliaga Fuentes/FAU-UnB; Luiz Eduardo Sarmento/IPHAN/IAAB-DF- ArchDaily

Robert Lamb Hart: While Defining “Beauty” is a Dead End, Studying Its Properties Definitely is Not: Looking for the universal attributes that elicit aesthetic pleasure: Beauty is local, in terms of both place and time. That’s why
it’s been defined in so many different ways, fueling successive battles of styles… and the skirmishes among the partisans of the “modernisms” and the “traditional” … if you want to design “beautiful” places, first do what you’ve probably always done: Look at how the local mix of people or culture define “beauty,” what it is in their geographic or ethnic, history, or spirit-of-the-times based world, that stirs their unique aesthetic experience today. -- Geoffrey Scott;
Alain de Botton - Common Edge

The film directed by Architect Nili Portugali A.A.Dip (Israel) “And the alley she whitewashed in light blue” selected for competition at the Inca Imperial International Film Festival, Lima, Peru, May 14-17 - online screening - Inca Imperial International Film Festival (Peru)

Call for entries (deadline extended - no fee!): Urban Confluence Silicon Valley international open ideas competition (professional & student): A New Iconic Landmark for Silicon Valley: ideas for activating the most critical urban park in the City of San Jose´ and Silicon Valley; 3 finalists (individuals or teams) will each receive $150,000 stipend to refine their proposals; deadline: July 1 - Urban Confluence Silicon Valley

Call for entries (no fee, cash prizes!): Theatre Populaire Idea(l) open student competition for the sustainable rehabilitation of a deserted green amphitheater at the “Centre de Développement Chorégraphique” La Termitiere in the city center of Ouagadougou, in Burkina Faso; deadline: July 14 - Insprieli Awards

2020 Architectural League Prize for Young Architects + Designers: Value: How are values mediated by the processes of design? this year’s League Prize program will be…online. Winners will deliver streamed lectures followed by a live q&a session and will create digital installations of their work. -- David Eskenazi/d.esk; Garrett Ricciardi & Julian Rose/Formlessfinder; Leslie Lok & Sasa Zivkovic/HANNAH; Isaac Michan Daniel/Michan Architecture; Ivi Diamantopoulou & Jaffer Kolb/New Affiliates; Luis Beltrán del Río García & Andrew Sosa Martínez/Vrtical- Architectural League of New York


Aaron Betsky: Welcome to Zoom Space: the new realities of social distancing: Let’s call it the Zoom Effect: the particular collapse of space that occurs in limbo. Distant people and places crowd a few feet from your face (What’s in that bookcase? Is that a cat’s tail at the bottom of the screen?) and are yet so far away…What I observe in mid-flux is a world made up of bits and pieces in space and time…Now space contracts as we are confined to the grid of the Zoom meeting…with no need to drive or walk to get there…Limbo Time and Zoom Space are with us to stay. - Architect Magazine
Deans respond to COVID-19 - Part 2 & 3: how COVID-19 has impacted traditional end-of-the-year activities like final reviews, thesis exhibitions, and other events + Architecture leaders share what they view as potential long-term impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on architectural education. -- Iñaki Alday/Tulane University; Ivan Bernal/Kent State University; Lesley Lokko/Spitzer School of Architecture/CCNY; Brian L. McLaren/University of Washington; Rahul Mehrotra/Harvard University Graduate School of Design/GSD; David Mohney/Michael Graves College, Kean University & Wenzhou-Kean University; Stephen Philips/Cal Poly LA Metro & San Luis Obispo; Dan Pitera/University of Detroit; Monica Ponce de Leon/Princeton; Heather Roberge/UCLA; Jeff Schnabel/Portland State University; Heather Woofter/Sam Fox School/Washington University in Saint Louis - Archinect

Annie Howard: Alone, Together: What It Means Now to Inhabit "The Lonely City": Revisiting Olivia Laing’s ode to urban isolation in a time of social distancing: When the time comes to return to the wider social world, inhabited by the physical presence of those who are regularly disregarded in normal life, will we become more compassionate to their loneliness - the emotional and physical toll that comes from living without secure housing, with addiction, with mental illness? - Common Edge

ANN feature: The New Norm: A Report by Peter Piven, FAIA: The results of a survey of firm principals across the U.S. about the differences they envision in technology/working remotely, in markets and marketing, in work life and culture, and in society in our post-pandemic future. - ArchNewsNow.com

Note: Pages will open in a new browser window. External news links are not endorsed by ArchNewsNow.com. Free registration may be required on some sites. Some pages may expire after a few days.
EDITOR'S NOTE: Tomorrow and Monday will be no-newsletter days. We'll be back Tuesday, May 19. 'Til then: Stay well. Stay safe. Stay in!

- **ANN feature:** Jeffrey Paine & Turan Duda consider: What now, in designing for wellness: "Designers must be at the forefront of ensuring that the spaces of the future embrace the lessons of 2020 without sacrificing beauty, comfort, and our shared need to come together safely and to foster human wellbeing.

- **Betsky parses** "the last student shelters at Taliesin West - a tradition that dates back to 1937" - as the school goes "onto exile, with a new name yet to be determined" (it can't refer to either Wright or Taliesin).

- **Kennicott** paints wonderful word pictures of his December visit to Frank Lloyd Wright's Martin House in Buffalo, NY - "one of the great masterpieces of [FLW's] architecture - its two-decade return to glory is an inspiring story. In a perfect world, you'd be able to visit" in full bloom (with a rainy-day side trip to Graycliff - our favorite).

- **Architecture** Research Office takes home the AIA 2020 Architecture Firm Award (our heartiest congrats!) + Yao, Cassell, and Yarinksy's (often amusing/irreverent) responses to an "architect's version of the Proust questionnaire."

- **The International** Living Future Institute: celebrates its 2020 Living Future Heroes - an interesting and impressive mix of "individuals in the regenerative design community."

- **ICYMI: ANN** feature: The New Norm: A Report by Peter Piven: The results of a survey of firm principals across the U.S. about the differences they envision in technology/working remotely, in markets and marketing, in work life and culture, and in society in our post-pandemic future.

**Weekend diversions + Page-Turners:**

- **Ravenscroft** parses all eight episodes of Netflix's "Abstract: The Art of Design" series, now available - for free! - on YouTube (link included).

- **NYCxDESIGN** has migrated from physical spaces to "a curated collection of NYC's best virtual design platforms. Explore films, webinars, online galleries, design learning and more."

- **WantedDesign** joins the fun with an online podcasts and live talks through next Friday - check out Be Original Americas on May 19: "Reinvention Time," led by Caroline Baumann, former Director, Cooper Hewitt - and other very cool folk "who have shifted their missions and re-imagined their life and their work."

- **Parman cheers** the news that Design Book Review (1983-2002), the quarterly he co-founded that "documented two important decades in the history of design in an unusually thorough way" and has been behind a firewall, is now "back from the dead" and accessible via California College of the Arts + Q&A (fab covers - we want the car!).

- **Wainwright** cheers "The Property Lobby: The Hidden Reality Behind the Housing Crisis," Colenutt's "urgent new book" that "brilliantly" exposes the grip "fat cat developers" and lobbyists have on Britain - "and provides several suggestions for a possible way out - there is no longer any excuse not to act" (not just the U.K.).
Max Kuo considers "Unresolved Legibility in Residential Types," Thenhaus's "idiosyncratic rumination on 10 different types of American residential architecture": While it "can be difficult to apprehend at times - there are plenty of delights throughout."

Budds invites critics, curators, historians, and archivists to recommend "5 essential books to understand mid-century design. Get the lay of the land from these historian-approved tomes."

COVID-19 news continues:


- Saffron x 2: She ponders what Philly's Center City, now "a ghost town," will "look like when the virus subsides. Our lives today may be the prototype for how downtowns will look in the future."

- She considers the future of corporate offices and "gleaming trophy towers" in a post-pandemic world, given that "many employees seem to like their new arrangement" of working from home - many employers like the idea, too - but "will management compensate them for providing their own workplace, or just pocket the savings?"

- Ravenscroft, meanwhile, reports that U.K.-based Weston Williamson + Partners has in mind "a social-distancing office" to allow its 100 employees who "want to return to the office the opportunity to do so. 'Some are very enthusiastic about moving out of their flats!'" - a "template for other companies," too.

- Portland, Oregon-based Mackenzie has "just put out a COVID-19 design guide available for any business to download - remember cubicles? They might make a comeback."

To subscribe to the free daily newsletter click here

ANN feature: Jeffrey Paine, FAIA & Turan Duda, FAIA: INSIGHT: Design for Wellness: What Now? Designers must be at the forefront of ensuring that the spaces of the future embrace the lessons of 2020 without sacrificing beauty, comfort, and our shared need to come together safely and to foster human wellbeing.- ArchNewsNow.com

Aaron Betsky: The Last Student Shelters at Taliesin West: the end of a tradition at the School of Architecture at Taliesin: As of July 31, the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation will no longer allow the school to use either of the two campuses...nor will it be able to use any name that refers to either Wright or Taliesin. The school will go into exile, with a new name yet to be determined...the six shelters students constructed over the past year...will be the last such examples of a tradition that dates back to 1937...each student has interpreted Wright’s legacy in a radically different manner... -- Dylan Pero; Cynthia Godinez; Michael Simmons; Jose Amayo; Lorraine Etchell; Clara de los Rios; Anh Luc- Architect Magazine

Philip Kennicott: This Frank Lloyd Wright masterpiece is back in bloom after a 20-year restoration. In a perfect world, you’d be able to visit: At the Martin House in Buffalo, all that’s missing is an audience for the glory of spring: ...one of the most important and ambitious building complexes Wright designed...I visited [it], and Graycliff...on the shores of Lake Erie, in December...part of the remarkable legacy the architect left in this city...The house is one of the great masterpieces of [his] architecture, and its two-decade return to glory is an inspiring story. - Washington Post

AIA 2020 Architecture Firm Award: Architecture Research Office: “We create
architecture that unites beauty and form with strategy and intelligence”;...founded in 1993 by Kim Yao, Stephen Cassell, and Adam Yarinksy, has pushed the boundaries of practice...Here ARO responds to our architect’s version of the Proust questionnaire. "ARO was founded under a combination of good timing, opportunity, necessity, and friendship...There is a strict no-asshole policy within the office...Our biggest extravagance is...the curated coffee and crowdsourced selection of beers." - Architect Magazine

International Living Future Institute: Celebrating our 2020 Living Future Heroes:...created to acknowledge and celebrate individuals in the regenerative design community... -- Jane Abernethy/Humanscale; George Bandy Jr./Mohawk Group/Green Business Certification; Alessandro Bisagni/BEE Incorporations; Andreas Gyr/Google; Rex Hohlbein/Facing Homelessness/BLOCK Architects/BLOCK Project; Melissa Kops/Pirie Associates; Jenn LaFreniere/BLOCK Architects/BLOCK Project; Drew Lavine/Re:Vision; Jacqueline Patterson/NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Program; Drew Shula/Verdical Group; Ellen Southard/Site Story- Trim Tab/International Living Future Institute

Tom Ravenscroft: Watch all eight episodes of Netflix's "Abstract: The Art of Design" series: ...available on Youtube as part of an initiative to make its documentaries free to watch during the coronavirus lockdown...The series follows eight leading designers operating in different industries.- Dezeen

NYCxDESIGN: The Virtual Experience: a curated collection of NYC's best virtual design platforms. Explore films, webinars, online galleries, design learning and more. - NYCxDESIGN

WantedDesign, in response to the cancellation of the 2020 fair, put together an online program with daily episodes of Clever podcast and live talks through and May 22. May 19: "Reinvention Time - Life Stories of Renewal & Realignment": Be Original Americas presents Caroline Baumann, former Director, Cooper Hewitt, leads a conversation with 4 dynamic "originals"who have shifted their missions and re-imagined their life and their work. -- John Edelman, former CEO, Design Within Reach; Bruce Mau, Co-Founder, Massive Change Network; Deborah Needleman, Editor; Lisa Strausfeld, Founder, Informationart; Design Milk + Clever- WantedDesign

John Parman: Re: Design Book Review (1983-2002): ...the quarterly that Laurie Snowden and I founded in 1983, was digitized in its entirety by Google and placed behind a firewall...David Meckel at California College of the Arts in San Francisco...“I can’t believe we own this!” At that moment, the stars finally aligned, bringing DBR back from the dead...One impetus for starting DBR was the volume of design-related titles in the early 1980s...It documents two important decades in the history of design in an unusually thorough way... -- Richard Ingersoll; Cathy Lang Ho; Bill Littman- Medium

Oliver Wainwright: Fatcat developers created our housing crisis. Here's how to stop them: Housebuilders, armed with foreign cash and backed by top lobbyists, keep property prices high. But Bob Colenutt has brilliantly exposed the grip they have on Britain: In his urgent new book, "The Property Lobby: The Hidden Reality Behind the Housing Crisis," he identifies the RICS [Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors] as one of numerous actors in a complex
network...engaged in propping up the status quo to ensure that their interests
prosper - at the expense of everyone else. The housing crisis is no accident...
[he] identifies how we got into this situation, and provides several suggestions
for a possible way out...Seeing the stark reality spelled out in such clear
terms...there is no longer any excuse not to act. - Guardian (UK)

Max Kuo: "Unresolved Legibility in Residential Types" by Clark Thenhaus is a
deep dive into American Housing: ...an idiosyncratic rumination on 10 different
types of American residential architecture...The purpose of [its] diversity of
content, tantalizing in different ways, can be difficult to apprehend at
times...celebrates the cultural politics of building practices and the many
audiences that exist beyond the navel-gazing expertise of architects...there are
plenty of delights throughout. -- ALLTHATISSOLID; Endemic Architecture- The
Architect's Newspaper

Diana Budds: 5 essential books to understand midcentury design: Get the lay of
the land from these historian-approved tomes: We asked curators, historians,
and archivists to recommend their favorite titles. Alexandra Lange: "Mid-Century
Modern Architecture Travel Guides" by Sam Lubell and Darren Bradley; Juliet
Kinchin/MoMA: "Charles and Ray Eames: Designers of the Twentieth Century"
by Pat Kirkham; Amy Auscherman/Herman Miller: "In a Cloud, In a Wall, In a
Chair: Six Modernists in Mexico at Midcentury" edited by Zoë Ryan; Sam Lubell:
"Ezra Stoller" by Pierluigi Serraino; Sarah Archer: "Vital Forms: American Art
and Design in the Atomic Age" edited by Brooke Kamin Rapaport and Kevin L.
Stayton- Curbed

Columbia University | CBIPS: AEC Industry Experiences from COVID-19: What
We Did | What We Are Doing | What We Will Do: ...will address past, current,
and future initiatives, constraints, and budgets. Weekly programs are scheduled
every Tuesday from noon to 1 PM EST, via Zoom. There is no fee to
participate...20 weekly lectures between now and the end of August, with
speakers from New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, London, Paris, Seoul and
Singapore.- Columbia University Center for Buildings, Infrastructure and Public Space
(CBIPS)

Inga Saffron: Philly’s downtown is a ghost town. What will it look like when the
virus subsides? Center City is likely to bear the economic brunt...What’s
unknown is whether Philadelphia’s eclectic downtown will ever recapture the
same level of activity and dynamism that existed before we learned to say
COVID-19...If people have fewer reasons to make the trip, can downtown
remain the democratic meeting ground it has always been...Will the daily tide of
daily commuters...be diminished? Will tourists, who dropped $7 billion on the
city’s economy in 2018, visit...the crisis has shown that we still want to gather
[in] public spaces. Our lives today may be the prototype for how downtowns will
look in the future. -- Brent Toderian- Philadelphia Inquirer

Inga Saffron: Will we ever work in the company office again? What happens to
the corporate office can potentially reshape the downtown office district as we
know it, depopulating gleaming trophy towers and further depleting the tax
revenues of American cities: Creativity and productivity have improved since
everyone began hunkering down in their homes...Big corporate offices...could be
transformed into something more like conference centers...many employees
seem to like their new arrangement...Given the choice between retrofitting their
offices with expensive safety features, or allowing employees to work from home, it's a good bet that many companies will choose the latter...it will...shift the cost of maintaining and renting office space from the company to the employees. Will management compensate them for providing their own workplace, or just pocket the savings? -- Brian Phillips/ISA; John B. Campbell/FCA- Philadelphia Inquirer

Tom Ravenscroft: Weston Williamson + Partners envisions social-distancing office: ...with transparent screens around desks, hands-free doors and a barista...to allow employees that want to return to the office the opportunity to do so..."We want to give our colleagues the choice...Some are very enthusiastic about moving out of their flats"...the studio intends on allowing at least half of its 100 staff to work from home each day, with office attendance assigned by day...it could serve as a template for other companies trying to figure out how employees can safely return to the office. -- Chris Williamson- Dezeen

Portland, Oregon, architect firm envisions look of workplaces following pandemic: Face-to-face work stations could be out while hands-free technology and one-way traffic could be the new trends: Mackenzie | Architecture, Engineering, Design, Planning just put out a COVID-19 design guide available for any business to download...remember cubicles? They might also make a comeback...the biggest challenge will be restrooms...The bottom line is things might look different when we head back to our workplaces. It might even be a bit uncomfortable at first. But all those changes will make them safer. -- Dietrich Wieland- KGW-TV (Portland, Oregon)

ANN feature: The New Norm: A Report by Peter Piven, FAIA: The results of a survey of firm principals across the U.S. about the differences they envision in technology/working remotely, in markets and marketing, in work life and culture, and in society in our post-pandemic future.- ArchNewsNow.com
Today’s News - Tuesday, May 19, 2020

- **A sad way** to start the day: We've lost Robert T. Coles, 90, a pioneering architect who became the first African American chancellor of the AIA's College of Fellows, was a founding member the National Association of Minority Architects, and "promoted minorities and women in an architectural field that was slow to open its doors to them."

- **The Mayors'** Institute on City Design pays tribute to one of its co-founders, Jaque Robertson, a co-founder of the Mayors' Institute on City Design: "Without him, the MICD would never have been created," sayeth former Charleston, SC, Mayor Joseph P. Riley, Jr.

- **Elsa Lam** bids "farewell" to Sidewalk Labs' Sidewalk Toronto: "The news has been greeted by a mixed reaction: from frustration at a missed opportunity at urban greatness - to relief at dodging a data surveillance experiment. Hopefully, the most promising elements will be part of future waterfront developments."

- **Novakovic** explains why "the terminally flawed terms of Waterfront Toronto's RFP" for Sidewalk Toronto "jeopardized the project from the beginning. For all the controversy, it still looked like utopia - what if the well-warranted skepticism was not a symptom of small-mindedness but of robust civic engagement?"

- **The L.A.** City Planning Commission tells a developer "to redesign its massive" 1.51-million-square-foot Times Mirror project, saying it was "troubled' with the lack of affordable housing" and "disappointed by the 'uninspired' design - a big rectangle in the sky."

- **Pelli's** 1973 former bank building in downtown San Jose, California, is in the way of a proposed 3.79 million-square-foot "mega-campus," considered by preservationists to be "the city's best example of Brutalist architecture" and an "architectural gem" - the original developer "supports its demolition," alleging "it was actually an intern of Pelli who drew up sketches."

- **NYC's MoMA** steps into the fray to save the concrete Picasso murals on and in Viksjø's 1969 brutalist Y-Block in Oslo, which, before a 2011 terrorist attack, was "about to be granted protection."

- **Kamin considers** the "uncharted waters" the Chicago Architecture Biennial finds itself in, now the Venice Biennale has postponed its "big architecture show" to 2022: "If the Chicago biennial doesn't alter its plans, the two exhibitions will partly overlap and could wind up competing for both media attention and exhibitors."

- **Expo 2020** Dubai will now open in October 2021 - but "its name will not change" (will confusion ensue?).

- **ICYMI: ANN** feature: Jeffrey Paine & Turan Duda consider: What now, in designing for wellness: "Designers must be at the forefront of ensuring that the spaces of the future embrace the lessons of 2020 without sacrificing beauty, comfort, and our shared need to come together safely and to foster human wellbeing.

Names in the news:

- **Woods Bagot** names Vivian Lee, former principal of Richard Meier & Partners, as its New York studio executive director, and Matt Ducharme, former Populous design director, as design leader, West Coast, and associate principal.

- **Omar Khan** to lead the Carnegie Mellon University School of Architecture, following seven years as chair of the Department of Architecture at the University at Buffalo (UB), State University of New York.
Robert Alexander González to depart Texas Tech University to become dean of the University of New Mexico's School of Architecture and Planning, filling "the position held on an interim basis by Mark Childs."

COVID-19 news continues:

- **The Frank** Lloyd Wright Foundation launches a free online STEAM program "designed to help students (K-12) use the iconic architect's life and work as a jumping off point for learning" (like "Turn Two Circles into a Square").
- **Grabar** warns that post-pandemic cities "may get the gridlocked '50s and the bankrupt '70s" by "sacrificing the wellbeing of those who don't leave the city to cater to those who might - or already did. One of the pandemic's frightening effects is to expose a distressing lack of imagination about how to reinvent the places we live" (he offers some solutions).
- **Kamin** pens an open letter to Chicago's "tough but fair, firm but flexible" mayor: "Time to rethink your lakefront shutdown - and substitute a more nimble one that would let Chicagoans prove they can act responsibly. If too many people act like knuckleheads, you can always do another shutdown."
- **Justin Hollander**, of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning at the School of Arts and Sciences at Tufts University, considers how COVID-19 will affect public spaces, and argues that parks could provide a way to reduce communicable diseases and address other societal ills.
- **Riggs reports** that the ULI, National Recreation and Park Association, and the Trust for Public Land are partnering in the 10 Minute Walk campaign, "dedicated to improving access to safe, high-quality parks and green spaces" (free webinar - part of ULI's Building Healthy Places Initiative).
- **The USGBC** releases "Healthy people in healthy places equals a healthy economy" that outlines "a series of actions and priorities that will support the global recovery effort and leverage the power of our community to shape a healthier future for all."
- **A large** swath of London could be made "repurposed for people as it emerges from coronavirus restrictions" - it would be "one of the biggest car-free initiatives of any city in the world" (the "transformation will not be smooth," sayeth Mayor Sadiq Khan).

To subscribe to the free daily newsletter click here

Obituary: Robert Traynham Coles, 90, pioneering architect: ...often told the story of how a [high school] teacher...dissuaded him from studying architecture because there weren't black architects. He ignored the advice...went on to a long and distinguished career...became, in 1994, the first African American chancellor of the College of Fellows at the American Institute of Architects (AIA)...was also a founding member and the first secretary of the National Association of Minority Architects (NOMA)...promoted minorities and women in an architectural field that was slow to open its doors to them. -- Michael Wright/University at Buffalo (UB); Ed Watts/Watts Architecture; Clinton Brown-Buffalo News

A Tribute to Jaquelin Taylor Robertson, 1933-2020: ...a lifelong public servant dedicated to architecture, planning, and the public good...a co-founder of the Mayors’ Institute on City Design...initially proposed in 1985 by former Charleston, SC Mayor Joseph P. Riley, Jr. in a letter to Robertson, then Dean of the School of Architecture at the University of Virginia..."Without [him], the [MICD] would never have been created...He told me many times that of all the buildings he designed and all of his professional engagements, the Mayors’ Institute was his most important accomplishment." - Mayors’ Institute on City Design (MICD)

Elsa Lam: Editorial: Farewell, Sidewalk Toronto: Google-affiliate Sidewalk Labs
announced that it was canceling its pursuit to build Quayside, a smart city on Toronto’s waterfront...The news has been greeted by a decidedly mixed reaction: from frustration at a missed opportunity at urban greatness...to relief at dodging a data surveillance experiment...we’ve tangled with some seductive ideas for urban development. Hopefully, the most promising elements of the Sidewalk scheme...will be part of future waterfront developments...Whatever comes next for Toronto’s waterfront, we’ll be prepared. -- Dan Doctoroff-

Stefan Novakovic: Goodbye to All That: Toronto After Sidewalk Labs: As the tech giant packs its bags, Toronto reckons with the complicated aftermath of an abandoned utopia: The problems with Quayside started well before Sidewalk’s involvement. The optics of Google as a sort of digital Robert Moses sat uncomfortably, but the terminally flawed terms of Waterfront Toronto’s RFP also jeopardized the project from the beginning...effectively offloaded the creation of public policy to a for-profit tech giant...For all the controversy, it still looked like utopia...what if the well-warranted skepticism that greeted Sidewalk Toronto was not a symptom of small-mindedness but of robust civic engagement? ...a city is shaped by saying “no” as much as “yes.” -- Thomas Heatherwick; Snøhetta-Azure magazine (Canada)

Los Angeles City Planning Commission Tells Onni to Redesign its Massive Times Mirror Project: "I’m concerned that...time will kill this project," Onni Group exec responds: ...massive 1.51-million-square-foot project in the heart of downtown...commissioners lambasted the design, and said they were “troubled” with the lack of affordable housing and the plans for city allocation fees...There are no requirements for affordable housing...but commissioners expressed concern about no onsite affordable units...disappointed by the “uninspired” design...AC Martin...is behind many good projects...but “this is not one of them...they could do anything other than a big rectangle in the sky..." - Commercial Observer

Historic downtown San Jose building could pose issues for Jay Paul’s proposed mega campus: Historians say its the the [César Pelli-designed] building is the
city’s best example of Brutalist architecture: For developer...former Bank of California site...is just one building standing in the way of plans to construct a mega campus of gleaming glass office towers...But for preservationists...[it] is a historical architectural gem...they are on a mission to save it...Completed in 1973...developer who constructed the building...now supports its demolition...alleges that it was actually an intern of Pelli who drew up sketches...massive CityView Plaza redevelopment would total 3.79 million square feet... -- Gensler- Mercury News (California)

Gareth Harris: Battle to save concrete Picasso murals in Oslo intensifies after MoMA steps in: The Museum of Modern Art in New York has reportedly become caught up in the controversy over plans to demolish a government building...brutalist Y-Block, which was designed by...Erling Viksjø in 1969, features two murals...sandblasted onto its concrete walls...executed by the Norwegian artist Carl Nesjar...petition...garnered more than 47,000 signatures. "Just before the [terrorist] attack in 2011, both buildings were about to be granted protection..." -- Martino Stierli; Ann Temkin- The Art Newspaper (UK)

Blair Kamin: Venice postpones big architecture show, putting Chicago in a bind: Does the Chicago Architecture Biennial delay to 2022 because the Venice show has postponed due to COVID-19? If the Chicago biennial doesn’t alter its plans, the two exhibitions will partly overlap and could wind up competing for both media attention and exhibitors. The rescheduling of the Venice event puts its Chicago counterpart in "unchartered water"...-- Paul Andersen; Paul Preissner; Hashim Sarkis- Chicago Tribune

New Dates for Expo 2020 Dubai Announced: Although Expo 2020 will be held in 2021, its name will not change. It will welcome 192 countries, plus businesses, multilateral organizations, and educational establishments from 1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022. - ArchDaily

Vivian Lee and Matt Ducharme Take Leadership Roles at Woods Bagot: The international firm has named Lee as its New York studio executive director and Ducharme as design leader, West Coast and associate principal: Lee’s new position follows...her departure earlier this year from Richard Meier & Partners, where she had worked since 2005... -- SHoP Architects; Populous- Architect Magazine

Omar Khan Appointed Head of the Carnegie Mellon University School of Architecture: ,,effective August 1, 2020. He joins CMU from the Department of Architecture at the University at Buffalo (UB), State University of New York...served as UB department chair for seven years...research and creative activities span architecture, installation/performance art, and digital design and fabrication.-- Carnegie Mellon University (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania)

Robert Alexander González named dean of University of New Mexico's School of Architecture and Planning: ...comes to UNM from Texas Tech University (TTU), fills the position held on an interim basis by Mark Childs since July 2019 following the departure of former dean Geraldine Forbes Isais.-- University of New Mexico / UNM News

Free STEAM Lessons Offered Online For Aspiring Architecture And Design Students: They can participate in a virtual classroom inspired by none other than
architecture icon [FLW]. The Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation has launched a free online program designed to help students (K-12) use the iconic architect's life and work as a jumping off point for learning...Frank Lloyd Wright Virtual Classroom is a six-week series of STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math)-focused lessons...activities include "Turn Two Circles into a Square" and "The Impact of Color."- CBS Los Angeles

Henry Grabar: Planning the Post-Pandemic City: During crises when residents flee to cars and suburbs, metropolises have panicked. This time can be different: Today, it’s the 1950s, when a sudden shift from transit to car traffic threatened to make cities unusable...We’ve been down this road before...Metropolises may get the gridlocked ’50s and the bankrupt ’70s all in six months...There’s a pattern here: Sacrificing the wellbeing of those who don’t leave the city to cater to those who might - or...already did...One of the pandemic’s frightening effects is to expose a distressing lack of imagination about how to reinvent the places we live.- Slate

Blair Kamin: An open letter to Mayor Lightfoot: Time to rethink your lakefront shutdown: ...and substitute a more nimble one that would let Chicagoans prove they can act responsibly...If too many people act like knuckleheads, you can always do another shutdown...public health must continue to take priority over public space. But the two aren’t necessarily at odds...transportation activists and architects are calling for Chicago to follow the lead of other U.S. cities that have closed streets to vehicular traffic...Parkgoers would have a powerful incentive to enforce good behavior, knowing that their auntie - tough but fair, firm but flexible - won’t hesitate to shut down the lakefront again.- Chicago Tribune

“Lessons from a Pandemic”: How Will COVID-19 Affect Public Spaces? Cities adapted in the past to pandemics, and one place to start is in parks, says a Tufts urban planning professor Justin Hollander [video]- Tufts Now (Tufts University)

Trish Riggs: Confronting COVID-19: Maintaining and Managing Parks and Open Space under Quarantine: Parks and open space have provided a much-needed respite from the quarantine necessary in many cities...ULI/Urban Land Institute/ULI, National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), and the Trust for Public Land are partners in the 10 Minute Walk campaign, dedicated to improving access to safe, high-quality parks and green spaces in cities throughout the United States. [Free webinar is part of a series organized by ULI’s Building Healthy Places Initiative.]- Urban Land Magazine (Urban Land Institute/ULI)

Healthy people in healthy places equals a healthy economy: USGBC is outlining a series of actions and priorities that will support the global recovery effort and leverage the power of our community to shape a healthier future for all: We don’t have to choose between public health and a healthy economy...going forward, we will prioritize our efforts to build people’s trust that their spaces are healthy and have a positive impact not only on them, but the economy at large.- U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC)

Matthew Taylor: Large areas of London to be made car-free as lockdown eased: Mayor Sadiq Khan says city needs to be repurposed for people as it emerges from coronavirus restrictions: ...one of the biggest car-free initiatives of any city in the world...“It will mean a fundamental reimagining how we live our lives in
this city. And this transformation will not be smooth." - Guardian (UK)

ANN feature: Jeffrey Paine, FAIA & Turan Duda, FAIA: INSIGHT: Design for Wellness: What Now? Designers must be at the forefront of ensuring that the spaces of the future embrace the lessons of 2020 without sacrificing beauty, comfort, and our shared need to come together safely and to foster human wellbeing. - ArchNewsNow.com

Note: Pages will open in a new browser window. External news links are not endorsed by ArchNewsNow.com. Free registration may be required on some sites. Some pages may expire after a few days.
Today's News - Wednesday, May 20, 2020

- **Castenson** reports on a collaboration that includes the Rocky Mountain Institute and the U.S. DOE's Building Technology Office to bring prefab manufacturing for housing "back to U.S. soil. Challenges aside, the possibilities are endless."

- **Toussaint** brings us three timber buildings in the U.K., Denmark, and Norway that "could represent the future of green architecture. Architects (and governments) are embracing the material and finding innovative ways to use it."

- **Wainwright** reports on a nonprofit organization that is helping Mongolian nomads (over 60% of the capital city's population!) "adapt to big city life" with a "yurt-inspired hub that's fixing their culture shock," designed by Hong Kong-based Rural Urban Framework (RUF).

- **Moore** takes on China's "banning knockoff buildings that might bring a renaissance in Chinese architecture" + "Proof of the permanent derangement wrought by the U.K.'s property market" now that home sales can restart - "it can now be more difficult to see members of your own family than prospective buyers and sellers of property."

- **Mark Foster** Gage explains the influence of Gothic architecture on his proposed 102-story supertall in NYC: "The reason we undertook this seemingly odd endeavor was to try to find a cure for the bland and featureless modern glass-box - a shotgun wedding between the abstract glass boxes and the intricate vertical structures of the Gothic."

- **Report from Venice** (translated): "There are chasms opening" along the under-water walls of the city, threatening the foundations of homes and palazzo," documented by volunteers and environmentalists who are rowing through the canals" - the "scars have come to light, thanks to a May with no traffic" and lower than usual tides.

- **A temple** in Turkey built 6,000 years before Stonehenge, "reveals architectural planning may be older than we think" - until now, "it was assumed that architectural planning methods such came about much later in history."

- **The 2020** Trust for Public Land ParkScore index evaluates park access and quality in the 100 largest U.S. cities (#1: Minneapolis) + "Parks and the pandemic" report addresses "the challenges and changes that the pandemic poses to America's parks and open spaces."

- **Belgium's** Biennale Interieur 2020 becomes Biennale Interieur 2021: "The world will look different in a post-covid era" by October '21 (we hope!).

**Winners all:**

- **The five** recipients of AIA's 2020 Upjohn Research grants of up to $30,000 "will research reducing energy use and carbon in buildings."

- **Miles of** winners of the 2020 NYCxDESIGN Awards, announced in a virtual ceremony hosted by Interior Design mag and ICFF ("NYC's Shining Moment": Statue of Liberty Museum by FXCollaborative & ESI Design).

- **The Daylight** Award 2020, sponsored by the Velux Foundations, goes to Finish architect and designer Juha Leiviskä, British neuroscientist Russell Foster, and Lifetime Achievement to U.S. architect, writer, and photographer Henry Plummer.
Architect Nili Portugali's "And the alley she whitewashed in light blue" wins the Inca Imperial International Film Festival's Best Experimental Feature Award.

COVID-19 news continues:

- **Holland** delves into how "urban planners are already adapting our cities to lockdown. But will the changes last - epidemics can have radical and unexpected effects on architecture and design - which more radical design proposals will shape the post-pandemic city?"

- **FIU's D'souza** takes a fascinating dive into "time, space, and adaptive reuse in the age of social distancing - could thinking of 'time' as an essential design strategy benefit architecture"?

- **Caulfield** talks to more than a dozen industry pros re: "preparing for re-occupancy" of office buildings "amid the coronavirus. Making workplaces safer will require behavioral resolve nudged by design" + links to useful guidelines and tool kits (one from Congress's bipartisan Member Problem-Solving Caucus - will wonders never cease!).

- **AO's Bruce** Greenfield offers "an architect's perspective" on hospitality design after COVID-19 - "new features will become a central priority for every guest and meeting planner."

To subscribe to the free daily newsletter click here

Jennifer Castenson: Prefab Needs To Be Fixed Before It Can Save Housing: Developers are ordering modular units from overseas that are price competitive with what could be manufactured in the U.S....ADL Ventures...Rocky Mountain Institute and...the U.S. Department of Energy’s Building Technology Office to pull together a...collaboration between government and the private sector to advance offsite construction...Getting this business back on U.S. soil would boost both the labor market and building product sales...Challenges Aside, The Possibilities are Endless -- Nolan Browne; Tyler Schmetterer/New World Home; Nic Brathwaite/Katerra; Ken Semler/Impresa Modular; Steve Glenn/PlantPrefab/LivingHomes; Koto; Roger Krulak/Full Stack Modular; Modular Mobilization Coalition - Forbes

Kristin Toussaint: These three timber buildings could represent the future of green architecture: Are they the solution to construction’s carbon problem? A study from the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, in Germany, found that with proper forest management, a global boom in wood buildings could sequester up to 700 million tons of carbon a year...Architects (and governments) are embracing the material and finding innovative ways to use it. - - Zaha Hadid Architects: Eco Park Stadium, Gloucestershire, U.K.; Henning Larsen: Fælledby Quarter, Copenhagen, Denmark; Voll Arkitekter: Mjøstårnet, Brumunddal, Norway - Fast Company magazine

Oliver Wainwright: Welcome to the yurt-opolis! How Mongolia is helping its nomads adapt to big city life: ...the yurt-inspired hub that’s fixing their culture shock: Visit Ulaanbaatar on Google Earth...the Mongolian capital looks like no other city: Scattered around...are hundreds of thousands of tiny white dots...[These] are yurts (gers in Mongolian)...GerHub, a nonprofit social enterprise helps people adjust to the challenges of urban life..."they represent over 60% of the entire population of the city"...GerHub’s educational and social outreach programme has a new home...a contemporary take on the traditional ger, designed by the Hong Kong architecture studio Rural Urban Framework (RUF)...it will become a vital social hub to help this fledgling community form
neighbourhood bonds and reap the benefits of their newly urban life. -- Badruun Gardi- Guardian (UK)

Rowan Moore: Banning knockoff buildings might bring a renaissance in Chinese architecture + Market forces in the U.K.: In bad news for postmodern ironists, China has announced a ban on “plagiarising, imitating and copycatting” foreign architecture. For a good quarter of a century, Chinese developers have been entertaining the world’s urban theorists and architectural pontificators...with imitations of western buildings...But now the fun is apparently over + Proof...of the permanent derangement wrought by the property market on the body politic and the soul of the nation: ...easing of the lockdown in England included the news that the buying and selling of homes could restart...it can now be more difficult to see members of your own family than prospective buyers and sellers of property. - Observer (UK)

Mark Foster Gage: Gothic architecture: Can the 12th-century style radically change how we build today? And what does it mean to be "Gothic" anyway? Among the most defining characteristics...is its aspiration to ignore gravity and reach for the sky...When designing a proposal for a 102-story residential building on West 57th Street in Manhattan...The reason we undertook this seemingly odd endeavor was to try to find a cure for the bland and featureless modern glass-box...not so much a Gothic re-revival as a shotgun wedding between the abstract glass boxes...and the intricate vertical structures of the Gothic...Perhaps all architectural styles...should be considered as living structures...ready to be reinvented by...architects of today and those of generations to come. - CNN Style

Venice: collapsing banks and damaged Istrian stone. The hidden injuries of the città d'acqua: There are chasms opening under water, threatening the foundations of homes and palazzi...Documentation assembled by a group of volunteers and environmentalists who are rowing through the canals of the city reports “the situation is serious, in some points it is truly critical”...Scars...have now come to light, thanks to a May with no traffic, as well as the tides, which are lower than usual...repair of minor damage before it became irreversible damage was ongoing...discontinued 20 years ago, after the funding cuts ..directed to the major work of MoSE. [via La Nuova Venezia]- Campaign For A Living Venice

A temple that predates Stonehenge reveals architectural planning may be older than we think: Researchers have discovered part of the mystery behind the construction of the earliest known temple in human history. The Göbekli Tepe ["Potbelly Hill"] complex in southeastern Anatolia, Turkey, is a 11,500-year-old stone structure...it was assumed that architectural planning methods such as geometry and floor plans came about much later in history- CNN

The Trust for Public Land ParkScore index: The most comprehensive evaluation of park access and quality in the 100 largest U.S. cities: Our analysis is based on four characteristics of an effective park system: access, investment, acreage, and amenities + “Parks and the pandemic,” a special report from experts at The Trust for Public Land addressing the challenges and changes that the pandemic poses to America’s parks and open spaces.- Trust for Public Land
Biennale Interieur 2020 becomes Biennale Interieur 2021: ...will take place in Kortrijk, Belgium, from 21 to 25 October 2021...By postponing the 5-day event to 2021, the timing, changes from even years to odd years. The world will look different in a post-covid era. - Biennale Interieur (Belgium)

AIA awards research grants to advance climate action: The Upjohn Research Initiative supports AIA's commitment to climate action by awarding grants to sustainable design research: ...grants up to $30,000 to five research projects...This year’s recipients will research reducing energy use and carbon in buildings.... - American Institute of Architects (AIA)

NYCxDESIGN Awards Winners 2020: ...announced in a virtual ceremony hosted by Interior Design and the International Contemporary Furniture Fair (ICFF). -- FXCollaborative; ESI Design (NYC's Shining Moment); Somewhere Studio; Diller Scofidio + Renfro; James Corner Field Operations; Rockwell Group/Lab at Rockwell Group; Gensler; Beyer Blinder Belle; INC Architecture & Design; Lubrano Ciavarra Architects; Stonehill Taylor; etc. - Interior Design magazine

Juha Leiviskä, Russell Foster and Henry Plummer receive The Daylight Award 2020: ...for Architecture (€100,000): Juha Leiviskä, architect and designer (Finland); Research (€100,000): Russell Foster, neuroscientist (U.K.); Lifetime Achievement: Henry Plummer, architect, writer and photographer (U.S.).- Velux Foundations (Velux Fonden & Villum Fonden)

Inca Imperial International Film Festival 2020 honors architect Nili Portugali's "And the alley she whitewashed in light blue" with the Best Experimental Feature Award - Inca Imperial International Film Festival (Lima, Peru)

Oscar Holland: Our cities may never look the same again after the pandemic: ...urban planners are already adapting our cities to lockdown. But will the changes last, and which more radical design proposals...will shape the post-pandemic city? ...cities in which pandemic-era measures seem most likely to stick are those already committed to change...pandemic may only have served as a catalyst...how else might the virus - or attempts to prevent future ones - re-shape our cities? The biggest questions may center around population density...Epidemics can have radical and unexpected effects on architecture and design...there's plenty of scope for innovation. -- Precht; Hua Hua Architects; Antonio Lanzillo; Sara Jensen Carr/The Topography of Wellness; Jordi Honey-Rosés; Umberto Menasci- CNN Style

Newton D'souza: Time, Space, and Adaptive Reuse in the Age of Social Distancing: ...maintaining “six foot distance”...puts architectural space at a premium for both designers and the public...could thinking of “time” as an essential design strategy benefit architecture: ...what implications does “time-sharing” of spaces have on architectural strategies of the future? ...how does one go about time-sharing of spaces...The idea of behavior settings provides designers a vehicle to understand space, time and behavior...The COVID-19 era has expedited the need for adaptive reuse...to think of spaces in creative ways...provides us an opportunity to rethink how we have traditionally used and designed public spaces. -- Florida International University (FIU); HKS; Patrik Schumacher/Zaha Hadid Architects - Archinect
John Caulfield: Infection control in office buildings: Preparing for re-occupancy amid the coronavirus: Making workplaces safer will require behavioral resolve nudged by design: More firms are positioning themselves as wellness champions these days. -- Jack Weber/Gresham Smith; J. Kevin Heinly/Gensler; Shrikant Sharma/BuroHappold; Andrew Horning/Bala Consulting Engineers; Steve Riojas/HDR; Sharron van der Meulen/James Woolum/ZGF Architects; Daniel Yudchitz/Leo A Daly; Lise Newman/SmithGroup; Fred Schmidt/Perkins and Will; Rebecca Milne/Connor Glass/Perkins Eastman; Angie Lee/Rachel Bannon-Godfrey/Stantec; Sam Nunes/WRNS Studio; Shona O’Dea/DLR Group; Casey Lindberg/HKS- Building Design & Construction (BD+C)

Bruce Greenfield/AO: Hospitality After COVID-19: An Architect’s Perspective: Hotel operators must take action to create a safe, healthy environment and reassure guests that their health and safety is their top priority...cleaning protocols should be intensified...and communicate cleanliness to guests [with] noninvasive signage and graphics, with a focus on high-touch areas...Hotels will borrow from healthcare design...UV sanitization system could be incorporated...operators must apply social-distancing practices to the layout of furniture in public spaces...new features will become a central priority for every guest and meeting planner....- Hotel Business

ANN feature: Jeffrey Paine, FAIA & Turan Duda, FAIA: INSIGHT: Design for Wellness: What Now? Designers must be at the forefront of ensuring that the spaces of the future embrace the lessons of 2020 without sacrificing beauty, comfort, and our shared need to come together safely and to foster human wellbeing.- ArchNewsNow.com

Note: Pages will open in a new browser window. External news links are not endorsed by ArchNewsNow.com. Free registration may be required on some sites. Some pages may expire after a few days.
EDITOR’S NOTE: Tomorrow and Monday will be no-newsletter days. We'll be back Tuesday, May 26. 'Til then: Stay well. Stay safe. Stay in!

● **ANN feature:** Katie Faulkner: The wickedly funny Michael Sorkin, known to many as Comrade, was a social justice warrior. He maintained perpetual outrage in the course of writing 20 books and hundreds of articles, honing his invectives for gentrification, Disneyfication, waste, and conspicuous consumption.

● **Hickman** reports that Mies’s "Farnsworth House is (once again) besieged by floodwaters," and brings us the statement to AN by the National Trust for Preservation’s chief preservationist Katherine Malone-France that details "the current situation - and what needs to be done moving forward" + May is NTHP Virtual Preservation Month - take a virtual tour!

● **Block reports** on protests in the streets of Tirana as the 1939 National Theatre of Albania is demolished to make way for BIG proposed new national theater, "with critics accusing the prime minister of a lack of transparency for not holding a design competition."

● **Berlin's** (bizarre!) Brutalist Mäusebunker, "known for its jutting blue tubes and triangular windows reminiscent of a grounded spaceship or submarine," is slated for demolition, "but there is an ongoing campaign to save the building by having it listed."

● **Kimmelman's** latest virtual tour is a few miles, and a few hundred years of history, from Brooklyn Heights to the Brooklyn Navy Yard with fourth-generation Brooklynite and historian Tom Campanella: "The Navy Yard is the story of Brooklyn in a nutshell." The symbol of renewal. "New York always finds a way to bounce back" ("AIA Guide to NYC" as weapon - who knew?).

● **ICYMI: ANN** feature: Jeffrey Paine & Turan Duda consider: What now, in designing for wellness: "Designers must be at the forefront of ensuring that the spaces of the future embrace the lessons of 2020 without sacrificing beauty, comfort, and our shared need to come together safely and to foster human wellbeing.

**Deadlines + Winners all:**

● **Call for** entries (no fee!): Sudbury 2050 Urban Design Competition: create a new vision for the urban core of the Canadian city; cash prizes; open to professionals and students.

● **Call for** entries: Re-thinking The Future/RTF Architecture, Construction & Design Awards 2020 for innovative and future-sensitive designs worldwide - special code for fee discount (and miles of categories).

● **Pacheco** reports that Henning Larsen, Studio Gang, and Snøhetta have been shortlisted for the Teddy Roosevelt Presidential Library in North Dakota's Badlands - but we won't see proposals until August 10th.

● **Gerfen x 2** (with great presentations): 2020 AIA COTE Top Ten Awards honor "sustainable solutions for government, community, education, and commercial projects across the U.S."

● **She brings** us eyefuls of the 67th Annual Progressive Architecture/PA Awards - "six projects that exemplify progress by using design to draw connections between individual users and the communities around them."
Yale School of Architecture students win the HUD Innovation in Affordable Housing Design Competition for their design of a new mixed-use development for mixed-income residents in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

A page-turner + Weekend diversions (on the rocks):

- **Eric Wills** gives thumbs-up to "Broken Glass" and Alex Beam's "rigorous reporting" of "the contentious relationship" between Mies and Edith Farnsworth that "gave rise to a Modernist masterpiece" and "a back-story alive with architectural intrigue."

- **Chicago** Public Radio offers some (really terrific!) virtual tours of buildings around the world designed by notable Chicago architects over the last few hundred years.

- **Tomorrow**, the Chicago Architecture Center kicks off Celluloid Skylines: An At-Home Architectural Film Festival that "explores how filmmakers use architecture to tell extraordinary stories" (bonus: themed cocktail recipes to pair with each film!).

- **Some Getty** Villa-inspired cocktail "recipes for virtual happy hours everywhere - check out our Antiquities collection and how to get a Getty Zoom background."

COVID-19 news continues:

- **Alissa Walker's** (impressive!) takedown of some urbanists who "are using the coronavirus" to perpetuate "the delusion that all cities need are denser neighborhoods, more parks, and open streets to magically become 'fairer'" - what cities need is the "dismantling the racial, economic, and environmental inequities."

- Ending the week on a lighter note, Davidson brings us Phil Kline's "Every Night at 7," a tribute to NYC's "evening ritual of shouting-and-pot-banging celebration of essential workers. You can hear a range of intense emotions - gratitude, terror, sadness, frustration, and bruised joy" (he contributed 30 seconds from his own UWS balcony).

- **Stinson:** "Leave it to Ikea to provide assembly instructions for living room forts - the king of simply illustrated furniture assembly manuals details how to construct six different play forts using basic furnishings" (IKEA products preferred, but not required).

To subscribe to the free daily newsletter click here

ANN feature: Katie Faulkner, FAIA: Remembering Michael Sorkin, Critic and Activist: The wickedly funny Sorkin, known to many as Comrade, was a social justice warrior. He maintained perpetual outrage in the course of writing 20 books and hundreds of articles, honing his invectives for gentrification, Disneyfication, waste, and conspicuous consumption.- ArchNewsNow.com

Matt Hickman: Farnsworth House is (once again) besieged by floodwaters: ...certainly the most flood-prone site in the National Trust for Preservation’s storied portfolio...60-acre site in the Fox River floodplain near the Plano, Illinois, precarious rising water is certainly nothing new...[NTHP’s] Katherine Malone-France...detailed the current situation - and what needs to be done moving forward - in a statement provided to AN. -- Mies van der Rohe- The Architect's Newspaper

India Block: Protests in Tirana as Albanian national theatre demolished to make way for BIG project: ...[its] proposed new national theatre...mechanical diggers were used to knock down the [1939] Teatri Kombëtar building [designed by Italian architect Giulio Bertè]...prime minister Edi Rama...shared the pictures of BIG's designs on his Facebook page...project has been contentious from its inception, with critics accusing the prime minister of a lack of transparency for
not holding a design competition...Tirana is currently undergoing rapid architectural transformation. -- BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group - Dezeen

Berlin’s Brutalist ‘Mouse Bunker’ is set for the wrecking ball: ...Mäusebunker building...has been under threat for years...brutalist building [by Gerd Hänska] is known for its jutting blue tubes and triangular windows...austere exterior...reminiscent of a grounded spaceship or submarine and is inspired by futurism and Cold War militarism...demolition has been on the cards for the last 10 years, but there is an ongoing campaign to save the building by having it listed. - The Spaces (UK)

Michael Kimmelman: Brooklyn, Before It Was a Global Brand: Walk Its History: A few hundred years in the borough, from the brownstones to the shipyards. Our critic chats with a fourth-generation Brooklynite and historian: Thomas J. Campanella teaches city planning and directs the [Cornell] Urban and Regional Studies program...Historian-in-residence for the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation...author of "Brooklyn: The Once and Future City"...a stroll from Brooklyn Heights to the gates of the Brooklyn Navy Yard..."Brooklyn Heights was America’s first commuter suburb...Navy Yard is the story of Brooklyn in a nutshell"...The symbol of renewal. "New York always finds a way to bounce back." -- George L. Morse; Gilmore D. Clarke; Michael Rapuano; Mifflin E. Bell; William Thomas McCarthy; Rosario Candela - New York Times

Call for entries (no fee!): Sudbury 2050 Urban Design Competition: create a new vision for the urban core of the City of Greater Sudbury, Canada; cash prizes; open to professionals and students; deadline: August 28- McEwen School of Architecture (MSoA)

Call for entries: Re-thinking The Future/RTF Architecture, Construction & Design Awards 2020: recognizing and acknowledging innovative and future-sensitive designs worldwide; special code for fee discount; registration deadline: June 15; final registration deadline: July 31 (submissions due August 15)- ArchDaily

Antonio Pacheco: Henning Larsen, Studio Gang, and Snøhetta shortlisted for Teddy Roosevelt Presidential Library in North Dakota: ...finalists for a forthcoming $100 million research and interpretive center...Slated for a 60-acre
site located in the Badlands...beat out nine other firms, including Diller Scofidio + Renfro, Renzo Piano Building Workshop, Ennead, and MASS Design Group...designs will go on view to the public August 10th and a final, winning design will be selected in September. -- Michael Sørensen; Jeanne Gang; Craig Dykers; Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects; OLIN - Archinect

Katie Gerfen: AIA Announces the Winners of the 2020 AIA COTE Top Ten Awards: ...projects showcase sustainable solutions for government, community, education, and commercial projects across the United States...Gensler received three awards; LPA wins COTE Top Ten Plus Award -- Lake|Flato Architects + Shepley Bulfinch; Richter Architects; Leers Weinzapfel Associates; Farr Associates & Woodhouse Tinucci Architects; Unabridged Architecture; Brooks + Scarpa - Architect Magazine

Katie Gerfen: The Winners of the 67th Annual Progressive Architecture Awards: ...six projects that exemplify progress by using design to draw connections between individual users and the communities around them. -- Studio Gang Architects; Stoss Landscape Urbanism; WOJR; Brooks + Scarpa; French 2D; Marc Boutin Architectural Collaborative - Architect Magazine

Yale School of Architecture students win HUD Innovation in Affordable Housing Design Competition: The brief asked to design a new mixed-use development for mixed-income residents on a site in Santa Fe, New Mexico...entry from the University of Maryland, College Park as the Runner-Up. The two other finalists were University of California, Berkeley and University of Michigan, Ann Arbor...watch the online presentation of all four student finalist teams. - Archinect

Eric Wills: The Farnsworth House on Trial: In “Broken Glass: Mies van der Rohe, Edith Farnsworth, and the Fight Over a Modernist Masterpiece,” Alex Beam recounts how the contentious relationship...gave rise to a Modernist masterpiece: Together they aspired to create an enduring work of architecture...In 1951, when the house was completed...By then the dream was over...their private falling out becoming an ugly public feud...Beam has been rigorous in his reporting...an intimate portrait of the dynamic between architect and client...a backstory alive with architectural intrigue...becoming a pioneering case study in preservation. -- Myron Goldsmith; Peter Palumbo; Dirk Lohan; National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP); Silman - Architect Magazine

What’s That Building? Virtual World Tour Edition: During the stay-at-home era, many historic buildings are offering virtual architecture tours...the opportunity to explore some of the buildings that Chicago’s culture has influenced around the world. -- Adrain Smith (Burj Khalifa); Louis Sullivan (National Farmers’ Bank); Walter Netsch/Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) (U.S. Air Force Academy Cadet Chapel); Jeanne Gang/Studio Gang (Arcus Center for Social Justice Leadership); Daniel Burnham & Harry Weese (Washington D.C.’s Union Station and Metro lines)- WBEZ Chicago Public Radio

Celluloid Skylines: An At-Home Architectural Film Festival, May 22-25: Spend your Memorial Day Weekend watching movies with Chicago Architecture Center! ...in partnership with the Music Box Theatre, this four-day...festival explores how filmmakers use architecture to tell extraordinary stories. -- Christopher Hawthorne/Blade Runner; Anne Surak, Director, Exhibit Columbus/Columbus; Aaron Mazeika/Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM)/An
Engineer Imagines [homage to Peter Rice]; Jean L. Guarino, Ph.D./The Hudsucker Proxy- Chicago Architecture Center (CAC)

Getty Villa-Inspired Cocktails, Spirits, and Spritzes: Drink recipes for virtual happy hours everywhere: In 2020 our happy hours, like many other parts of our lives, have moved over to Zoom...We are delighted to share three Villa-inspired wines, cocktails, and alcohol-optional beverages to mix-up the post-work activities...And if you want to commit to the virtual happy hour theme, check out our Antiquities collection and...how to get a Getty Zoom background.- The Iris / J. Paul Getty Trust

Alissa Walker: Coronavirus is not fuel for urbanist fantasies: This moment should be about reassessing our broken cities: ...many urbanists are using the coronavirus as an opportunity to accelerate their pre-pandemic agendas...As the density discourse eventually devolved into a debate about whether [NYC] was safer than San Francisco, one critical component seems to have been missed...[SF]...purged most of the people who were most at risk from dying from COVID-19...long before the pandemic arrived...cities cannot be fixed if we do not insist on dismantling the racial, economic, and environmental inequities...many prominent urbanists have simply tweaked the language from their January 2020 tweets...to crank out COVID-tagged content, perpetuating the delusion that all cities need are denser neighborhoods, more parks, and open streets to magically become “fairer.”- Curbed

Justin Davidson: Listen to Phil Kline’s "Every Night at 7," a Tribute to Our Evening Ritual: New Yorkers’ shouting-and-pot-banging celebration of essential workers, turned into music: You can hear a range of intense emotions threaded through the piece’s brief arc: gratitude, terror, sadness, frustration, and bruised joy...I contributed 30 seconds from my balcony on the Upper West Side.- New York Magazine

Liz Stinson: How to build a play fort, according to Ikea: Leave it to Ikea to provide assembly instructions for living room forts: ...king of simply illustrated furniture assembly manuals...details how to construct six different play forts using basic furnishings...Höuse; Förtress; Cåmpintent; etc.- Curbed

ANN feature: Jeffrey Paine, FAIA & Turan Duda, FAIA: INSIGHT: Design for Wellness: What Now? Designers must be at the forefront of ensuring that the spaces of the future embrace the lessons of 2020 without sacrificing beauty, comfort, and our shared need to come together safely and to foster human wellbeing.- ArchNewsNow.com

Note: Pages will open in a new browser window.
External news links are not endorsed by ArchNewsNow.com.
Free registration may be required on some sites.
Some pages may expire after a few days.

Yesterday's News

© 2020 ArchNewsNow.com
Today's News - Tuesday, May 26, 2020

- **Design historian** Bess Williamson on "the state of accessible architecture": "Hunters Point Library stands as one of the more notable architectural blunders in several decades of them - access is rarely more than an afterthought," but perhaps 3 much less familiar projects "will shape new practices that center disability rather than treat it as a sideline."

- **Kamin x 2**: He gets a sneak-peek of Chicago's once-threatened Cook County Hospital - "a triumph of historic preservation" by SOM and KOO that gives "new life to an ornate, more-is-more work of architecture" - and much, much more.

- **He reports** that SOM's "plan for two skyline-altering residential skyscrapers" to replace the gaping hole - all that remains of the Calatrava-designed Chicago Spire site - "moves a step closer to groundbreaking" (but also faces "the financial hurdle of a sharp, pandemic-induced economic downturn").

- **Immen on** how "interest in Indigenous design" in Toronto "has been growing as a response to globalization and a search for architectural styles that convey a sense of place," but "because there are only 16 Indigenous architects in Canada," such "features work within contemporary buildings - co-designed with non-Indigenous architects."

- **Eyefuls** of SPARK Architects' master plan for the 12.9+ million-square-foot Guangzhou Shipyard that aims "to create a people friendly world class waterfront founded on the pragmatic principles of good connectivity, density, and quality public spaces."

- **Fairs reports** on Adam Nathaniel Furman's colorful "New London Fabulous" design movement: "Design education 'brainwashes' students into rejecting color, pattern, and ornament," but "a group of London designers is finally overcoming bias against their use" and "overturning entrenched bias in the design establishment."

- **Kenney reports** on how National Geographic is going to defend its "disputed plan to remove" Zimmerman's 1984 "Marabar" to D.C.'s preservation review board this Thursday: It doesn't "qualify as a historic landmark. Nor is it 'a feature of the Washington built landscape that draws attention' - the existing redesign concept for its campus will fulfill a public good."

- **Deadline** extended to June 1! Call for entries: 2020 North American Copper in Architecture Awards (projects must be located in the U.S. or Canada).

- **ICYMI: ANN** feature: Katie Faulkner: The wickedly funny Michael Sorkin, known to many as Comrade, was a social justice warrior. He maintained perpetual outrage in the course of writing 20 books and hundreds of articles, honing his invectives for gentrification, Disneyfication, waste, and conspicuous consumption.

COVID-19 news continues:

- **A do-over** (we had wrong URL on Thursday - and this is a great read!): Alissa Walker's (impressive!) takedown of some urbanists who "are using the coronavirus" to perpetuate "the delusion that all cities need are denser neighborhoods, more parks, and open streets to magically become 'fairer."

- **King at** his best: "What lies ahead for post-shutdown cities? Depending on which supposedly omniscient source you prefer, the specter of a lethal virus signals the end to dense cities once and for all - or a chance to
return to the creative, inclusive urban ideal - much of what we are hearing will turn out to be irrelevant or wrong.

- **Kate Wagner's** (serious with a dose of humor) takedown of the "design phenomenon" she calls "Coronagrifting - cheap mockups of COVID-related design 'solutions'" by "tone-deaf art world creeps - filling the endlessly scrollable feeds of PR-beholden design websites" that "should frankly know better" ("PR-chitecture" at its worst).

- **Moore considers:** "Will Covid-19 show us how to design better cities? It would require creative use of the planning system. A virus can't change city planning all by itself, but it can be used as a chance to push changes whose time has come."

- **Emma Grey** Ellis looks at "how smart city planning could slow future pandemics - it's time to start thinking proactively, and long-term. If the cost of inaction is another pandemic, prevention is worth the price."

- **Frank McDonald** dreams of a Dublin that "could be heaven - we need to dream about a different world: cracking down on the Airbnb plague; promoting more affordable housing rather than office blocks we may no longer need; shopping locally instead of enriching Amazon."

- **Norfleet** reports on how LEED, RELi and WELL building certification systems are looking "to adjust to the COVID-19 era - piloting tweaks to respond to the spread" of the virus - and "asking for ideas on how they can continue to evolve."

- **Bernstein** talks to some of the best re: "How architects are already planning the future of offices. Will some large office buildings become white elephants? Not necessarily."

- **Juliette Kayyem**, formerly with the Department of Homeland Security, considers how the coronavirus "killed corporate culture. Get used to working from home. It has accelerated trends that were already under way."

---

To subscribe to the free daily newsletter click here

Bess Williamson: Why Are There So Few Great Accessible Buildings? Design historian Williamson assesses the state of accessible architecture in 2020...30th anniversary of the ADA: Hunters Point library stands as one of the more notable architectural blunders in several decades of them...when we hear the term "ADA compliant," we hardly think of great architecture...access is rarely more than an afterthought...some of the best examples of accessible architecture...reflect a more positive outcome of the post-ADA era...Access Living, the Ed Roberts Campus, and the LightHouse remain less familiar to many students and designers...but perhaps they will shape new practices that center disability rather than treat it as a sideline. -- Karen L. Brimsey/Studio Pacifica; Olson Kundig; Steven Holl Architects; Jack Catlin/LCM Architects; Leddy Maytum Stacy Architects; Mark Cavagnero; Chris Downey - Metropolis Magazine

Blair Kamin: An exclusive look at the reborn Cook County Hospital: Once facing the wrecking ball...about to reemerge, beautifully remade: ...a triumph of historic preservation, one that should resonate far beyond the walls of the beloved [1916] Beaux-Arts landmark on Chicago's Near West Side...Not only does it give new life to an ornate, more-is-more work of architecture...It preserves a powerful symbol of compassionate care for the poor...the anchor of a much-needed, multiphase $1 billion redevelopment that promises to enliven Chicago's vast but dull Illinois Medical District with new housing, offices and restaurants...real revelations come inside...we can see firsthand that the building’s beauty is more than skin deep. -- Paul Gerhardt; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); KOO-Chicago Tribune

Blair Kamin: Two-tower plan for former Chicago Spire site moves a step closer to groundbreaking: ...plan for two skyline-altering residential skyscrapers...cleared a key political hurdle...But to avoid the fate of the unbuilt
Spire, a proposed 2,000-foot [Santiago Calatrava-designed] tower that captured the imagination of Chicago, the project will have to overcome the financial hurdle of a sharp, pandemic-induced economic downturn...Related Midwest intends to start construction next year...committed to contribute $10 million to the future construction of DuSable Park..also has committed to complete the last leg of a riverwalk -- David Childs/Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM)- Chicago Tribune

Wallace Immen: Indigenous designs take centre stage: Interest in Indigenous design has been growing as a response to globalization and a search for architectural styles that convey a sense of place...In many cases, though, Indigenous architectural features work within otherwise contemporary buildings...Because there are only 16 Indigenous architects in Canada...projects are generally co-designed with non-Indigenous architects. -- David Fortin/Laurentian University McEwen School of Architecture; Douglas Cardinal; Matthew P. J. Hickey/Two Row Architect; Stantec; Quadrangle architects; ERA Architects; Andrew Frontini/Perkins and Will; Bruce Mau Design; Joseph Sagaj-Globe and Mail (Canada)

SPARK completes Guangzhou Shipyard master plan: ...1.2 million square metres [12.9+ million square feet] including residential, culture, offices, retail, recreation, education and healthcare facilities...with the ambition to create a people friendly world class waterfront...plan is founded on the pragmatic principles of good connectivity, density and quality public spaces supported by a rich palette of activities.- A As Architecture

Marcus Fairs: Colourful "New London Fabulous" design movement is challenging minimalism, says Adam Nathaniel Furman: Design education "brainwashes" students into rejecting colour, pattern and ornament...[he] said a group of London designers is finally overcoming bias against their use...cited Yinka Ilori, Camille Walala and Morag Mysercough as other key figures in the movement, which he said was overturning entrenched bias in the design establishment...use bold colour and pattern in their work...Furman now co-runs the AA's Saturated Space research cluster, a forum for "the sharing, exploration, and celebration of colour in architecture."- Dezeen

Nancy Kenney: National Geographic Society defends disputed plan to remove sculptural installation: Organisation argues that Elyn Zimmerman’s site-specific 1984 work does not deserve protection: ...argues that "Marabar," dating from 1984, should not be protected because it does not qualify as a historic landmark or contribute to the historic district in which it partly lies. Nor is it “a feature of the Washington built landscape that draws attention”...society argues that the existing redesign concept for its campus will fulfill a public good. -- Charles A. Birnbaum/The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF); David Childs/Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM)- The Art Newspaper (UK)

Call for entries: 2020 North American Copper in Architecture Awards for outstanding application of architectural copper alloys; projects must be located in the U.S. or Canada; deadline: June 1- Copper Development Association/Canadian Copper & Brass Development Association

Alissa Walker: Coronavirus is not fuel for urbanist fantasies: This moment should be about reassessing our broken cities: ...many urbanists are using the coronavirus as an opportunity to accelerate their pre-pandemic agendas...As the
density discourse eventually devolved into a debate about whether [NYC] was safer than San Francisco, one critical component seems to have been missed...[SF]...purged most of the people who were most at risk from dying from COVID-19...long before the pandemic arrived...cities cannot be fixed if we do not insist on dismantling the racial, economic, and environmental inequities...many prominent urbanists have simply tweaked the language from their January 2020 tweets...to crank out COVID-tagged content, perpetuating the delusion that all cities need are denser neighborhoods, more parks, and open streets to magically become “fairer.”- Curbed

John King: What lies ahead for post-shutdown cities? It depends on whom you ask: Depending on which supposedly omniscient source you prefer, the specter of a lethal virus...signals the end to dense cities once and for all...or a chance to return to the creative, inclusive urban ideal. It proves the value of the private automobile, or the essential importance of public transit...much of what we are hearing will turn out to be irrelevant or wrong...Past acceptance of social inequities should be a priority...hints of a more flexible civic landscape - a willingness to alter our expectations - already have emerged.- San Francisco Chronicle

Kate Wagner: Coronagrifting: A Design Phenomenon: ...the spread a new kind of virust: cheap mockups of COVID-related design “solutions” filling the endlessly scrollable feeds of PR-beholden design websites...From Paper Architecture to PR-chitecture: ...content that has been dreamed up...to look good on instagram feeds...It is only within this substance-less, critically lapsed media landscape that Coronagrifting can prosper...most of the prototypes and the articles [are] insipid...Consider the barrage of asinine PR fluff...“A Designer Has Done Something Cute to Capitalize on Information Meant to Save Lives”...these tone-deaf art world creeps are using such a crisis for shameless self promotion...What’s most astounding to me...is that it is taken completely seriously by design establishments that...should frankly know better.establishments that...should frankly know better.- McMansionHell

Rowan Moore: Will Covid-19 show us how to design better cities? Around the world, cities are cleaner and quieter. Can we reinvent them - and ensure that the changes forced upon them...are not squandered? It has made everyone more conscious of the ways they occupy space...the best response might not be a rush away from everything urban, but a less violent redistribution from one kind of city to another...reflate the many towns and cities that often have good housing stock, handsome if neglected high streets, a legacy of past investment in public amenities...It would require creative use of the planning system...encouraging initiatives that work out new futures for whole streets at a time...A virus can’t change city planning all by itself, but it can be used as a chance to push changes whose time has come.- Observer (UK)

Emma Grey Ellis: How Smart City Planning Could Slow Future Pandemics: The Covid-19 crisis is an opportunity to rethink how cities are designed - and make them better equipped to stop disease from spreading: ...stopgap, reactive steps are important...but they will do little to slow or stave off this pandemic or help prevent the next one...it’s time to start thinking proactively, and long-term...The inequality - and resulting unhealthiness - of cities is a nuanced, layered, snarl of a problem...[place] cities’ highest budget, best designed, most beautiful new projects in the poorest, most neglected areas...It will take money, and political
will...Cities have already been rolling out policies that would have seemed radical at any other time...If the cost of inaction is another pandemic, prevention is worth the price.- Wired

Dublin could be heaven: Frank McDonald reimagines the capital: Will the profound changes in retail, tourism, and work caused by the pandemic allow us to create a better city for everyone to love and work in? ...we surely need to dream about a different world: cracking down on the Airbnb plague to restore city living; promoting more affordable housing rather than office blocks we may no longer need; shopping locally instead of enriching Amazon; making space available for artists and culture...facilitating walking and cycling rather than endless traffic; and cherishing Dublin’s human scale by resisting random eruptions of high-rise buildings. -- deBlacam and Meagher Architects; Newenham Mulligan Architects - The Irish Times

Nicole Norfleet: LEED, RELi and WELL building certification systems, look to adjust to COVID-19 era: ...piloting tweaks to respond to the spread: ...in the process of being re-evaluated for short-term as well as long-term changes...LEED has launched new pilot credits that focus on social distancing, nontoxic surface cleaning, air quality and infection monitoring...USGBC is also asking for ideas on how LEED can continue to evolve...RELi is working on pilot credits...[and] gathering ideas for how to enhance its standards...WELL Building Institute is forming a task force...that will inform new enhancements... -- Doug Pierce/Perkins and Will; U.S. Green Building Council- Minneapolis Star Tribune

Fred A. Bernstein: How Architects Are Already Planning the Future of Offices: For urban skyscrapers and the blue-chip architects who design them, the pandemic “is going to skew perceptions of the value of space” - and maybe that’s not such a bad thing: After 9/11, I worried about the future of the Empire State Building. Would anyone want to work in what had suddenly become the city’s tallest building...I’m worried about [it] again...whether anyone will want to work in a building with narrow lobbies and compact elevators...Then again, [it] offers something that might be considered advantageous...enclosed offices [and] windows that open...Will some large office buildings become white elephants? Not necessarily...architects are being forced to think about more than the client’s bottom line. There’s a new focus...on what’s good for the larger community. -- Mies van der Rohe; Marion Weiss/Michael Manfredi/Weiss/Manfredi; Kai-Uwe Bergmann/BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group; Chris Hellstern/Miller Hull Partnership; Claire Weisz/WXY - Wall Street Journal

Juliette Kayyem: Never Go Back to the Office: The coronavirus killed corporate culture. Get used to working from home: ...the quiet part of this dilemma needs to be said out loud now: When should you go back to the office? You shouldn’t...Until a vaccine becomes available, corporate culture is over...office planners can certainly envision a new workplace...Employers are looking to invest in their own testing system...corporate America is desperately clamoring for protection against liability...But they don’t have it yet...The coronavirus has accelerated trends that were already under way. Companies were looking for ways to cut their spending on office space; many workers were eager to telecommute more often. -- Joseph G. Allen; John D. Macomber - The Atlantic

ANN feature: Katie Faulkner, FAIA: Remembering Michael Sorkin, Critic and Activist: The wickedly funny Sorkin, known to many as Comrade, was a social
justice warrior. He maintained perpetual outrage in the course of writing 20 books and hundreds of articles, honing his invectives for gentrification, Disneyfication, waste, and conspicuous consumption. - ArchNewsNow.com
Today's News - Wednesday, May 27, 2020

- **Wainwright** parses the "Kafkaesque nightmare" residents of council estates in the U.K. face when local councils vote for demolition - and cheers a new free-to-download book by two "radical academics" who "have performed a vital public service - this is no dry theoretical survey, but a practical guide" to help "condemned estates beat the bulldozers."

- **Hickman** reports on MASS Design Group co-leading a "tribal engagement process" for the Willamette Falls Riverwalk in Oregon City with the aim "to breathe cultural and recreational life into a long-blighted and closed-off industrial area."

- **McCown parses** The Architectural Team and Halvorson Design's approach to Boston's changing coastline for the 7-acre Clippership Wharf development - "this is no ordinary condo/rental venture. It was designed and built to adapt to the effects of climate change" and "can withstand a 40-inch rise" in water level.

- **Chatwin** charts "the Shenzhen effect - China's original 'model' city" (warts and all) "remains hugely influential in China's urban planning, even four decades after the city was established."

- **Scientists** at Flinders University in Adelaide, South Australia, have discovered a rubber polymer that could lead to "revolutionary 'green' types of bricks and construction materials" made from recycled PVC, waste plant fibers, or sand" that "may one day replace non-recyclable construction materials."

- **Be Original** Americas1st Worldwide Virtual Student Fellowship, June 15 - July 17, offers currently enrolled university students around the world live webinars with 25+ international designers, makers, and creators.

- **ICYMI: ANN** feature: Katie Faulkner: The wickedly funny Michael Sorkin, known to many as Comrade, was a social justice warrior. He maintained perpetual outrage in the course of writing 20 books and hundreds of articles, honing his invectives for gentrification, Disneyfication, waste, and conspicuous consumption.

**COVID-19 news continues:**

- **Cramer explains** why "architects will be able to look back on their response to COVID-19 with pride. Historically, the profession hasn't seemed attuned to crisis management" - now "architecture is proving more resilient, and relevant, than ever - rising to the occasion with intelligence and altruism."

- **On a bleaker** note, Block reports on the results of RIBA's second survey of British architects that show the pandemic is causing a "significant decline in U.K. architects' mental health," along with "loneliness, money worries and the stress of working from home. To help, Assael Architecture, in collaboration with Architects' Mental Wellbeing Forum, has "put together a Covid-19 toolkit to offer support to those who are struggling."

- **Sasaki's** Grove delves into how "suburban sprawl increases the risk of future pandemics. The next pandemic may very well result from our addiction to - and exportation of - sprawl - embracing denser, cleaner, and more efficient cities that drive ecological conservation may very well be our greatest export to humanity."

- **Davidson** minces no words in his warning that "reopening NYC too soon" is "a new chapter in the tale of two cities: the young and the healthy will take their chances; the old and the vulnerable will effectively remain under house arrest - we are making our shameful peace with a partial reopening that leaves millions indefinitely shut indoors."


Landscape architect Robert Gibbs, who has designed hundreds of retail corridors, explains why, after lockdown, there will be "new opportunities for downtown shopping districts" that "will capture traffic from fading malls" and "be the new home for the boom in the years to come."

Meanwhile, landscape architect Richard LeBrasseur explains why "parks matter more than ever during a time of sickness. Olmsted took the right approach - his knowledge of contagious diseases informed his visions - closing parks and public green spaces should be a temporary, last-resort measure for disease control."

Harrouk and Baldwin "investigate the current trends, predict the future, and offer insights" re: "architecture, post COVID-19: the profession, the firms, and the individuals."

To subscribe to the free daily newsletter click here

Wainwright: 'A Kafkaesque nightmare': the survival guide helping condemned estates beat the bulldozers: It has been called 'one of the finest council estates in the country'. So why is Cressingham Gardens facing demolition? ...residents have been living on the edge, the future of their homes and community ties uncertain... Their campaign has been extraordinarily successful - yet [Lambeth Council] still plans to [demolish]...The residents' story is one of several [in] "Community-Led Regeneration: A Toolkit for Residents and Planners" by Pablo Sendra and Daniel Fitzpatrick...this is no dry theoretical survey, but a practical guide for the thousands of people currently facing uncertainty about the future of their homes...[authors] have performed a vital public service... -- Ted Hollamby-Guardian (UK)

Matt Hickman: MASS Design Group to co-lead tribal engagement process for Willamette Falls Riverwalk in Oregon City, Oregon: ...process will focus on gleaning - and then prioritizing - input and advice on design and programming aspects from a total of five confederated tribes...The ambitious project...aims to breathe cultural and recreational life into a long-blighted and closed-off industrial area spanning 22 acres along the horseshoe-shaped [falls]...In 2015, an initial design and public engagement process kicked off with a design team led by Snøhetta...with Portland-based landscape architecture firm Mayer/Reed and Toronto-based DIALOG...MASS's multi-tribal outreach...will complement previous work completed by the design teams... -- Joseph Kunkel- The Architect's Newspaper

James McCown: In Boston, a Development's Approach to a Changing Coastline Is to Embrace It: Among the resilient features of Clippership Wharf is a "living shoreline" of marsh and native fauna: ...encompasses 7 acres of residential, recreational, and hospitality spaces...this is no ordinary condo/rental venture. [It] was designed and built in accordance with the guidelines of Climate Ready Boston, a city initiative to adapt to the effects of climate change along its sprawling waterfronts..."can withstand a 40-inch rise"...the entire waterfront is open to the public...expected to be fully completed eight months after the COVID-19 construction ban is lifted... -- Robert Adams/Halvorson Design; Michael Liu/The Architectural Team (TAT)- Metropolis Magazine

Jonathan Chatwin: The Shenzhen effect: Why China's original 'model' city matters more than ever: ...government is investing trillions of yuan to establish new areas and development zones, many of which act as satellites to existing cities...These projects all look back to one city for inspiration: the godfather of urban transformation...Now home to over 13 million people...Architecture and design became crucial ways of representing this model vision of modern China...now faced with a problem unimaginable to its original planners: A lack of
space...the waterfront...was extended into the bay almost 20 years ago. A new city center business district...is now being built on that land...its design aims to correct the mistakes of the past......Shenzhen's example, both positive and negative, remains hugely influential...even four decades after the city was established. -- Zaha Hadid Architects; Juan Du; Henning Larsen Architects - CNN Style

Building bricks from plastic waste: Revolutionary 'green' types of bricks and construction materials could be made from recycled PVC, waste plant fibers or sand with the help of a remarkable new kind of rubber polymer discovered by Australian scientists: "...could produce materials that may one day replace non-recyclable construction materials, bricks and even concrete replacement...Cement is a finite resource and heavily polluting in its production..."also important because there are currently few methods to recycle PVC or carbon fiber"...- Phys.org

Call for registration: Be Original Americas1st Worldwide Virtual Student Fellowship: 25+ Designers, Makers, & Creators Present Live Webinars, June 15 - July 17, 2020: open to currently enrolled university students around the world; developed in place of Be Original Americas Annual Design Fellowship, in which 2 students won the opportunity to visit studios and companies...- Be Original Americas

Ned Cramer: Architecture in Unusual Times: Architects will be able to look back on their response to COVID-19 with pride. When discord was the rule, the profession came together: How does one respond to calamity at such a scale...The propagation of dissonant narratives and the ongoing assault on expertise have caught us in a vicious circle of mistrust and mismanagement...it’s tempting...to retreat further into denial, tribalism...I certainly don’t see architects retreating...Historically, the profession hasn’t seemed attuned to crisis management...however, [they] have been transcending their reputation...architecture is proving more resilient, and relevant, than ever...rising to the occasion with intelligence and altruism.- Architect Magazine

India Block: Coronavirus pandemic causing "significant decline" in UK architects' mental health: Loneliness, money worries and the stress of trying to juggle working from home with caring commitments has had a negative impact...RIBA has warned: ...number of architects and architecture student...has almost doubled since the start of April...39% of architects surveyed...said that their mental health had been negatively impacted...up from 23%...from early April...57% have seen cashflow reduced. Work has stalled for 90%...48% have had projects cancelled...To help...Assael Architecture have collaborated with Architects' Mental Wellbeing Forum to put together a Covid-19 toolkit to offer support to those who are struggling.- Dezeen

Michael Grove/Sasaki: Suburban Sprawl Increases the Risk of Future Pandemics: In our pre-pandemic ignorance, most urbanists pointed to climate change as the most dangerous impact of our cherished suburban lifestyle...but COVID-19 has exposed another threat...The next pandemic may very well result from our addiction to - and exportation of - sprawl. The increasing traction of the anti-density movement...is alarming...Headlines proclaiming how sprawl may save us and that living in cities puts citizens at higher risk for contracting the [virus] are deceptive...Recent studies have debunked these myths...cities are
the answer if we plan them carefully...embracing denser, cleaner, and more efficient cities that drive ecological conservation...may very well be our greatest export to humanity.- The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Justin Davidson: Reopening the City Too Soon Is, Effectively, Age Discrimination: The city is gambling that we have learned enough in these past months to keep the risks under control...We're opening a new chapter in the tale of two cities: the young and the healthy will...take their chances; the old and the vulnerable will effectively remain under house arrest. To reopen now is to accept a new form of segregation...This is a civil-rights issue, and the reason we face it is that we have bumbled the better option: testing everyone...Instead of isolating the infected, we will isolate the old and infirm [and] people with an assortment of risk factors...we are making our shameful peace with a partial reopening that leaves millions indefinitely shut indoors.- New York Magazine

Robert Gibbs: After Lockdown, New Opportunities for Downtown Shopping Districts: ...in part due to newly unemployed...opening new businesses in downtowns...will capture traffic from fading malls...Main Streets are already innovating...making them a more attractive alternative for retail shopping in the era of COVID-19...As we look to the future...A new generation of entrepreneurs will be eager to start a new chapter in their life, and the suburban shopping centers are not going to attract them. Well-designed town centers...will be the new home for the boom in the years to come. -- Gibbs Planning Group- The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Richard leBrasseur: Parks matter more than ever during a time of sickness: The Covid-19 pandemic has altered humans' relationship with natural landscapes in ways that may be long-lasting...many jurisdictions have closed state and county parks...and other outdoor destinations. There's good reason...especially in places where people have spurned social distancing rules...Frederick Law Olmsted...took the right approach...his knowledge of contagious diseases informed his visions for his great North American urban parks...closing parks and public green spaces should be a temporary, last-resort measure for disease control...government agencies should work to make these vital services as widely available as possible, especially during stressful periods like pandemic shutdowns...There are many ways to make parks accessible with appropriate levels of control.- CNN Style

Architecture post COVID-19: the Profession, the Firms, and the Individuals: ...editors Christele Harrouk and Eric Baldwin generated this collaborative piece that seeks to investigate the current trends, predict the future, and offer insights: The Profession: Interdisciplinary approaches; Future projects; Adaptive reuse approaches; New parameters; The Adaptable City: Public spaces; Density; Transportation/Mobility; The Firms: Business continuity; Office structure; Work models; The Individuals: Students and recent grads; Young professionals- ArchDaily

ANN feature: Katie Faulkner, FAIA: Remembering Michael Sorkin, Critic and Activist: The wickedly funny Sorkin, known to many as Comrade, was a social justice warrior. He maintained perpetual outrage in the course of writing 20 books and hundreds of articles, honing his invectives for gentrification, Disneyfication, waste, and conspicuous consumption.- ArchNewsNow.com
Today's News - Thursday, May 28, 2020

- **ANN feature:** FXCollaborative’s Dan Kaplan offers a most eloquent "quarantine-induced assessment of downtown Manhattan - lingering on the rich detail, walking down streets that we neglected in busier times. Hopefully we’ll emerge from our collective timeout recommitted to creating a more equitable and resilient city."

- **Safi talks** to an impressive range of pundits re: "what legacy Covid-19 will leave on urban life. Some of the changes already taking shape may make cities more pleasurable. That's the good news. The bad is that the pandemic is a catastrophe for many of the things that make cities worth living in."

- **Hickman** reports that 5 more cities have joined the Reimagining the Civic Commons initiative "to boost social, economic, goals through philanthropy-assisted investments in public spaces. As urban areas look toward a post-COVID-19 future, the need to provide residents with and fund safe, equitable, and accessible public spaces has become even more vital" (our only COVID-19 stories for the day!).

- **Kiel Moe** makes the "case for a more literal architecture," which, today, "seems to persist - even thrive - through its abstractions" leading to "many of architecture's current ecological, social, and political blind spots - very real places and people are too often marginalized, degraded, and damaged."

- **The U.K.** is contemplating reducing the maximum height of wood-framed buildings because of Grenfell fire-like fears - the timber trade claims "the government is over-reacting" - mass timber buildings "can be safe in a fire."

- **Hickman:** "U.S. architects add a chorus of new voices to Architects Declare movement - the diverse list of signatories" already numbers nearly 100.

- **King paints** an amusingly black picture of his "close encounters of the strolling kind. I can now state emphatically, without reservation, that the black house craze has gone too far. It's enough to make one long for sheepish beige" - though it "has led to bemused conversations with other socially distanced passers-by."

- **Rita Lobo** takes us on a fab tour of Brasilia at 60: "Today, it looks as otherworldly as it did 60 years ago - heaving with symbolic value. It remains a reflection of the country - beautiful and aspirational, but ultimately dysfunctional and raging with inequality."

- **Landscape** architect Robert Wright selected as interim dean of Toronto's Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design.

- **ICYMI: ANN feature:** Katie Faulkner: The wickedly funny Michael Sorkin, known to many as Comrade, was a social justice warrior. He maintained perpetual outrage in the course of writing 20 books and hundreds of articles, honing his invectives for gentrification, Disneyfication, waste, and conspicuous consumption.

**Deadlines + Winners all:**

- **Call for** entries: Applications for the 2020 Arcus/Places Journal Prize "to support innovative public scholarship on the relationship between gender, sexuality, and the built environment."

- **Call for** entries: Trinity Buoy Wharf Drawing Prize 2020 and Working Drawing Award (art, architecture, design) - open to international submissions for the first time.

- **Great presentation** of the 2020 Solar Decathlon Design Challenge winners in 6 categories and, for the first
time, two Grand Winners.

Weekend diversions + Page-turners

- **Philip Johnson's** Glass House is offering virtual tours, and 100 videos from its archive that include conversations with Snøhetta's Dykers, Paul Goldberger, Alastair Gordon, and many more + a coloring project for kids!

- **Now "we** literally have time to stop and smell the flowers": Premiering Monday on PBS: "Beatrix Farrand's American Landscapes" follows Lynden B. Miller "as she sets off to explore the remarkable life and career of America's first female landscape architect."

- **Keats cheers** Sarkis, Salgueiro Barrio, and Kozlowski's "The World as an Architectural Project" featuring 50 of "the most provocative architectural visions from the 1880s to the present" - an "essential handbook" and "cognitive toolkit we all need for planning a post-pandemic civilization."

- **Wainwright** cheers "Soviet Signs and Street Relics," which French photographer Jason Guilbeau gleaned from Google Street View, resulting in "a haunting mix of forlorn military symbols, creaking monuments to agricultural prowess, and plenty of space-age swooshes, swirls, stars, and arrows pointing towards a bold utopian future that never quite arrived."

- **Brussat** makes peace with Steve Bass's "Beauty Memory Unity: A Theory of Proportion in Architecture" once he "decided to skip the challenging mathematical portions and read only the textual matter" that turned out "to be quite riveting - as hazy as proportion seems from my perspective, it definitely has a role in making architecture beautiful."

- **Webb finds** Bass's "Beauty Memory Unity" to be "a symbolic quest in search of beauty, an elevation of individual consciousness, a return to unity through remembrance. He challenges that the anxiety, chaos, and grim ugliness of architecture are not inevitable."

- **An excerpt** from "Studio Gang: Architecture": "We want to live in a world where humans actively support one another as part of our planet's greater network of living things. This calls on us to practice an architecture that fosters interaction and connection" - this "takes a relentless kind of optimism, determination, and even courage."

To subscribe to the free daily newsletter click here

ANN feature: Dan Kaplan, FAIA, LEED AP: Quiet and Disquiet Together: A Quarantine-Induced Assessment of Downtown Manhattan: We savor the city, lingering on the rich detail, walking down streets that we neglected in busier times. It does feel like the proverbial music has stopped. How could it not? Hopefully we'll emerge from our collective timeout recommitted to creating a more equitable and resilient city. -- FXCollaborative- ArchNewsNow.com

Michael Safi: Coronavirus will reshape our cities - we just don't know how yet: ...what legacy will Covid-19 leave on urban life? Life in the megacities...will be less private than ever...Some of the changes already taking shape may make cities more pleasurable...That's the good news. The bad is that the pandemic is a catastrophe for many of the things that make cities worth living in...the rebound might not be strongest in the cities that currently have superstar status...The solidarity being forged by communities banding together...could prove just as crucial in shaping the future of the world's great cities as the forces of government policy... -- Michele Acuto; Roger Keil; Sanjoy Chakravorty; Joel Kotkin; Gautam Bhan; Mark Muro- Guardian (UK)

Matt Hickman: Five new cities join Reimagining the Civic Commons initiative: The list of American cities seeking to boost social, economic, goals through
strategic, philanthropy-assisted investments in public spaces - parks, trails, revitalized downtown cores, and on - just got a little bit longer...initiative kicked off four years ago with five demonstration cities...As urban areas...collectively look toward a post-COVID-19 future...the need for cities to provide residents with and fund safe, equitable, and accessible public spaces has become even more vital.- The Architect's Newspaper

Kiel Moe: A Case for a More Literal Architecture: By moving away from processes of abstraction, we might arrive at a clearer picture of the terrestrial web of life that supports architecture: ...architecture seems to persist - even thrive - through its abstractions. Abstractions upon abstractions...this routine of abstraction has mainly begotten many of architecture’s current ecological, social, and political blind spots...When the world is abstracted in this glib way, very real places and people are too often marginalized, degraded, and damaged...novelty devoid of social and ecological hope signals only hollow, empty ambition...before any promising new architecture emerges...we will...first need promising new ways of describing architecture...in much more literal ways.- Metropolis Magazine

Grenfell fears prevent mass timber building boom: The government is planning to reduce the maximum height of wood-framed buildings from six storeys to four: ...recommended by the emergency services in order to reduce fire risk...Members of the timber trade say the Government in England has misunderstood the science behind timber construction..."the government is over-reacting. Properly-constructed timber buildings can be safe in a fire"...A government spokesperson said the consultation responses would be studied before final decisions were made.- BBC News

Matt Hickman: U.S. architects add a chorus of new voices to Architects Declare movement: ...was first initiated in the United Kingdom in May 2019...In the past year, architects hailing from more than 20 countries have joined the movement...Architectural League of New York, working in collaboration with a steering committee of practitioners, organized the formation of US Architects Declare...diverse list of signatories numbers nearly 100...- The Architect's Newspaper
John King: Paint it black, architecturally speaking? Better yet, just make it stop: ...sheltering in place...has allowed us to get to know our neighborhoods...close encounters of the strolling kind...I can now state emphatically, without reservation, that the black house craze has gone too far...houses cloaked in dark gray or jet black have crossed the line from sexy and stylish to been there-done that...It’s enough to make one long for sheepish beige...if black houses make me roll my eyes while ambling...More than once, my intent gaze has led to bemused conversations with other socially distanced passers-by...And these days, every extra connection helps... - San Francisco Chronicle

Rita Lobo: Brasília at 60: Behind one of the world’s most intriguing planned cities: The drive down the central axis of Plano Piloto is unlike any other. Vast, sometimes lush fields of grass are surrounded by some of Oscar Niemeyer’s finest works...Today, [it] looks as otherworldly as it did 60 years ago...it also became - and remains - a city of contrasts and disparities...heaving with symbolic value...The sparsity of vegetation...add to the sense of almost ethereal immensity...Steeped in contradictions...[it] remains a reflection of the country...beautiful and aspirational, but ultimately dysfunctional and raging with inequality. -- Lúcio Costa; Carlos Lemos; Roberto Burle Marx; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM)- CityMetric (UK)

Landscape architect Robert Wright selected as interim dean of Toronto's Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design: ... set to take over for Richard M. Sommer, the current dean who has held the position since 2009...tasked with leading the department through the coming school year amid the COVID-19 pandemic [and] facilitate the department's efforts restart the selection process for a replacement for Sommer...he also leads landscape practice IZ Design Studio... - Archinect

Call for entries: Applications for the 2020 Arcus/Places Journal Prize to support innovative public scholarship on the relationship between gender, sexuality, and the built environment; open to mid-career or senior scholars; funded by UC Berkeley College of Environmental Design’s Arcus Endowment, deadline: August 15 - Places Journal

Call for entries: Trinity Buoy Wharf Drawing Prize 2020 and Working Drawing Award (art, architecture, design): open to international submissions for the first time; cash prizes; deadline: June 24 - Trinity Buoy Wharf Drawing Prize

2020 Solar Decathlon Design Challenge Results: For the first time...recognized and awarded two Grand Winners - one from the residential division and one from the commercial building division [+winners in 6 other categories] -- University of Oregon (Eugene, Oregon); Miami University (Oxford, Ohio)- U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon

Glass House offers virtual tours, video series of programs from the past 10 years. ...and a coloring project for kids...Architectural photographer and filmmaker Michael Biondo and creative reality capture duo Michael Robison and Dallas Bennett (MYND Workshop) have collaborated to create an episodic series of short visual tours...archive features 100 videos...include a conversation with Craig Dykers of Snøhetta, architecture critic Paul Goldberger, and historian John Maciuika as well as an interview with cultural historian Robert Rubin and critic Alastair Gordon. - New Canaan Advertiser (Connecticut)
Landscape Artists Beatrix Farrand and Lynden B. Miller: "Beatrix Farrand’s American Landscapes" premieres on THIRTEEN Monday, June 1: With most of our lives at a standstill, we literally have time to stop and smell the flowers...we can now learn about those who dedicated their careers to bringing nature to homes, campuses, and public spaces...Farrand (1872 – 1959)...was responsible for some of the most celebrated gardens in the United States...The film follows Miller as she sets off to explore the remarkable life and career of America’s first female landscape architect. -- American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA); The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF)- PBS

Jonathon Keats: As Cities Re-Open, These Visionary Architects Will Help Improve Supply Chains And Disease Prevention: Featuring spectacular (and spectacularly improbable) building schemes by architects ranging from Le Corbusier to Buckminster Fuller to Zaha Hadid, "The World as an Architectural Project" is an essential handbook for planning post-pandemic civilization: 50 projects in...an important new book by Hashim Sarkis, Roi Salgueiro Barrio, and Gabriel Kozlowski that surveys some of the most provocative architectural visions from the 1880s to the present, supported by stunning images that give the book the visual richness of a museum exhibition...As we begin the process of rebuilding, [this book] is a cognitive toolkit we all need. -- Bruno Taut; Constant Nieuwenhuys; Yona Friedman; Paolo Soleri; Sergio Bernardes- Forbes

Oliver Wainwright: Wonders of the Soviet roadside revolution: From tractors on poles to a fighter jet taking off, Russia’s roadsides are still dotted with celebrations of Soviet vehicular prowess...a French photographer has captured their strange allure: "Soviet Signs and Street Relics"...a fitting travelogue for our constrained times...these have been collected via Google Street View...Jason Guilbeau spent months travelling thousands of miles...all from the comfort of his computer...The results are a haunting mix of forlorn military symbols, creaking monuments to agricultural prowess, and plenty of space-age swooshes, swirls, stars and arrows pointing towards a bold utopian future that never quite arrived. -- Clem Cecil- Guardian (UK)

David Brussat: Steve Bass: "Beauty Memory Unity: A Theory of Proportion in Architecture": Proportion has long been a dodgy topic for me....I skimmed through its pages of diagrams, equations, graphs and charts...imagine my complete befuddlement...I decided to skip the challenging mathematical portions and read only the textual matter...the many passages without such impedimenta turn out to be quite riveting...as hazy as proportion seems from my perspective, it definitely has a role in making architecture beautiful. -- Institute of Classical Architecture & Art (ICAA)- Architecture Here and There

Patrick Webb reviews "Beauty Memory Unity" by Steve Bass: ...architect, author, and sacred geometer invites us to accompany him upon a symbolic quest in search of beauty, an elevation of individual consciousness, a return to unity through remembrance...author does not leave us without hope. He challenges that the anxiety, chaos, and grim ugliness of architecture are not inevitable. He invites us to an examination of 5,000 years of beautiful architecture...The strong case is made that the path to unity through beauty remains...within us and only awaits inducement to remembrance.- Traditional Building magazine

Jeanne Gang: “Actionable Idealism” and Architecture that Connects: In this
excerpt from "Studio Gang: Architecture," [she] finds "aesthetic and formal affiliations" across 25 projects from the last two decades: ...we want to live in a world where humans...actively support one another as part of our planet’s greater network of living things. This calls on us as designers to practice an architecture that fosters interaction and connection rather than developing stand-alone objects...[this] takes a relentless kind of optimism, determination, and even courage.- Metropolis Magazine

ANN feature: Katie Faulkner, FAIA: Remembering Michael Sorkin, Critic and Activist: The wickedly funny Sorkin, known to many as Comrade, was a social justice warrior. He maintained perpetual outrage in the course of writing 20 books and hundreds of articles, honing his invectives for gentrification, Disneyfication, waste, and conspicuous consumption.- ArchNewsNow.com

Note: Pages will open in a new browser window. External news links are not endorsed by ArchNewsNow.com. Free registration may be required on some sites. Some pages may expire after a few days.

Yesterday's News

© 2020 ArchNewsNow.com
EDITOR'S NOTE: Strange days - how did we end up in these strange times? Between Christo's passing and our cities erupting (with no mention of COVID-19) - a sad way to begin and end the news today.

● **Kimmelman's** personal (and delightful) recollection of Christo - "a dreamer with a cultish following to rival the Grateful Dead. 'The Gates' was a testament to his childlike wonder and sheer, implacable. Headstrong, impish, endearing. That was Christo."

● **Greenberger:** "Christo, fearless maker of massive public artworks" - he, "with his wife and partner, Jeanne-Claude, shifted how public art is made and understood."

● **Gilbert:** "It takes a truly unique eye to see beauty in bureaucracy, to look at a snarl of planning regulations and NIMBYism and red tape and to convert it, through sheer imaginative alchemy, into art itself. And yet that quality is exactly what defined the work of Christo and Jeanne-Claude."

● **Kristen Richards:** Wild about Saffron: Revisiting Christo and Jeanne-Claude's "The Gates": New York City, a February Tuesday, 55 degrees and sunny. It seems a timely moment to share my personal wonder while wandering their "rivers" of saffron that flowed through Central Park in 2005 (originally posted 02/21/05).

● **Ned Cramer** (with news that left us gobsmacked!): He "indulges himself one last time, in a farewell message as editor-in-chief of ARCHITECT" (fish reference included). "I leave you in the supremely capable hands of a beloved friend and longtime partner in crime: Katie Gerfen." We wish them both our warmest, best wishes on their grand new adventures!

● **Kenney brings** us an update on what's happening with Zimmerman's "Marabar" at National Geographic's D.C. HQ: The historic preservation board "will revisit vote that would allow its demolition - they were unaware that renovation plan would sacrifice the installation." NGS argues it is necessary "to make its campus more welcoming to visitors."

● **Koinyeneh** reports that the Liberian Institute of Architects minced no words in a statement slamming "the constant abuse of the profession" - and warning "that it was time people consult an architect before putting up a building or any construction project, else Liberia will continue to be backward" - and "will remain the least developed if this continues in this direction."

● **Kimmelman**, on a brighter note, takes a virtual tour of NYC's Financial District and the Battery with WXY's indefatigable Claire Weisz: "With all the narrow streets, you often get a kind of child's view of the things - the view from the knees down is great" (with Vincent Tullo's fab photos).

● **Hickman** reports on MASS Design Group co-leading a "tribal engagement process for Willamette Falls Riverwalk in Oregon City, Oregon. The ambitious project aims to breathe cultural and recreational life into a long-blighted and closed-off industrial area spanning 22 acres" along the falls.

● **Woolner-Pratt** was happily surprised when the Yasodhara Ashram in British Columbia commissioned Patkau Architects to design the Temple of Light - "the architects themselves were also pleasantly surprised at the sophistication implicit in the Ashram's receptivity to their firm's highly experimental proposal" where "mystical and architectural modes of imagination and representation converge."
• Betsky makes no bones about "why we should save Brutalist-style bunkers instead of tearing them down. At least" BIG’s design for the National Theater of Albania "looks more logical than Zumthor's LACMA satire on oozing sprawl. Both are clear architectural misdeeds, however, because we're losing historically important and wholly salvageable buildings" (among other "misdeeds").

• Architectural photographer Amanda Large brings us eyefuls of her current "Fifty/50" series - "an ode to" 50 Modernist churches in Toronto: "While it is somewhat de rigueur to convert older, more stately churches into lofts, the same cannot be said of their modernist counterparts" - the series "raises questions about preservation and architectural legacy in my home city."

• Great presentations of the 13 projects winning the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects' 2020 Awards of Excellence by illustrating "how landscape architects are helping to reshape our communities by defining the places where we live, work and play."

• ANN feature: FXCollaborative’s Dan Kaplan offers a most eloquent "quarantine-induced assessment of downtown Manhattan - lingering on the rich detail, walking down streets that we neglected in busier times. Hopefully we'll emerge from our collective timeout recommitted to creating a more equitable and resilient city."

Of protests, racism, and urban unrest - the industry responds:

• Jordan Brooks of the United State of Women offers an in-depth list of resources "to fight structural racism today: Donate to Organizations Doing the Work; Support Black-Owned Businesses; Educate Yourself"; etc.

• A round-up of statements condemning racism from: the AIA; American Planning Association; National Trust for Historic Preservation; Harvard University GSD; and the University of Minnesota.

• Kimberly Dowdell of the National Organization of Minority Architects: "We are calling on our members and our broader professional community to take an active role in eliminating the racial biases that account for a myriad of social, economic, and health disparities, and most importantly - loss of human lives - Black lives."

• The American Society of Landscape Architects: "As landscape architects, we work to ensure that all persons have the right to equitable access to environmental and community benefits in the places they live, work, and learn. Now is the time for us to work to help ensure that these communities have fair and equitable treatment in all aspects of life."

• Gibson rounds up statements by individual architects and designers (and Black Females in Architecture) on both sides of the Big Pond who are calling for racial justice after George Floyd's death - "the industry has spoken out against racism in America."

To subscribe to the free daily newsletter click here

Michael Kimmelman: Christo’s Billowy Visions, Fleeting but Unforgettable: The artist’s works were easy to grasp but hard to categorize, bringing conceptual art to the masses and generating no small measure of happiness and awe in the process: ...a dreamer with a cultish following to rival the Grateful Dead’s and a legacy that has always seemed a wry, humane retort to the cultural diktats of the Soviet bloc..."The Gates" turned out to be a fleeting gift to the city, a joy to millions, a provocation to some...It was also a testament to Christo’s childlike wonder and sheer, implacable chutzpah...Headstrong, impish, endearing. That was Christo. - New York Times

Alex Greenberger: Christo, Fearless Maker of Massive Public Artworks, 84: ...he shifted the way public art was made and understood: ...with his wife and partner, Jeanne-Claude, used sculpture as a means to dramatically shift people's understanding of iconic structures and sites,...considered the bureaucratic wrangling required to realize such works - as well as related documentation including environmental impact reports, drawings, and diagrams - to be part of
the works as well...They shifted how public art is made and understood...artworks sometimes courted controversy. - ARTnews

Sophie Gilbert: Christo Found Beauty in Realizing the Impossible: The conceptual artist, 84, made constructing quixotic, monumental projects his life’s work: It takes a truly unique eye to see beauty in bureaucracy, to look at a snarl of planning regulations and NIMBYism and red tape and to convert it, through sheer imaginative alchemy, into art itself. And yet that quality is exactly what defined the work of Christo…and his partner, Jeanne-Claude…the process of negotiating his way to an eventual win - no matter how long it took or how many times he was initially rejected - became its own affirmation of artistic freedom. - The Atlantic


So Long, and Thanks for All the Fish: Ned Cramer indulges himself one last time, in a farewell message as editor-in-chief of ARCHITECT: Referencing The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy isn’t always a good idea, but it just seems fitting, somehow, at this surreal moment in history. And at least I’m not signing off with a pun. Yes, signing off. June 1 is my last day…It is time for fresh vision. I leave you in the supremely capable hands of a beloved friend and longtime partner in crime: Katie Gerfen. Fare thee well. - Architect Magazine

Nancy Kenney: Board will revisit vote that would allow demolition of site-specific work at National Geographic Society’s home in Washington, DC: Board members say they were unaware that renovation plan would sacrifice Elyn Zimmerman’s installation "Marabar": …commissioned to complement a 1981 headquarters...by David Childs [SOM]...NGS argues that the work must be displaced to make way for a new entrance pavilion...part of a broader renovation to make its campus more welcoming to visitors. -- Charles A. Birnbaum/Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF); Hickok & Cole; OLIN- The Art Newspaper

Gerald C. Koinyeneh: Liberian Institute of Architects Slams Liberia’s Urban Design: LIA says it takes serious exception to the constant abuse of the profession by Liberians- ranging from Government to private citizens: One of the major problems hindering Liberia’s infrastructural development is that it lacks true architecture culture…warned that it was time people consult an architect
before putting up a building or any construction project, else Liberia will continue to be backward. "[I]t will remain the least developed if this continues in this direction...The LIA looks forward to legislating the word “Architect” as a solution to the urban infrastructure demise."- FrontPage Africa (Liberia)

Michael Kimmelman: Virtual Tour of the Financial District and the Battery: With workers in quarantine, the busy neighborhood now feels like a secret backyard for families...[a] walks with the architect Claire Weisz: We “met” on the plaza outside the Oculus...designed by Santiago Calatrava..."I don’t think this was designed to be a local hangout. But New Yorkers adapt the city in all sorts of ways to suit their needs...we use the plaza all the time when we bike...or walk through Zuccotti Park...with all the narrow streets, you often get a kind of child’s view of the things...the view from the knees down is great." -- Mark Yoes; WXY; Alex Cooper; Quennell Rothschild & Partners; Gordon Bunshaft; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (OM); Ernest R. Graham; Isamu Noguchi; York & Sawyer; Louise Nevelson; Cross and Cross- New York Times

Matt Hickman: MASS Design Group to co-lead tribal engagement process for Willamette Falls Riverwalk in Oregon City, Oregon: ...process will focus on gleaning - and then prioritizing - input and advice on design and programming aspects from a total of five confederated tribes...The ambitious project...aims to breathe cultural and recreational life into a long-blighted and closed-off industrial area spanning 22 acres along the horseshoe-shaped [falls]...In 2015, an initial design and public engagement process kicked off with a design team led by Snøhetta...with Portland-based landscape architecture firm Mayer/Reed and Toronto-based DIALOG...MASS’s multi-tribal outreach...will complement previous work completed by the design teams... -- Joseph Kunkel- The Architect's Newspaper

Kai Woolner-Pratt: Unseen Forces: Temple of Light, Kootenay Bay, British Columbia: A spiritual retreat centre unveils new potential in standard wood construction materials: The 1992 Temple... was destroyed in 2014, by an unexplained fire. The loss was profound for the Yasodhara Ashram’s residents, as well as for its global network...The news shocked me, too, having...spent a summer living at the Ashram as a teenager....To my happy surprise, the commission eventually went to Patkau Architects...the architects themselves were also pleasantly surprised at the sophistication implicit in the Ashram’s receptivity...to their firm’s highly experimental proposal...mystical and architectural modes of imagination and representation converge.- Canadian Architect

Aaron Betsky: Building on Broad Shoulders: why we should save Brutalist-style bunkers instead of tearing them down: A recent spate of announcements about buildings that were just torn down (or are about to be) has me riled up. Why do we keep making this mistake? At least [BIG- Bjarke Ingels Group design's National Theater of Albania] looks more logical than Peter Zumthor’s LACMA satire on oozing sprawl. Both are clear architectural misdeeds, however, because we’re losing historically important and wholly salvageable buildings... -- Cesar Pelli/Bank of California branch, San Jose; Helmut Jahn/Thompson Center, Chicago; Gerd Hänska/Mouse Bunker, Berlin; Edward D. Tanner (1960)- Architect Magazine

Amanda Large: Longview: 50 Modernist Churches: My creative practice as an
architectural photographer is centred around making evocative images...How can a photograph - or a series of vignettes - tell the story of spaces and structures? My current project, "Fifty/50," investigates this question through exploring modernist church architecture in Toronto, Ontario...series is an ode to these buildings...While it is somewhat de rigueur to convert older, more stately churches into lofts, the same cannot be said of their modernist counterparts...Fifty/50 also raises questions about preservation and architectural legacy in my home city. - Canadian Architect

Canadian Society of Landscape Architects/CSLA Announces the Recipients of the 2020 Awards of Excellence: 13 projects illustrate the range of what landscape architects do and how landscape architects are helping to reshape our communities by defining the places where we live, work and play. -- Outside! Planning & Design Studio; NVision Insight Group/Wendy Shearer Cultural Heritage Specialist; Perkins and Will; DTAH; DIALOG; Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects; Public City Architecture; O2 Planning + Design; Claude Cormier et Associés- Canadian Society of Landscape Architects (CSLA)

Jordan Brooks/United State of Women: Fighting For An Anti-Racist Future Together: To members of the Black community our hearts are broken for and with you...To non-Black allies: if you haven’t done so already, please join us in taking immediate action for the Black community. Dismantling racism is the job of those of us who have privilege...Here are some steps you can take to fight structural racism today: Donate to Organizations Doing the Work; Hit the Streets (Safely): Resources for Protestors; Make Your Voice Heard: Sign Petitions; Support Black-Owned Businesses; Educate Yourself; etc.- Forbes

AIA and Others Respond to the Unrest in the Wake of the Killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis: ...have posted statements condemning racism. -- American Planning Association (APA); Jane Frederick/American Institute of Architects; Paul Edmondson/National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP); Sarah M. Whiting/Harvard University Graduate School of Design (GSD); University of Minnesota- Architect Magazine

Kimberly Dowdell: National Organization of Minority Architects/NOMA’s Public Statement Regarding Racial Injustice: ...we are calling on our members and our broader professional community to condemn racism and take an active role in eliminating the racial biases that account for a myriad of social, economic, and health disparities, and most importantly...loss of human lives - Black lives...NOMA was formed for the purpose of minimizing the effect of racism on our profession. Today, NOMA must call for more...[our] mission, rooted in a rich legacy of activism, is to empower our local chapters and membership to foster justice and equity in communities of color through outreach, community advocacy, professional development and design excellence. - National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA)

Fair and Equitable Treatment in All Aspects of Life: The American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) released the following statement on this weekend’s protests, from ASLA President Wendy Miller, FASLA: "As landscape architects, we work to ensure that all persons have the right to equitable access to environmental and community benefits in the places they live, work, and learn. Now is the time for us to work to help ensure that these communities have fair and equitable treatment in all aspects of life." - American Society of Landscape
Eleanor Gibson: Architects and designers declare that "black lives matter" and call for racial justice after George Floyd's death: ...industry has spoken out against racism in America with Bec Brittain, Jessica Walsh and The Future Perfect posting a black square to Instagram, and Harriet Harriss/Pratt Institute calling for an "an end to this right now"...tweeted a link to a document called "Anti-racism resources for white people." -- Yves Behar; Yinka Ilori; Donna Wilson; Dong-Ping Wong; Apparatus; Yinka Ilori; David Adjaye; Jane Frederick/American Institute of Architects (AIA); Wendy Miller/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA); Black Females in Architecture; Central Saint Martins. - Dezeen

ANN feature: Dan Kaplan, FAIA, LEED AP: Quiet and Disquiet Together: A Quarantine-Induced Assessment of Downtown Manhattan: We savor the city, lingering on the rich detail, walking down streets that we neglected in busier times. It does feel like the proverbial music has stopped. How could it not? Hopefully we'll emerge from our collective timeout recommitted to creating a more equitable and resilient city. -- FXCollaborative- ArchNewsNow.com

Note: Pages will open in a new browser window. External news links are not endorsed by ArchNewsNow.com. Free registration may be required on some sites. Some pages may expire after a few days.

© 2020 ArchNewsNow.com
Today's News - Wednesday, June 3, 2020

- **Bernstein's** eloquent tribute to the "audacious artist" Christo. "Bespectacled and nerdy in appearance, he was the Evel Knievel of artists, pulling off seemingly impossible feats - sometimes viewed as a triumph of spectacle over art. But his thousands of drawings and models were art by anybody's definition."

- **Ravenscroft** reports on Stefano Boeri Architetti and SON-Group's master plan for Tirana Riverside, a coronavirus- and climate change-resilient mixed-use neighborhood in the Albanian capital for 12,000 residents on publicly owned land near the river.

- **Belogolovsky's** review of the Thompson Center,"the Chicago masterpiece" designed by Helmut Jahn, the city's "most charismatic living architect," and now endangered - while preservationists "scramble with the most credible reasons for saving this most dazzling structure" + Link to Nathan Eddy's 2017 "compelling" film "Starship Chicago."


- **ANN feature:** FXCollaborative’s Dan Kaplan offers a most eloquent "quarantine-induced assessment of downtown Manhattan - lingering on the rich detail, walking down streets that we neglected in busier times. Hopefully we'll emerge from our collective timeout recommitted to creating a more equitable and resilient city."

Of protests, racism, and urban unrest - the industry responds:

- **Blander** "highlights Black architects, educators, and thinkers who have focused further attention on the built conditions that enable continued racial subjugation in America - and the role that architects, planners, and designers have in facilitating or countering those broken processes and patterns."

- **Hip Hop** Architecture Camp's Michael Ford minces no words. "As a person who loves this profession and believes in its power to impact people's lives for good - I feel betrayed by the profession's silence - and I will not be silent - the profession should be outraged at the deaths of people they hope to have as colleagues."

- **Deans from** Harvard GSD, Cooper Union, SCI-Arc, Cornell AAP, and USC Architecture speak out about "the 'Urgency of Now,' the killing of George Floyd, and systemic inequalities in the United States."

COVID-19 news continues:

- **Betsky ponders** design in a post-COVID-19 and post-protest world: "The solution to the social unrest now sweeping across the country is not more police - but a response to the fundamental racism and injustice built into our urban fabric. Design must come from and lead to openness, not to fear and fortresses. And, please, just wear your damn mask."

- **U.K. health** expert John Ashton explains why "town planning, architecture, and public health will never be the same again. Now must be the time for a new vision of healthy housing and communities with standards" - and he outlines some of the issues that should be addressed.
• **Pedersen's** (fab!) Q&A with Paul Goldberger re: "architecture, cities, and New York's long road back" (conducted pre-protest days): People like Kotkin, Florida, and Sadik-Khan "are using the pandemic to justify whatever their view of urban issues and density always was. The pandemic has done one good thing - it has forced us to admit that the status quo is unsustainable."

• **Chandran** reports on what "radical redesign" city centers might see in a post-coronavirus world: "More people opting to work from home" while "firms grapple with social distancing rules" will "force planners and city officials to reconsider and redesign central business districts" to include "more mixed-use developments and amenities to draw footfall."

• **Wulfhorst** wonders if U.S. suburbs are "poised for post-virus revival. A suburban renaissance depends on how many companies allow their staff to keep working, post-pandemic."

• **AIA releases** "Reopening America: Strategies for safer buildings" - "3 new and enhanced tools for reducing risk of COVID-19 transmission in buildings" compiled by architects and health experts - more reports to come.

• **Cimino talks** to some emerging professionals re: "building an architecture career amid COVID-19. It's a challenging time" for them, "but there are silver linings," including AIAS's COVID-19 resource center "for students who are impacted or even just uncertain about what comes next."

• **Pogrebin** talks to Liz Diller re: "practicing architecture in a pandemic - architecture is trying to find its way in the quarantined world. 'I hope that our discipline is still vital at the end of this. I think it will be'" (Rockwell describes her as "relentless").

• **Pedersen:** brings us an eye-popping photo essay by painter Edgar Jerins, who is documenting the "eerie beauty of an empty New York City - often from the vantage point of a bicycle - the resulting photos will make for a remarkable historic record and a dramatic visual statement of where we were, and what we overcame."

---

**TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE FREE DAILY NEWSLETTER [CLICK HERE](#)**

**Obituary by Fred A. Bernstein:** Christo, audacious artist who wrapped buildings, parks and landscapes in cloth, 84: Bespectacled and nerdy in appearance, [he] was the Evel Knievel of artists, pulling off seemingly impossible feats...Measured by the number of people who saw his work, he was probably the most successful artist of the late 20th and early 21st centuries...installations...were sometimes viewed as a triumph of spectacle over art. But his thousands of drawings and models - which he sold to finance his projects - were art by anybody's definition...In 1962, he had the idea to wrap the Arc de Triomphe in Paris. Delayed by the coronavirus pandemic...now slated to open in September 2021 - almost 60 years after he conceived it. -- Jeanne-Claude- Washington Post

**Tom Ravenscroft:** Stefano Boeri Architetti designs coronavirus-resilient neighbourhood: Tirana Riverside, a district in the capital of Albania...The masterplan for 12,000 residents on a publicly owned area of land...meeting all the sustainability requirements required by the current climate crisis"...Boeri and SON-Group have aimed to create a walkable "neighbourhood city" that focuses on exercise and will include smart technologies and extensive roof gardens...To create resilience to COVID-19, residents will have access to all "essential services" within a walkable distance...will include a school and university centre. -- Studio Laura Gatti (landscape)- Dezeen

**Vladimir Belogolovsky:** Review of Thompson Center: the building facing demolition threat: As he writes about Helmut Jahn-designed Chicago masterpiece, Nathan Eddy’s 2017 film "Starship Chicago" brings the building’s compelling story to life: ...may be nicknamed a starship for its futuristic shape...But according to...Chicago’s most charismatic living architect...it is a...contemporary take on traditional state capitol...Entering this high-
cathedral-like kaleidoscopic space is nothing short of breathtaking...[Jahn's]
speculative 2015 proposal - giving the building a new life through adaptive
reuse...Now Chicago architects, historians, preservationists, and activists
scramble with the most credible reasons for saving this most dazzling
structure...The adversary camp is much larger... - STIR (See Think Inspire Reflect)

Akiva Blander: Architects Leading the Way to Racial Justice: The fight for racial
justice and equality is reaching a tipping point. Metropolis highlights Black
architects, educators, and thinkers who are leading the way: ...advocates and
thinkers have focused further attention on the built conditions that enable
continued racial subjugation in America - and the role that architects, planners,
and designers have in facilitating or countering those broken processes and
patterns. -- Toni Griffin/Urban Planning for the American City; Kimberly
Dowdell/National Organization of Minority Architects; Justin Garrett Moore/NYC
Public Design Commission; Mabel O. Wilson; Zena Howard/Perkins+Will; Sara
Zewde/Studio Zewde; Hip Hop Designers Challenging the Architecture
Establishment- Metropolis Magazine

Michael Ford/Hip Hop Architecture: Architects, Designers and Planners:
#BlackLivesMatter and You Must Speak Up!: He calls on architects to respond
to the continued, unprovoked and senseless murders of Black people in public
spaces: Architects have been mostly silent as their work, meticulously designed,
constructed and deemed the crowning jewel of urban skylines, serves as the
backdrop of injustice...As a person who loves this profession and believes in its
power to impact people’s lives for good...I feel betrayed by the profession’s
silence - and I will not be silent...the profession should be outraged at the deaths
of people they hope to have as colleagues.- Azure magazine (Canada)

Architecture School Deans Speak on the "Urgency of Now": ...leaders of some
architecture schools are speaking out about the killing of George Floyd and systemic inequalities in the United States.....read statements from Sarah Whiting (Harvard GSD), Nader Tehrani (Cooper Union), Hernán Díaz Alonso (SCI-Arc), Meejin Yoon (Cornell AAP), and Milton S. F. Curry (USC Architecture).- Architectural Record

Aaron Betsky: Design in a Post-COVID-19 World: how designers should mobilize to tackle the most pressing challenges: How can we design a safer, healthier, and more just world? We need long-term planning and vision, not quick fixes that will make things worse in the long run...solution to the social unrest now sweeping across the country is not more police or vicious dogs...but a response to the fundamental racism and injustice built into our urban fabric...Our cities, suburbs, and exurbs need to be better connected. We need places where we are safe not only from the virus, but also from violence and prejudice...Design must come from and lead to openness, not to fear and fortresses. And, please, just wear your damn mask.- Architect Magazine

John Ashton: Town planning, architecture and public health will never be the same again: For too long what housebuilders and developers have paid scant regard for people’s wellbeing in good times and sanctuary in bad. It’s time to change all that, says public health expert: The evolution of the functional approach to town planning associated with Ebenezer Howard and the garden city movement [and] Parker Morris in 1961...had their roots in the recognition of the impact of slum housing and pollution on the predisposition to epidemic disease...Now must be the time for a new vision of healthy housing and communities with standards...Among the issues that these should address should be:- The Architects' Journal (UK)

Martin C. Pedersen: Paul Goldberger on Architecture, Cities, and New York’s Long Road Back: ...a nuanced and measured take on our presently fraught moment [prior to protests]..."People are using the pandemic to justify whatever their view of urban issues and density always was. Joel Kotkin declares, 'This proves that density is over'...Richard Florida says, 'This proves that the creative class wants the city.' Janette Sadik-Khan says, 'This proves that we need to open the streets...the future of the office is another area where everybody is jumping to conclusions...There will be a lot of flexibility in both time and space...[Pandemic] has done one good thing...it has forced us to admit that the status quo is unsustainable.- Common Edge

Rina Chandran: City centres to see 'radical' redesign amid coronavirus: With more people opting to work from home, downtown areas may need to be redesigned to keep them buzzing: Remote working was already on the rise...Now, as firms grapple with social distancing rules...they are thinking about what their offices are really for. That in turn will force planners and city officials to reconsider and redesign central business districts...may lead to more mixed-use developments and amenities to draw footfall...- Thomson Reuters Foundation News

Ellen Wulfhorst: As home working takes root, are U.S. suburbs poised for post-virus revival? A suburban renaissance depends on how many companies allow their staff to keep working post-pandemic, experts say...Two-thirds of [urban dwellers] in a recent survey by Zillow, an online real estate site, said they would consider moving if they had the flexibility to work from home.- Thomson Reuters
Architects, health experts release strategies, tools for safely reopening buildings: AIA issues three new and enhanced tools for reducing risk of COVID-19 transmission in buildings: "Reopening America: Strategies for safer buildings"...strategies and considerations for offices, retailers, schools, and senior living facilities...reports will be released in phases... - American Institute of Architects (AIA)

Steve Cimino/AIA Architect: Building an Architecture Career Amid COVID-19: It's a challenging time for emerging professionals, but there are silver linings: ...work will be hard to come by, and many designers may start to wonder if the traditional entry points to the profession are worth maintaining...A Need for Architects Who Think Outside the Box...AIAS has created a COVID-19 resource center for students who are impacted or even just uncertain about what comes next...fissures laid bare by this global pandemic...There is something outdated about the way many firms do business. -- Natale Cozzolongo/Kohn Pedersen Fox (KPF); Jennie Cannon West/Studio West Design & Architecture; Erin Conti; Gail Kubik/Fused Studios; Tamara Elena Pérez Hernández- Architect Magazine

Robin Pogrebin: Practicing Architecture in a Pandemic: A year after opening the Shed, Elizabeth Diller is trying to adjust to a world in which she and colleagues can no longer kick around ideas in person: "Communication is slower. But we're working harder. We're figuring it out"...Like every profession, architecture is trying to find its way in the quarantined world..."I hope that our discipline is still vital at the end of this. I think it will be"...David Rockwell, who worked with her on the Shed, used the word "relentless." -- Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Ricardo Scofidio; Charles Renfro; Ben Gilmartin- New York Times

Martin Pedersen: Edgar Jerins: Photographing the Locked-Down City: The eerie beauty of an empty New York City: Who knew this bustling, chaotic, dirty, vibrant, profane, amazing city could look so ... gorgeous when stripped of people and activity? He didn’t set out to create a visual record of the event; he’s a painter who has used photography as a reference tool...but he quickly realized that might be exactly what he was doing...digital photo - often taken quickly from the vantage point of a bicycle - became his principal means of expression...the resulting photos will make for a remarkable historic record [and] a dramatic visual statement of where we were, and what we overcame.- Common Edge


ANN feature: Dan Kaplan, FAIA, LEED AP: Quiet and Disquiet Together: A Quarantine-Induced Assessment of Downtown Manhattan: We savor the city, lingering on the rich detail, walking down streets that we neglected in busier times. It does feel like the proverbial music has stopped. How could it not? Hopefully we'll emerge from our collective timeout recommitted to creating a more equitable and resilient city. -- FXCollaborative- ArchNewsNow.com

Note: Pages will open in a new browser window.
External news links are not endorsed by ArchNewsNow.com.
EDITOR'S NOTE: Tomorrow and Monday will be no-newsletter days. We'll be back Tuesday, June 9. 'Til then: Stay well. Stay safe. Stay in! In the meantime, it's an odd sort of news day - with both inspiring and depressing news - followed by a Weekend diversion & Page-turners.

COVID-19 news continues:

- **Moloney** reports on Medellin, Colombia, pushing "'eco-city' aims using the coronavirus recovery to reach climate goals - one of dozens of cities around the world aiming to use a post-lockdown economic restart to simultaneously bootstrap environmental measures."

- **Moser, Malzieu** & Petkova of Foster + Partners' Urban Design team have spent the last few weeks "exploring how recent and fast moving developments in urban planning will affect and shape the future of cities worldwide."

- **ThinkLab's** Amanda Schneider takes a look at the first results of its Industry Impact Survey "measuring the fallout of COVID-19 for the design industry to help designers and design manufacturers move forward during these challenging times" - and invites you to participate.

Of protests, racism, and urban unrest - the industry responds:

- **Michael** Ford will launch the Hip Hop Architecture as Design Justice Competition with a webinar on Saturday - the challenge: "use hip hop lyrics as prompts to imagine spaces, places, and products for a Just City!"

- **Gamolina** dedicates Madame Architect's June Q&As honoring "the intersection of both the black and the LGBTQ+ communities" + The archive of interviews with an amazing line-up + "A Day With" series (all impressive Black women - all great reads!).

- **Black Brazilian** feminist Stephanie Ribeiro, whose "decision to study architecture was a naive one" in her "search for women and men like me: black architects and urban planners - race and gender can no longer be neglected in course curriculums" (the industry in general "needs more emphasis on women").

- **Beamon:** "Dear White Architects, Be B.R.A.V.E, Not Sad. Love, NOMA": "If firms have seemed blind to violence against black citizens, they have also largely ignored the dismally small percentage of black architects" - join #DesignAsProtest in a Day of Action this Friday "to correct the design of spaces that dehumanize black people."

- **Saffron** ponders the destruction of buildings in Philly and elsewhere: "You can be appalled and heartbroken by our country's deadly racism, and yet still quake at what the damage to downtown portends - the destruction is devastating for the future of cities"

- **Architect** and educator Sekou Cooke reflects "on this current moment and what it says about Blackness and architecture in America - they are inextricably linked. Maybe there is a parallel to be drawn between the lack of Black perspectives within the architectural 'we' and the inability of the profession to find a suitable response to the current state of social justice."
Architect and design justice advocate Bryan Lee, Jr. explains how "America's cities were designed to oppress. Architects and planners have an obligation to protect health, safety and - we've failed. Here is the start to a path forward - as much a call to action as it is an act of healing" (some comments are excruciating).

A weekend diversion & Page-turners:

- Hickman offers a sampling of "outdoor art spaces that are now open across the country for socially-distanced summer enjoyment."
- Wainwright x 2: He recalls his own grand adventure as he cheers Phnom Penh's "glorious architecture lovingly captured in a thrilling new book" that documents "more than 140 buildings - often for the first time. But can it survive a tidal wave of foreign investment"?
- He cheers Jethro Marshall's "Halls & Oats" that documents the "bleak, bulky yet strangely beautiful, village halls" that "are the beating heart of rural Britain - sheds full of civic ambition". (with intro by Sam Jacob).
- Moore mulls Maclean's "Circles and Squares: The Lives and Art of the Hampstead Modernists": "This was an exceptional bunch of people who deserve a more illuminating treatment than they get here."
- William O. Gardner: an excerpt from his "The Metabolist Imagination: Visions of the City in Postwar Japanese Architecture and Science Fiction" (very long, but worth the time).
- ANN feature: FXCollaborative's Dan Kaplan offers a most eloquent "quarantine-induced assessment of downtown Manhattan - lingering on the rich detail, walking down streets that we neglected in busier times. Hopefully we'll emerge from our collective timeout recommitted to creating a more equitable and resilient city."

To subscribe to the free daily newsletter click here

Anastasia Moloney: Colombia's Medellin pushes 'eco-city' aims in coronavirus recovery: From doubling public transport to expanding electric bike rentals, Colombia's second city wants to use the virus recovery to reach climate goals: focusing on transport...one of dozens of cities around the world aiming to use a post-lockdown economic restart to simultaneously bootstrap environmental measures...[Its] post-COVID transformation will focus on education as a key pillar to drive change...has set an ambitious aim to electrify all public transport by 2030...- Thomson Reuters Foundation News

Bruno Moser, Theo Malzieu & Paula Petkova: Tactical Urbanism: Reimagining Our Cities post-Covid-19: Significant and long-lasting repercussions...are sure to influence the way we approach the design of our buildings and cities. Over the past few weeks, the Urban Design team at Foster + Partners has been exploring how recent and fast moving developments in urban planning...will affect and shape the future of our home city and others worldwide.- ArchDaily

Amanda Schneider: Measuring the Fallout of COVID-19 for the Design Industry: Take a look at the first results of ThinkLab’s Industry Impact Survey, which is generating data to help designers and design manufacturers move forward during these challenging times: ...an ongoing research initiative that we invite you to participate in...Over six weeks of research between March and May...here’s what we found...we segmented the research by audience, geography, and company and market size.- Metropolis Magazine
Michael Ford to Launch the Hip Hop Architecture as Design Justice Competition: ...the architectural associate at SmithGroup and founder of the Hip Hop Architecture Camp, will open the call for submissions [with a webinar] on June 6: ...use hip hop lyrics as prompts to imagine spaces, places, and products for a Just City! A city which has dismantled and defeated racism...open to everyone of every age - includes non-architects; deadline: June 19—Architect Magazine

Julia Gamolina: Step One is to Listen to and Share the Stories: This month, we want to show up for our black community by focusing the upcoming line up on interviews with black women...The topics...race, of course, but also thoughtful and rigorous design, finance in architecture, entrepreneurship, firm management, company culture, urban engagement, city planning, and construction...June [is] Pride Month...interviews that honor the intersection of both the black and the LGBTQ+ communities. — Determined by Design: Kia Weatherspoon on Equity, Empathy, and Real Engagement; To come: Maya Bird-Murphy/Chicago Mobile Makers; Vernelle A.A. Noel/Georgia Institute of Technology + Archive; Gabrielle Bullock/Perkins and Will; Nina Cooke John; Jeanine Hays/AphroChic; Jennifer Newsom/Dream The Combine; Kimberly Dowdell/HOK/ National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA); etc.—Madame Architect

Stephanie Ribeiro: Architecture Must Recognize the Debate Around Race and Gender: My decision to study architecture was a naive one...Architecture and Urban Planning is one of the most elite courses in the most renowned Brazilian universities...race and gender...can no longer be neglected in course curriculums. So in my first year, one of my priorities was to search for women and men like me: black architects and urban planners...architecture and urbanism needs more emphasis on women...—Elizabeth France; Paulo Mendes da Rocha; Oscar Niemeyer; João Batista Vilanova Artigas; Álvaro Siza; Zaha Hadid; Lina Bo Bardi; Georgia Louise H. Brown; Allison Williams/Perkins & Will; Charlotte Perriand; Dora Alcântara; Patricia Anahory; Carmen Córdova; Rosa
Kelly Beamon: Dear White Architects, Be B.R.A.V.E, Not Sad. Love, NOMA: The National Organization of Minority Architects says to end racial violence, ban the bias inside of firms: If firms have seemed blind to violence against black citizens, they have also largely ignored the dismally small percentage of black architects (less than 2%) which hasn’t budged in 30 years...Members just launched #DesignAsProtest, a black-led organizing effort to correct the design of spaces that dehumanize black people, beginning with a Day of Action this Friday, June 5th. -- Kimberly Dowdell- Metropolis Magazine

Inga Saffron/Philadelphia Inquirer: Damaging buildings disproportionately hurts people protesters are trying to uplift: Does the destruction of buildings matter when black Americans are being brazenly murdered in cold blood....That’s the question that has been raging on the streets of Philadelphia... as a dark cloud of smoke spiraled up from Center City...Hardly any building...was left unscathed, and two mid-19th century structures...were gutted by fire. Their chances of survival are slim, which means there could soon be a gaping hole in the heart of [the city]...The anger is fully justified...But as a practical matter, the destruction of downtown buildings...is devastating for the future of cities...You can be appalled and heartbroken by our country’s deadly racism, and yet still quake at what the damage to downtown portends...The momentary satisfaction of destroying a few buildings...All it does is weaken our city.- Newsday

Sekou Cooke: Blackout: Amplifying the Voices of Blackness Within Architecture: ...the role of the profession in confronting historically entrenched racism and violence in the U.S.: I...took a picture of pure blackness...to replace...a spot usually reserved for some headshot...to communicate...what I felt at the time: an empty, lightless, hollowed-out void. I chose the language of image because, as an architect and professor of architecture, I consider it my native tongue...With no clear thoughts to express, all we had was our Blackness...Today....I’m more able to reflect on this current moment and what it says about Blackness and architecture in America...they are inextricably linked....Deans, directors, and chairs of architecture programs...have issued well-crafted public statements...The idea that Black and designer, or Black and architect, can be one and the same is absent from the language used by many of these leaders...Maybe there is a parallel to be drawn between the lack of Black perspectives within the architectural “we” and the inability of the architectural profession to find a suitable response to the current state of social justice.- Architectural Record

Bryan Lee Jr./Colloqate Design: America’s Cities Were Designed to Oppress: Architects and planners have an obligation to protect health, safety and welfare through the spaces we design. As the George Floyd protests reveal, we’ve failed: For nearly every injustice in the world, there is an architecture that has been planned and designed to perpetuate it. That’s a key principle of the Design Justice movement...This moment...grew out of the apathy of this nation toward a black community so profoundly sickened by our built environment that a global pandemic disproportionately impacts us...The profession of architecture is as complicit as any...Here is the start to a path forward...This is as much a call to action as it is an act of healing.- CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

Matt Hickman: Outdoor art spaces that are now open for socially-distanced
summer enjoyment: ...a modest of trickle of museums and cultural institutions have slowly and cautiously begun to reopen their doors...For those who aren’t quite ready to venture indoors...standalone sculpture parks and outdoor art spaces...remain a viable alfresco option...a sampling of sculpture parks and outdoor art spaces currently open across the country...We will continue to add to this list - The Architect's Newspaper

Oliver Wainwright: My lockdown fantasy: I wish I was back in the bustling, mind-blowing beauty of Phnom Penh: ...the city’s glorious architecture is lovingly captured in a thrilling new book. But can it survive a tidal wave of foreign investment? ...you can indulge your wanderlust with an architectural guidebook from...Dom...Chief form-giver to much of this was Vann Molyvann, a young architect who...brought a fresh new approach, combining international modernist principles with a deep appreciation of Khmer culture...As the authors lament, the last decade has seen unprecedented growth, with destructive consequences...Documenting more than 140 buildings in detail, often for the first time [it] makes a powerful argument to preserve the richly layered urban fabric, much of which now stands in the line of fire. -- Terry Farrell; Pen Sereypagna-Guardian (UK)

Oliver Wainwright: This way for Bums and Tums! The discreet charm of the village hall: Bleak, bulky yet strangely beautiful, village halls are the beating heart of rural Britain, where great events happen for £8 an hour. We meet a photographer celebrating these harmonious hubs: Jethro Marshall...has surveyed a range of village halls across the West Country [in] "Halls & Oats," a celebration of..."utilitarian bucolic construction". In the midst of the pandemic, his carefully framed black and white images, devoid of human life, take on a new level of pathos...these buildings tend to be fairly nondescript, if not downright bleak...sheds full of civic ambition. -- Sam Jacob- Guardian (UK)

Rowan Moore: "Circles and Squares: The Lives and Art of the Hampstead Modernists" by Caroline Maclean - Hampstead's brave and brilliant souls: Anecdotes take precedence over insight in this biography of the 30s modernists who dreamed of creating a new way of life: At its best, this is a story of brave and sometimes brilliant souls defying convention to live and work as they wish...At its worst, 30s Hampstead was a tepid version of its European inspirations...I wish that Maclean...did more to change that perception...this was an exceptional bunch of people, who deserve a more illuminating treatment than they get here. -- Wells Coates; Walter Gropius; László and Lucia Moholy-Nagy - Observer (UK)

William O. Gardner: Liquid Cities: In Japanese architecture and science fiction from the 1960s through the 1990s, we can trace an enduring question: “how to make substantial architecture when substantial things are losing their meaning”: Architecture and science fiction are interrelated forms. The author of a plan or a story imagines an intervention in the environment and a change in the lives of its inhabitants...In "Blade Runner" and "Neuromancer," we see Tokyo viewed through an international lens of anxiety and desire which associates Japanese urbanism and technology with global futurity.- Places Journal

ANN feature: Dan Kaplan, FAIA, LEED AP: Quiet and Disquiet Together: A Quarantine-Induced Assessment of Downtown Manhattan: We savor the city, lingering on the rich detail, walking down streets that we neglected in busier times. It does feel like the proverbial music has stopped. How could it not? Hopefully we'll emerge from our collective timeout recommitted to creating a more equitable and resilient city. -- FXCollaborative- ArchNewsNow.com
Today's News - Tuesday, June 9, 2020

● **Josh Stephens'** (wonderful!) tribute to Christo and "what he [and Jeanne-Claude] taught us about land use policy - he committed himself to the mundane business of public policy - because, in addition to clearly loving the sport of it, he knew that the result would be worthwhile - everyone who works in and with the public realm can learn from him."

● **Moore makes** the case for why the U.K.'s "ban on constructing with timber is one of the more misguided responses to Grenfell - it will impede one of the most promising recent innovations in building. Britain's main contribution has been through its architects and engineers. The ban has cut short these architects' contributions" - and CLT's "potential for economic and environmental good."

● **Holland** talks to Chinese architecture experts re: China's guidelines for a "'new era' for architecture - according to the experts, some of the less eye-catching suggestions may signal a subtler evolution in the way China's cities are planned" (a new "credit system - and, conversely, a blacklist - for architects" included).

● **Heathcote** re: the "terminal decline" in "the romance and excitement formerly encapsulated in land, sea and air terminals," and becoming "homogenized, a ritual of anonymous processing - the point, to transform travelers into docile units. Welcome to the global city of tomorrow" (great read! free registration).

● **Stinson** cheers Rogers Partners' new, light-filled Boys & Girls Club in Harlem (no "monolithic façades" here). "Working within a tight budget, the space is designed to highlight activities, not advance an aesthetic."

● **Hopkirk** reports that Lubetkin's 1966 Sivill House will be listed because residents protested proposed changes to "its ingenious 'double arrow-head' plan-form, and its unique architectural expression" that "mark it out for its dramatic contrast to typical residential tower blocks of the period."

● **Now, for** a moment of (serious) levity: Fior & Clarke offer "some tips from MUF on how not to be a starchitect" - among them: "Produce feasibility studies where the recommendation is, you don't need a building," and "Be aware of what 'working with a community' means: they are not a material, they are people, if they work, pay them."

Deadlines + Winners all:

● **Finch** has a few issues with Schumacher's Liberland "utopia design contest for a new 'nation' based on anarcho-capitalist ideas where anything goes" - but "the prompting of ideas is a good thing, so I look forward to whatever the competition may generate."

● **Call for** entries: Liberland Design Competition for "a futuristic society, a utopian vision" with the motto, "To Live and Let Live" (i.e. "no zoning regulations or municipal restrictions" - prizes in cryptocurrency).

● **Daniel Fernández Pascual**, the "Spanish-born, London-based architect, urban designer, educator, and researcher," awarded Harvard GSD's 2020 Wheelwright Prize - $100,000 to research and "envision a paradigm shift in coastal ecology and architecture" around the world.

● **Winners** of the 2019 Europe 40 Under 40 Award for Best Emerging Young Architects & Designers in Europe come from Cyprus, Czech Republic, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Spain, The Netherlands, Turkey, United Kingdom (the list).
Europe 40 Under 40 2019 winners' profiles and eyefuls of selected projects.

Of protests, racism, and urban issues - the industry responds:

- **Brasuell** sees the "violence against Black Americans" as "a moment of reckoning for the planning profession - it is the duty of the profession to consider its role in perpetuating institutional racism - despite good intentions" (with links to articles "to boost awareness").

- **Practitioner** and educator Cory Henry re: how, "in education and practice, architecture fails to hear Black voices - the profession’s willful ignorance - this negligence - is why the hackneyed demands for change are so insulting - another reminder of the privilege that these institutions and people have and are unwilling to relinquish."

- **NOMA’s Kimberly** Dowdell tackles how "racism and the coronavirus pandemic are two health crises that disproportionately impact black Americans. Architects, who take an oath to protect the 'health, safety, and welfare' of the public, must be part of the solution. Here's how."

COVID-19 news continues:

- **The USGBC** releases new LEED guidance "to support buildings with reopening strategies" that "outline sustainable best practices to "rebuild people's trust."

- **Professor** of Urban Geography Colin McFarlane delves into how "the pandemic has generated a whole set of anxieties about the post-coronavirus risks of living in dense urban areas. The problem is with the imbalance between good quality urban provisions - housing, services and infrastructure - and the population density of an area" that "is not the natural order of things - we need a new conversation about city density."

- **King** parses how the "pandemic casts a shadow on the future of San Francisco's would-be high-rise Hub residential district - opponents paint a grim scenario of public parks shadowed by too-tall shafts. Some commissioners questioned whether the plan takes sufficient note of how the coronavirus might alter urban life" in light of "viruses yet unknown."

- **Morgan** mulls what "our domestic landscapes" might look like in a post-pandemic world: "It is time to close the era of the grossly over-inflated developers' McMansion. Do I really see a burgeoning Little House on the Prairie aesthetic in American domestic architecture? Of course, not. But..."

To subscribe to the free daily newsletter [click here]

Josh Stephens: What Christo Taught Us About Land Use Policy: ...he and...Jeanne-Claude...invented and, across decades and continents, continually reinvented their own genre of landscape art...It was in cities, though, where Christo’s whimsy reached its full force...His pieces are no mere "public art"...they don’t just occupy those places...They use and transform them, and then they give them back...[he] committed himself to the mundane business of public policy...convinced [cities] that whimsy can comport with the public interest...He did so because, in addition to clearly loving the sport of it, he knew that the result would be worthwhile...everyone who works in and with the public realm can learn from him. - California Planning & Development Report

Rowan Moore: Do you want beautiful, sustainable and safe tall buildings? Use wood: A ban on constructing with timber is one of the more misguided responses to Grenfell: ...there’s a cost to this caution, which is that it will impede one of the most promising recent innovations in building...the engineering of timber so that it can act as an alternative to steel and concrete...Britain’s main contribution has been through its architects and engineers...The 2018 ban has cut short these architects' contributions...it is reasonable to ban timber cladding
on buildings of more than a few storeys high. But one of the beauties of engineered timber is that it...does the hard work of holding a building up...What matters most is its potential for economic and environmental good. -- dRMM; Waugh Thistleton - Observer (UK)

Oscar Holland: No taller than 500 meters (1,640 feet), no plagiarism: China signals 'new era' for architecture: ...the guidelines appear to formalize changes that were already underway...according to Chinese architecture experts, some of the less eye-catching suggestions...may signal a subtler evolution in the way China's cities are planned...the tide against soaring skyscrapers has been turning for some time...document also proposes a credit system - and, conversely, a blacklist - for architects, to encourage compliance with planning laws and regulations...proposes something entirely new in China: chief architects for each city. -- Li Shiqiao; Fei Chen - CNN Style

Edwin Heathcote: Terminal decline: building the international nexus: The romance and excitement formerly encapsulated in land, sea and air terminals has become homogenised, a ritual of anonymous processing, reverting to type and renouncing style and context: ...the point, to transform travellers into docile units...something very different from the idea of travel...between the middle of the 19th and the middle of the 20th centuries. I recently visited the revitalised TWA Terminal at JFK Airport...a thing of absolute wonder...the grand railway terminus...with architects called in to tart up the frontage...railways appear to have retreated into an architecture of engineering...The airport is fake public space...Its architecture and its furniture is meticulously designed to instill exactly the right paradoxical cocktail of function, fear, comfort, discomfort and ennui. Welcome to the global city of tomorrow. -- Eero Saarinen; Lewis Cubitt; Santiago Calatrava; Foreign Office; Foster; RSHP - Architectural Review (UK)

Liz Stinson: Rogers Partners Builds a Boys & Girls Club for the Modern Age: Pinkerton Clubhouse was designed as a "vertical playscape" and has become a bright anchor for the neighborhood: North Harlem: Abutting a viaduct carrying an automobile thoroughfare, [it] offers afterschool and extracurricular activities to the roughly 16,000 kids who live within walking distance...Clubhouses of the past were designed to keep the outside world out and the kids inside safe...monolithic facades were an architectural expression of how people used to think about safety...the thinking around what makes a building safe and secure has changed...Working within a tight budget...the space is designed to
highlight activities, not advance an aesthetic. -- Elizabeth Stoel- Metropolis Magazine

Elizabeth Hopkirk: Berthold Lubetkin’s Sivill House listed after residents’ campaign: Architect’s only freestanding tower saved from damaging alterations: The decision was hailed by John Allan, former director of Avanti Architects and Lubetkin’s biographer...Sivill House was named one of London’s best-loved buildings by Time Out in 2018...its ingenious "double arrow-head" plan-form, and in its unique architectural expression; attributes which also mark it out for its dramatic contrast to typical residential tower blocks of the period. -- Skinner, Bailey and Lubetkin (1966)- BD/Building Design (UK)

Liza Fior & Katherine Clarke: Some Tips from MUF on How Not to be a Starchitect: Produce projects which are deliberately ambiguous as to where they stop and start; Produce feasibility studies where the recommendation is, you don’t need a building; Give equal status to processes and objects; Be aware of what “working with a community” means: they are not a material, they are people, if they work, pay them.- Reading Design.org

Paul Finch: Patrik Schumacher’s utopia design contest won’t be about architecture: The tough stuff about who owns (or controls) the land...seem as mysterious as the actual ownership of the disputed site where Liberland would be created: The Liberland Design Competition 2020...to draw up ‘radically creative, yet mature’ proposals for a new ‘nation’ based on anarcho-capitalist ideas where anything goes...proposals being ‘radically creative yet mature’ rather gives the game away. How can something untried be simultaneously mature? This has been the eternal problem with ideas about utopias...the prompting of ideas is a good thing, so I look forward to whatever the competition may generate. Unfortunately, the least interesting ideas will probably concern the architecture for this new Eden. -- Zaha Hadid Architects- The Architects’ Journal (UK)

Call for entries: Liberland Design Competition 2020: ...the world’s newest micronation, an incubator and role model for a society founded on the ideology of liberty and principles of anarcho-capitalism...a futuristic society, a utopian vision...motto, “To Live and Let Live”, is expressed in its aspirations towards individual and collective freedom...seeks radically creative, yet mature proposals for a fertile, high-density city-nation; prizes in cryptocurrency; registration deadline: August 16 (submissions due October 16)- ArchAgenda

Matt Hickman: Daniel Fernández Pascual awarded 2020 Wheelwright Prize: ...Spanish-born, London-based architect, urban designer, educator, and researcher [awarded] research travel-based grant of $100,000...“Being Shellfish: The Architecture of Intertidal Cohabitation' is an invitation to envision a paradigm shift in coastal ecology and architecture...[he] will approach his research in two separate phases...remotely with each proposed case study. At a later point, he will commence his travels to coastal communities...in Denmark, New Zealand, Chile, Zanzibar, China, Taiwan, Turkey, and Japan. -- Alon Schwabe; Cooking Sections- The Architect's Newspaper

Winners of the 2019 Europe 40 Under 40 Award: Announcing the Best Emerging Young Architects & Designers in Europe: ... come from Cyprus, Czech Republic, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Spain, The Netherlands,
James Brasuell: Violence Against Black Americans a Moment of Reckoning for the Planning Profession: ...it is the duty of the profession to consider its role in perpetuating institutional racism: ...planners and urbanists focused on equity are broadcasting a clear message...Many of the planning innovations claimed by progressives as victories of social and environmental justice...are perpetuating institutional racism...Planning and urbanism have not achieved some apolitical or post-racial transcendence, despite good intentions...the field of planning is faced with an opportunity to enter a new era: one that centers racial, social, and environmental justice in every act...[with links to articles] "to boost awareness"...- PLANetizen

Cory Henry: In Education and Practice, Architecture Fails to Hear Black Voices: ...the profession’s “willful ignorance” of the mechanisms of inequity: ...we have seen messages from various institutions about the need to properly address the racial inequalities that exist in this country...Unfortunately, I, and many other Black people...view these as prosaic statements...Most architecture schools have very few Black faces...Many design schools do not look past the walls of their ivory towers until there is a crisis. The problem here is that we, Black people, face a form of crisis every single day, yet our voices remain unheard by society - and by the architecture profession...This willful ignorance - this negligence - is why the...hackneyed demands for change, are so insulting...Performative outrage is another reminder of the privilege that these institutions and people have and are unwilling to relinquish. - Architectural Record

Kimberly Dowdell: Racism is built into U.S. cities. Here’s how architects can fight back: Police brutality and the coronavirus pandemic are two health crises that disproportionately impact black Americans. Architects, who take an oath to protect the “health, safety, and welfare” of the public, must be part of the solution: When it comes to addressing how to safeguard all communities from future health crises, architects bring a myriad of skills to the table. Here are just a few...We must pledge ourselves to truly design for life. -- National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA)- Fast Company

USGBC Releases New LEED Guidance to Address COVID-19 and Support Buildings with Reopening Strategies: ...outlines sustainable best practices for cleaning, workplace re-occupancy, HVAC and plumbing...four new Safety First Pilot Credits...With much of the country entering into an initial reopening phase, businesses and government must rebuild people’s trust...- U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC)

Colin McFarlane: The urban poor have been hit hard by coronavirus. We must ask who cities are designed to serve: The pandemic has generated a whole set of anxieties about the post-coronavirus risks of living in dense urban areas. It is a huge oversimplification to blame population density alone for the transmission of the virus...The problem is not with high population density per se, but with the imbalance between good quality urban provisions - including housing, services and infrastructure - and the population density of an area. This imbalance is not the natural order of things...we need a new conversation about city density.- The
Conversation

John King: Pandemic casts a shadow on future of San Francisco’s would-be high-rise Hub: Uncertainty has always clouded the urbane visions of an emerging high-rise residential district at Market Street and Van Ness Avenue...opponents...paint a grim scenario of public parks shadowed by too-tall shafts - affluent compounds...would exacerbate displacement pressures on the lower-income residents...Some commissioners questioned whether the plan takes sufficient note of how the coronavirus might alter urban life. Will Muni be able to handle an influx of new passengers...Will extra shadows on existing parks erode the quality of outdoor spaces should strict shelter-in-place requirements be imposed in response to viruses yet unknown? The Hub may someday reach its potential - but it won’t happen overnight.- San Francisco Chronicle

William Morgan: What Will Our Houses Look Like? When the pandemic has passed, what might we have learned about what our house really is to us? So much about our lives have been dramatically changed by the coronavirus lockdown, not least of all our domestic landscapes...It is time to close the era of the grossly over-inflated developers’ McMansion...Do I really see a burgeoning Little House on the Prairie aesthetic in American domestic architecture? Of course, not. But...lessons that we have learned during the coronavirus times...hardly new ideas...principles of smart building...our home will, in turn, reward us with the inherent joys of still being home.- GoLocalProv.com (Providence, Rhode Island)

Note: Pages will open in a new browser window.
External news links are not endorsed by ArchNewsNow.com.
Free registration may be required on some sites.
Some pages may expire after a few days.

© 2020 ArchNewsNow.com
Today's News - Wednesday, June 10, 2020

● Hilburg updates news of the School of Architecture at Taliesin - it will change its name ("it can no longer use the Frank Lloyd Wright or Taliesin name"), and move to Paolo Soleri's Cosanti and Arcosanti, with hopes to make Cosanti its permanent home.

● Madsen reports that the renovation of Cret's 1937 Federal Reserve Board HQ, "a prime example of neoclassical civic architecture" in Washington, DC, "might become a proving ground for the draft executive order mandating neoclassicism as a federal architectural style" as a minority on Commission of Fine Arts "clamors for more marble."

● Block brings us eyefuls of Sharon Davis Design's rammed-earth hospital campus in "one of Nepal's poorest and most remote regions": "Without local materials, this project may not have been possible - it's a three-day drive on narrow, mountainous roads from the nearest manufacturing centers around Kathmandu."

● Cecilia Garcia introduces us to architect Carina Guedes's Architecture in the Periphery project that is teaching women fighting for housing in Brazil to actually design and build houses - "another important social purpose, that of making architecture recognize and react to the abysmal social inequalities in Brazil."

● Safdie's "horizontal skyscraper" (with a glass-bottom deck) that stretches across the tops of four of the eight skyscrapers of the Raffles City Chongqing riverside complex is ready for its close-up: "It's easy to see why 'The Crystal' is one of the most highly anticipated new attractions in China."

Of public space, protests, and pandemics:

● Sisson looks at how the "convergence of crises could ultimately help convince local leaders and the public to reconsider the importance of public space, and even see parks as part of a broader plan for economic and social recovery" (though severe budget cuts loom).

● Greenwald looks at how "outdoor urban assets are no longer being seen as superfluous, but instead finally being recognized as essential. And so are the masterminds behind them," and talks to some of them re: "what's next for landscape architecture."

● Harrouk: "Public space is a form of democracy. It is a space of freedom of movement and expression, and most importantly it is our first contact with a city - a reflection of the urban fabric - discover public spaces of expression around the world."

● Kamin explains why "Chicago's 'reopening' of the lakefront west of Lake Shore Drive is, in reality, a public relations sham" - a lot of it was never closed - though the "shutdown inadvertently discriminated against residents, many of them African American, who live along Burnham Park" - it's time to restore the entire shoreline "to its rightful owners - the people of Chicago."

Of protests, racism, and urban issues - the industry responds:

● Alati lines up professional networks and organizations "that have made it their mission to support BIPOC [Black, Indigenous, People of Color] architects and designers."
Gibson x 2: She reports on the architects and designers who have created "a Google Docs spreadsheet to highlight design, architecture, engineering, and planning studios [currently 108] founded by BIPOC," with hopes "to raise awareness of jobs available and encourage emerging architects and designers to apply for them."

Gibson talks to Michael Ford, who minces no words, saying architects should "stop working on spaces which disproportionately impact African Americans" (like jails and prisons) "if they want to really impact the fight for racial equality" + his Hip Hop + Architecture as Design Justice competition and #DesignasProtest initiatives (comments abound).

COVID-19 news continues:

Tingley delves into Joel Sanders’ think tank MIXdesign that aims "to identify those whose needs have rarely been considered in architecture. The chaos that Covid-19 has brought to once-familiar places lent an urgency to this mission - to suggest improvements to pervasive design flaws no one else has identified yet."

Caulfield asks 40 AEC and commercial real estate firms "how the coronavirus pandemic could change the built environment - it could have broader, longer-term implications for how people work and businesses and buildings operate. Some saw opportunities to re-examine preconceived notions about building practices and codes that have been etched in stone for decades."

To subscribe to the free daily newsletter click here

Jonathan Hilburg: School of Architecture at Taliesin will change its name, move to [Paolo Soleri’s] Cosanti and Arcosanti: ...with plans to try to make Cosanti its permanent home...after a protracted back-and-forth with the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation ..can no longer use the Frank Lloyd Wright or Taliesin name, though it will retain its accreditation and students...Aaron Betsky, who departed as the school’s president in May, will be temporarily replaced by current dean Chris Lasch of ArandaLasch...- The Architect's Newspaper

Deane Madsen: Renovation of Federal Reserve Board headquarters portends a battle over civic architecture: Paul Philippe Cret’s 1937 building...stands as a prime example of neoclassical civic architecture [in] Washington, D.C...may have prompted new proposed guidelines around federal architecture, if conversations swirling in meetings of the Commission of Fine Arts are any indication...might become a proving ground for the draft executive order mandating neoclassicism as a federal architectural style...Fortus team seemed taken aback by the new critical voices...CFA seems to be split along aesthetic lines...minority clamors for more marble...-- Jules Henri de Sibour; CallisonRTKL Quinn Evans Architects; James McCrery; Duncan Stroik; Justin Shubow; Toni Griffin/Urban Planning for the American City- The Architect's Newspaper

India Block: Sharon Davis Design builds rammed-earth hospital in Nepal: Bayalpata Hospital is a medical complex in Achham...Serving one of Nepal’s poorest and most remote regions...also includes 10 houses and an 8-bed dormitory for hospital staff to live in..."Without local materials, this project may not have been possible because of its incredibly remote location...a three-day drive on narrow, mountainous roads from the nearest manufacturing centres around Kathmandu"...Reusable plastic formwork was used so the team could build the hospital campus quickly employing untrained workers...courtyards act as informal waiting rooms, and patient rooms all have access to a garden or balcony.- Dezeen

Cecilia Garcia | Translated by Tarsila Duduch: Architecture in the Periphery:
Teaching Women to Build Houses in Brazil: The spirit of the women who participate in the movements fighting for housing in Brazil is as hard as lime and wood...they vigorously coordinate organizational and political practices of settlement and popular housing construction...Women teaching women to design: Architecture in the Periphery is the result of a master's thesis by architect Carina Guedes...offering technical assistance courses to women in territories with insufficient housing and infrastructure...the project has another important social purpose, that of making architecture...recognize and react to the abysmal social inequalities in Brazil. -- Marina Bornel; Rafaela Dias and Tereza Barros - ArchDaily

Glass-bottom deck opens atop China's 'horizontal skyscraper': It's easy to see why "The Crystal" is one of the most highly anticipated new attractions in China. Designed by Moshe Safdie...it stretches 350 meters across four of the eight skyscrapers that make up Raffles City Chongqing, a multi-use riverside complex...recently unveiled...The Exploration Deck...Raffles...teamed up with National Geographic to create an exploration-themed exhibition...sky bridge will be home to The Private Club, a members-only clubhouse, as well as The Sky Garden, a food and beverage destination. - CNN Travel

Patrick Sisson: Amid Protest and Pandemic, Urban Parks Show Their Worth: ...the critical role that public space plays during a crisis. But severe budget cuts are looming. Can investing in parks be part of the urban recovery? ...one theme runs through the twinned crises: the power and value of public spaces....Despite big investments in signature parks...a widespread lack of equitable access to green space remains...But there’s some cautious hope here, too: This convergence of crises could ultimately help convince local leaders and the public to reconsider the importance of public space, and even see parks as part of a broader plan for economic and social recovery...It’s not just savvy political thinking, but a smart way to integrate smaller, community-focused green space in neighborhood-level development. -- Trust for Public Land - CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

Rebecca Greenwald: After COVID-19, What's Next for Landscape Architecture? The urban crisis brings many challenges, but also presents opportunities for landscape architects to help build more equitable green spaces and cities: ...public space is decidedly having a moment...Parks, plazas, and other outdoor urban assets are no longer being seen as superfluous, but instead finally being recognized as essential. And so are the masterminds behind them...how leaders...are processing and responding to the health crisis...the themes and ideas they're considering right now. -- Agency L+P; Asakura Robinson; City Architecture; OHM Advisors; Interboro; Studio Zewde; KDI; Chris Reed/Stoss; Kinder Baumgardner/SWA; Kathryn Gustafson; Ryan Gravel/Atlanta Beltline/Sixpitch - Metropolis Magazine

Christele Harrouk: Public Spaces: Places of Protest, Expression and Social Engagement: Open, free, accessible to all, and financed by public money...people define how public space is used and what it means...In times like these, while people still need to "take their issues to the streets" to be heard and seen, public space resurfaces as a topic of discussion...Public Space is a
form of democracy. It is a space of freedom of movement and expression, and most importantly it is our first contact with a city. A mere reflection of the urban fabric, it reveals cultural, economic, and political influences...discover public spaces of expression around the world.- ArchDaily

Blair Kamin: Don’t be fooled by Chicago’s ‘reopening’ of the lakefront west of Lake Shore Drive. Much of it was already open: Dutifully reported as a relaxation of restrictions...is, in reality, a public relations sham...A lot of this parkland was never closed...shutdown...inadvertently discriminated against residents, many of them African American, who live along Burnham Park...they had little alternative parkland west of the drive...the “reopening” doesn’t change that...I initially supported Lightfoot’s ban...But...the mayor’s stance has come to seem...Inconsistent because the closure forced scores of walkers and bikers into the streets and narrow sidewalks, making social distancing difficult...[inconsistent] - how can the city justify allowing masses of people to...demonstrate...while prohibiting even small groups of bikers and joggers from using the 18.5-mile Lakefront Trail...Restore the shoreline, all of it, to its rightful owners - the people of Chicago.- Chicago Tribune

Danine Alati: Bookmark These Professional Resources for Black Designers and Architects: These networks and organizations are focused on supporting Black A&D professionals: With protests against the systemic racism that has plagued our nation for hundreds of years raging on...the design community is also taking stock of its shortfalls and addressing the changes that need to happen...the following organizations that have made it their mission to support BIPOC [Black, Indigenous, People of Color] architects and designers.- Architectural Digest

Eleanor Gibson: Architects and designers create Google Docs spreadsheet listing black-owned studios: ...to highlight design, architecture, engineering or planning studios founded by black, indigenous and people of colour [BIPOC]...currently lists 108 studios and the group intend to update it continually...Among the main aims of the project is to raise awareness of jobs available at studios and encourage emerging architects and designers to apply for them. -- Dong-Ping Wong/Food; Tei Carpenter; Dominic Leong; Preeti Sriti; Oana Stanescu; Joey Swerdlin; Naïla Opiangah; Esther Choi; etc.- Dezeen

Eleanor Gibson: "Stop working on spaces which disproportionately impact African Americans" says architect Michael Ford: Architects should stop designing jails and prisons, which are representations of systemic racism in the US, if they want to really impact the fight for racial equality...[He] told Dezeen that designing buildings for confinement conflicts with an architect's role to protect people...in light of George Floyd's death, Ford launched the Hip Hop + Architecture as Design Justice competition...has also established #DesignasProtest with designer and activist De Nichols, and architect Bryan Lee Jr.- Dezeen

Kim Tingley: How Architecture Could Help Us Adapt to the Pandemic: The virus isn’t simply a health crisis; it is also a design problem: Joel Sanders formed...MiXdesign to function as a think tank and consultancy...to identify those whose needs have rarely been considered in architecture...The chaos that Covid-19 has brought to once-familiar places lent an urgency to this mission...people with autism, and other groups that have faced difficulties in the
built environment, are in a special position to identify creative solutions to the spatial challenges the virus poses - and to suggest improvements to pervasive design flaws no one else has identified yet...Covid “is forcing all of us to be aware of how the design of the built environment dictates how we experience the world and each other.” -- Vishaan Chakrabarti/PAU; Rosalie Genevro/Architectural League of New York; Hansel Bauman; Seb Choe; Magda Mostafa; Mabel O. Wilson; Marco Li; Deborah Berke - New York Times

John Caulfield: Going viral: How the coronavirus pandemic could change the built environment: Architecture and construction firms - and their clients - are asking new questions about infection control as it pertains to people assembly, building wellness, and technology: ...the virus could have broader, longer-term implications for how people work and congregate, and how businesses and buildings operate...need to figure out new ways to keep workers and patrons safe...40 AEC and commercial real estate firms...were, in the main, cautiously optimistic, despite having seen projects delayed or postponed...Some even saw opportunities to re-examine preconceived notions about building practices and codes that, in some cases, have been etched in stone for decades.- Building Design + Construction (BD+C)

Note: Pages will open in a new browser window. External news links are not endorsed by ArchNewsNow.com. Free registration may be required on some sites. Some pages may expire after a few days.

© 2020 ArchNewsNow.com
EDITOR'S NOTE: Tomorrow and Monday will be no-newsletter days. We'll be back Tuesday, June 16. 'Til then: Stay well. Stay safe. Stay in! In the meantime, it's an interesting news day - beginning with Christopher Alexander's Ideas on Architectural Education (an ANN feature!), followed by sad, inspiring, and depressing news - followed by Page-turners.

- **ANN feature:** Christopher Alexander: Lesson Plan #9: Ideas on Architectural Education: Schools of architecture have not found ways of teaching the art of building that is effective. We want, collectively, to make architectural teaching better, and through that, to make architecture better.

- **UT Sydney's** Martin Loosemore minces no words re: Australian universities needing "to take building education more seriously. Declining entrance standards into many construction courses, industry complaints about the quality" of graduates are some concerns - the lack of ethics in construction education is another problem."

- **Steven Heller** pens a touching tribute to Ralph Caplan, 95, "the most droll, erudite, witty and insightful design commentator and editor I knew" with a "wry sense of humor that not only emerged from the page but from every pore on his diminutive body and huge soul" + Debbie Millman's Design Matters episode + "15 bonus bon mots from the master."

- **Core77 pays** homage to Ralph Caplan, "a design luminary and his seminal book 'By Design'" by republishing the 2004 double-issue. "Please enjoy this, dear readers, and think fondly of this extraordinary man as you do."

- **On brighter notes:** Melbourne is getting a new park on the banks of the Yarra River: "The proposed design by landscape architects Oculus is in response to an initial community engagement survey where the local community shared their needs and aspirations."

- **King cheers** the newest stretch of San Francisco's Bay Trail: "two miles might not sound like much. But it's probably the most elaborate stretch of the 360 or so miles completed to date - it's worth pausing to check out the deceptively straightforward path."

- **ASLA minces** no words re: its opposition to Trump suspending the National Environmental Policy Act: "For 50 years, NEPA has guarded the environment from harm during the planning and construction of projects - using a global pandemic as both cover and an excuse is an attempt to bypass the regulatory process to remove long-standing environmental safeguards."

- **AIA California** announces the professional and student winners of its international, annual Architecture at Zero competition to design a zero net energy public library in Central California.

Of protests, racism, and urban issues - the industry responds:

- **Scholar** and activist educator Sharon E. Sutton reflects on "the opportunities that exist for architects to effect change," especially considering the housing crisis stemming "from commodifying a human necessity" that "existed long before the pandemic" by "not waiting for developers to call the shots. Let's work toward designing a vision of coexistence."
• **Hip-Hop** Architect Michael Ford resigns from SmithGroup "to spend more time on his nonprofit Urban Arts Collective and "consulting with firms around the country to turn statements and plans to diversify leadership into action."

• **A very powerful** statement from Ben Flatman: "Much of Britain's wealth and heritage is a monument to black lives not mattering - we are surrounded by the built manifestations of an economy rooted in slavery and colonialism. It is a matter of pride [and] profound sadness that one of the black Britons whose name is most closely associated with architecture is Stephen Lawrence, an aspiring architect murdered because of the color of his skin. This needs to change."

• **Also from** the U.K.: Block parses AJ's second race diversity survey that found 27% of "architects from black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) backgrounds are experiencing more racism at work than in 2018. Black, African and Caribbean respondents reported even worse levels, with 43% reporting racism was 'widely prevalent' in architecture - but only 17% of white respondents recognized it as 'widespread.'"

• **Hosken highlights** 10 Black architects who "fought racial inequality in architecture and shaped the skylines we know today."

**COVID-19 news continues:**

• **AIA releases** retail store and office 3D models for reducing risk of COVID-19, as part of its "Reopening America: Strategies for Safer Buildings" initiative (guidelines for re-opening schools and senior living facilities coming soon!).

• **USGBC affiliate** Arc "launches a new set of tools and analytics to assist companies with safe, confident workplace re-entry" - post-COVID-19.

**Page-turners:**

• **Watlington** explains why she considers Sarkis, Salgueiro Barrio & Kozlowski's "The World as an Architectural Project" to be "a history of architects mistaking design for politics" - most of the 50 projects surveyed are "ambitious in a troubling way."

• **Josh Stephens** brings us a (great) excerpt from his recently released "The Urban Mystique: Notes on California, Los Angeles, and Beyond": "We are all passive subjects to the decisions made by planners and developers years and generations ago. Our greatest challenge is to make sure that urban life serves everyone - all enriched by one another."

• **Elsa Lam** parses Persian-Canadian architect Reza Aliabadi's "The Empty Room - Fragmented Thoughts on Space": "In this pocket-sized manifesto, he explores the idea of emptiness as the essence of architecture."

• **Andreea Cutieru** brings us eyefuls from "Concrete Siberia. Soviet Landscapes of the Far North" by Zupagrafika that "casts a new light on this relatively unexplored chapter of architecture history - while providing an insight into a little-known landscape" - with amazing pix by Russian photographer Alexander Veryovkin.

---

To subscribe to the free daily newsletter click here

**ANN feature:** Christopher Alexander: Lesson Plan #9: Ideas on Architectural Education: Schools of architecture have not found ways of teaching the art of building that is effective. We want, collectively, to make architectural teaching better, and through that, to make architecture better. - ArchNewsNow.com

Martin Loosemore, University of Technology Sydney: Universities need to take building education more seriously if we want to reform the industry: Declining entrance standards into many construction courses, industry complaints about the quality of students leaving some universities and the irrelevance of much university research are concerns...commentators have...criticised the university
sector for lowering entry standards, casualising its workforce, pressuring academics to pass low-grade students and preventing them from speaking-out in fear of reprisal...paint a portrait of decline in Australian universities driven by an increasingly commercialised approach to education...the lack of ethics in construction education is another problem.- The Fifth Estate (Australia)

Obituary by Steven Heller: Missing Ralph Caplan, 95: ...[his] business card read "Director, Center for Peripheral Studies"...as stated in his bio, "Ralph Caplan’s work has been located consistently at the cutting center, or the misleading edge, whichever is closer." His voice was distinctly his own...the most droll, erudite, witty and insightful design commentator and editor I knew. He was revered by colleagues as the pioneer of critical design writing...wry sense of humor that not only emerged from the page but from every pore on his diminutive body and huge soul. Ralph commanded such a respected place in and around the design worlds... + Debbie Millman’s archival Design Matters episode + 15 bonus bon mots from the master- Print magazine

Remembering Ralph Caplan: Paying homage to a design luminary and his seminal book "By Design: Why There Are No Locks on the Bathroom Doors in the Hotel Louis XIV and Other Object Lessons": ...the design world lost a giant...in trying to figure out a way to pay tribute this moment, we recalled that in 2004...we published a "double-issue"...to mark the republication of his seminal book...As we re-read through it this week, we remembered how much we loved Ralph, what he meant to the world of design...We figured that we would republish it for you here again...Please enjoy this...dear readers, and think fondly of this extraordinary man as you do.- Core77

Melbourne to get new park on the banks of the Yarra River: ...as part of [the city's] Open Space Strategy...to be known as Seafarers Rest, will pay homage to the site’s rich maritime history and incorporate flexible event, play and passive recreation spaces...The proposed design by landscape architects Oculus is in response to an initial community engagement survey where close to 100 respondents in the local community shared their needs and aspirations...- Architecture & Design (Australia)

John King: New bayside trail in East Bay offers easy access - and refuge in troubled times: I’m betting that most visitors to the newest stretch of the Bay Trail won’t pause to contemplate the structural engineering...But...it’s worth pausing to check out the deceptively straightforward path...It shows the value of increasing the accessibility of public treasures...2 miles might not sound like much...But it’s probably the most elaborate stretch of the 360 [of 500] or so miles completed to date...people of all races and classes seemed relaxed in one another’s presence...These days, this sense of commonality is all too rare. Farsighted planning and investments helped make it happen...and something as basic as infrastructure played a role.- San Francisco Chronicle
ASLA Opposes Suspension of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Urges President to Rescind Order: For 50 years, NEPA has guarded the environment from harm during the planning and construction of projects...Now, using a global pandemic as both cover and an excuse...This move is an attempt to bypass the regulatory process to remove long-standing environmental safeguards...This decision will only cause more damage to the environment, hurt underserved communities, and magnify the consequences of the ongoing climate crisis. - American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

AIA California announces winners of ninth annual Architecture at Zero 2020 design competition: ...open to entrants worldwide...invited participants to design a zero net energy public library in Central California...winners collectively received $25,000 in prize money. -- DIALOG + Byrens Kim Design Works (San Francisco/Vancouver and Oakland, California); Murphy Burnham and Buttrick Architects (New York City); Jensen Architects (San Francisco); Cankaya University, Ankara, Turkey; Wroclaw University, Poland; CEPT University; Ahmedabad, India - The Architect's Newspaper

Sharon E. Sutton: Envisioning a Communitarian World House: The renowned scholar and activist educator reflects on the vision of Martin Luther King Jr. and the opportunities that exist for architects to effect change: The housing crisis that stemmed from commodifying a human necessity existed long before the pandemic...The pause that halted business as usual exposed its ugly secrets...we architects could seize the opportunity created by increased public consciousness of housing injustice...we could reimagine our roles...Not waiting for developers to call the shots...We could reinvent ourselves by studying innovations like New York’s Urban Homesteading Assistance Board or Boston’s Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative...Let’s work toward designing a vision of coexistence. - Architect Magazine

‘Hip-Hop Architect’ Michael Ford leaves [SmithGroup], hopes to help diversify profession: ...[he] expanded on the experience...as protests took place nationally...active on social media calling for architectural firms...to make public statements and reflect on their role in systemic racism...He publicly asked designers to not join firms that have designed prisons or jails...[when] he found out SmithGroup was working on a concept of “civic buildings” for a [Wisconsin county] that included youth and adult holding facilities, he decided he had “to be a man of my word”...He wants to spend more time on his nonprofit organization, the Urban Arts Collective...consulting with firms around the country to turn statements and plans to diversify leadership into action. - Capital Times (Madison, Wisconsin)

Ben Flatman: We need to address the prejudice and exploitation that underpin our national myths: Much of Britain’s wealth and heritage is a monument to black lives not mattering: ... the horror provoked by yet another incident of police brutality in the U.S. has its historical origins (and contemporary parallels) in the U.K...the birthplace of much that is so broken about American race relations...Perpetuating myths of a benign imperial project that deny how our nation’s wealth and power was built on a noxious culture of racism...helps sustain prejudice today...evident in the often-sanitised approach we take to our built heritage...we are surrounded by the built manifestations of an economy rooted in slavery and colonialism...Bringing about change in architecture requires even more searching questions for our profession...It is a matter of
pride for the profession, but also profound sadness, that one of the black Britons whose name is most closely associated with architecture...is Stephen Lawrence, an aspiring architect murdered because of the colour of his skin. This needs to change. - BD/Building Design (UK)

India Block: Racism increasing in UK architecture industry finds AJ survey: In its second race diversity survey, The Architects' Journal found that architects from black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) backgrounds are experiencing more racism at work than in 2018...Of the BAME architects surveyed, 27% reported being subjected to racism in the office...up from 24% in 2018...Yet 22% of white respondents said there was "little" or no racism in the profession...Black, African and Caribbean respondents reported even worse levels of discrimination, with 43% reporting racism was "widely prevalent" in architecture. Only 30% of this group said the same in 2018...Of white respondents, 61% said there was "some" racism but in the profession, but only 17% recognised it as "widespread" - Dezeen

Olivia Hosken: 10 Black Architects Who Shaped American Cities: They fought racial inequality in architecture and shaped the skylines we know today: ...only 2% of registered architects in the US are Black and 0.3% are Black women...the Black community is underrepresented in the design of American cities, who gets to build them, and who gets to live in them...Still, some of the country's most influential and recognizable commercial and public buildings...were conceived by Black architects. -- Julian Abele; Paul R. Williams; Moses McKissack III/McKissack & McKissack; David Adjaye; Vertner Woodson Tandy; Beverly Loraine Greene [with Marcel Breuer]; Georgia Louis Brown Harris [with Mies van der Rohe]; Norma Skalerek [with César Pelli]; J. Max Bond, Jr./Bond Ryder & Associates/Davis Brody Bond; Philip Freelon; Rodney Leon - Town & Country

AIA releases retail store and office 3D models for reducing risk of COVID-19: Models were developed as part of AIA's “Reopening America: Strategies for Safer Buildings” initiative: Design strategies provide a holistic approach to modifying stores and offices using a 17-point architectural, engineering and administrative framework - American Institute of Architects (AIA)

Arc Launches New Tools and Analytics to Support Safe, Confident Workplace Re-Entry: ...affiliate of the USGBC, has launched Arc Re-Entry in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic...provides a set of tools and analytics designed to assist companies with re-entering... of buildings and places to collect data, manage and benchmark progress, measure impact and improve performance. - U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC)

Emily Watlington: A History of Architects Mistaking Design for Politics: "The World as an Architectural Project" by Hashim Sarkis, Roi Salgueiro Barrio & Gabriel Kozlowski...surveys 50 projects, most of them ambitious in a troubling way...The architects they focus on see themselves, by and large, as...self-styled builders of worlds. This grandiose view... is common. It’s often taught in schools...after reading nearly 600 pages about unrealized and unrealizable structural projects...one inevitably comes to feel that building is simply not the right medium for resolving such huge issues...The most interesting projects...are the handful that express skepticism about what, exactly, buildings can do...Rather than spelling out lessons learned...[the authors] wrap up their survey with a handful of vague wishes for the future of the discipline...can architecture chart a middle ground between Le Corbusier’s modernist utopias and
Archizoom’s doom and gloom? If so, it's through projects humbler than those found [here]. - Art in America

Josh Stephens: Exploring California's Urban Mystique: ...we are all passive subjects to the decisions made by planners and developers years and generations ago. Too many Americans live in quiet desperation, unaware of the impact their environments have on them and unable to do anything about it. Therein lies the urban mystique...What makes Los Angeles frustrating and unpleasant is the very same thing that makes it fascinating: it was built imperfectly, at an imperfect time. Now, L.A. - along with the rest of California - is trying to reinvent itself. That's a difficult process: to shoehorn a new city into the old...we do some things really well and some things really badly - sometimes at the same time...Our greatest challenge is to make sure that urban life serves everyone...all enriched by one another. [excerpt from "The Urban Mystique: Notes on California, Los Angeles, and Beyond"]- California Planning & Development Report

Elsa Lam: "The Empty Room - Fragmented Thoughts on Space": In this pocket-sized manifesto, Persian-Canadian architect Reza Aliabadi explores the idea of emptiness as the essence of architecture...His touchstone is the idea of an empty room, formed by subjective experience and inhabited by individual and collective memories. "I believe that is what architecture is all about - how to treat the emptiness..." -- Atelier RZLBD- Canadian Architect magazine

Andreea Cutieru: A Rare View of Siberia's Soviet Architecture: Over the past few years, a series of exhibitions and monographs have prompted a rediscovery of socialist modernism, its powerful expression and exoticism...photo book "Concrete Siberia. Soviet Landscapes of the Far North" by Zupagrafika casts a new light on this relatively unexplored chapter of architecture history by showcasing the Soviet architecture of Siberia's major cities while providing an insight into a little-known landscape...through the lens of Russian photographer Alexander Veryovkin, bringing about a new-found perspective on post-war architecture...in an extreme environment. -- Vladimir Pavlov; Vitaly Orekhov- ArchDaily

Note: Pages will open in a new browser window. External news links are not endorsed by ArchNewsNow.com. Free registration may be required on some sites. Some pages may expire after a few days.
Today's News - Tuesday, June 16, 2020

- **Kimmelman** minces no words in calling the AIA on the carpet re: its statement "expressing solidarity with protesters. That's good to hear. So - how about stop repeating that it's OK by you for architects to design racially biased prisons - they should not contribute their expertise to a system that commits exceptional violence against African-Americans and other minorities. The least the AIA can do now is agree."

- **Kate Wagner** delves into (mincing now words) re: her term "PR-chitecture" to call "attention to how designers and brands were using the coronavirus pandemic to promote themselves and their increasingly bizarre and ridiculous roster of solutions under the cover of 'good design.' It's architecture for the click economy. It dumbs architecture down" and "reinforces architecture's worst impulses: hero worship, technocracy, and elitism" (she names names).

- **Batcho delves** into how Sweden's political concept Folkhem could be "an economic and political blueprint for a more just and sustainable future" that would "suspend opposing forces in complementary tension and interdependence" and bring out "the productive best of each - a nonaggression social pact between the Few and the Many."

- **Wainwright** points out some major issues with the mayor of Middlesbrough's big plans to build a "Teesside Silicon Valley," beginning with an office tower that "looks like something from a cut-price Gotham City." Sayeth the mayor: "I've ignored the development frameworks and master plans - we have to make stuff happen. Then we'll start planning" (uh-oh).

- **Kamin cheers** the opening of Chicago's Lakefront Trail - now, "let's reimagine biking to work. Somewhere in urban planning heaven, a smile is spreading across the mustachioed mug of Daniel Burnham. It's time to think big - a moment of tremendous possibility in the ongoing story of Chicago as 'Paris on the Prairie.'"

- **Morgan revisits** P+W's 1972 "concrete behemoth," the Community College of Rhode Island - "a significant landmark worthy or our notice, and even veneration - the most remarkable thing is that it was built at all - not what you would call warm and fuzzy, but it has provided [CCRI] with a dramatic and ionic architectural landmark."

- **Alan Jones** returns to his post as RIBA president, and "looks to put scandal behind him. In his 'I'm back on the job' apology letter, he more or less came clean and confirmed some of the allegations that had emerged during his leave."

- **ICYMI: ANN** feature: Christopher Alexander: Lesson Plan #9: Ideas on Architectural Education: Schools of architecture have not found ways of teaching the art of building that is effective. We want, collectively, to make architectural teaching better, and through that, to make architecture better.

Of protests, racism, and urban issues - the industry responds:

- **HKS London's** Alfonso Padro: "It's time to turn words into action. The combined impact of the covid-19 pandemic and the ongoing Black Lives Matter protests has, quite rightly, put equality firmly back on the agenda - the shocking lack of diversity is holding us back" (and why the Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust is so vital).

- **Lamster:** "How to suture a Dallas divided by racism. Active reform can begin with the frank admission that the design of the city has been an instrumental means for controlling black and brown bodies. That is a fact of
American urban history - there are a number of immediate steps to become a more equitable place.

- An "anti-racist architecture manifesto" by WAI Architecture Think Tank: "Architects should be aware of the programs of the buildings they design and be held accountable. They talk about reforming prisons, creating sustainable concentration camps and outlining "community-oriented" buildings for policing. In their obstinate naiveté, they refuse to acknowledge the racist, colonial, and oppressive legacies of these archetypes."

COVID-19 news continues:

- The Canada Green Building Council releases "its industry perspective on how strategic investment in green building could play a significant role in re-igniting Canada's economy" with recommendations that "target three key areas of investment."

- Brasuell brings us the third installment of "an ongoing, curated list of a particularly contemporary genre of urbanism punditry. Maybe the public health crisis and the ensuing economic crisis, planted the seeds for a profound shift in the ways that planners, designers, engineers, and politicians reckon with the racist and discriminatory pasts of their professions. Maybe."

- KPMB's Shirley Blumberg: "Place this pandemic alongside climate change, pollution, inequity - and once again architects and city planners are called upon to respond to urgent societal challenges - tectonic shifts in our design culture are already underway" (per Aalto, "we should always design for the person in the weakest position").

- Chaya Gourarie looks at how cities are rethinking their use of public space in a post-COVID future: "Many streetscape changes have been done - either through design or through bureaucratic methods - not only because the pandemic has given us a tremendous opportunity to envision other possibilities, but because there will be consequences if they don't."

- Moore makes the case for letting "children reclaim the streets for a summer of outdoor play after their pandemic privations - its loss is at least as big a deprivation as that of schooling" + "The exhilarating dunking" of the Edward Colston statue "has caused waves of reaction so predictable that they could have been written by artificial intelligence programs."

- A new report makes the case that "Canada needs to create a new national entity that houses the best available quantitative and qualitative data on cities - a Canadian urban policy observatory highlighting opportunities for shared problem solving."

To subscribe to the free daily newsletter click here

Michael Kimmelman: There’s No Reason for an Architect to Design a Death Chamber: As the country grapples with racial justice, architects should finally take a stand on the most barbaric aspects of a biased prison system: ...the American Institute of Architects issued a statement...expressing solidarity with protesters - and offering a mea culpa...added, "we will review our own programs" and "ask our community to join us and hold us accountable." That’s good to hear. So...how about stop repeating that it’s OK by you for architects to design...racially biased prisons...Architects should not contribute their expertise to the most egregious aspects of a system that commits exceptional violence against African-Americans and other minorities. The least the AIA can do now is agree. -- Raphael Sperry/Architects/Designers/Planners for Social Responsibility (ADPSR); Vishaan Chakrabarti/PAU; Michael Ford/Urban Arts Collective/Hip Hop Architecture Camp; SmithGroup- New York Times

Kate Wagner: No, ‘PR-chitecture’ won’t save us from the pandemic: I coined the term...calling attention to how designers and brands were using the coronavirus pandemic to promote themselves and their increasingly bizarre and ridiculous roster of solutions...under the cover of “good design”...architecture and design
have had a PR-chitecture problem for far longer...It’s architecture for the click economy...the inevitable result of an image-driven, buzzword-laden media atmosphere...the truly subversive and transformative in architecture rarely gets the same attention...PR-chitecture sucks the air out of architecture...It dumbs architecture down...reinforces architecture’s worst impulses: hero worship, technocracy, and elitism...also a failure of criticism, a failure of curation... -- BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group; Oceanix- The Architect's Newspaper

Kevin Batcho: Toward a Green Folkhem [*People’s Home*]: Climate Change as if Social Justice Matters: An economic and political blueprint for a more just and sustainable future: [Sweden's] Folkhem provided a societal framework that suspended opposing forces in complementary tension and interdependence...brought out the productive best of each while simultaneously suppressing the other’s more malignant tendencies...a nonaggression social pact between the Few and the Many.- Common Edge

Oliver Wainwright: The Teesside Silicon Valley: Middlesbrough's £250m bid to be digital powerhouse: Shiny skyscrapers, rooftop ping-pong, a wellbeing village and an urban farm - the mayor wants to make his town a tech dream. Why are so many people horrified? ...his grand plan for a trio of 20-storey towers...he hopes will send chills down the spines of rival northern cities...£30m “digital” office tower...Boho X...Designed by...Logic Architecture, whose portfolio shows no evidence of tall buildings, the tower looks like something from a cut-price Gotham City...critics...fear it could lumber the town with a costly white elephant, a blot on the skyline for decades..."I've ignored the development frameworks and masterplans...we have to...make stuff happen...Then we’ll start planning"...he might want to do a bit more planning before the concrete-pouring begins. -- James Perry/Something Concrete and Modern; Will Alsop- Guardian (UK)

Blair Kamin: Now that the Lakefront Trail is opening, let’s reimagine biking to work in Chicago: Hooray! The people have a sliver of their lakefront back...Somewhere in urban planning heaven, a smile is spreading across the mustachioed mug of the great urban planner Daniel Burnham, who once wrote: “The lakefront by right belongs to the people.” But in the spirit of Danny B, who was famous for making no little plans, why stop at just reopening the trail? It’s time to think big and explore a paradigm shift in downtown Chicago’s commuting patterns...this is a moment of tremendous possibility... in the ongoing story of
William Morgan: CCRI Back to the Future: Surrounded by national guardsmen, tents, and military vehicles, the concrete behemoth of the Community College of Rhode Island in Warwick could be mistaken for a giant fortress or an aircraft carrier. Whether the feeling evoked by the garrisoned Knight campus is one of security or menace, the nearly 50-year-old single-building campus is a significant landmark worthy or our notice, and even veneration...the most remarkable thing...is that it was built at all...[its] intentionally heroic style...an unapologetic tribute to the work of Le Corbusier...a totally self-absorbed work of art, aloof and indifferent to the grim sea of commuters’ cars surrounding it...not what you would call warm and fuzzy, but it has provided New England’s largest community college with a dramatic and ionic architectural landmark. -- Perkins & Will (1972); Robinson Green Beretta- GoLocalProv.com (Providence, Rhode Island)

Alan Jones returns as RIBA president, looks to put scandal behind him: ...he had only held the prestigious post for seven months before abruptly taking leave...as RIBA officially commenced its search for a successor...rumors...began to swirl...In his “I'm back on the job” apology letter, Jones more or less came clean and confirmed some of the allegations that had emerged during his leave. His letter reads in full:- The Architects' Journal (UK)

Alfonso Padro/HKS London: It’s time to turn words into action: There are things all of us can - and should - do to make the profession more diverse: The combined impact of the covid-19 pandemic and the ongoing Black Lives Matter protests has, quite rightly, put equality firmly back on the agenda...the shocking lack of diversity...which can also include background, gender...and sexual orientation is holding us back...that's why the work done by the Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust is so vital in supporting young people to overcome disadvantage and discrimination...and enter professions they may believe are “not for them” - BD/Building Design (UK)

Mark Lamster: How to suture a Dallas divided by racism: the status quo is no longer acceptable: Active reform can begin with the frank admission that, like the use of police force, the design of the city has been an instrumental means for controlling black and brown bodies. That is a fact of American urban history and the harshness of that reality is especially glaring in Dallas...white supremacy was built into the planning texts of the city...there are a number of immediate steps that the city can take to become a more equitable place. - Dallas Morning News

WAI Architecture Think Tank: Un-making ARCHITECTURE: An anti-racist architecture manifesto: Buildings can protect but they can also confine, instill fear, crush, oppress...Architects should be aware of the programs of the buildings they design and be held accountable...Architecture is too obsessed with making. Trained as yes men and women...In their naive idealism, architects often fantasize about the possibility of exorcising the evil out of buildings...They talk about reforming prisons, creating sustainable concentration camps, laying out pristine border walls, and outlining “community-oriented” buildings for policing. In their obstinate naivete, they refuse to acknowledge the racist, colonial, and oppressive legacies of these archetypes.- The Architect's Newspaper

CaGBC [Canada Green Building Council] tables recommendations for Canada’s
post-COVID-19 economic recovery: ...released its industry perspective on how strategic investment in green building could play a significant role in re-igniting Canada’s economy...shared "Ready, set, grow: How the green building industry can re-ignite Canada’s economy"...recommendations target three key areas of investment: Workplace training and skills development, removing barriers to, and encouraging deep energy retrofits, and shifting the industry to zero carbon building. - Canadian Architect

James Brasuell: Debating the Future of Cities After the Coronavirus, Volume 3: The third installment of an ongoing, curated list of a particularly contemporary genre of urbanism punditry: Maybe the public health crisis of the coronavirus, and the ensuing economic crisis, planted the seeds for a profound shift in the ways that planners, designers, engineers, and politicians reckon with the racist and discriminatory pasts of their professions...Maybe...Here are a few examples of the urbanist genre of pandemic punditry during the months of May and June (so far): - PLANetizen

Shirley Blumberg/KPMB Architects: Epidemics, architecture and city-building: Throughout history, disease and urban life are bound together, and together they’ve had a profound impact on the design of cities...I find it interesting that Alvar Aalto’s belief was that we should always design for the person in the weakest position...This resonates most poignantly, as we consider how to redesign long-term care environments for our elderly...We can no longer escape the obvious and urgent need to provide affordable housing for all. Globally, this is our weakest link...Place this pandemic alongside climate change, pollution, inequity and our surveillance culture, and once again architects and city planners are called upon to respond to urgent societal challenges...tectonic shifts in our design culture are already underway. -- Frederick Law Olmsted; Aino Aalto- Canadian Architect

Chava Gourarie: Cities Rethink Their Use of Public Space: From bike lanes to car-free cores, cities are preparing for recovery and a post-COVID future: The deadly virus jolted cities out of complacency...cities around the world began to rethink the use of their public spaces and public infrastructure...Many streetscape changes have been done in a temporary, adaptive fashion, either through design...or through bureaucratic methods...and have done so in a nimble, adaptive fashion...cities will need to adapt, not only because the pandemic has given us a tremendous opportunity to envision other possibilities, but because there will be consequences if they don’t. - Commercial Observer

Rowan Moore: Let children reclaim the streets for a summer of outdoor play: The young deserve to have fun and games after their pandemic privations: Make up for the lockdown’s constriction of space with abundance of it...Definitions of acceptable outdoor behaviour haven’t included children’s play, but its loss is at least as big a deprivation as that of schooling; Falling from grace: The exhilarating dunking of Edward Colston in a Bristol dock has caused waves of reaction so predictable that they could have been written by artificial intelligence programs - Observer (UK)

New research says Canada is falling behind on how it collects and shares critical information on cities: ...has become even more urgent in the face of COVID-19...Canada needs to create a new national entity that houses the best available quantitative and qualitative data on cities...a Canadian urban policy
observatory...would serve as a building block toward greater intergovernmental dialogue on urban priorities...highlighting opportunities for shared problem solving. [link to report]- Canadian Urban Institute

ANN feature: Christopher Alexander: Lesson Plan #9: Ideas on Architectural Education: Schools of architecture have not found ways of teaching the art of building that is effective. We want, collectively, to make architectural teaching better, and through that, to make architecture better. - ArchNewsNow.com

Note: Pages will open in a new browser window. External news links are not endorsed by ArchNewsNow.com. Free registration may be required on some sites. Some pages may expire after a few days.

© 2020 ArchNewsNow.com
Today’s News - Wednesday, June 17, 2020

- **Hopkirk** takes us on a tour of Heatherwick's (mostly timber) Leeds Maggie's Centre with a design "conceived as three giant planters - the project expanded on the studio's long-standing interest in the role of biophilia in the built environment" (and nary a whiff of clinical institution).

- **The S/L/A/M Collaborative** acquires CBRE Heery Architectural Design Practices that focus on healthcare, sports facilities and justice, and will be known as Heery Design, a SLAM Studio.

- **Call for** entries: Applications for the 2nd Lilly Reich Grant for equality in architecture; open to senior high school students' research projects.

- **ICYMI: ANN** feature: Christopher Alexander: Lesson Plan #9: Ideas on Architectural Education: Schools of architecture have not found ways of teaching the art of building that is effective. We want, collectively, to make architectural teaching better, and through that, to make architecture better.

Of protests, racism, and urban issues - the industry responds:

- **NOMA and** the AIA Large Firm Roundtable strengthen ties to combat racism in architecture: "We want to be clear that this is not hollow language or lip service ... In Solidarity, Kimberly Dowdell, NOMA President & Carole Wedge, AIA LFRT Chair."

- **The community** development non-profit Designing Justice + Designing Spaces on "unbuilding racism - thanks to COVID-19 and #BlackLivesMatter, public safety is not the police; public safety is healthcare, jobs, education, housing, and social cohesion within all our communities."

- **SO - IL's** Idenburg takes issue with museums' "botched" strategy of boarding up their lobbies "while many New York theaters responded to calls to #openyourlobbies by offering essential support for demonstrators during Black Lives Matter protests."

- **U+I as Creative** Director Martyn Evans: "Our response to Black Lives Matter must go deeper than social media - our industry has not been as progressive on diversity issues as it could have been. We are already putting in place a series of actions to address issues of diversity both in our own workforce and in the places we build."

- **Michelle** Ogundehin on diversity and "her personal experiences with racism, views on positive discrimination and ways in which individuals can make a difference": "We need to provoke discussion, not anger. Let's help each other make a difference in whatever way we can."

COVID-19 news continues:

- **The Van** Alen Institute and nonprofit Urban Design Forum launch Neighborhoods Now, an initiative "that will pair more than 20 design firms with community partner organizations in four NYC neighborhoods that were - and continue to be - adversely affected by the coronavirus pandemic."

- **Dickinson** describes his "twinge of validation" when Connecticut governor included construction as "essential. Forget about aesthetics. Architects connect the dots of code, technology, human performance and job safety - at least the good ones do" (and he sees "some green shoots of new work").
• **Natashah** Hitti reports on Dubai-based studio Roar's white paper, written with designers, teachers, a doctor, a psychologist and academic researchers, that presents "seven different industry perspectives on how the coronavirus pandemic will change the way education spaces are adapted and designed in the future."

• **Toronto-based** Gow Hastings Architects offers "key design solutions" for both retrofits and new builds, to help colleges and universities in their reopening.

---

Elizabeth Hopkirk: Heatherwick Studio’s Leeds Maggie’s Centre completes:
Cancer centre is latest by a 'big name' designer: Built on a sloping site, the design was conceived as three giant planters...structure is built from a prefabricated and sustainably sourced spruce timber system...The interior incorporates a variety of spaces using tactile materials and soft lighting to banish any sense of clinical institutions...project expanded on the studio’s long-standing interest in the role of biophilia in the built environment. -- Mat Cash; Balston Agius- BD/Building Design (UK)

The S/L/A/M Collaborative Acquires Five Heery Architectural Design Practices from CBRE: ...practices focus on healthcare, sports facilities and justice, which will be known as Heery Design, a SLAM Studio. CBRE, which acquired Heery in 2017, will retain full ownership of the Heery interior design and engineering businesses...Approximately 70 Heery employees will join SLAM’s team of 210 professionals. - Mile High CRE (Denver)

Call for entries: Applications for the 2nd Lilly Reich Grant for equality in architecture; open to Senior High School Students research projects to support the study, dissemination and visibility of contributions to architecture that have been unduly elegated or forgotten, made by professionals who have received discriminatory reatment; deadline: July 16- Mies van der Rohe Foundation / Fundació Mies van der Rohe

NOMA and the AIA Large Firm Roundtable Strengthen Ties to Combat Racism in Architecture: The organizations have been working together since 2017, and continue to actively pursuing "ways to break down barriers and build greater access to opportunity in our profession": We want to be clear that this is not hollow language or lip service, it is a true commitment to facilitate a stronger working relationship between LFRT firms and NOMA to transform our profession for the benefit of all. In Solidarity, Kimberly Dowdell, NOMA President & Carole Wedge, AIA LFRT Chair -- National Organization of Minority Architects; American Institute of Architects; B.R.A.V.E.- Architect Magazine

Designing Justice + Designing Spaces on "unbuilding racism": Community development non-profit led by Deanna Van Buren..."This is why we are prison abolitionists...As everyone now understands, thanks to COVID-19 and #BlackLivesMatter, public safety is not the police; public safety is healthcare, jobs, education, housing, and social cohesion within all our communities...Black and brown communities are speaking out now, and we must recognize that they (we) are the only experts that can identify the goals to aim for in rebuilding and restoring communities."- Archinect

Florian Idenburg: I Design Museums for a Living. Here’s Why Their Boarded-Up Lobbies Are Sending All the Wrong Messages Right Now: The founder of SO - IL and an architect of the New Museum explains why he opposes its decision,
also taken by other museums, to board up: While many New York theaters responded to calls to openyourlobbies by...offering essential support for demonstrators during Black Lives Matter protests, few museums followed suit...Why did most of New York’s largest museums botch this chance to connect to a younger audience...while these spaces were originally designed to invite people in, they have increasingly served to keep some people out...let us consider the history of...boarded-up [Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), Whitney Museum, and New Museum]...lobbies could host outside organizations...might act as a partner and participant, catalyst, and amplifier [with] ample meaningful information for an active audience.- artnet News

Martyn Evans: Our response to Black Lives Matter must go deeper than social media: What matters is bringing about positive change not just what we say in posts: ...our company...has grappled with how to respond...What we should have been thinking...is how the worldwide campaign might cause us to reflect on the power we have as employers and makers of places to have a direct, practical, positive impact on the issue of diversity...our industry has not been as progressive on diversity issues as it could have been...We are already putting in place a series of actions to address issues of diversity both in our own workforce and in...the places we build...we should spend our energies on taking action to put things right rather than beating ourselves up feeling ashamed or guilty...- bd

Michelle Ogundehin: Let’s talk about diversity: We need to provoke discussion, not anger...she shares her personal experiences with racism, views on positive discrimination and ways in which individuals can make a difference: ...why does the industry...not do more to attract individuals who are non-white/female/insert here any other descriptor? ...I think the answer still reverts to...why would any non-white/female/whatever child think that they could not do something, because they are non-white/female/whatever? I for one am deeply uncomfortable with so-called "positive discrimination"...I wouldn't want to be anywhere as part of a quota...no one wants to be the token person of colour...we cannot drop the baton that's been handed to all of us right now...Or worse, think that now we've posted our black squares on Instagram, we've done enough...Let's help each other make a difference in whatever way we can.- Dezeen

Neighborhoods Now rallies design firms to lend COVID-19-hit communities reopening help: Van Alen Institute [has launched] an initiative spearheaded in partnership with the nonprofit Urban Design Forum that will pair more than 20 design firms with community partner organizations in four New York City neighborhoods that were - and continue to be - adversely affected by the coronavirus pandemic. -- Arup; COOKFOX; Kohn Pedersen Fox (KPF); Moody Nolan; Volunteer Architects Limited (ARO, LTL, MOS, nARCHITECTS, SO—IL, WORKac); etc.- The Architect's Newspaper

Duo Dickinson: The ‘essential’ realities of architecture during the pandemic: On March 20, Connecticut Governor...issued a critical governmental directive...that defined what activities could remain active...[he] also declared that construction was “essential"...As an architect, I may have felt just a twinge of validation...Forget about aesthetics. Architects connect the dots of code, technology, human performance and job safety - at least the good ones do...While many architects...are facing a very bad year, that depressing reality is not universal. For those ...who work in the smaller world of residential building or
for not-for-profits that are at the core of our society, this has been a surprising spring. There are some green shoots of new work...I choose to believe that...what I do has, in a small way, been realized to be “essential.”- Connecticut Post / CT Post

Natashah Hitti: "Education spaces will never be the same again" says Dubai-based Roar report: The studio...worked with...10 professionals including designers, teachers, a doctor, a psychologist and academic researchers...contributors have devised seven different industry perspectives on how the coronavirus pandemic will change the way education spaces are adapted and designed in the future...short and long term...panellists...believe the pandemic will leave a "long-term legacy." This will see an end to so-called "vanity projects" -- Pallavi Dean; Prakash Nair; Curl la Tourelle Head; UNIT Fabrications- Thomson Reuters Foundation News

Designing for Higher Education in a Pandemic World: While much remains uncertain, as of June 2020, key design solutions can be prescribed at gradual stages of reopening to help colleges and universities enhance health and safety while fulfilling their role as centres for learning and teaching. Retrofit Solutions; New Build Solutions -- Gow Hastings Architects- Canadian Architect

ANN feature: Christopher Alexander: Lesson Plan #9: Ideas on Architectural Education: Schools of architecture have not found ways of teaching the art of building that is effective. We want, collectively, to make architectural teaching better, and through that, to make architecture better.- ArchNewsNow.com

Note: Pages will open in a new browser window. External news links are not endorsed by ArchNewsNow.com. Free registration may be required on some sites. Some pages may expire after a few days.

© 2020 ArchNewsNow.com
Of protests, racism, and urban issues - the industry responds:

- **Alissa Walker** delves into how "Black designers and planners are mobilizing their industries to eradicate racism in urbanism - they're seeing evidence that those revolutionary changes they've been championing for decades might finally be embraced by their colleagues" (some comments are confounding!).

- **Budds reports** on Harvard's AfricaGSD and AASU's "'Notes on Credibility,' a list of 13 demands aimed at the Graduate School of Design's administration for how the school must institutionalize anti-racism" - but "how good of an education can Harvard provide when the best and brightest students have no confidence in its administration?" (more confounding comments!).

- **Green presents** ASLA's statement regarding the killing of George Floyd, and its vow to "deepen its partnership with the Black Landscape Architects Network (BlackLAN) to create a meaningful, sustainable plan of action to help guide the profession" (astoundingly confounding comments!).

- **The Urban** Studio's Andrew Sargeant: "If we are to design a new, more just world, we need to start by designing a new, more just workplace" - and "change the narrative about investing in black landscape architects and [others] as "helping them." Investment in diverse people and communities is investing in the future of the profession. I don't want 'help'" (astoundingly confounding comments - Part 4).

- **ZGF's Steven** Lewis "attempts to weave together the two concurrent pandemics - Covid-19 and systemic racism - into a way forward that offers a ray of hope - if we claim our role as 'citizen architects,' we can be at the forefront of mitigating the spatial and environmental disparities between the haves and have-nots that have been laid bare for all to see."

Weekend diversions:

- **Kamin cheers** architecture tour boats returning to the Chicago River - adapted to allow social distancing, of course.

- **The 3.6-mile** pedestrian and bike path on the Mario M. Cuomo Bridge (formerly the Tappan Zee) across the Hudson River opens with public art, scenic overlooks, and food vendors (an 80-minute walk and 20 minutes to bike).

- **Jonathon** Keats minces no words about the "staggering paucity of imagination" in the Museum of Craft and Design's online show "Design By Distance" that "shows how architects and designers are confronting COVID-19. Why are they all so hopelessly inane?" (examples of Kate Wagner's "coronagrifting" and PR-chitecture).

- **Harrouk** brings us eyefuls of SO - IL's "Beeline" installation and 10-year retrospective at Lisbon's Museum of Art, Architecture and Technology (maat) that is finally open to the public - in limited numbers, of course.
San Francisco Design Week, themed "Intentional Distortions," kicks off online with experiences that aim to "bring human connection that goes beyond staring at a screen and participating in chat windows."

The online-only Cooper Union Chanin School of Architecture End of Year Show uses gaming technology to bring both the show and the school's landmark Foundation Building to life.

de Forest cheers Inga Saffron's "Becoming Philadelphia: How an Old American City Made Itself New Again": "One of the delights of reading through was to discover what a policy wonk she is - she has become both our civic cheerleader and, when warranted, our public scold" ("she gives good snark").

Lieberman lauds Saffron's "Becoming Philadelphia": "Her passion for the city is evident - her highly detailed and opinionated columns are fascinating and satisfying to read."

Suzanne Stephens gives thumbs-up - and -down - to Goetz's novel "Villa of Delirium" that "is most successful in its historical research. The main protagonist is the Villa Kerylos. While his undertaking is impressive, there is a point when all his scholarly digging makes you want to say, 'Just get on with the story' - the ambience oddly gets lost."

ICYMI: ANN feature: Christopher Alexander: Lesson Plan #9: Ideas on Architectural Education: Schools of architecture have not found ways of teaching the art of building that is effective. We want, collectively, to make architectural teaching better, and through that, to make architecture better.

To subscribe to the free daily newsletter click here

Alissa Walker: How to End Anti-Blackness in Cities; Black designers and planners are mobilizing their industries to eradicate racism in urbanism: Now, calls for justice...compounded by a pandemic...have heightened longtime demands from Black urbanists to confront the anti-Blackness that has been constructed into the urban landscape...While Black urbanists create essential spaces...within their own communities, they're also seeing evidence that those revolutionary changes they've been championing for decades might finally be embraced by their colleagues - and lead to the deeper, structural transformations that cities need. -- Jay Pitter; Orlando Bailey; Tamika Butler; Anthonia Ogundele; Will Prosper; Kristen Jeffers; Bryan Lee Jr.; Destiny Thomas- Curbed

Diana Budds: Harvard Students Are Teaching Harvard How to Be Anti-Racist: And therein lies the problem: ...members of the African American Student Union (AASU) and AfricaGSD issued “Notes on Credibility,” a list of 13 demands aimed at the Graduate School of Design’s administration for how the school must institutionalize anti-racism...How good of an education can Harvard provide when the best and brightest students have no confidence in its administration? - Curbed

Jared Green: Black Lives Matter. Black Communities Matter: The American Society of Landscape Architects...recognizes that the brutal systems of slavery and Jim Crowism have dehumanized black people and weakened their communities. We also acknowledge that the planning and design of the built environment, including landscape architecture, has often had a disproportionate adverse impact on black communities...ASLA will deepen our partnership with the Black Landscape Architects Network (BlackLAN) to create a meaningful, sustainable plan of action to help guide the profession...- The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Andrew Sargeant/The Urban Studio: I Could Have Been Ahmaud Arbery: I share this story in hopes that this will be the last time I have to recall these
events...knowing it won’t be. As landscape architects, we understand that our imagination gives shape to the future...ASLA and the Landscape Architecture Foundation made a concerted effort to transform our discipline by making diversity a priority. However, firms have made little progress...If we are to design a new, more just world, we need to start by designing a new, more just workplace...We must change the narrative about investing in black landscape architects and other minority designers as “helping them.” Investment in diverse people and communities is investing in the future of the profession. I don’t want “help.” - The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Steven Lewis/ZGF Architects: Double pandemic: ...let me attempt to weave together the two concurrent pandemics that we are doing battle with - Covid-19 and systemic racism - into a way forward that offers a ray of hope...charting a definitive course with so many unknowns at this time would be inappropriate. Rather, we should highlight our common goals, as a point of departure for engaging in constructive conversations...we must be willing to walk in each others’ shoes...to take an empathetic path forward to a more perfect society...if we claim our role as ‘citizen architects’, we can be at the forefront of mitigating the spatial and environmental disparities between the have-nots that have been laid bare for all to see by this pandemic. - StadsLeven (Netherlands)

Blair Kamin: Architecture tour boats return to the Chicago River after being sidelined by the virus: Architectural river tours, a rite of summer in Chicago, resume: ...came as the city reopened the downtown Riverwalk, with restrictions aimed at limiting activity and crowds...The restart of the river tours closely follows the resumption of Lake Michigan architectural cruises from Navy Pier...when the outdoor portion of the pier welcomed visitors for the first time in months... Chicago Architecture Center...river tours...to reopen those cruises June 26.- Chicago Tribune

Pedestrian path on Mario M. Cuomo Bridge opens with public art, scenic overlooks, & food vendors: ...3.6-mile shared path...is one of the longest of its kind in the country...features six different scenic overlooks, 10 public art pieces, and three local food trucks...stretches across the Hudson River from Westchester to Tarrytown, to South Nyack in Rockland County...$3.9 billion replacement of the Tappan Zee Bridge...takes about 80 minutes to walk and 20 minutes to bike- 6sqft (New York City)

Jonathon Keats: A New Online Exhibit Shows How Architects And Designers Are Confronting COVID-19 - With Outmoded Ideas And Products Nobody Needs: ...architects and designers can't stop pitching products to deal with the coronavirus pandemic. Why are they all so hopelessly inane? "Design By Distance" hosted by the Museum of Craft and Design...projects reveal both an irrepressible urge to address the pandemic...and a staggering paucity of imagination on the part of people whose profession it is to be creative...The blandness of ideas...all the more shameless because the self-promotion takes advantage of misfortune...represent a dereliction of duty on the part of designers as critical thinkers and creators of alternative futures. -- Sun Dayong; Paul Cocksedge Studio; designlibero; Haus-Rucker-Co; Kate Wagner- Forbes
Ann de Forest: "Report on Icon: the Rise of Philadelphia and the Critic Who Covered It": "Becoming Philadelphia: How an Old American City Made Itself New Again," a collection of Inga Saffron's "Changing Skyline" columns over the past 21 years - a soapbox to speak out on a sprawling range of issues... She does not shy away from controversy... One of the delights of reading through... was to discover what a policy wonk she is... She has become both our civic cheerleader and, when warranted, our public scold... - Hidden City Philadelphia

Michael Lieberman: Inga Saffron's "Becoming Philadelphia: How an Old American City Made Itself New Again": a selection of the architecture critic's Philadelphia Inquirer articles from the past 20 years, tells an intricate story about Philly's 10 year tax abatement and construction boom - both its part in revitalizing the city, and its part in harmful gentrification and increased inequality: She cares deeply about Philadelphia, and her passion for the city is evident... her highly detailed and opinionated columns are fascinating and satisfying to read... - Artblog (Philadelphia)

Suzanne Stephens: "Villa of Delirium" by Adrien Goetz: Novels based on history can be fascinating, particularly when the author demonstrates both a convincing commitment to facts and a dramatic ability to animate characters, events, and settings of the past. His fictionalized history of the actual Villa Kerylos in Beaulieu-sur-Mer, on the French Riviera, follows this dual agenda... [it] is most successful in its historical research... The main protagonist is the Villa Kerylos, built in 1902-08 [designed by Emmanuel Pontremoli]... While his undertaking is impressive, there is a point when all his scholarly digging makes you want to say, "Just get on with the story... But erudition can seem so precious, even if you think that stuffing the novel with tons of facts is edifying. Here, the ambience oddly gets lost... - Architectural Record

ANN feature: Christopher Alexander: Lesson Plan #9: Ideas on Architectural
Education: Schools of architecture have not found ways of teaching the art of building that is effective. We want, collectively, to make architectural teaching better, and through that, to make architecture better. - ArchNewsNow.com

Note: Pages will open in a new browser window.
External news links are not endorsed by ArchNewsNow.com.
Free registration may be required on some sites.
Some pages may expire after a few days.

Yesterday's News

© 2020 ArchNewsNow.com
Today's News - Tuesday, June 23, 2020

- **Salingaros** makes the case for why the "headache-inducing hideous" proposal "to add an incongruous glass box" to the Federal Reserve HQ in DC "would be wrong for several reasons - known to environmental psychologists and the medical world. Intelligent people should keep up with scientific literacy and not adhere to practices that negatively affect the public."

- **Annie Howard** delves into how mega-developments like Chicago's Lincoln Yards and The 78 (and NYC's Hudson Yards) make "even less sense" in the COVID era by further transforming "a city already known for intense (and growing) racial and economic segregation" - and crowd out "other approaches to the uncertain future of the city."

- **In Portland**, Oregon, Holst Architecture completes the "color-drenched" Argyle Gardens, a 72-unit "deeply affordable" housing project that used the firm's "highly adaptable approach to modular building" where "costs were 31% lower than similar affordable housing undertakings" (a model for other types of co-housing).

- **Gunts reports** that FXCollaborative gets the go-ahead to convert a 1903 Carrère and Hastings church into the Children's Museum of Manhattan with revised plans that make it "an outstanding adaptive reuse project."

- **King parses** two new South Bay transit stations that "have grand ambitions - and mixed results" - and the communities (or lack thereof) surrounding them - "all the ingredients are there. Let's hope that planners soon find a way to concoct a tastier recipe."

- **A light moment for the day**: Felino A. Palafox, Jr. shares his take on "memorable quotes on architecture and planning" (among our faves: "An architect is the drawer of dreams." - Grace McGarvie).

Of protests, racism, and urban issues - the industry responds:

- **Kamin talks** to Chicago's top planner Maurice Cox, who "sees opportunity" despite crises of racial unrest and coronavirus - "too little attention is being paid to the nitty-gritty task of building up African-American and Latino neighborhoods that have been hammered by decades of disinvestment and decay. That's Cox's task."

- **Vancouver-based** urban planner & co-chair of the Canadian Institute of Planners Social Equity Committee Amina Yasin calls on planners and urbanists "to reckon with the racism rampant in city building - focused on fighting inanimate objects - like cars - while silencing advocates who point out that streets aren't in reality for everyone. Perhaps systemic racism is the greatest enemy to cities and not cars" - she does offer four anti-racist actions they can take.

- **Miranda** spoke with 9 architects, planners, and advocates re: their ideas for making "public space more race equitable - conversations can often get tied up on issues such as bike lanes and height limits, without considering the larger inequities our cities perpetuate."

- **Marisa Angell** Brown delves into "preservation's existential crisis - it has been complicit in extending and valorizing white dominance. I felt hopeful that the field was changing. Now, I'm not so sure. Some will say that preservation cannot transform into what feels like a social justice movement that is somehow "political" in nature - preservation, they say, must remain politically neutral. But it never was."

- **The National Trust for Historic Preservation** "supports removal of Confederate monuments - these symbols do
not reflect, and are in fact abhorrent to, our values" (some surprising comments!).

- **The Society** of Architectural Historians "supports and encourages" the removal of Confederate monuments - SAH has never before advocated for the direct removal of any historic resource" - but they "express white supremacy and dominance. Our inaction gives them power" (both NTHP and SAH support relocation).

- **AIANY and** the Center for Architecture "have gathered numerous anti-racism resources specifically for the architecture community."

- **Places Journal** has received a grant "to establish a 2020 Writers Fund dedicated to supporting the work of BIPOC [Black, Indigenous and People of Color] authors to bring new depth and range to our public scholarship on architecture, landscape, and urbanism" (Bravo!).

---

To subscribe to the free daily newsletter [click here](#)

**Nikos Salingaros**: The Modernist Federal Reserve Facade Is Headache-Inducingly Hideous And Should Be Abandoned Immediately: It’s time for our society to awaken from its media-induced slumber and demand human-scale architecture once again: ...proposal to add an incongruous glass box to the original marble-faced structure...would be wrong for several reasons...known to environmental psychologists and the medical world. The only people who willfully ignore them are architects, plus those who continue lobbying for industrial-modernist-style buildings. Yet this is not a matter of aesthetics but of the mathematical ordering of our world...Intelligent people should keep up with scientific literacy and not adhere to practices that negatively affect the public.- The Federalist

**Annie Howard**: In the Covid era, the relationship between cities and megadevelopments makes even less sense: ...large-scale projects like [Sidewalk Labs’ Waterfront Toronto] Quayside appear increasingly untenable, laying bare many of the criticisms brought against such developments: ...two similar megadevelopments currently planned for Chicago...Lincoln Yards and The 78...would further transform a city already known for intense (and growing) racial and economic segregation...By suggesting that the city’s industrial past can only be reimagined in the form of speculative real estate projects, other approaches to the uncertain future of the city are crowded out...large-scale development grows increasingly disconnected from city residents’ most pressing needs.- CityMetric (UK)

**Holst Architecture** completes color-drenched co-housing for low-income Portlanders: Women-owned Portland, Oregon-based architecture firm...has unveiled Argyle Gardens...“deeply affordable housing”...72-unit compound...also notable for employing a highly adaptable approach to modular building...dubbed LISAH (Low Income Single Adult Housing)...the LISAH model can also be used in the creation of co-housing for funding-strapped students, entry-level workers, and low-income renters entering retirement...development costs were 31% lower than similar affordable housing undertakings.- The Architect’s Newspaper

**Edward Gunts**: FXCollaborative wins approval to convert Carrère and Hastings [1903] church into Children’s Museum of Manhattan: ...NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) unanimously voted to approve revised plans...team, led by senior partner Sylvia Smith, had been responsive to their comments and they now felt comfortable approving a certificate of appropriateness...The Beaux-Arts Classical-style building...for the First Church of Christ Scientist...“This is an outstanding adaptive reuse project”…- The
John King: BART’s new South Bay stations have grand ambitions - and mixed results: Transit stations...intended to send a larger message, reflecting civic and policy priorities beyond the quest for convenient travel...Each is designed to announce that you have arrived at the threshold of a beckoning future - though the reality of what currently exists is a far cry from what boosters hope will flourish...Architecturally...[Berryessa] station has an awkward air. Perfunctory in some spots, clumsy in others...Milpitas Station aims higher. It also gets most of the way there...At [both], all the ingredients are there. Let’s hope that planners soon find a way to concoct a tastier recipe. -- FMG Architects; AVA; VBN Architects; AO- San Francisco Chronicle

Felino A. Palafox, Jr.: Memorable quotes on architecture and planning: I wish to share these compelling descriptions about the nobility of architecture and planning, especially to fellow architects and planners and those hoping to be professionals of the built environment. - The Manila Times

Blair Kamin: Amid crises of racial unrest and coronavirus, Chicago’s top planner sees opportunity to revive South and West Sides: ...you might think, [Maurice Cox] would have every reason to feel burdened and overwhelmed by events out of his control...While much of the national conversation...has rightly focused on tearing down Confederate monuments and other symbols of racism, too little attention is being paid to the nitty-gritty task of building up African-American and Latino neighborhoods that have been hammered by decades of disinvestment and decay. That’s Cox’s task...in his view, the crises...have made it easier...In Chicago and other American cities, the great unknown is still this: Will the present push for revival be more successful than the failed urban renewal efforts of the past?- Chicago Tribune

Amina Yasin: Whose Streets? Black Streets: Planners and urbanists, it’s time to reckon with the racism rampant in city building. Here are four [anti-racist] actions to take: Urban planners need to interrogate whether the profession has value if it fails to protect the public interest by not analyzing the historic and current manifestations of racism...that pervades it...how can urbanists remain singularly focused on fighting inanimate objects - like cars - while actively ignoring human rights, and silencing advocates who point out that streets aren’t in reality for everyone? Perhaps systemic racism...is the greatest enemy to cities and not cars?- The Tyee (Vancouver)

Carolina A. Miranda: Nine ideas for making our city’s public space more race equitable: ...debate is roiling the world of design and urban planning, where conversations can often get tied up on issues such as bike lanes and height limits, without considering the larger inequities our cities perpetuate...The Times spoke with 9 architects, planners and advocates for their ideas. -- Destiny Thomas; Tamika Butler/Toole Design; Mabel O. Wilson; Rosten Woo; Faiza Moatasim/USC School of Architecture; Christopher Hawthorne; Leslie Kern; Adonia Lugo; James Rojas/Place It!; Karen Mack/LA Commons- Los Angeles Times

Marisa Angell Brown: Preservation’s Existential Crisis: The field...is undergoing profound changes...What is important...the recognition that preservation can take on an activist mission...[It] has been complicit in extending and valorizing
white dominance...I felt hopeful that the field was changing in all of the right ways, slowly but surely. Now, I'm not so sure...the problem: ...it feels very much like what was on the distant horizon 10 years ago is now on our doorstep...active participation in dismantling the systems and culture of white dominance and supremacy may require letting some places go...Some will say that preservation cannot transform into what feels like a social justice movement that is somehow "political" in nature - preservation, they say, must remain politically neutral. But it never was. - National Trust for Historic Preservation/NTHP

National Trust for Historic Preservation Supports Removal of Confederate Monuments: NTHP "supports this fight for justice...historic preservation has a powerful role to play in telling the full story of our often-difficult history...most Confederate monuments were intended to serve as a celebration of Lost Cause mythology and to advance the ideas of white supremacy...sometimes serve as rallying points for bigotry and hate today...these symbols do not reflect, and are in fact abhorrent to, our values...we support relocation of these monuments to...places...so that their history as elements of Jim Crow and racial injustice can be recognized and interpreted. - Architectural Record

Society of Architectural Historians Statement on The Removal of Monuments to the Confederacy from Public Spaces: SAH supports and encourages [their] removal...In its 80-year history, SAH has never before advocated for the direct removal of any historic resource...we have vigorously championed the preservation of difficult aspects of our nation’s history...Confederate monuments do not serve as catalysts for a cleansing public conversation, but rather express white supremacy and dominance...Our inaction gives these monuments power...[they] should be removed...should be stored in secure locations...[they] are potent political symbols that cannot be viewed as neutral works of art. - Society of Architectural Historians

Anti-Racism Resources for Architects: AIANY and the Center for Architecture have voiced their commitment to the dismantling of systemic racism from within the profession... we have gathered numerous anti-racism resources specifically for the architecture community...share feedback or add anything to this list... - AIA New York (AIANY)

Our Next Step on Anti-Racism in Design: As part of the national reckoning, the design disciplines are struggling with a long-standing complicity...Here at Places we are grappling with our own role in these silences and erasures...we have received a generous grant from the Cravens Foundation to establish our 2020 Writers Fund, which will be dedicated to supporting the work of BIPOC [Black, Indigenous and People of Color] authors and bringing significant new depth and range to our public scholarship on architecture, landscape, and urbanism. -- National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA)- Places Journal

Note: Pages will open in a new browser window. External news links are not endorsed by ArchNewsNow.com. Free registration may be required on some sites. Some pages may expire after a few days.

© 2020 ArchNewsNow.com
Today's News - Wednesday, June 24, 2020

- **Holland** brings us eyefuls of NBBJ's Net City, "a Monaco-sized 'city of the future' in Shenzhen" for tech giant Tencent that "will prioritize pedestrians, green spaces and self-driving vehicles" for a population of some 80,000.

- **Mike Yorke**, president of the Carpenters' District Council of Ontario, parses Sidewalk Labs' canceled Quayside in Toronto that "was to be built entirely from mass timber - a chief selling point. The legacy of the concept is still there. Mass timber has not gone away. It is just getting started."

- **Kamin uses** Studio Gang's soon-to-open Vista Tower to start a tour of "Chicago's impressive gallery of 'down-the-alley' views - the long vistas of such buildings form an important, but overlooked, part of Chicago's architectural glory - no eyesores in this bunch."

- **Machado Silvetti's** Glass House Project to wrap in glass part of ruins of Menokin, the 1769 home of a signer of the Declaration of Independence in Virginia, will make "fingerprints in handmade bricks, marks of hand tools, and the successes and failures of the builders" visible, and offer "views of the surrounding landscape - where generations of enslaved laborers once worked."

- **Brussat**, not unexpectedly, takes issue the Menokin project: "If its 'restoration' goes forward - its beauty and its legacy will be condemned to oblivion. The intention is unobjectionable, but the project has, it seems to me, gone off the rails - a shame and a betrayal."

- **Speaking** of historic preservation - and good news for preservation advocates and fans: the Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians (JSAH) online content is free to all through June 30.

- **Belogolovsky's** great Q&A with Chengdu, China-based Liu Jiakun, architect of the inaugural Serpentine Pavilion Beijing: "His architecture is rooted in social and vernacular traditions - and is characterized as being fully integrated with nature. What is a good building for you? 'Well, it is like defining oneself, which is a very difficult task.'"

- **Cogley brings** us Kengo Kuma's chicken coop at Casa Wabi artist retreat in Mexico: "Better acquainted with projects for people, the firm decided to adapt the model of communal housing for the birds."

- **While we're** checking out chicken coops, Ravenscroft brings us Goldsmith's urban floating chicken farm in Rotterdam (check out the pix of the photo-bombing - 'er render-bombing - chicken - one of 7,000 - that's a lotta hens!).

- **Call for** entries: "BRIDGING" Yongxin Old City Wenxing Bridge International Design Competition; open to professionals & students (big(!) cash prizes).

- **Eyefuls** of the winners and finalists in the Yangliuqing National Grand Canal Culture Park Master Competition, "intended as a new way to kick-start the overall development of Western Tianjin."

- **Yale School** of Architecture students win the 2020 HUD Innovation in Affordable Housing Student Design & Planning Competition for a housing proposal for Santa Fe, New Mexico, that included an innovative financing model.

COVID-19 news continues:
● "This Is Not the End of Cities," Part 1 of Florida's 3-part essay that "breaks down overlapping crises that are reshaping America's cities" - he "examines why predictions of the impending end of cities are overblown - and why they may come back stronger."

● Chayka looks into "how the Coronavirus will reshape architecture - we have arrived at a new juncture of disease and architecture. The challenge is reconciling the need for a long-term architectural plan with the pandemic's ongoing unknowability."

● Miranda asks 12 experts about how L.A. should be redesigned for coronavirus: "It will have architects reaching for new technologies and reintroducing old ones. But first, architecture firms must weather the pandemic. The majority expressed anxiety about what is to come."

● Sorokanich talks to six experts about "how we'll live, work, and play in cities after COVID-19" - the "architects and urban planners explain the changes coming to our shared spaces."

● Stathaki looks at an international roster of architects and organizations who are "sharing ideas, initiatives and design proposals that would help us navigate spatially this strange 'new normal'" (nary a whiff of - or very little - PR-chitecture).

● Neal E. Robbins: "The trampling of Venice [and other frail destinations] shows why tourism must change after Covid-19 - one that also benefits residents" requiring "a new mindset [to] see destinations as people's homes, not just attractions."

● Diamond Schmitt's Matthew Lella looks at "how COVID-19 could impact theater design. It's hard to see how we could open a traditional theater with social distancing restrictions, unless we are clever about it" ("double family bubbles," anyone?).

To subscribe to the free daily newsletter click here

Oscar Holland: Tencent is building a Monaco-sized 'city of the future' in Shenzhen: Technology giant...plans for an almost entirely car-free..."Net City"...will prioritize pedestrians, green spaces and self-driving vehicles...ambitious city-within-a-city is set to occupy a stretch of reclaimed land and green along the Pearl River estuary...to accommodate a population of some 80,000 people...plan centers around a "green corridor" designed for buses, bikes and autonomous vehicles...an "interconnected, human-focused organic ecosystem"...individual buildings...will be designed by variety of different architecture firms. -- Jonathan Ward/NBBJ- CNN Style

Op-Ed: Mike Yorke: The upshot of Sidewalk Labs' canceled Toronto project: The ambitious development...was to be built entirely from mass timber...use of modular cross-laminated timber (CLT) and glue-laminated timber (glulam) was a chief selling point...But the project's cancellation changes little regarding mass timber's future...the true legacy of [Quayside] lies [with] wood construction...a test case for what's possible...all these ideas can be picked up by other developers...The legacy of the concept is still there...Mass timber has not gone away. It is just getting started. -- Heatherwick Studio; Snøhetta; Michael Green Architecture- The Architect's Newspaper

Blair Kamin: Jeanne Gang-designed, soon to open Vista Tower adds to Chicago's impressive gallery of 'down-the-alley' views: ...the soon to open 101-story, 1,191-foot-tall [tower] by Studio Gang is giving northbound drivers on Lake Shore Drive a high-octane visual jolt...brings a dose of geometric fluidity to the city's strait-laced skyline...the long vistas of such buildings...form an important, but overlooked, part of Chicago's architectural glory...There are no eyesores in this bunch, as the following examples show: -- Holabird & Root; Graham, Anderson, Probst & White; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Shepley, Rutan
Glass House Project launched for Menokin, home of Francis Lightfoot Lee: ...new model for restoration that will preserve the remaining portions of the 1769 house and replace missing walls, floors, and sections of the roof with sections of glass...home built by the signer of the Declaration of Independence...direct connections to Menokin’s past can be found among the ruins. Fingerprints are visible in handmade bricks, marks of hand tools are etched on the timbers, and the successes and failures of the builders are revealed...views of the surrounding landscape through the glass walls will continually connect visitors to the natural environment and the traces of the tobacco plantation where generations of enslaved laborers once worked. -- Machado Silvetti

David Brussat: Aborting Menokin’s legacy: ...built in 1769 by Francis Lightfoot Lee...the only remaining unpreserved home of a Virginia signatory to the Declaration of Independence...If its “restoration” goes forward...it will remain the only such unpreserved homestead. Its beauty and its legacy, however, will be condemned to oblivion...look at the image...Can anything worse be imagined? The intention is unobjectionable, but...the project has, it seems to me, gone off the rails...a shame and a betrayal...in these days of rage and absurdity, an argument could be made to destroy Menokin in order to atone for its place in history. Unwittingly, that is already being done. -- Machado & Silvetti Associates

Free Access to Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians (JSAH)
Through June 2020: In recognition of the impact of coronavirus on campus instruction and the rise of unplanned distance learning, University of California Press is pleased to make all of our online journals content free to all through June 30, 2020. - Society of Architectural Historians (SAH)

Vladimir Belogolovsky: “In The 1990s, We All Became Free”: In Conversation with Liu Jiakun/Jiakun Architects: His architecture is rooted in social and vernacular traditions, oriental aesthetics, close observation of everyday life, refinement of folk skills and wisdom, and is characterized as being fully integrated with nature...What is a good building for you? "Well, it is like defining oneself, which is a very difficult task." - ArchDaily

Bridget Cogley: Kengo Kuma builds blackened-wood chicken coop at Casa Wabi artist retreat in Puerto Escondido, Mexico: Better acquainted with projects for people, the firm decided to adapt the model of communal housing for the birds...clay bricks were produced at Casa Wabi at a kiln for ceramics designed by Álvaro Siza...Kuma and Siza are among a number of other architects from around the world that Sodi has enlisted to build structures on the site. -- Tadao Ando; Gabinete de Arquitectura; Alberto Kalach - Dezeen

Tom Ravenscroft: Goldsmith unveils design for urban floating chicken farm in Rotterdam: ...set to be built alongside its existing waterborne dairy farm...Floating Farm Poultry...shares many of the same ideals of placing farming in the city, near to buyers...farm was also designed to be educational. Publicly
accessible walkways...allow visitors to see how the farm operates.- Dezee

Call for entries: “BRIDGING” Yongxin Old City Wenxing Bridge International Design Competition; open to professionals & students; Wenxing Bridge linking the new and old urban areas, and activating the blocks and landscape belts on both sides of the Heshui River; (big!) cash prizes; registration deadline: September 1 (submissions due September 15)- Yongxin County People’s Government / CBC (China Building Centre) / Urban Environment Design (UED) Magazine

Results: Yangliuqing National Grand Canal Culture Park Master Competition: As an important node on the Grand Canal, the future of Yangliuqing...to be the engine of the overall development of Western Tianjin. The competition is intended as a new way to kick-start urban planning motions... -- Kenya HARA X LIU Yichun Joint Team (Japan & China); Seung H-Sang; Martha Schwartz; XIE Xiaoying X QI Xin; Wang Xiangrong- Urban Environment Design / UED Magazine

Jack Balderrama Morley: Yale architecture students win HUD affordable housing competition: ...won the 2020 Housing and Urban Development Innovation in Affordable Housing Student Design & Planning Competition for a housing proposal for Santa Fe, New Mexico...Yale School of Architecture students Helen Farley, Kelley Johnson, and Jackson Lindsay, along with Yale School of Management student Eva Leung...credited their innovative financing model as part of the reason they won..."We began thinking about how we might design in policy or financing measures to ensure the long term vitality of the project..." - Alan Plattus- The Architect’s Newspaper

Richard Florida: This Is Not the End of Cities [Part1]: Both the coronavirus pandemic and the Black Lives Matter movement create opportunities to reshape cities in more equitable ways: ...a couple of years from now, we will look back and see that the roster of the world’s leading cities is unchanged...Urbanization has always proven the greater force...today’s crises...underscore the need to rebuild...in ways that are better, more just, more inclusive, and more resilient...crises may...ultimately help to arrest a series of developments that have worked to undermine cities...the vanguards of a healthier, more sustainable and resilient future. Remaking and rebuilding...necessary first step in the long-overdue process of healing and recovery for our nation as a whole.- Bloomberg CityLab

Kyle Chayka: How the Coronavirus Will Reshape Architecture: What kinds of space are we willing to live and work in now? Much of modernist architecture [was] a consequence of the fear of disease, a desire to eradicate dark rooms and dusty corners where bacteria lurk...we have arrived at a new juncture of disease and architecture...we might find ourselves longing for a few more walls and dark corners...we’re also confronting the limits of public space...The challenge is reconciling the need for a long-term architectural plan with the pandemic’s ongoing unknowability. -- Alvar Aalto; Aino Aalto; Le Corbusier; Adolf Loos; Beatriz Colomina; Mies van der Rohe; Marcel Breuer; Koray Duman; Florian Idenburg/Jing Liu/SO-IL; Kisho Kurokawa; Paola Antonelli; Deborah Berke; Ilias Papageorgiou; Tobias Armborst/Georgeen Theodore/Interboro; Steven Holl- New Yorker

Carolina A. Miranda: How should L.A. be redesigned for coronavirus? Are doorknobs out? To live through the COVID-19 pandemic is to see the surfaces
of our cities rewritten by invisible narratives of contagion...It will have architects reaching for new technologies and reintroducing old ones...But first, architecture firms, like all other businesses, must weather the pandemic...Of the 12 Los Angeles firms contacted...The majority...expressed anxiety about what is to come. -- Brett Steele/UCLA School of the Arts and Architecture; Mark Lee/Sharon Johnston/Johnston Marklee; Barbara Bestor/Bestor Architecture; Hernán Díaz Alonso/SCI-Arc; Bob Hale/RCH Studios; Lawrence/Brooks + Scarpa; Paul Danna/Staymore Owings & Merrill (SOM); Thom Mayne/Morphosis; Rachel Allen/RADAR; Michael Maltzan Architecture; Lorcan O’Herlihy Architects (LOHA); Milton Curry; Paul Murdoch Architects; Kulapat Yantrasast/whY - Los Angeles Times

Lara Sorokinich: Six experts on how we’ll live, work, and play in cities after COVID-19: Architects and urban planners...explain the changes coming to our shared spaces. -- Janette Sadik-Khan/Bloomberg Associates; Kimberly Dowdell/HOK/National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA); Rachel Gutter, president of International WELL Building Institute; Joseph Allen/Harvard Chan School of Public Health; Andy Cohen/Gensler; Thomas Woltz/Nelson Bird Woltz landscape architects- Fast Company

Ellie Stathaki: Architecture seeks designs for a post-pandemic world: Ongoing debates in the industry range from education, workspace, community, construction, housing and anything that the last few months’ challenges have touched and transformed: ...the discussion in the community has been gathering pace, with designers and architects sharing ideas, initiatives and design proposals that would help us navigate spatially this strange ‘new normal’... -- Curl la Tourelle Head Architecture; Pallavi Dean/studio Roar; Hassell; Linda Morey-Burrows/MoreySmith; Joan Renaud/ACDF Architecture; Angie Lee/FXCollaborative; Tara Gbolade; Miranda MacLaren/Morris + Company; Sarah Goldblatt- Wallpaper*

Neal E. Robbins: The trampling of Venice shows why tourism must change after Covid-19: Coronavirus has given hotspots like the besieged Italian port breathing space - and a vision of a new, greener kind of tourism: ...over-tourism has a clear downside for the frailest destinations...mass tourism - adding to Venice’s existing issues...is bringing [it] to within a hair’s breadth of collapse...Yet Venetians believe that they can still save Venice...the months-long Covid-19 breathing space...ignited the hope that this difficult moment for the world could eventually offer a turning point...The need in...so many other destinations is for a new tourism, one that also benefits residents...requires a new mindset [to] see destinations as people’s homes, not just attractions.- Guardian (UK)

Matthew Lella/Diamond Schmitt Architects: How COVID-19 could impact theatre design: ...how to make socially distanced seating viable, and other implications COVID-19 might have for entertainment venue design: The return of live events in the transition following a pandemic can captivate and send a strong message...It’s hard to see how we could open a traditional theatre with social distancing restrictions, unless we are clever about it...The idea of ‘double household’ or ‘double family’ bubbles is already being talked about as a phase in easing social distancing...What does it look like to see groups of people 2 meters apart?- Auditoria magazine (UK)
EDITOR'S NOTE: Between cabin fever, an on-going heat wave, and the 4th of July holiday coming up, we're taking a much-needed break. We'll be back Tuesday, July 7. 'Til then: Stay well. Stay safe. Stay cool…

- **ANN feature**: Peter Piven's "The New Norm, Part 2: Finances": Recommendations and mandates to fight the COVID-19 pandemic impacted architectural practices immediately. The operational changes have financial consequences.

- **Architectural** historian and educator Samia Henni unpacks the "violent coloniality" that the Executive Order "Make Federal Buildings Beautiful Again" embodies, and calls on architecture schools to "do more to encourage current and future architectural 'possibilities of an otherwise.'"

- **Wainwright** takes a deep dive into what's been going on with the "seasteading" movement, including BIG's "slick Ted Talk-style vision of low-density suburbia sprawling virulently across the sea" ("remarkably" supported by UN-Habitat), and Waterstudio's "luxury 'SeaPods' that look like a row of gigantic motorbike helmets on poles."

- **Gragg considers** DLR Group's "reconstruction" of the Michael Graves-designed Portland Building that may cause it to be de-listed from the National Register of Historic Places, which "foregrounds a fundamental question in the preservation of landmark Modernist and Postmodernist buildings - what's historic - the building with its original materials, or the design concept?"

- **Ravenscroft** reports on MAD Architects' "largely subterranean Shenzhen Bay Culture Park museum complex topped by two pavilions designed to look like groups of large stones" (archi-babble included - not his).

- **A stellar** list (and great presentation) of ASLA 2020 Honors Recipients & Honorary Members.

**Weekend diversions + Page-turners:**

- **The National** Building Museum presents "Documenting Crossroads: The New Normal" online exhibition of urban photographer Camilo José Vergara images of "how the Covid-19 pandemic has affected people in poor, segregated neighborhoods across the New York metropolitan area."

- **The Chicago** Architecture Center re-opens next week, including the CAFC River Cruises and walking tours (yay!).

- **The National** Museum of African American History and Culture is launching "Rendering Visible," an "initiative focused on the creative production of black architects for inclusion in the NMAAHC's collection of digital images" (looking for "sketches, renderings, and artistic illustrations").

- **Medina's** great Q&A with Geoff Manaugh & Nicola Twilley re: their (now particularly relevant) upcoming book on quarantine, formerly "The Coming Quarantine" and now "Until Proven Safe": "It does not seem to be a coincidence that these protests are at their most successful and widespread at the exact moment that cities are being redesigned, however temporarily, for better access to urban space."

- **Wainwright** cheers curator and architectural historian Mohamed Elshahed's "Cairo Since 1900: An Architectural Guide" that includes unfinished, abandoned, demolished and never-built buildings, and "unpicks
what Egypt's capital might have been - a rallying cry to take another look at the everyday fabric of this richly layered city" (ancient Egyptian revival meets high camp included).

- **Indianapolis** architect Gary Vance completes the 2nd book in his "Kid Architect" series for "kids K-12 to teach them about the wonders of architecture" - with all team activity pages now available to download for free.

Of protests, racism, and urban issues - the industry responds:

- **Sitz talks** to a number of Black architects and designers re: how they're confronting "structural racism in the profession - many professional groups, firms, and schools have released statements in support of racial justice," but for some, "many of those words fell flat."

- **Matthew** Fleischer: "Want to tear down insidious monuments to racism and segregation? Bulldoze L.A. freeways. Our freeway system is one of the most noxious monuments to racism and segregation in the country" - and their history proves it.

- **Budds cheers** architectural designer and Harvard GSD professor Sean Canty's Airtable called "200 Black Creators" - like a spreadsheet, but it put faces to names (he's looking for more!).

COVID-19 news continues:

- **Davidson** delves into why "the American nursing home is a design failure. Even before COVID, its dynamics were deeply flawed. But there are people thinking about how to fix it" (there's hope!).

- **Anthony** Flint takes a deep dive into "the destiny of density" and "the impacts of an insidious virus - density itself is not the cause of collective pain - the issues cities urgently need to address are overcrowding, lack of affordability, and economic and racial disparities."

- **To end on** a lighter note: Barcelona's opera house "reopens with performance to 2,292 plants - to mark Spain's lifting of lockdown - each one will be donated to a healthcare worker at the Hospital Clinic of Barcelona" (full disclosure: we love plants and Puccini - it's online!).

To subscribe to the free daily newsletter click here

ANN feature: Peter Piven, FAIA: The New Norm, Part 2: Finances:
Recommendations and mandates to fight the Covid-19 pandemic impacted architectural practices immediately. The operational changes have financial consequences. - ArchNewsNow.com

The Coloniality of an Executive Order: Samia Henni defends architectural "possibilities of an otherwise": "Make Federal Buildings Beautiful Again"...the prescription of neoclassical architectural style...for new U.S. federal public buildings...signifies a continuation of U.S. imperialism...It opposes criticality, inclusiveness, and diversity. It incites to preserve a conservative attitude often entangled with masculine white Eurocentric principles...confirms the plurality of the discrimination that the order unscrupulously cultivates...Architecture schools should do more to combat this violence and begin or continue to teach, encourage, facilitate, accommodate, and voice current and future architectural "possibilities of an otherwise." -- National Civic Art Society- Canadian Centre for Architecture (CCA)

Oliver Wainwright: Seasteading - a vanity project for the rich or the future of humanity? Beloved by Silicon Valley tycoons and tyranny-fearing libertarians, are cities atop the waves Earth’s next frontier? ...their long-held ambitions have been bolstered by the current global pandemic...conceiving society as a technology that can be hacked and innovated upon as simply as an operating
system...critics say it would lead to “an apartheid of the worst kind”...Oceanix City...designed in slick Ted Talk style by Bjarke Ingels...a vision of low-density suburbia sprawling virulently across the sea...Remarkably, their sci-fi scheme has won the support of...UN-Habitat...Ocean Builders team has been at work...Designed by Koen Olthuis/Waterstudio...luxury “SeaPods” look like a row of gigantic motorbike helmets on poles... -- Blue21; BIG-Bjarke Ingels Group-Guardian (UK)

Randy Gragg: DLR Group’s ‘Reconstruction’ of the Portland Building: After an extensive renovation, controversy once again dogs the Michael Graves-designed building, which may be delisted from the National Register of Historic Places due to the radical change of materials: The architecture’s failures have been well documented...As one of the earliest public projects to use a contractor-led “design-build” process, [it] became a 15-story study in value engineering...relied on materials befitting a community stage set: paint, tile, and stucco...DLR’s approach and the potential consequences foreground a fundamental question in the preservation of landmark Modernist and Postmodernist buildings...what’s historic - the building with its original materials, or the design concept? -- Emery Roth & Sons; Patrick Burke- Architectural Record

Tom Ravenscroft: MAD Architects tops Shenzhen cultural park with "monumental stones": ...largely subterranean Shenzhen Bay Culture Park museum complex...will be topped by two pavilions designed to look like groups of large stones...will sit on a site between the commercial district and the waterfront...Creative Design Hall and Shenzhen Science and Technology Museum...will contain reception spaces, galleries and cafes arranged around pools sunken into the park above that will bring light into the subterranean buildings...One of the stones...is topped with a public viewing platform... -- Ma Yansong- Dezeen

ASLA Announces 2020 Honors Recipients & Honorary Members -- Anne Whiston Spirn; Martha Schwartz; Glen Dake; Dan Wenk; Tom O'Rourke; Stephanie Rolley; James Corner Field Operations; Paul Busse; The Garden Conservancy; Diana Fernandez Bibeau- American Society of Landscape Architects
“Documenting Crossroads: The New Normal”: online-only photography exhibition of urban photographer Camilo José Vergara; records how the Covid-19 pandemic has affected people in poor, segregated neighborhoods across the New York metropolitan area; National Building Museum -- Elihu Rubin - National Building Museum

Chicago Architecture Center will reopen July 3, resumes walking tours: ...with modified hours and COVID-19 safety measures...will debut 7 new architectural models - on loan from the likes of SOM, JAHN, and Studio Gang...New downtown-centered walks will commence on July 3...from the Center’s new-ish Mies van der Roh-designed home...CAFC River Cruises are also slated to depart again..."We also did everything we could to take advantage of more than three months of unplanned ‘down time’...Even those who visited us in early March will notice a lot of exciting changes...": Lynn J. Osmond, CAC president and CEO - The Architect's Newspaper

"Rendering Visible": A Digital Collecting Initiative: The National Museum of African American History and Culture is launching...initiative focused on the creative production of black architects...will allow the Museum to identify architectural illustrations that may be suitable for inclusion in the Museum’s collection of digital images...We are interested in sketches, renderings, and artistic illustrations that convey the intent and concept of a design project. - National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC)

Samuel Medina: Shut Ins: The authors of a forthcoming book on quarantine discuss its past, present, and future: Geoff Manaugh and Nicola Twilley lapped the rest of the country on quarantine...in the middle of drafting...then titled "The Coming Quarantine" [since changed to "Until Proven Safe"] - when the first cases of the novel coronavirus were being discovered stateside..."Quarantine at its heart is an architectural, or spatial, undertaking...The world itself made our book relevant...it does not seem to be a coincidence that these protests are at their most successful and widespread at the exact moment that cities are being redesigned, however temporarily, for better access to urban space." -- BLDGBLOG - The Architect's Newspaper

Oliver Wainwright: Unfinished, abandoned, demolished: how Cairo is losing architecture it never knew it had: From grand visions that fail...to everyday buildings knocked down before they can be considered for heritage protection, "Cairo Since 1900: An Architectural Guide" unpicks what Egypt's capital might have been: ...[curator and architectural historian] Mohamed Elshahed...includes 226 buildings...Many...not the kind historians would necessarily regard as worthy of veneration. And that’s precisely the point...His book is...a rallying cry to take another look at the everyday fabric of this richly layered city...a number of curious outlier buildings...defy stylist conventions altogether. - Guardian (UK)

Indianapolis architect Gary Vance completes 2nd book in children's series during coronavirus pandemic: "On my bucket list was to write a children's book about architecture...If we're going to do it, we're going to do a series"...for kids K-12 to teach them about the wonders of architecture - all in a visually stimulating way...one team activity for every building and public art...all team pages were added to the series' website to be downloaded for free..."Kid
Architect"...intentionally went without that character...he wants the child reading the book to be the main character... -- Vance Consulting- WTHR (Indianapolis, Indiana)

Miriam Sitz: Designers Confront Structural Racism in the Profession: In architecture, where demographics skew toward white male homogeneity, many are beginning to interrogate the ways that systemic racism has shaped the profession and the built environment: The lack of representation in professional leadership and education, especially, has emerged as a top concern for many...many professional groups, firms, and schools have released statements in support of racial justice. But for Tiffany Brown...at SmithGroup and NOMA executive-board member, many of those words fell flat. -- National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA); Kimberly Dowdell; Amanda Williams; Sekou Cook; Pascale Sablan/S9 Architecture; 400 Forward; Beyond the Built Environment- Architectural Record

Matthew Fleischer: Want to tear down insidious monuments to racism and segregation? Bulldoze L.A. freeways: ...here’s some ugly truth about the city of Los Angeles: Our freeway system is one of the most noxious monuments to racism and segregation in the country...When the 1944 Federal-Aid Highway Act allocated funds for 1,938 miles of freeways in California, planners used the opportunity...to obliterate as much as possible the casual mingling of the races...segregated housing patterns have largely persisted to this day...L.A. is not unique in this regard. Cities across the country made similar choices. And yet nowhere have the consequences been felt more profoundly. - Los Angeles Times

Diana Budds: An Architectural Designer Made a List of 200 Black Creatives You Should Follow: Sean Canty made it easier to diversify your Instagram feed: ...a professor at Harvard’s Graduate School of Design, has a couple hundred suggestions...created an Airtable called “200 Black Creators"...inspired by a list...compiled by Dong-Ping Wong...But instead of a spreadsheet, Canty wanted to put faces to names. -- Thelma Golden; David Adjaye; Black Females in Architecture network; Olalekan Jeyifous; Nina Cooke John; Amanda Williams; Germane Barnes; Mark Grattan/Vidivixi; Jerome Byron- Curbed

Justin Davidson: The American Nursing Home Is a Design Failure: Even before COVID, its dynamics were deeply flawed. But there are people thinking about how to fix it: The nursing-home system is an obsolete mess...The whole apparatus is ideally suited to propagating infectious disease...represents a colossal failure of imagination - worse, it’s the triumph of indifference...we don’t need to reinvent the nursing home, only build on humane principles that already succeed...Focus on how people live, rather than on how long...Demand better. -- Victor Regnier; Perkins Eastman; CF Møller- New York Magazine

Anthony Flint: The Destiny of Density: Affordability, Equity, and the Impacts of an Insidious Virus: The crisis threatens the building blocks of a functioning urban economy...the recovery of urban areas is of vital importance...Historically, cities have responded to disease and disaster with affirmative measures...This time around...density has been in the spotlight...density itself is not the cause of collective pain...the issues cities urgently need to address are overcrowding, lack of affordability, and economic and racial disparities...New policies and practices...will be informed by nuanced analysis of what’s actually happening on
the ground...David Dixon/Stantec: “Major cities aren't losing their allure, they are losing their affordability.” - Land Lines / Lincoln Institute of Land Policy

Barcelona opera house reopens with performance to 2,292 plants: Gran Teatre del Liceu...musicians played to an unusual audience on Monday to mark Spain's lifting of lockdown - as thousands of plants filled its seats...the work of conceptual artist Eugenio Ampudia and included a performance from the UceLi Quartet string quartet...plants were brought in from nearby nurseries and each one will be donated to a healthcare worker from the Hospital Clinic of Barcelona. - CNN Style

Note: Pages will open in a new browser window.
External news links are not endorsed by ArchNewsNow.com.
Free registration may be required on some sites.
Some pages may expire after a few days.