• Has the Stirling Prize lost its sparkle after 14 years? Yes, says Merrick; no says Pearman.
• de Portzamparc's massive Riverside South in Manhattan: "Trump it's not" (though not all agree).
• Miami's proposed zoning code hopes to replace the current code's auto-centric emphasis with "walkability, greening and neighborhood cohesion" (and fewer McMansions, perhaps?).
• Saffron cheers a Philadelphia school’s new Sustainable Urban Science Center; its biggest lesson: "if you really want to foster a healthier planet, buildings have to be urban as well as green."
• ASLA offers a very handy guide to federal economic stimulus opportunities that design professionals may find beneficial.
• David vs. Goliath in the Middle East: just who are the "little guys" who "go unnoticed until they sneak up and snatch a lucrative contract from the big boys?"
• Prince-Ramus talks about his Wyly adventures.
• Bulgaria puts the spotlight on its cities future during Sofia Architecture Week: are they "doomed to forever resemble concrete jungles?"
• Call for entries for three project types.
• Weekend diversions:
  • In NYC, "Toward the Sentient City" at the Architectural League explores how our lives might change when we can embed computers in anything and everything (better to know the downside now than after the fact); and the Cooper-Hewitt showcases the last 10 years of the museum’s Design Awards winners.
  • A Boston showcase at Pinkcomma gallery for modern, affordable home designs by 24 firms from around the world in "Welcome Hometta."
  • Chipperfield is feeling very chirpy these days with the opening of the Neues Museum in Berlin ("I don't imagine I'll do anything as important or as significant as that again"); re: the prince’s carbuncle kafuffle: he "doesn't mind his profession being 'kicked up the' backside when 'the quality of modern architecture is poor.'"
  • His "Form Matters" at the Design Museum, London is "a cerebral blockbuster" of "architecture with texture and sobriety, instead of structural gymnastics."
  • In Chicago, the Graham Foundation’s "Actions: What You Can Do with the City" puts urban residents on notice; and "Learning Modern" at the Art Institute of Chicago gives the Bauhaus credit where credit is due.
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• In D.C., "House of Cars: Innovation and the Parking Garage" celebrates "stunning examples of man-and-machine triumph that incorporate both function and aesthetics" (great pix, too).
• Hawthorne muses on what "Visual Acoustics" leaves out: Shulman's romanticized photographs of single-family houses "gave a boost to sprawl, freeway construction and the pollution that attends both."
• Page turners: "Frank Gehry: The Houses" includes new interviews that "offer surprising and deeper insights."
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Extraordinary Shelf Life: "Design USA: Contemporary Innovation" featuring the last 10 years of the museum’s renowned design award recipients at the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum [images, links]- Azure magazine (Canada)

McMansions, be gone: Forward-looking architects team up to make modern home designs affordable... house plans, created by 24 design firms from around the world... are now on view in "Welcome Hometta" at Pinkcomma gallery... They emphasize affordability, sustainability, and style. -- over,under; Project_; Studio Terpeluk; Kiel Moe - Boston Globe

Charles Was Right to Pan 1980s Buildings, Chipperfield Says: "I don't think it was completely wrong"... [he] doesn't mind his profession being "kicked up the" backside when "the quality of modern architecture is poor - and certainly in the 80s in this country, it was really poor"... It's Berlin (Neues Museum) his best work? "I don't imagine I'll do anything as important or as significant as that again"- Bloomberg News

"David Chipperfield - Form Matters" at the Design Museum, London: ... a cerebral blockbuster that relies not on lurid hypergraphics... or exuberantly curved cabinets and forms, but rather the pleasure that comes from wandering through a cityscape... architecture with texture and sobriety, instead of structural gymnastics. [images, links]- Wallpaper*

City Stunts: "Actions: What You Can Do with the City" at the Graham Foundation's Madlener House puts urban residents on notice: engage your community, become amateur planners, designers, and architects. -- Canadian Centre for Architecture (CCA); Andrea Sala; Project Projects [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

"Learning Modern": It's easy to take for granted the influence of the Bauhaus in industrial design and architecture, and the exhibition at the Sullivan Galleries of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, invites us to give credit where credit is due... There are gems here to experience. Not all of them have to do with Bauhaus. [images]- ChicagoNow

Parking Outside the Box: ... for all the ugly-red-haired-stepchild car parks of the world... there are also stunning examples of man-and-machine triumph that incorporate both function and aesthetics... celebrated in "House of Cars: Innovation and the Parking Garage" at the National Building Museum. -- Calatrava; Louis Kahn; Eric Owen Moss; Stantec (formerly Gordon H. Chong & Partners; Bertrand Goldberg; Nelson Byrd Woltz/William McDonough; Wood + Zapata; Elliott & Associates; Moore Ruble Yudell; etc. [images, links]- Metropolis Magazine

What the new Julius Shulman documentary leaves out: "Visual Acoustics" never pauses to consider a pressing, if inconvenient, point: That the very success of Shulman's most famous and reproduced photographs in romanticizing the newly built single-family house also gave a boost to sprawl, freeway construction and the pollution that attends both. By Christopher Hawthorne- Los Angeles Times

Book review: "Frank Gehry: The Houses" by Mildred Friedman: Taking a look at the star architect's most significant residential buildings from the 1960s to the late 1980s... underscore the organic nature of Gehry's early experimentation with form and materials... New interviews offer surprising and deeper insights. - Los Angeles Times

Book review: "The Architecture of Grosvenor Atterbury" by Peter Pennoyer and Anne Walker... he was a thinker, particularly interested in how to make not just better mansions, but better cities... "he was a romantic who was also a scientist." In this book, both the romance and the science of the man come through. [slide show]- New York Times

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