

Today's News - Wednesday, June 16, 2010

- Somov takes issue with McGuigan's take on the era of starchitecture being over (see yesterday's newsletter), claiming the Bilbao Effect "is a bit misunderstood."
- Sydney's University of Technology plans for its own Bilbao Effect - by Gehry, no less; alas, no images (yet): "I don't want people to fall in love with a premature sketch that ignores how much it may cost."
- McKee looks into the angst brought on by local talent losing out to out-of-town firms.
- AIA offers a new tracking tool for sustainable design.
- An 18-point primer on sustainability: "We all love it. Everyone says they want it. So we might want to get very clear on what it actually is."
- Lange digs deep into SOM's plans for Chicago's Inland Steel Building: it's "a case study in what you can do to green a mid-century building, as well as what you can't" - maybe it's time "to revisit the rules for bringing old buildings back to life."
- Revving up the battle cry to save Pei's JFK Terminal 6.
- Menking and Soleri issue a battle cry to save the master's 1964 amphitheater in Santa Fe.
- More mid-century mayhem: admirers of a 1950s boomerang-shaped house by FLW file hope to save it from the wrecking ball.
- Houston might finally get serious about preservation: "We're tired of seeing Houston's history slip away, one 90-day waiting period at a time."
- Pennsylvania's Michener Art Museum announces phase 2 expansion - by local talent KieranTimberlake.
- NYC's Frick Collection plans to enclose a portico with "a minimally invasive design" by Davis Brody Bond Aedas.
- Anderton tackles L.A.'s "puzzling aversion to shade," Broad's museum plans, and more with O'Herlihy, Hawthorne, and others.
- Q&A with Urbanski re: the challenges of building Brooklyn Bridge Park on a very complicated site.
- At the Indianapolis Museum of Art's new art and nature park "there will be no signs or guards admonishing visitors not to touch the art. Quite the contrary."
- An eye full of Game Changers competition winners.
- Call for entries: Inaugural European Architecture Prize; and design a trophy for the Rado Unlimited Spirit Contest 2010.

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[The Bilbao Effect: Architecture of Pattern Interruption?](#) The ouroboros snake of architecture, that's been chasing form with function and function with form, is once again shedding its skin...I heartily welcome the "green and clean" vision of future architecture. But might we also preserve the invaluable culture of pattern-interruption architecture that...wipes the mind's slate of preconceived notions clean? By Pavel Somov - Huffington Post

I have a dream, Frank Gehry tells UTS [University of Technology]: ...introduced his version of a reverse striptease at an announcement he will create a \$150 million building for Sydney...No design drawings of the faculty building...were to be seen. ..."Just bear me with me...I don't want people to fall in love with a premature sketch that ignores how much it may cost." - Sydney Morning Herald

[Our Town, Our Jobs: Around the country, architects are protesting when vied-for projects get awarded to out-of-state or out-of-town firms. But just because the economy has changed doesn't mean the rules about hiring architects for public projects have, too.](#) By Bradford McKee -- BCDM; Butler, Rosenbury & Partners; RQAW Corp.; LMN Architects; Fentress Architects; Pearce Brinkley Case + Lee; O'Brien/Atkins Associates; Freelon Group; Sapp Design Associates - Architect Magazine

[AIA Releases Tracking Tool For Sustainable Design: ...2030 Commitment Annual Progress Reporting Tool...designed for architecture firms only, it is being tweaked for use by structural engineers...does not focus on a single project, but rather on practice...There is no cost to participate in the reporting.](#) - Architectural Record

[Theses on Sustainability: A Primer: We all love it. Everyone says they want it. So we might want to get very clear on what it actually is...#17: Our challenge is to create something unprecedented in human history: an ecologically sustainable civilization...#18: No, there is no precedent for what we are struggling to create. We have to make it up ourselves.](#) - Orion magazine

[Blue Sky Thinking: Though it may serve as a blueprint for the future, SOM's visionary master plan for greening the Inland Steel Building ran into two insurmountable obstacles: a tough economy and strict historic-preservation restrictions...a case study in what you can do to green a midcentury building, as well as what you can't...we may need to revisit the rules for bringing old buildings back to life.](#) By Alexandra Lange -- Skidmore, Owings & Merrill [images] - Metropolis Magazine

[I.M. Pei's JFK in Terminal Trouble: Port Authority wants to demolish Terminal 6, but preservationists try to keep the plan grounded..."The Saarinen building has historic status. The I.M. Pei building does not"...DOCOMOMO is now in talks with other local organizations to band together...and is calling for public support for preservation or reuse.](#) -- Pei Cobb Freed [images] - The Architect's Newspaper

[Save the Soleri Santa Fe Theater! Santa Fe authorities and the All Indian Pueblo Council are battling over the fate of the "Paolo," as Paolo Soleri's 1964 amphitheater is known...Soleri...has been rallying admirers of the earthen structure..."I am willing to do anything to support the preservation of the theater."](#) By William Menking -- Cosanti Foundation [images] - The Architect's Newspaper

[Lloyd Wright admirers stand in way of Palos Verdes Estates man's dream home: ...a modern, boomerang-shaped house designed in the](#)

late 1950s...Los Angeles Conservancy...sees the house with extended roof overhangs and expansive windows as both an "architectural treasure" and a "notable example" of [his] postwar residential designs. [image]- Daily Breeze (California)

City eyes making history: Is Houston getting serious about preservation? You name it, we've torn it down....our preservation ordinances are the weakest in the nation...it's very great news that neighborhoods that want to preserve their character could soon have the legal muscle they need. We're tired of seeing Houston's history slip away, one 90-day waiting period at a time. - Houston Chronicle

James A. Michener Art Museum announces phase 2 of \$13.2 million expansion: The Edgar Putman Event Center will be a light-filled, all-glass structure... -- KieranTimberlake [image]- Bucks Local News (Pennsylvania)

Enclosing a Frick Portico Would Create a Gallery: ...would house sculpture and decorative objects at the Frick Collection...with a minimally invasive design. -- Davis Brody Bond Aedas [image]- New York Times

DnA/Frances Anderton: Let There Be Shade: Los Angeles...has a puzzling aversion to shade. Find out why with Jane Houlihan/Environmental Working Group, Emily Green, James Rojas and Lorcan O'Herlihy. Also, Christopher Hawthorne and Coralie Garandeau discuss Eli Broad's latest project and why the French find him fascinating. And Michael Sylvester has the highlights at Dwell On Design. - KCRW (Los Angeles)

Building Brooklyn Bridge Park: An Interview with Matthew Urbanski/Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates: The site is complicated - perched at the edge between the harbor and the gentrifying borough; divided between public and private interests; and grounded in a rich maritime and industrial history...has to negotiate the enduring legacy of the great parks of Olmsted and Vaux... [images, slide show]- Places Journal

100 Acres to Roam, No Restrictions: When 100 Acres: When The Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park opens...in the backyard of the Indianapolis Museum of Art, there will be no signs or guards admonishing visitors not to touch the art. Quite the contrary. [images]- New York Times

Game Changers Competition Winners: ...entries showed a prioritization of shared experiences and building awareness around issues through play. -- Danielle Pecora; Elad Goldshmidt/Goldy; Fazri Aziz/Gardu Studio [images]- DESIGN 21: Social Design Network / UNESCO

Call for entries/nominations: Inaugural European Architecture Prize: will be given annually to any living architect whose built work exemplifies the highest ideals of European civilization and embodies vision, commitment, and a profound respect for humanity and for the social and physical environment; open to European Union nations and EU member states; deadline: August 1 [pdf]- Chicago Athenaeum/European Centre for Architecture, Art, Design and Urban Studies

Call for entries: Young designers and students invited to design an innovative trophy as the first ever design award for the Rado Unlimited Spirit Contest 2010; deadline: July 11 - Rado

Book Review: Shedding Light on Concrete: "Tadao Ando: Complete Works 1975-2010" by Philip Jodidio: Photographic presentation of a poet of light and concrete triumphs over lackluster commentary. By Norman Weinstein [images]- ArchNewsNow



Expansion: OMA/Office for Metropolitan Architecture: MNBAQ, Québec City, Canada

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