

Today's News - Thursday, July 15, 2010

EDITOR'S NOTE: Just a reminder that we're three hours behind home base for this week and next, so newsletter will be arriving a bit later than usual.

- We lose a Denver-based master who helped transform his city.
- Ireland gets serious about planning and development that puts citizens' interests ahead of interest groups "to ensure that the right types of development are built in the right places at the right time" (what a concept! let's hope it works...)
- NYC's High Line inspires other cities "to consider or revisit efforts to convert relics from their own industrial pasts into potential economic engines."
- Walker x 2: L.A.'s Civic Park could finally be "a front lawn for the city" (great pix) + an eyeful of Gensler's plans for a museum housing the world's largest collection of cars from James Bond films in a tiny Illinois town (in a former car dealership - how fittingly ironic).
- Litt on MOCA Cleveland's plan for "an architecturally spectacular building-as-logo" with Moussavi's "multi-faceted gem."
- An expansion of L.A.'s MAK Center is a nod to Schindler's landmark "without being a slavish work of architectural ventriloquism."
- Heathcote cheers Haworth Tompkins' "complex surgery" to keep London Library functioning with a "subtle, thoughtful scheme."
- Q&A with Balkany re: the Chicago Bauhaus, architectural preservation, and urban planning (the good, the bad, and the ugly).
- AIA construction forecast "sees light at end of tunnel" (our fingers crossed!).
- A bit too late for Chicago's Lucien Lagrange who's retiring - and filing for bankruptcy protection: "he doesn't see development rebounding for at least five years, when he might be too old to undertake another major project."
- But big business seems to be bustling elsewhere: Aecom buys Tishman Construction + the smallest in a round-up of the world's 10 largest construction projects is worth (only!) \$27 billion.
- NEA celebrates Mayors' Institute on City Design 25th Anniversary Initiative with neighborhood transformation grants for 21 projects.
- Toronto's Lateral Office wins \$50,000 Prix de Rome in Architecture.
- Call for entries: 72 Hour Urban Action Project (very cool!) + 2nd Annual BrickStainable International Design Competition (both free registration).

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Obituary: John B. Rogers, 85, Denver Architect and RNL Co-Founder: ...grown to more than 200 people among four offices in Denver, Los Angeles, Phoenix, and Dubai. -- Rogers Nagel Langhart Architects - Architectural Record

Planning and Development Bill marks new era for how Ireland plans for future: "At the heart of these new planning laws is a simple idea - to put the interests of our citizens ahead of any one interest group"...aims to ensure that the right types of development are built in the right places at the right time. - Archiseek (Ireland)

After High Line's Success, Other Cities Look Up: ...has motivated a whole host of public officials and city planners to consider or revisit efforts to convert relics from their own industrial pasts into potential economic engines. -- James Corner Field Operations [slide show] - New York Times

LA's Civic Park: Will It Create a Center for the City? A 12-acre park in downtown...could finally be a place that all of Los Angeles gathers - a front lawn for the city. By Alissa Walker -- Rios Clementi Hale Studios [images] - Fast Company

A Museum That Says Bond. James Bond: And it's located in the tiny town of Mokence, Illinois...Museum of Bond Vehicles + Espionage...housing the world's largest collection of vehicles used in James Bond films...not a shiny new building...but rather a former car dealership...The undercover location is paired with cues from the Bond character: It makes a statement, yet is slightly enigmatic. By Alissa Walker -- Gensler [images] - Fast Company

MOCA Cleveland design by Farshid Moussavi of FOA calls for a multi-faceted gem clad in glass and shiny black stainless steel: ...attempting to brand itself with an architecturally spectacular building-as-logo...Whether it gains worldwide attention in the already-crowded and highly competitive field of museum architecture is another question. It certainly looks like a contender. By Steven Litt -- Foreign Office Architects [images] - Cleveland Plain Dealer

LA Feast on Bigger MAK Center: An expansion atop the old garage updates Schindler's landmark with a bold addition that shares much of the original's spirit...a nod to the original without being a slavish work of architectural ventriloquism. -- Space International [images] - The Architect's Newspaper

London Library, St James's Square: ...latest phase of the complex surgery required for it to keep functioning...subtle, thoughtful scheme manages to maintain the library's peculiar atmosphere of unself-conscious functionality while also colonising neighbouring structures and conjuring new spaces from inside the original building. By Edwin Heathcote -- Haworth Tompkins - Financial Times (UK)

Grahm Balkany: the Chicago Bauhaus, architectural preservation, and urban planning: "I learned a lot of things, most of them quite negative, about the way Chicago works on the inside." -- Gropius in Chicago Coalition - Chicago Examiner

AIA Sees Light at End of Tunnel: 2010 has been a bad year for construction and design, but things continue to improve for next year...semi-annual Consensus Construction Forecast found that nonresidential construction will actually be worse this year than it predicted...On the bright side, the estimate for 2011 has shifted upward... - The Architect's Newspaper

Architect Lucien Lagrange retiring, firm files Chapter 11: ...another reminder of how the dramatic downturn in development, particularly condominium towers, has hurt the design industry...he doesn't see development rebounding for at least five years, when he might be too old to undertake another major project. - Crain's Chicago Business

Aecom Buys Tishman Construction: ...a deal that combines one of the world's largest engineering and design firms with the storied New York-based construction business. [slide show] - Wall Street Journal

World's 10 Largest Construction Projects: ...range in scope and purpose, from creating a vacation hot spot in the Persian Gulf to diverting water to quench North China's thirst. -- Benoy Architects; Kohn Pedersen Fox (KPF); Skidmore Owings & Merrill (SOM); Jean Nouvel; Frank Gehry; Zaha Hadid; Foster & Partners; Tadao Ando [slide show] - Architectural Record

NEA Chairman Rocco Landesman Announces \$3 Million in Grants From Mayors' Institute on City Design 25th Anniversary Initiative: Neighborhood transformation through the arts is the goal of 21 selected projects - National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)

Toronto architecture firm Lateral Office wins \$50,000 Canada Council for the Arts Prix de Rome in Architecture: ...Lola Sheppard and Mason White to study issues of note to northern communities [Emergent North] - CBC (Canada)

Call for entries: 72 Hour Urban Action Project: international rapid architecture and design festival as part of the Bat-Yam Biennale of Landscape Urbanism (Israel); cash prizes; (free) registration deadline: August 8 - 72 Hour Urban Action Project

Call for entries: 2nd Annual BrickStainable International Design Competition: design a net zero building using brick as the primary material; cash prizes; registration deadline: November 15- Potomac Valley Brick

Barry Elbasani, FAIA, 1941-2010: The architect known for plans and buildings that revitalized American cities passed away last week at 69. A recent conversation with the gruff optimist and realistic urbanist about his history, inspirations, and aspirations. By Kenneth Caldwell- ArchNewsNow



Mikou Design Studio: Bailly School Complex, Saint-Denis, France

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