

Today's News - Friday, August 6, 2010

- Hawthorne is a bit hesitant to put forth high hopes for L.A.'s new planning director: the "quick appointment suggests city leaders are more interested in speeding approvals of projects than in imagining and working toward a better cityscape."
- Litt sees "great promise" in design concept for Cleveland's Mall: it "would bring a strong, contemporary sensibility to a treasured public space" and the "mix could be exhilarating" - if there is "the courage to allow a provocative mix of new and old."
- More on plans for Harlem's defunct open air market under the tracks: if it "actually gets built, it might end up defining an urban-regeneration stereotype all of its own."
- Thanks to "the anti-iconic" design approach, the Israel Museum's makeover doesn't "undermine its original identity."
- Saffron visits Kahn's once-unheralded (and almost lost) Trenton Bath House: "a building that hides its wisdom in cool, shadowy corners, and is best experienced in person."
- Q&A with London Festival of Architecture 2010 folks re: their "strategies to invite the public into a shared sense of transformative possibility about the built environment."
- Call for entries: RFP for AfH/Nike GameChangers Sports Micro-Venture Fund + London 2012 Games Torch design.
- Weekend diversions:
 - Istanbul 2010 European Capital of Culture festivities include several architectural exhibitions.
 - As part of the V&A's "1:1 Architects Build Small Spaces," Studio Mumbai architects build a "poetic interpretation" of how an Indian family of eight can live in "a mere corridor of space."
 - An eyeeful of "Dreamlands" on view at the Pompidou Center: "real and imagined landscapes can make visitors feel alternately euphoric and overwhelmed" (and only through Aug. 9).
 - MoMA and the Yale Center for British Art "offer a fascinating look" at London's Underground poster campaigns that "capture the zeitgeist of the city...its culture, its entertainment, and its fears of war."
 - Rome's MAXXI hosts University of Miami School of Architecture students' work as one of five inaugural exhibits that are "a significant curatorial event for researchers of modern architecture in Europe."
 - LaBarre finds an artist's drawings of imaginary suburban landscapes "that would scare a Stepford wife" are "a commentary on suburban fakery and a hopeless look at the very conceit of city planning. Depressing. We want one now." (with enough pix to depress us, too)
 - Hawthorne hails Hines's "Architecture of the Sun": it "fleshes out the heroes of L.A. architecture" and also "makes a persuasive case for the talents of some underappreciated L.A. architects."
 - Harnik's "Urban Green: Innovative Parks for Resurgent Cities" explores how to "weave more green into the urban grid," and "shows that, when the political will is there, parks will follow."
 - ULI's "Conservation Communities" offers anti-sprawl solutions to accommodate growth and save land.

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What's new is old at the Planning Department: The quick appointment of Michael LoGrande suggests city leaders are more interested in speeding approvals of projects than in imagining and working toward a better cityscape...as the city continues to struggle with debates over growth and density and the dominance of the car... By Christopher Hawthorne- Los Angeles Times

Mall concept unveiled by LMN Architects shows great promise: ...would bring a strong, contemporary sensibility to a treasured public space rooted in traditional, neoclassical city planning...The mix could be exhilarating...But it also requires the courage to allow a provocative mix of new and old. By Steven Litt -- Daniel Burnham (1903) [images]- Cleveland Plain Dealer

Giving Harlem its High Line: The now-defunct open-air market La Marqueta has found a way to come back to life, bigger than ever...it is likely that the Borough Market in London (also situated under elevated tracks) will be a model...if La Marqueta Mile actually gets built, it might end up defining an urban-regeneration stereotype all of its own. [links]- Metropolis Magazine

Same old same old - but oh-so-very new: Thanks to the anti-iconic approach of the planners and designers involved in its renewal, the Israel Museum has undergone a face-lift that does not undermine its original identity. -- Alfred Mansfeld/Dora Gad (1965); James Carpenter Design Associates; Efrat-Kowalsky Architects; Asaf Lerman/Tammy Yaniv/A. Lerman Architects; Hanan de Lange; Pentagram- Ha'aretz (Israel)

A clean-break bath house: Louis Kahn's summer-camp changing rooms near Trenton got him fired. Now they're being restored, hailed as the architect's launching point from modernism...a building that hides its wisdom in cool, shadowy corners, and is best experienced in person. By Inga Saffron -- Farewell Mills Gatsch [images]- Philadelphia Inquirer

Field Report: London Festival of Architecture 2010: We were particularly interested in strategies to invite the public into a shared sense of transformative possibility about the built environment...Q&A with Sarah Ichioka, director of the Architecture Foundation and co-director of LFA, and Moira Lascelles, a consultant curator... -- [images, links]- Urban Omnibus

Call for entries: Request for Proposal (RFP): GameChangers Sports Micro-Venture Fund; final round of funding for proposals for sports facilities offering programs that tackle social issues in the community (international); deadline: October 6- Architecture for Humanity / Nike

Call for entries: London 2012 Games - Torch design...that will lead the UK into the start of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games; registration deadline: August 22- Design Council / London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG)

Four new exhibitions open at Sanat Limani: As part of Istanbul 2010 European Capital of Culture festivities [includes] "Architectural Counterpoints in Greece: From the 19th Century Tradition to 21st Century Mutations"...photographs, taken by Greek architect Aristotelis Zachos (1871 - 1939) and "A Space Between"- Hürriyet Daily News (Turkey)

Studio Mumbai architects build a slice of their city inside London's V&A Museum: ..."In-between Architecture"...its poetic interpretation of how an Indian family of eight can live in harmony in a mere corridor of space [in] "1:1 Architects Build Small Spaces," an on-going exhibition that uses the landscape of the Victoria and Albert Museum as a test site for compact architecture... [images, video]- CNN International

Top 10 "Dreamlands" at the Pompidou Center (through August 9): ...examines contemporary urban architecture through the lens of international fairs, World's Fairs, and amusement parks...real and imagined landscapes can make visitors feel alternately euphoric and overwhelmed. -- Salvador Dalí; Bodys Isek Kingelez; Robert Venturi/Denise Scott Brown/Steven Izenour; Madelon Vriesendorp/Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA); Liu Wei; Clem Hall/Bob Scifo [slide show]- Artinfo France

Two Routes to Poster Art: Yale Center for British Art's "Art For All: British Posters For Transport," on view through August 15, and the MoMA's "Underground Gallery: London Transport Posters 1920s-1940s," on view through February 28, 2011...offer a fascinating look at London's innovative campaign to bring art into the Underground and create a strong civic identity...capture the zeitgeist of the city...its culture, its entertainment, and its fears of war.- The Architect's Newspaper

University of Miami School of Architecture students exhibit work at Maxxi museum in Rome: ...displayed in one of five inaugural exhibits titled "Luigi Moretti Architetto from Rationalism to the Informal"...a significant curatorial event for researchers of modern architecture in Europe. - Miami Herald

Buy One Now! Suburban Landscapes That Would Scare a Stepford Wife: Ross Racine's drawings manage to make the artificial world of suburbia even more artificial...a commentary on suburban fakery and a hopeless look at the very conceit of city planning. Depressing. We want one now. By Suzanne LaBarre [images] - Fast Company

"Architecture of the Sun: Los Angeles Modernism 1900-1970: Thomas S. Hines fleshes out the heroes of L.A. architecture with a smart look at their most important buildings..makes a persuasive case for the talents of some underappreciated L.A. architects... By Christopher Hawthorne -- Charles and Henry Greene; Irving Gill; Frank Lloyd Wright; Rudolph Schindler; Richard Neutra; Gregory Ain; Welton Becket; Stiles O. Clements; Karl Klokke/AC Martin; Gordon Drake- Los Angeles Times

Creating Open Space Takes Politics and Planning: "Urban Green: Innovative Parks for Resurgent Cities" by Peter Harnik...explores how to take advantage of this opportunity to weave more green into the urban grid...shows that, when the political will is there, parks will follow. - Gotham Gazette (NYC)

"Conservation Communities: Creating Value With Nature, Open Space, and Agriculture" by Edward T. McMahon Offers Anti-Sprawl Solution to Accommodate Growth and Save Land: ...showcases a shift away from the sprawling, highly land-consumptive development practices of the past to more sustainable practices that will pick up momentum as the economy recovers. - Urban Land Institute (ULI)



Snøhetta: National September 11 Memorial Museum Pavilion, World Trade Center Site, New York, NY

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