

Today's News - Wednesday, June 22, 2011

EDITOR'S NOTE: With early morning travel plans tomorrow, we will not be posting the news, but we'll be back Friday, June 24.

- U.K. government tells RIBA "There are too many architects" (yikes!); Reed tells students to stay their course (and don't work for free).
- AIA ABI for May: "Whatever positive momentum that there had been seen has disappeared" (double yikes!).
- Saffron x 3 on much brighter notes: "Philadelphia 2035" vision plan is "a collection of little plans, many of them terrific...the city is being realistic."
- She cheers revised plans for the Delaware waterfront that "shapes the empty acres into the flagship of a 21st-century lifestyle city."
- And she gives two thumbs-up's for NYC's High Line part deux that "may turn out to be the Guggenheim Bilbao of its decade" + inspiration for Philly's Reading Viaduct: "Sometimes when you build it, people really do come" (so much for Rybczynski "poo-hooing the High Line bandwagon").
- It looks like Boston's eighth-tallest building is moving forward (and upward) now that the design has been altered to minimize funneling winds and casting long shadows across Back Bay landmarks.
- The 10-acre, \$700 million CityCenterDC is under construction in the heart of Washington, DC, "envisioned as a modern-day Rockefeller Center" (it could be, with the impressive design team on board).
- Anderton queries Corner, Gruber, and others re: designing a great park by committee in Santa Monica + Sylvester and Abe talk about Japanese design.
- King cheers a playground and clubhouse revamp "designed to catch every child's eye...and it does so with a smile."
- We couldn't resist an in-depth report on the sad state of our almost starless skies, but there is good news: "light pollution is easily solved, even in large metropolitan areas" - and Flagstaff, Arizona, proves it.
- Winners of the Flood Home Design Competition will go a long way to solving living in Australia's flood-prone areas.
- London 2012 "organizers have been left with red faces over their green promises" for the 2012 Olympic torch, but "it's not work that is wasted, it will be transferable for future thinking about Rio and Sochi."
- Call for entries: Parque de la Ciudadania Competition for a 64-acre sustainable park in Santiago, Chile + 4th Advanced Architecture Contest: "CITY-SENSE: Shaping our environment with real-time data" + Luminale 2012 Biennial Lighting Design Competition.

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Government tells RIBA: 'There are too many architects': Ruth Reed declined to say who had told her that numbers in the profession needed trimming, but said students still needed to come through the system to cope with demand when the economy finally recovers...also revealed details of an initiative to be launched on July 12...will give specific examples demonstrating the value in architecture and cite cases where good design has provided good value and saved money on a range of schemes....- BD/Building Design (UK)

Architecture Billings Index Remains in Reverse in May: Inquiries for new projects drop to slowest pace of growth since February 2010..."Whatever positive momentum that there had been seen in late 2010 and earlier this year has disappeared"...- American Institute of Architects (AIA)

A small-scale vision of Philadelphia's future: "Philadelphia 2035" vision plan...a collection of little plans, many of them terrific, but small-scale nonetheless...the city is being realistic...formally endorses the continued development of the city's two waterfronts...a recent plan to turn vacant lots into small neighborhood parks. The big news is that the city goes on record as backing an elevated park on the Reading Viaduct... By Inga Saffron- Philadelphia Inquirer

Revising strategies on Delaware waterfront: ...as Philadelphia wraps up a five-year planning effort, the river is being prepped to take on a new role. A detailed master plan...shapes the empty acres...into the flagship of a 21st-century lifestyle city...with a mix of low- and mid-rise buildings, punctuated by the occasional 20-story high-rise. By Inga Saffron -- Cooper Robertson; KieranTimberlake [slide show]- Philadelphia Inquirer

A park on high: The extension of New York's vibrant High Line sparks excitement for our own Reading Viaduct - what could be "a linear version of Rittenhouse Square"...High Line may turn out to be the most influential work of architecture completed during the boom years, the Guggenheim Bilbao of its decade. Every city wants one...Sometimes when you build it, people really do come. By Inga Saffron -- James Corner Field Operations; Diller Scofidio + Renfro [slide show, video]- Philadelphia Inquirer

Copley Place looks skyward: ...47-story a \$500 million retail and luxury condo project that would be Boston's eighth-tallest building...once sparked worries that the 569-foot structure would funnel strong winds and cast long shadows across Back Bay landmarks...design has been altered to minimize those effects..."reservations about whether the positives outweigh the negatives." -- Elkus Manfredi- Boston Herald

Blocks From the President, Developers Plan Big: CityCenterDC, a \$700 million complex under construction in the heart of Washington that is envisioned as a modern-day Rockefeller Center...One of the largest downtown projects in the nation...will fill 10 acres... -- Foster + Partners; Shalom Baranes Associates; Gustafson Guthrie Nichol; TRG Consulting [image]- New York Times

DnA/Frances Anderton: A Field Operation in Santa Monica: Can you design a great park by committee? ...High Line designer James Corner Field Operations and the citizens of Santa Monica about how they created a singular vision out of a collective process. Michael Sylvester and Hitoshi Abe tell us about Japanese design -- Dwell on Design; Little Tokyo Design Week; Stephen Billings/Pamela Burton & Company; Frank Gruber [images, links]- KCRW (Los Angeles)

Hayes Valley Playground revamp caters to children: The best public buildings, no matter how modest their size...do the job that people expect and then they go beyond expectations. The new 2,500-square-foot clubhouse...succeeds on both counts...designed to catch every child's eye, no matter their race or class, and it does so with a smile. By John King -- WRNS; 1% Program; Public Architecture [images]- San Francisco Chronicle

Starry Night: Researchers caution that if the current pace of artificial illumination continues, by 2025 the pristine night sky will become extinct in the continental U.S...Artificial light increasingly is being implicated in disrupting the biology and behavior of people as well as the animals...The good news...the problem of light pollution is easily solved, even in large metropolitan areas. By Adelheid Fischer -- National Park Service Night Sky Team; International Dark-Sky Association [images, links]- Places Journal

LJ Hooker Flood Home Design Competition: ...one of 12 new designs created specifically to be affordable and appropriate in flood-prone areas...to be built in a controlled environment, with the home being transported to the site in two parts and connected down the centre... -- Dion Seminara Architecture; Archicentre; Future Housing Taskforce [image]- Architecture & Design (Australia)

2012 Olympic torch ignites row over Games' green credentials: The 2012 torch was supposed to be low

carbon, but the scientists at EDF...simply ran out of time...London 2012 organisers have been left with red faces over their green promises..."It's not work that is wasted, it will be transferable for future thinking about Rio and Sochi..." - Guardian (UK)

Call for entries: Parque de la Ciudadanía Competition: an international design competition for a 64-acre sustainable park in Santiago, Chile, to be completed before the South American ODESUR games in 2014; no entry fee; cash prizes; deadline: August 25- The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Call for entries: 4th Advanced Architecture Contest: "CITY-SENSE: Shaping our environment with real-time data": no entry fee; cash prizes; deadline: September 26- Institute for Advanced Architecture of Catalonia (IAAC)/HP

Call for entries: Luminale 2012 Biennial Lighting Design Competition; deadline: September 30, 2011- Light+Building

Poetry as Rescuing Angel: The Angel Island Immigration Station, San Francisco Bay: Long abandoned and near demolition, an important part of American immigration history was saved by writings on the wall. -- Architectural Resources Group; Tom Eliot Fisch; Daniel Quan Design- ArchNewsNow



-- Kengo Kuma & Associates: V&A at Dundee, Scotland, UK

-- Book: "Architect for Art: Max Gordon" by David Gordon, Nicholas Serota, Kenneth Frampton and Jonathan Marvel

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