

Today's News - Monday, July 11, 2011

EDITOR'S NOTE: Eleven days away - we have a lot of catching up to do! It's good to be back...but difficult to get our gears in motion...hence the delayed posting...

- ArcSpace brings us L.A.'s big celebration plans honoring Lautner's 100th birthday, and an eyeful of Belzberg's Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust.
- Litt pays tribute to Ruth Durack, an urban planner who "raised the level of civic debate on architecture and planning" in Cleveland, Perth, and elsewhere - and gone much too soon.
- Legorreta and Kapoor among 5 recipients of the Japan Art Association's 2011 Praemium Imperiale.
- Rogers Marvel wins competition to revamp 52-acre President's Park South in Washington, DC with "a bold statement about security and landscape design...a model for keeping our public spaces open and inviting" (elements of other short-listed proposals could be incorporated into the final plan, too).
- Star-struck: Ooroussoff finds Hadid's Guangzhou Opera House "gorgeous to look at" and a "magnificent example of how a single building can redeem a moribund urban environment" (even though "construction was racked with problems and the quality of some of it is abysmal").
- Glancey gets Gehry teary-eyed talking about "finally making his mark on the Manhattan skyline" that "brings back the dazzle and the ritz, the catwalk strut and sheer brio that have made the great New York towers so compelling ("Do you think they'll let me have a go in London?" Gehry queries).
- Lewis cheers Washington, DC's new Arena Stage: "Architectural exceptionalism clearly was called for, which is what Bing Thom has delivered."
- Rochon x 2: she cheers Kéré - none of his work "will change super-tall, bombastic design. But for sobering acts of architectural wisdom, keep your eyes low to the ground, where he and others are quietly making buildings that stick in our minds."
- She has high hopes that one of Toronto's "dreary, invisible streets... with no there there," even in the midst of "cultural heavy hitters," can itself be transformed "into a five-star attraction."
- Hawthorne visits the Cy Twombly Gallery in Houston in the week of his death, and is still taken by Piano's 1995 Menil museum, "a modestly scaled but sublime piece of architecture that ranks as one of the four or five best works in his prolific career."
- Russell is struck by Ban's Metal Shutter House with "magic glass walls" being "a world away from Arquitectonica's 63-story, blue-black glass behemoth" that "looks like a giant headstone," proving that "when not lashed by activists, too many developers do their worst."
- Across the Big Pond, Bennett minces no words about how the London skyline "has become a greedy developer's playground... to show the world how mighty we are once we've called in an Italian architect [guess who] and Middle Eastern finance" - and don't forget Prince Charles's new ally who recently declared that "the age of bling is over... As moments go, this feels positively iconic."
- Brussat, needless to say, has much to say (or should we say chortle) about Shuttleworth's decrying bling.
- After all this chortling, debunking, and bemoaning, how could we resist a new research study that "suggests highly creative people may not be humble, but they also aren't hostile" (critics obviously not surveyed).
- Speaking of critics: Kimmelman is tapped to replace Ooroussoff at the Gray Lady - we wish him well and hope for the best (so far, we have not been disappointed by his few forays into architectural criticism).
- A good reason to head to Los Angeles: it's Little Tokyo Design Week (shipping container galleries included).

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-- Celebration: [John Lautner Turns 100](#)
-- [Belzberg Architects: Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust, Los Angeles, California](#)

Obituary: Urban planner Ruth Durack, 60, helped redesign Cleveland as former head of Kent State University's Urban Design Collaborative...raised the level of civic debate on architecture and planning in the city...left Cleveland in 2004 to become the inaugural head of the Urban Design Centre in Perth..."Her life was committed to urban design and making cities great places." By Steven Litt -- Ignacio Bunster-Ossa/Wallace, Roberts & Todd (WRT) - Cleveland Plain Dealer

Ricardo Legorreta and Anish Kapoor among 5 recipients of the Japan Art Association 23rd Praemium Imperiale: ...each receive 15 million yen (approximately \$182,000 / EUR 130,000 / £113,000)...in an awards ceremony in Tokyo on October 19, 2011. [links to images, info]- Japan Art Association

Rogers Marvel Secures Competition to Revamp White House Lawn Extension: President's Park South...could become one of the most pedestrian-friendly — and secure — in Washington, DC...a bold statement about security and landscape design that offers a model for keeping our public spaces open and inviting...elements of all five short-listed proposals could be incorporated into the final plan. -- Hood Design Studio; Michael Van Valkenburgh; Reed Hildebrand Associates; SASAKI [images, links]- The Architect's Newspaper

Chinese Gem That Elevates Its Setting: Designed by Zaha Hadid, the new Guangzhou Opera House is gorgeous to look at. It is also a magnificent example of how a single building can redeem a moribund urban environment...a monument to a particular crossroads in China's history, as well as to Hadid's stellar career. By Nicolai Ooroussoff [slide show]- New York Times

Dizzy heights: It's Frank Gehry's first skyscraper — a twisting, rippling tower that is transforming the New York skyline. ...animates Manhattan as no skyscraper has done since the Empire State Building...8 Spruce Street brings back the dazzle and the ritz, the catwalk strut and sheer brio that have made the great New York towers so compelling..."Do you think they'll let me have a go in London?" By Jonathan Glancey- Guardian (UK)

Arena Stage complex is as stirring as the theater within: ...an aesthetically bold, sometimes theatrical, architectural ensemble unlike anything else in Washington...relates to its context perfectly...Architectural exceptionalism clearly was called for, which is what Bing Thom has delivered. By Roger K. Lewis -- Bing Thom Architects; Harry Weese- Washington Post

Architecture with soaring aspirations, close to the ground: Architecture of simple dignity — incorporating intelligence, and natural fit within a particular context — is the new sublime...None of the work by Kéré...will change supertall, bombastic design. But for sobering acts of architectural wisdom, keep your eyes low to the ground, where [he] and others are quietly making buildings that stick in our minds. By Lisa Rochon -- Ken Shuttleworth; Foster + Partners; Peter Zumthor; Diébédo Francis Kéré- Globe and Mail (Canada)

John Street revitalization plans in the works: It's another of Toronto's dreary, invisible streets...that

happens to connect a remarkable suite of cultural heavy hitters...But, when the show is over...the street with no there there. It's time to invigorate John Street into a five-star attraction. By Lisa Rochon -- Planning Partnership [image]- Globe and Mail (Canada)

Visiting the Cy Twombly Gallery in Houston in the week of his death: It wasn't conceived as a shrine, exactly, but the small, windowless gallery on the campus of the Menil Collection certainly feels like one this week...Piano's design for [main Menil museum], a modestly scaled but sublime piece of architecture, ranks as one of the four or five best works in his prolific career. By Christopher Hawthorne - - Renzo Piano (1995) [image]- Los Angeles Times

Luxury Chelsea Condos Get Magic Glass Walls; Behemoth Rises in Midtown: Shigeru Ban's 11-story boutique condo "Metal Shutter House"...is a world away from...Arquitectonica's 63 story, blue-black glass behemoth...MIMA looks like a giant headstone...we got a rush to the architectural bottom...When not lashed by activists, too many developers do their worst. By James S. Russell -- Ismael Leyva; David Rockwell- Bloomberg News

Will no one halt the vandalising of London's skyline? Buildings such as the Shard are proof positive that the capital has become a greedy developer's playground...The point of the Shard is showing off, not sustainability. Timed, inevitably, for Olympics readiness...to show the world how mighty we are once we've called in an Italian architect and Middle Eastern finance. By Catherine Bennett -- Ken Shuttleworth; Renzo Piano- Observer (UK)

Oops! Excuse our libido for the ugly! It may not be so rare that a big wheel in modern architecture has second thoughts about his work...But when one of them, such as Kenneth "The Pen" Shuttleworth, apologizes in public for designing ugly buildings, watch out! By David Brussat -- Foster + Partners [images]- Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

The Focused Arrogance of the Highly Creative: New research links creativity with lower levels of honesty and humility...suggests highly creative people may not be humble, but they also aren't hostile. Daring to take imaginative leaps and putting them before the public takes a certain ego; seeing them through to completion or implementation requires an ability to get along with others. Perhaps the most successful artists, thinkers and entrepreneurs possess both qualities.- Miller-McCune

Michael Kimmelman Bags New York Times Archi-Critic Post- The Architect's Newspaper

Plans for Little Tokyo Design Week: ...designers and artists...turning the historic Japantown into a city of the future...July 13 to 17..."We have been able to work together to create a very timely event that opens a door on Japan, not only its architecture and design, but also what has happened most recently in Japan"...If the first LTDW is successful, the organizers hope to turn it into an annual event. -- Hitoshi Abe- Rafu Shimpo (Los Angeles)

You Survived: Part 1: Regaining Profitability - and Moving Ahead: Take control of the financial life of your business, uncover hidden revenue streams and new service offerings while charting a more stable course for the future. By Michael S. Bernard, AIA, and Nancy Kleppel, Assoc. AIA- ArchNewsNow

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

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