

Today's News - Tuesday, July 19, 2011

- This year's Rudy Bruner Award winners are models for collaborative efforts in creating successful civic places.
- Merrick thoughtfully weighs in on the architectural and cultural rivalry between Glasgow and Edinburgh and their two new museums: Hadid's is "an oddly gentle presence on the quayside," and Hoskins created "a really wonderful space; you can't help smiling when you walk into this one."
- Hawthorne cheers Rogers Marvel's winning design for President's Park South as "a nimble combination of boldness and restraint" (and, surprisingly, "among the least traditional"); the larger message is how post- 9/11 security has worked its way "into the fabric of the American cityscape" everywhere.
- In Russia, the St. Petersburg Naval Museum shows off the shortlisted proposals for a former military barracks.
- Washington, DC, and Los Angeles have big dreams for their big Union Stations; one, a mixed-use development across 14 acres of platform with a designer/planner in place, the other looking for a "Vision Plan" (with many architects thinking their "gift to the public" would be "a waste of their time and resources"); RFQ to follow.
- Cuningham Group's 2009 Bavarian-themed Alpensia resort in Pyeonchang may not have won South Korea's 2014 Winter Olympics bid, but it looks like it had a hand in garnering the thumbs-up for 2018.
- Arieff looks "beyond the cubicle" and finds "some truly inventive things happening in the world of work."
- We've been following various plans for the humongous Nazi-built beach-front resort in Prora; now part of it has been refurbished as a 400-bed youth hostel (other parts still available, if you're interested).
- U.K.'s architecture minister blogs about architects and why they're "just one of those groups people love to mock" (along with "slippery estate agents, over-paid footballers and disingenuous politicians" - oh my!).
- St. Louis gets serious about saving some of its mid-center Modern treasures, with a lot of "fuss" that's "some of the "some of the loudest and strongest heard here in years."
- If further proof is needed, Pruitt-Igoe Now issues a call for entries to re-imagine the 33-acre site of "one of the nation's most notorious public housing projects" demolished in 1977.
- Call for entries (and very, very short notice - but we couldn't resist!): Pop-Up Chapel in which the first same-sex couples in New York will be legally married at Merchant's Gate in Central Park on July 30 (deadline: this Thursday!).

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2011 Rudy Bruner Award Winners Offer Innovative Models for Urban Placemaking: This year's winners reflect a common understanding of the critical role that citizens, institutions, and governments play in the creation of successful civic places. - ArchNewsNow

Glasgow and Edinburgh: the architectural rivalry: The cultural rivalry...has been reignited by two striking new museums. But who gets the bragging rights? Riverside Museum of Transport and Travel...this architectural soft machine is anything but a big, big toy for big, big boys...an oddly gentle presence on the quayside...National Museum of Scotland...proves that you don't need brilliant architectural refinements to produce a really wonderful space; you can't help smiling when you walk into this one. By Jay Merrick -- Zaha Hadid; Gareth Hoskins Architects - Independent (UK)

A design that's bold, restrained and secure: Rogers Marvel's winning submission to redesign the area south of the White House [President's Park South] deals with a 9/11 reality: security as cityscape fixture...to permanently armor our major public spaces. To the extent that we rely on skilled architects and landscape architects to manage this transition, there is much to gain. By Christopher Hawthorne -- Quennell Rothschild & Partners; Michael Van Valkenburgh; Walter Hood - Los Angeles Times

New Holland Island shortlist proposals revealed to the public: Architecture Foundation curates public exhibition [designed by David Kohn Architects] of MVRDV, Chipperfield, Studio 44 and WORKac designs at St Petersburg Naval Museum. -- Iris Foundation [images] - BD/Building Design (UK)

Crossing Union Lines: D.C. zoning allows for [Union Station] rail yard decking...a mixed-use development across 14 acres of platform...calling the project Burnham Place after Daniel Burnham, the hundred year-old station's architect. -- Shalom Baranes - The Architect's Newspaper

Downtown Dreams: Los Angeles METRO kicks off ambitious plans for Union Station...soliciting planning proposals for a redevelopment of the 42 acres of land...drawing scrutiny among the architects...suggesting a "Vision Plan" for the site that some felt would be a waste of their time and resources...will hold no weight in the selection of a winning team. They will instead be considered "gifts to the public"...will issue an RFIQ (Request for Information and Qualifications) for a site planner on July 22... - The Architect's Newspaper

Cuningham Group Scores, Belatedly, as South Korea Wins 2018 Winter Olympics Bid: \$1.4 billion project [in Pyeonchang], completed in 2009, transformed potato fields into a Bavarian-themed...1,240-acre Alpensia resort...likely was a factor in the International Olympic Committee's decision to go with South Korea this time around... [image] - Architectural Record

Beyond the Cubicle: ...Robert Propst, creator of the cubicle system, called his invention "monolithic insanity"...Longstanding calls for the Redesign of the Cubicle continue...Design itself is the problem...how might designers (and the companies who hire them) think about work differently? There are some truly inventive things happening in the world of work. By Allison Arieff -- Nathan Shedroff; Yi Cong Lu; Flynn, Craig and Grant; Serban Ionescu/Jim Dreitlein/Justin Smith; Iris Regn/Rebecca Niederlander; Florian Idenburg/Jin Liu/SO-IL [images, links] - New York Times

Beach Fun in Hitler Hotel: German Youth Hostel Opens in Giant Former Nazi Resort [in Prora]: A monstrous, 4.5 kilometer-long concrete complex built by the Nazis to offer package holidays for 20,000 people at a time has been partly refurbished and now houses a 400-bed youth hostel. The project is controversial... [slide show] - Der Spiegel (Germany)

John Penrose: "People love to mock architects": Architecture minister's blog lumps architects in with estate agents...Architects may not be pleased...However, he does temper his comments by adding that this is unfair because "the perception and the reality are two completely different things" [link] - BD/Building Design (UK)

Back to the future - support is growing to save mid-century modern: Last year, preservationists lost a battle...the original 1963 DeVille Motor Hotel...now a parking lot...now doing whatever else they can to protect two more...all the fuss about the possible demise of the buildings...is resulting in something positive for the future of other mid-century modern buildings. -- Michael Allen/Preservation Research Office/Modern STL; Schwarz and Van Hoefe/Schwarz and Hemni (1967); Wenceslao Sarmiento (1976) [images] - St. Louis Beacon

Competition seeks new ideas for old Pruitt-Igoe site: There's plenty of vacant land in the city of St. Louis, but probably none with more baggage than the 33 acres...one of the nation's most notorious public housing projects...Pruitt-Igoe Now...is launching a design competition for the site...Pretty much anything goes...more about starting a conversation about what to do with the site...deadline: March 16, 2012 [link to competition info]- St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Call for entries: Pop-Up Chapel: a rapid-fire competition to design the spaces in which the first same-sex couples in New York will be legally married. Design a venue for this historic celebration — to be built at Merchant's Gate in Central Park on July 30; deadline: July 21 - Architizer / TheKnot.com



3XN: Museum of Liverpool, Liverpool, UK

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