Today's News - Wednesday, October 5, 2011

- In Miami Beach, the "starchitects are back in town" with "striking, even mold-breaking new buildings" that include an "escalating designer-garage arms race" (Hadid's resembles "those old figure-eight Hot Wheels tracks" - with a pit to prove it).
- Wainwright weighs in on OMA's Maggic's Centre Gaartavel in Glasgow that (though not perfect) "willfully subverts expectations" by melting "unassumingly into the background": "It is the disappearing icon!" + OMA/AMO takes center stage at the Barbican Art Gallery.
- Fortmyer digs deep into the growing "fetish for fabrication" in "digitally sophisticated" L.A. (particularly what's going on at SCI-Arc).
- Dvir tries to fathom why Tel Aviv is determined to destroy a 1963 "gem" just "to add a few centimeters to a sidewalk that is already wide."
- It's a PoMo vs. Modern vs. Classicist kind of day:
  - King postulates that that the discarded fad (a.k.a. postmodern architecture) could be "the Next Big Thing," though he doesn't think "the revival will stick."
  - Brussat almost broils about ICAA's upcoming Reconsidering Postmodernism conference: "Why? I could think of a hundred more useful topics. Why not a conference examining the future of contemporary classicism and strategies for promoting it?" Or why are so many so "hostile to any classical revival?"
  - His spirits should rise over news that the ICAA has just launched the Beaux-Arts Atelier, with "a rogue band of architects in a retrograde venture: teaching a new generation how to draw and paint the elements of classical architecture" (no computers allowed - ever).
  - Olsberg & Hobhouse tackle "architectural anxiety" when it comes to work on paper, "at once a stimulus and a torment" - a drawing "is the construction of arguments, not of buildings."
  - Bernstein looks into the burgeoning trend in architecture centers spreading across the U.S.
  - UC Berkeley students use a blighted Berkeley lot to "question how architecture can affect change in public spaces and create a link between research and community.
  - Marsh gets Balmont to explain the ideas behind the "tangled and lofty mass of pipes" that is the ArcelorMittal Orbit tower: "a metaphor for the way people build up opinions and judgments...coupled with episodic observations" (that explains a lot - or not).
- Call for entries: Architecture at Zero international open ideas competition for urban zero net energy (ZNE) buildings + Coworking Building/C02 Madrid 2011 international student competition: Designing 21st-century workspaces.
- We couldn't resist: the mayor who used a tank to run over illegally parked luxury cars in Vilnius, Lithuania, receives the Ig Nobel Peace Prize (which honors opinions and judgments...coupled with episodic observations) (that explains a lot - or not).
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Urban think tank: UC Berkeley's Department of Architecture student visions for blighted Berkeley lot: "spent the summer working on bold and unlikely proposals..."an opportunity to investigate the relationship between public discourse, architecture, and ideology"...encouraged to question how architecture can affect change in public spaces and create a link between research and community. [images]- Berkeleyside (California)

Olympic landmark goes into Orbit: ArcelorMittal Orbit is a tangled and lofty mass of pipes that intrigues some Londoners and appalls others...Cecil Balmond explains the ideas behind what could soon become one of the UK's most internationally recognised landmarks...a key part of the thinking...was to be "radical and different...a metaphor for the way people build up opinions and judgments...coupled with episodic observations." By Peter Marsh -- Anish Kapoor - Financial Times (UK)

Call for entries: Architecture at Zero international open ideas competition: seeks creative and feasible approaches to urban zero net energy (ZNE) building; cash prizes; deadline: November 28- AIA San Francisco / PG&E ZNE Pilot Program

Call for entries: Coworking Building/CoB Madrid 2011 international student competition: Designing 21st-century workspaces focusing on collaborative approaches, flexibility, connectivity, accessibility, sustainability and energy efficiency; cash prizes; registration deadlines (save money): October 15 - December 16; submission deadline: January 20, 2012- Arquides (Spain)

Celebrate the unusual, honor the imaginative: 2011 Ig Nobel Prize winners announced: ...to honor achievements that "first make people laugh, and then make them think"...Arturas Zuokas, the mayor of Vilnius, Lithuania, who ran over illegally parked luxury cars with an armored tank received the Ig Nobel Peace Prize. - Gizmag (Australia)

You Survived Part 2: Mapping the Path to your Next Project and a More Predictable Workload: It is essential to establish a specific, easy, and brief Go/No Go decision process, allowing you to quickly determine where to invest limited marketing resources. By Michael Bernard, AIA, and Nancy Kleppel, Assoc. AIA- ArchNewsNow

When a Train Rumbles Past this Recording Studio, Nobody Hears It: SubCat Studios, Syracuse, NY, has rapidly established itself as a catalyst to rebrand and revitalize the city's core. -- Fiedler Marciano Architecture [images]- ArchNewsNow

EASTERN design office: Three Houses: Keyhole House; A House Awaiting Death; Mountain Opening House. Three poetic residential projects in Japan by architects Anna Nakamura and Taiyo Jinno.