

Today's News - Monday, October 24, 2011

- ArcSpace brings us fabulous eye-fuls of and details about Foster's Spaceport America.
- Rose reviews the week, including the Spaceport ("what architect would pass up the chance to design a building requiring 'astronaut changing rooms'"), and Hadid's "er, a bathroom showroom...admittedly outstanding" (amazing video, too).
- Moore visits Libeskind's "visceral redesign" of Dresden's Military History Museum: "Here be violence, it says...unsparing in its depiction of horrors" (though architecturally, "there are not enough notes or else too many of the same kind").
- Farrelly takes on density in her own inimitable way: "all those livability indexes that put Auckland, Frankfurt and Geneva on top are peeing on their own feet" (a must-read!).
- An Australian urban planner calls for "density" to stop being treated like "a dirty word" and for "leadership to engage in debate about issues of density, place making, character and livability."
- Hatherley harps ever so eloquently about how "cities are defined by how good their boring buildings are; how interesting their standard of mediocrity is" (with a few "bobs and general crapness" thrown in for good measure).
- Berg lays out Vancouver's new plan to end homelessness by 2015 that deals with homelessness as both a housing issue and a public health issue (it won't be easy).
- LeBlanc cheers plans for "a trailer park for the 21st Century" that hopefully will also be home to "an architectural oddball."
- It looks like some Libyan construction projects might be moving ahead, but some British architects "are warning Libya not to give way to untrammelled development."
- A lengthy Q&A with Ingels re: "hedonistic sustainability," the driving forces behind BIG's designs, and so much more.
- How Susan Chin (one of our faves) makes New York look like New York: "Few other individuals have worked so tirelessly to get big, ambitious building projects off the ground."
- Mays cheers Toronto's Urban Strategies celebrating its 25th anniversary "with something more durable than a festive blowout": the city "could stand some encouraging words about the successful ways other cities are coping with rapid growth."
- Koolhaas roams Cornell's Milstein Hall and discusses the inspiration behind OMA's design.
- Heathcote looks heavenward and waxes poetic about the history of the ceiling "from celestial metaphor to something better ignored," and why "remnants of its symbolic purpose proliferate."
- Cooper-Hewitt's 2011 People's Design Award Winner is a podcast "that is educational, inspiring and democratic."
- The Melbourne Architecture Annual (MA|A) kicks off today (wish we could be there!).
- Call for entries: Reimagining the Waterfront: Manhattan's East River Esplanade + "Light of Tomorrow" International VELUX Award 2012 for Students of Architecture.

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[Constructive criticism: architecture blasts off into space: Richard Branson reaches for the stars and Zaha Hadid goes down the toilet: ...what architect would pass up the chance to design a building requiring "astronaut changing rooms"?...Roca London Gallery...it's, er, a bathroom showroom...admittedly outstanding.](#) By Steve Rose -- Foster + Partners; URS; SMPC Architects; Krzysztof Wodiczko [images, video] - Guardian (UK)

[Dresden's Military History Museum: Daniel Libeskind's visceral redesign has as striking an effect on the exhibits inside as on the facade itself. "It's about catastrophe"...Here be violence, it says...unsparing in its depiction of horrors...The design's weakness is its belief that sheer shape can speak on its own. There are not enough notes or else too many of the same kind.](#) By Rowan Moore [slide show] - Observer (UK)

[Be happy, be more interesting, be dense: ...all those livability indexes that put Auckland, Frankfurt and Geneva on top are peeing on their own feet. Cities are about getting stuff done and...generating the ideas that get stuff done. Cities are about work. That's what makes them thrilling...cities also can, and demonstrably do, creative misery notwithstanding, make us happy...a side-benefit.](#) By Elizabeth Farrelly - Sydney Morning Herald

[Leadership and the city form: The debate on density is being fought vigorously in Sydney and to a lesser extent, but still very noticeably, in Brisbane and Melbourne...Density it seems is a dirty word...What we need is our leadership to engage in debate about issues of density, place making, character and liveability...dealing with growth becomes a broader debate that needs to include regional development as a tool.](#) By Stephen Smith/Deicke Richards - On Line Opinion (Australia)

[Cities stand or fall on mediocrity: The standard of everyday buildings defines the architecture of the age...Every generation, however, manages to get very angry about its own standard of not-very-goodness...The unspoken assumption is that the townscape of contemporary Britain, with its...bobs and general crapness is somehow more humane and "vibrant". But architectural celebrity notwithstanding, cities are defined by how good their boring buildings are; how interesting their standard of mediocrity is.](#) By Owen Hatherley - BD/Building Design (UK)

[The Big Fix: Vancouver Aims to 'End' Homelessness: The city plans to construct nearly 40,000 new units of social, rental, and condo housing by 2021...first three years focus mainly on supportive and social housing...new plan approaches homelessness both as a housing issue and a public health issue...has not been without controversy.](#) By Nate Berg - The Atlantic Cities

[A wandering house finds a place to call home: In Brighton, Ont., an architectural oddball measuring 375 sq. ft. meets a trailer park for the 21st Century.](#) By Dave LeBlanc -- Lloyd Alter; Sustain Design Studio; Andy Thomson; Green Resort Development Corporation; Michelle Kaufmann; Lake/Flato Architects; Rocio Romero; Geoffrey Warner [slide show] - Globe and Mail (Canada)

[Gaddafi's death prompts go-ahead for Libyan construction projects: UKTI is working with Libya's National Transitional Government to find British firms that can play a role in rebuilding Libya's infrastructure...architects are warning Libya not to give way to untrammelled development.](#) -- Philip Graham/Edward Cullinan Architects - BD/Building Design (UK)

[Interview with Bjarke Ingels: You've been calling for a new approach, "hedonistic sustainability"...Why is it important for sustainability to enhance pleasure? "The whole discussion about sustainability isn't popular because it's always presented as a downgrade...That makes it essentially undesirable...The driving force of our design is to saturate it with possibility."](#) -- Bjarke Ingels Group/BIG [images, links] - The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

[How Susan Chin Makes New York Look Like New York: As she leaves City Hall for the Design Trust for Public Space, she aims to help shape New York's urban landscape for years to come...Few other individuals...have worked so tirelessly to get big, ambitious building projects off the ground... - New York Observer](#)

[Fresh ideas on coping with rapid urban growth: Urban Strategies is celebrating its 25th anniversary...with something more durable than a festive blowout: a free public lecture series...called Big City, Big Ideas...Toronto could stand some encouraging words about the successful ways other cities are coping with rapid growth, its inevitable limits and terrific opportunities. By John Bentley Mays -- Ricky Burdett- Globe and Mail \(Canada\)](#)

[Milstein Hall Architect Rem Koolhaas Talks Inspiration Behind Building: ...described architecture in a "perpetual state of adjustment and response to emerging situations"...OMA has moved towards buildings whose design emphasizes their function, and away from the iconic. -- Shohei Shigematsu/ Office of Metropolitan Architecture- Cornell Daily Sun](#)

[Between heaven and earth: From celestial metaphor to something better ignored, the ceiling has its highs and lows...the remnants of its symbolic purpose proliferate. By Edwin Heathcote- Financial Times \(UK\)](#)

[2011 People's Design Award Winner: Design Matters on Design Observer: ...a really great design podcast that is educational, inspiring and democratic. Debbie Millman has interviewed over 150 designers from all walks of life and they reveal how they got to where they got in life as well as share their beliefs and hopes and aspirations. - Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum](#)

[The Melbourne Architecture Annual \(MA|A\) begins on Monday, with a host of events set to explore 'your city, your home and your architecture': ...part of National Architecture Week activities organised by the Australian Institute of Architects.- Architecture & Design \(Australia\)](#)

[Call for entries: Reimagining the Waterfront: Manhattan's East River Esplanade; cash prizes; deadline: January 15, 2012- CIVITAS](#)

[Call for entries: "Light of Tomorrow" International VELUX Award 2012 for Students of Architecture; cash prizes; registration deadline: March 1, 2012- VELUX](#)

[Mixing It Up with Elders: An Interview with Byron Kuth and Liz Ranieri: "In its current state, the senior living industry is all about isolating senior communities from the larger communities around them. We're proposing a very different social structure." \[images\]- ArchNewsNow.com](#)

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