Today's News - Friday, November 18, 2011

- It's a very urban day: Heathcote looks at how cities "are machines for innovation, incubators of ideas born of necessity."
- Schuette x 2: a survey of "some cities that aim to be both smart and well managed, yet have an undeniably hip vibe" * an in-depth look at how Hamburg is reinventing itself * by reshaping how it sees the old and by audaciously building new development (experimental design encouraged).
- Lang and Nelson explain the new "Megapolitan America" with a call "to target many long-range planning and public policy efforts to where people live, not where they don't."
- Findley and Ogbu offer an incredibly thoughtful, intense look at South Africa's attempt to redress the legacy of apartheid: towns/hips constitute a distinct urban typology that must be addressed by practitioners, policymakers and scholars" while residents "continue to confront the spatial legacy of the past."
- A Colorado city creates a new chemistry for collaboration in planning that could become a model for other cash-strapped cities (and others are paying heed).
- Margonelli presents some unconventional strategies regular folks are devising to meet their public transportation needs when "transit planners, focused on schedules and infrastructure investments, don't really get what moves people" (very useful links, too).
- Hawthorne is only slightly heartened by an improved design for AEG's proposed NFL stadium in L.A., but it still "falls short": it "has somehow gotten lighter on its feet and more bloated at the same time" (and what's with the wings?).
- Dvir cheers Technion's new graduate housing in Haifa, where bridges connecting the dorms create a "thrilling experience of walking among the treetops."

- "Reconsidering Postmodernism" conference that "was sometimes disjointed and incoherent, since the participants could not agree on what postmodernism actually was - or is."
- Hagberg has high hopes for the "future of female-driven firms" with Gang's MacArthur win, which changes the stakes for women in architecture.
- Weekend diversions: "Buffalo's Bethune: America's First Professional Woman Architect" (on view in Buffalo) celebrates the first woman in America to open her own architectural office (curated by one of the prime movers who brought about Architect Barbie).
- "Gwathmey Siegel: Inspiration and Transformation" takes center stage at Yale.
- Cary finds a few faults with "Design With the Other 90%: Cities" on view at the U.N., but he cicrets it "brings design to the forefront in a place where global decisions are made."
- Kennicott is haunted by the large-format photographs in "Candida Hofer: Interior Worlds" on view in Baltimore: "Their emptiness is ghostly and thrilling...But they are terrifying, too.
- Cary is heartened by "Bridgeging the Gap: Public-Interest Architectural Internships" because it "shines a bright light on an exceedingly rare, but promising breed of architectural internships, focused on the public interest."
- Adajio's "African Metropolitan Architecture" is a "7-volume opus" offering "unsentimental snapshots rather than lavish architectural studies" of 52 capitals where he "worries that nationalist zeal coupled with unregulated development are destroying much of its European-influenced patrimony."
- Hawthorne hails "Eden by Design: The 1930 Olmsted-Bauhaus Plan for the Los Angeles Region" rescued from "from the dustbin of Southern California history" - it's "both inspiring and - because it was never implemented in anything beyond piecemeal fashion - a little depressing."
- Leon finds "Urbanized" to be "extraordinarily ambitious" and "essential viewing for the urban design community."
- Two takes on "Earnes: The Architect and the Painter": it is a "sprightly documentary" that is "blessed by a wealth of archival material" (it will air on PBS December 19).
What a MacArthur Win Means for Women in Architecture: Jeanne Gang's MacArthur doesn't change the fact that female architects are underrepresented...What it does change are the stakes: of fame, of femininity, and of design...the fact that a not-insanely-famous architect could win...makes us hopeful about the future of female-driven firms. By Eva Hagberg -- Yen Ha/Michi Yanagishita/Flaxwire

Through New Historical Society Exhibit, an Advocate for Women in Architecture Celebrates "Buffalo's Bethune: America's First Professional Woman Architect": Documenting Bethune's story is just one way in which Kelly Hayes McAlonie has promoted women in architecture. She and Despina Stratigakos...lobbied Mattel to produce the newly released Architect Barbie doll... -- Thinking Outside the Square - University at Buffalo News

A Modernist Original With Bold-Faced Clientele: "Gwathmey Siegel: Inspiration and Transformation," at the Yale School of Architecture Gallery...emphasizes five projects, from a 1963 Hamptons home...to the 2008 renovation and extension of the 1960s' Brutalist building housing Yale's own architecture school. --- Architectural Record

"Candida Hofer: Interior Worlds": ...her large-format photographs...have become a curious way to brand buildings, give them status, make them "celebrities"...As a new exhibition at the Baltimore Museum of Art makes clear, her photographs don't, in fact, look exactly like the buildings depicted...Their emptiness is ghostly and thrilling...But they are terrifying, too... By Philip Kennicott

Interning to Do Good: In their vitally important new anthology, "Bridging the Gap: Public-Interest Architectural Internships," co-editors editors Georgia Bizios and Katie Wakeford...shine a bright light on an exceedingly rare, but promising breed of architectural internships, focused on the public interest. By John Cary

Style Safari: Africa's Cities Are As Absorbing As the Bush: "African Metropolitan Architecture" by David Adjaye...7-volume opus chronicles the urban condition of 52 capitals...unsentimental snapshots rather than lavish architectural studies...[he] worries that nationalistic zeal coupled with unregulated development are destroying much of its European-influenced patrimony... -- Amando "Pancho" Guedes; Herbert Baker; Gustave Eiffel - Time Magazine

Reading L.A.: The Olmsted Brothers plan and what might have been: ...putting "Eden by Design: The 1930 Olmsted-Bartholomew Plan for the Los Angeles Region" together was "akin to urban archeology"...managed to rescue a key planning document from the dustbin of Southern California history...both inspiring and - because it was never implemented in anything beyond piecemeal fashion - a little depressing. By Christopher Hawthorne

Elegantly Urbanized: Gary Hustwit's documentary "Urbanized"...an extraordinarily ambitious attempt to make sense of a world flowing into cities...visually arresting...elegantly conveys the omnipresence of design in daily life...[his] global sensibilities are especially relevant at a time when urban inequality is shaped by economic forces...this is essential viewing for the urban design community. By Joshua K. Leon

"Eames: The Architect and the Painter": Jason Cohn and Bill Jersey build a rich portrait of two of the country's most successful design pioneers and, perhaps not by design, provide clues to how Charles and Ray reached such a pinnacle...blessed by a wealth of archival material...also had access to some of the more renowned "Eamery" staffers...

Two midcentury modernists with a rare populist touch are profiled in "Eames: The Architect and the Painter"...sprightly documentary weighs its subjects' unique accomplishments and widespread influence while probing a relationship more complex than its sunny public face indicated. - Variety

Exhibition: "Detour DK" - DAC Danish Architecture Centre, Copenhagen, Denmark -- Peter Zumthor/and Louise Bourgeois; Odd Aanensen/Inge Dahlman; Pushak arkitekter; 70° Nord - Gisle Løkken; Reiulf Ramstad Architects; Jensen & Skodvin Architects; Snøhetta

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