

Today's News - Thursday, December 1, 2011

- A very busy news day that ends with more than a handful of heady calls for entries, so we thought we'd start with our own (and our first!) competition, in association with MOO, that we think is just plain fun.
- On a sadder note, we lose the "T" in RTKL: Taliaferro is recalled as the "soul" of the firm: "Frank was the guy who made things work."
- The owner of Battersea Power Station is set to go into receivership, putting the future of Viñoly's master plan in doubt (again).
- Bozikovic on Toronto's sea of construction cranes where not all of the 147 high-rise buildings under construction will turn heads, "but some developers are tapping top talent in hopes of creating architectural standouts."
- Hume x 2 from ground level: turning the Maple Leaf Gardens into a supermarket may have left some Torontonians "aghast," but it turns out to be "one of the best things to happen to this part of town in decades" + A local initiative to add a playground in downtown Toronto "reveals a city in flux...In a skyscraper city, it's the space between buildings that matters; that's where a neighborhood becomes livable - or not."
- Some impressive development moves in Cleveland are turning its Uptown into a new - and vibrant - Downtown: "It's proving that an investment in transit and improvements in streetscape do start to change real estate investment patterns."
- Brussat cheers Bristol, CT's efforts to revitalize its downtown via tweets; too bad Providence developers couldn't have "tapped into a more comprehensive notion of what the public wants" when planning the city's downtown.
- A Who's Who weighs in on Snøhetta's expansion plans for SFMOMA: King cheers getting a look at the details at last.
- Calys cheers "a strong conscious effort to address the urban context."
- Hawthorne finds it "far more promising in terms of urbanism than architecture."
- Pogrebin posits that "the project presents a post-recession template, in which function and use of a space almost take precedence over aesthetics."
- Lee sees it as "Mt. SFOMA": a "snowy mountain that peers over the stolid darkness of the existing Mario Botta building."
- Hanley hails the effort to connect it to San Francisco's Yerba Buena neighborhood. (All are a bit taken aback that the design includes removing Botta's three-story grand staircase, but none protest too much.)
- Call for entries (and lots of 'em!): 2012 Architectural Record Good Design is Good Business Awards + AR/Architizer NYC AIDS Memorial Park Competition + ASLA 2012 Professional & Student Awards + Design Corps 2nd Annual SEED Awards for Excellence in Public Interest Design + Spark:Concept Awards (deadline extended) + Project submissions for "Contemporary Architecture and Engineering in the Middle East" exhibition at NYC's Center for Architecture.

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Call for entries: ArchNewsNow / MOO Competition: If you could hand your business card to one person in the world, who would it be? (It's fun!)- ArchNewsNow

Obituary: Frank Taliaferro, 89, RTKL founder: Former RTKL chairman recalled as the "soul" of that firm and for his ability to lead an office and transform the shopping center into a mall..."Frank was the guy who made things work"- Baltimore Sun

Viñoly's Battersea scheme in doubt as owner's plans collapse: The owner of Battersea Power Station is set to go into receivership, putting the future of the 750,000sq m Rafael Viñoly-designed masterplan in doubt...If the sale goes ahead it would be the fourth time the iconic listed building has changed hands owing to the large cost of redevelopment and poor transport provision.- BD/Building Design (UK)

Toronto on the Rise: Rapid population growth and a stable economy are fueling a construction boom...147 high-rise buildings...under construction...In terms of design, most of these buildings won't turn heads. But some developers are tapping top talent in hopes of creating architectural standouts. By Alex Bozikovic -- Foster + Partners; Kuwabara Payne McKenna Blumberg (KPMB); architectsAlliance; Waterfront Toronto; West 8; Michael van Valkenburgh; Moshe Safdie; Pelli Clarke Pelli; Saucier + Perrotte; Superkül Architect; Hariri Pontarini Architects [images]- Architectural Record

New Loblaws at Maple Leaf Gardens offers food for thought: Many Torontonians were aghast...Now, the wisdom of the move is apparent...Turns out it was one of the best things to happen to this part of town in decades...it will take time to get used to the Gardens as a supermarket...with the condo boom in full swing and the newly expanded National Ballet School just up the street, Carlton feels a part of things again. By Christopher Hume [video]- Toronto Star

Towers and the space in between: A local initiative to add a playground to Berczy Park in downtown Toronto reveals a city in flux...Neighbourhoods once ignored and even abandoned now throng with residents...In a skyscraper city, it's the space between buildings that matters; that's where a neighbourhood becomes livable - or not. That's where a city's greatness can be seen. By Christopher Hume- Toronto Star

Cleveland Turns Uptown Into New Downtown: A city that has leaked people and jobs for decades is breathing new life into its Uptown arts and entertainment district..."It's proving that an investment in transit and improvements in streetscape do start to change real estate investment patterns over time." -- Farshid Moussavi; James Corner Field Operations; Stanley Saitowitz/Natoma Architects; Stantec Architecture- New York Times

Tweet a new downtown for Bristol, Connecticut: ..."Go Bristol Survey" displays 164 ideas...As of Tuesday morning, there were 9,546 "likes" posted...how much better Waterplace Park, in downtown Providence, might be today...Suppose that developers could have tapped into a more comprehensive notion of what the public wants...The cold, sterile architecture...might instead have been a warm and inviting architecture that could have transformed the park into a much more successful civic space than it is... By David Brussat [images]- Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

At last: a look at interior details of SFMOMA expansion: The biggest surprise: to try and create one seamless cultural facility, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art intends to remove the iconic centerpiece of the existing museum...the atrium's three-story granite staircase. By John King -- Mario Botta; Craig Dykers/Snøhetta; EHDD Architecture [images]- San Francisco Chronicle

Nordic aesthetic: SFMOMA reveals a more detailed design: Like a glistening iceberg freshly calved from a Norwegian glacier...more refined version of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art's expansion...While the removal of the grand staircase initially seems a shocking move, it is actually an appropriate response...As important as the inward workings of the building are...a strong conscious effort to address the urban context... By George Calys -- Mario Botta; Craig Dykers/Snøhetta- San Francisco Examiner

SFMOMA expansion plans now include demolishing Botta staircase: What the new designs suggest, more than anything, is a museum in the round squeezed into a dense urban site...schematic design makes clear that Snøhetta is striving - though without a whole lot of success - to chip away at the bulk of the new wing...remains far more promising in terms of urbanism than architecture. By Christopher Hawthorne -- Mario Botta; Snøhetta; EHDD [images]- Los Angeles Times

An Imposing Museum Turns Warm and Fuzzy: In some ways the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art's expansion is like the many other recent building efforts by cultural institutions...It is costly...time consuming...and ambitious...But in other ways...the project presents a post-recession template, in which function and use of a space almost take precedence over aesthetics. By Robin Pogrebin -- Mario Botta (1995); Craig Dykers/Snøhetta- New York Times

[Mt. SFMOMA: Future visitors will climb the steps up to the new Snøhetta addition: A snowy mountain that peers over the stolid darkness of the existing Mario Botta building, glinting in the sun...craggy façade will be etched with terraces, stairways, and landings... By Lydia Lee – Craig Dykers/Snøhetta \[images\]- The Architect's Newspaper](#)

[Snøhetta Releases Details of SFMOMA Expansion: With a series of outdoor spaces oriented around a new building, the firm plans to create connections to San Francisco's Yerba Buena neighborhood. By William Hanley \[images\]- Architectural Record](#)

[Call for entries \(international\): 2012 Architectural Record Good Design is Good Business Awards \(formerly the BusinessWeek/Architectural Record Awards\); deadline: January 15, 2012- Architectural Record](#)

[Call for entries \(international\): Architectural Record and Architizer Team Up with AIDS Memorial Park Group for Design Competition in NYC; cash prizes; deadline: January 20, 2012- Architectural Record / Architizer](#)

[Call for entries \(international\): ASLA 2012 Professional & Student Awards; registration deadlines: February 3, 2012 \(Professional\); April 27, 2012 \(Student\)- American Society of Landscape Architects \(ASLA\)](#)

[Call for entries \(international\): 2nd Annual SEED Awards for Excellence in Public Interest Design; deadline: January 16, 2012- Design Corps / Social, Economic, Environmental Design Network \(SEED\)](#)

[Call for entries/Deadline extended \(international\): Spark:Concept Awards; deadline: January 9- Spark](#)

[Call for entries \(international\): Contemporary Architecture and Engineering in the Middle East exhibition at the Center for Architecture. All project submissions will be included in the exhibition; registration deadline: January 13, 2012 \(submission deadline: January 17\)- Center for Architecture / AIA NY \(NYC\)](#)

["Unbuilt Washington": The National Building Museum explores some breathtakingly beautiful and some simply bizarre proposals to shape - or re-shape - America's capital: Two architect/curators discuss the what-might-have-been architecture and urban design projects that would have made Washington, DC look very different today \(and tomorrow\). -- G. Martin Moeller, Jr.; Susan Piedmont-Palladino- ArchNewsNow](#)



[Rudy Ricciotti: Cocteau Museum, Severin Wunderman Collection, Menton, France](#)

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