Today's News - Wednesday, December 7, 2011

- The City 2.0 is the 2012 TED Prize winner - ideas welcome on how to spend $100,000 to be invested in seeding the "one wish to change the world."

- Hume x 2: he's very concerned about the growing trend of selling pieces of the public realm to private ventures - "public debt can disappear and re-erupt as a surplus in the wave of an accountant's wand. Not so a de-accessioned amenity."

- He celebrates the new breed of urban pioneers populating the new urban frontier of former industrial wastelands: "We don't think of condo dwellers as pioneers, but that's what they are."

- Staying north of the border, there's a new report on the "ghettoization" of Canadian cities.

- Doig digs deep into the trend of tearing down highways, "creating bold new public spaces - and building a future without cars...Few urban design initiatives can instantly transform a large swath of a city like building (or unbuilding) a freeway" (great links, too).

- Scotland unveils £60 billion infrastructure plan that includes rail and road networks, schools, hospitals, and housing.

- Heathcote on the "greatest airport architect of the age" + Foster explains the genesis of his vision for an airport in the Thames estuary: the Millennium Bridge and the redevelopment of Trafalgar Square are "the same project in microcosm. They're about issues of cities, public space, mobility, communication."

- London's Boxpark made of shipping containers is "probably the most environmentally friendly shopping mall ever built" (great slide show of container architecture, alas, no mention of architects).

- Rus on Rios Clementi Hale's re-do of Beverly Hills' Temple Emanuel: "the hydra-headed project demanded an adroit resolution of complex imperatives, some seemingly contradictory" (great pix).

- Heymann's second installment of his series on the charged relationship of buildings and landscapes offers a close reading of Loos's famous and still shocking 1910 essay "Architecture," which is "more radical today than when it was written."

- A "spectacular and sad" spat "involving two of Australia's foremost architects" goes public: "The bitter exchange has dismayed Melbourne's competitive, but ultimately collegiate architecture scene."

- Jones ponders whether an AK-47 belongs in a design museum: "can a lethal weapon be a design classic? This is a killing machine, cold and inhuman. But it probably does belong in the Design Museum. Unfortunately."

- A stellar line-up of participants graces the 2011 Shenzhen & Hong Kong Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism\Architecture, which opens tomorrow.

- The NEA is leading a new initiative "to encourage more and better research on how the arts help people reach their full potential at all stages of life."

- The ACE Mentor Program of America receives the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Math and Engineering Mentoring.

- ABC extends deadline for presentation proposals for the 2012 ABC Annual Conference in Vancouver next May.

- Libya will be launching a competition to create a civic park in Tripoli next year (no details yet, but we'll keep our eye out).

- One we couldn't resist: amazing images of what is being found in dried-up lake beds in Texas: "This is a once-in-a-lifetime find and maybe the only silver lining in the wake of the ecological disaster."

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2011 Shenzhen & Hong Kong Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism/Architecture: "Architecture Creates Cities. Cities Create Architecture..." Juxtaposing that interaction found in Chinese cities...with that of other cities around the world. December 8–February 18, 2012 – Terence Riley/KKR; Amateur Architecture Studio; Clavel Arquitectos; MOS; OBRA; Studio Up; Wei Chun Yu; James Corner Field Operations; Atelier FCJZ; David Chipperfield; Steven Holl Urbanus; OMA; Qi Xin Atelier; Fang Media; WSP; Woods Bagot; Atelier Deshaus; Alejandro Aravena; Fake—Industries Architectural Agonism; spbr; SO-IL; J. Mayer H.; JohnstonMarkLee; Open Architecture; Aranda Lasch; MAD Architecture; Mass Studies; Hashim Sarkis; Coop Himmelb(l)au; Massimiliano Fuksas; etc. - e-flux

National Endowment for the Arts Announces a New Federal Interagency Task Force to Promote Research on the Arts and Human Development: NEA is leading...13 federal agencies and departments to encourage more and better research on how the arts help people reach their full potential at all stages of life. - National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)

ACE Mentor Program of America receives Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Math and Engineering Mentoring: Since1995, ACE has offered guidance and training in architecture, construction and engineering to more than 100,000 high school students [and] awarded more than $12.8 million in scholarships. – Charles H. Thornton/Thomton Tomasetti- Structural Engineer

Call for entries: Call for Presentations deadline extended for 2012 AIBC Annual Conference: The Architectural Institute of British Columbia invites submissions from those interested in speaking and participating in panel discussions or facilitating interactive workshops at the conference, May 9-12, 2012 in Vancouver; deadline: December 15 - Canadian Architect

Libya holds competition to create park in Tripoli: Initiative is ‘a sign of nation rebuilding itself as a democratic society’...invites architects, landscape architects and students to submit “visionary proposals”...The Freedom Park competition, to be formally launched next year...[link to competition page - not much info]- BD/Building Design (UK)

Texas Drought 2011: Depleted Lakes Expose Ghost Towns, Graves And Prehistoric Bones: ...receding lakes have revealed a prehistoric skull, ancient tools, fossils and a small cemetery that appears to contain the graves of freed slaves..."This is a once-in-a-lifetime find ... and maybe the only silver lining in the ongoing drought" (AP) [slide show]- Huffington Post

INSIGHT: At the Intersection of Medicine, Technology, and Design: Hybrid Operating Rooms: Technology has enabled the transformation of classic operating rooms into dynamic, multi-purpose environments - requiring a new design approach for architects. By Ross A. Cole, BAM Architecture Studio- ArchNewsNow

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

Dominique Perrault: Arganzuela footbridge, Madrid, Spain

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