

Today's News - Monday, January 30, 2012

- ArcSpace brings us an eyeful of Maltzan/Leader's winning design for the St. Petersburg Pier in Florida.
- Benfield delves into Ontario's "Places to Grow" regional plan and, though not perfect, he "can think of about a 100 regions south of the Canadian border that I fervently wish were attempting something this good."
- Not all in Auckland are thrilled with the results of a feasibility study to keep new growth within urban limits (NIMBY anyone?); it will be "a litmus test for political resilience."
- Hume fumes (again) about Toronto's mayor: "few expect Ford will lead Toronto into the 21st century...we can only hope he won't succeed in dragging us back to the last."
- Rochon lines up a roster of Scandinavian architects and designers who are "exporting confidence and clarity to Canada and the world. When it comes to spilling the goods on your nation's brainy innovations, a little bravura doesn't hurt."
- Berg tools around Long Beach on a bike to detail what the city is doing to make it "The Most Bicycle Friendly City in America" (it even says so on City Hall).
- Hawthorne gives (mostly) thumbs-up to a new gallery in West Hollywood that is "one of the most conspicuous architectural debuts to appear in Southern California in a number of years," even though "its architectural imagination is hidden almost entirely beneath its sprayed-on white-stucco skin."
- Glancey's review of the week finds "Postmodernism looks dead and soon-to-be demolished in the shape of [1987] Marco Polo House," but lives on in Brussels (in a good way); Pawson's new book is "both a pleasure and an inspiration"; and more.
- Things are beginning to look up for Candela's 1963 Miami Marine Stadium.
- Groves reports on a not so hopeful tale for a "perfectly good" (and we think pretty cool) 7-year-old Malibu house that could bite the dust to make room for a California Mission-style manse (star-studded neighbors none too thrilled, either).
- Booth and Rose have a few things to say about de Botton's plans to build "temples for atheists" around the U.K.: his "doctrine feels a trifle holy."
- Contract magazine's 2012 Interiors Awards, Designer of the Year, and Legend Award: a stellar list + Czarniecki hones in on DoY MASS Design Group that is "a primary example for how designers can rethink their role in a world of increasingly global impact."
- An eyeful of the New York City AIDS Memorial Park Competition winner and runners-up (very interesting!).
- A stellar list of 9 international semifinalist teams will vie for the chance to redesign the blighted Waller Creek in downtown Austin.
- Call for entries: Aurora Borealis Arctic Observatory student architecture competition.

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Winning Design: Michael Maltzan Architecture/Tom Leader Studio: "The Lens," St. Petersburg Pier, Florida

Can Ontario deliver the continent's best land-use plan? I'm not going to go out on a limb and say...everything about "Places to Grow" to be perfect...But I can think of about a 100 regions south of the Canadian border...that I fervently wish were attempting something this good. By Kaid Benfield [images, links]- Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)

Growth study plan for Auckland proves controversial: ...existing boundaries could take more than a quarter of a million extra houses...findings of a study into the feasibility of...plans to contain 75% of all new growth within the existing metropolitan urban limits (MUL) within the next 30 years..."People will not want that at all. Housing and prisons - there's a nimby impact"...would be "a litmus test for political resilience." -- Patrick Fontein/Studio D4; Alistair Ray/Tim Robinson/Jasmax- New Zealand Herald

Rob Ford's Toronto can't keep up: The fiasco on Eglinton and its proposed LRT shows a city looking to the past, not the future: ...few expect Ford will lead Toronto into the 21st century...we can only hope he won't succeed in dragging us back to the last...Eglinton could well end up the burial place of Toronto's transit dreams. By Christopher Hume- Toronto Star

Scandinavian for great design: Designers and architects from Norway, Sweden and Denmark are exporting confidence and clarity to Canada and the world...When it comes to spilling the goods on your nation's brainy innovations, a little bravura doesn't hurt. By Lisa Rochon -- Snohetta/Zeidler Partnership Architects; Bjarke Ingels Group/BIG/Hariri Pontarini Architects- Globe and Mail (Canada)

Creating 'The Most Bicycle Friendly City in America' ... In Southern California: A big investment is changing the mobility and culture of Long Beach: ...to encourage bicycling to become a viable day-to-day transportation option...hoping to live up to that motto outside City Hall... By Nate Berg -- Charlie Gandy [images]- The Atlantic Cities

Matthew Marks Gallery design blurs line between art, architecture: Peter Zellner's restrained tribute to abstraction in West Hollywood is also the backdrop to an Ellsworth Kelly sculpture...one of the most conspicuous architectural debuts to appear in Southern California in a number of years...But its architectural imagination is hidden almost entirely beneath its sprayed-on white-stucco skin. By Christopher Hawthorne- Los Angeles Times

Constructive criticism: the week in architecture: Postmodernism looks dead and soon-to-be demolished in the shape of Marco Polo House, but lives on in the Hotel Le Berger in Brussels; and a children's story conjures up the real magic of architecture..."A Visual Inventory" by John Pawson...is both a pleasure and an inspiration. By Jonathan Glancey -- Ian Pollard (1987); Olivia Gustot; Martina Nievergelt [images, links]- Guardian (UK)

Revival on the Horizon for Historic Miami Marine Stadium: Miami City Commission expected to give nonprofit group Friends of Miami Marine Stadium the green light to rehabilitate...abandoned Modernist landmark designed in 1963 by then 27-year-old Cuban-American architect Hilario Candela. [images]- Architectural Record

Planned house demolition upsets Malibu neighbors: ...plan to demolish a Bart Prince-designed home and build a two-story California Mission-style residence has neighbors concerned over the potential loss of ocean views and what some decry as the waste of a perfectly good house. By Martha Groves [image]- Los Angeles Times

Alain de Botton reveals plans for 'temple to atheism' in heart of London: Writer wants to build tower to celebrate life on earth as an antidote to Richard Dawkins' 'destructive' approach to atheism. By Robert Booth -- Tom Greenall- Guardian (UK)

Alain de Botton's 'temples for atheists' have a foundational flaw: Aren't believers just as likely to appreciate a shrine to perspective? And doesn't the Large Hadron Collider qualify as a rationalist temple? De Botton's doctrine feels a trifle holy. By Steve Rose -- Tom Greenall [image]- Guardian (UK)

2012 Interiors Awards, Designer of the Year, and Legend Award -- MASS Design Group; Carl Magnusson; Perkins+Will; Felderman Keatinge + Associates; CL3 Architects; Il by IV Design Associates; CollinsWoerman; Koning Eizenberg Architecture; 1100 Architect; Kris Lin Interior Design; One Plus Partnership; Mark Cavagnero Associates; H3 Hardy Collaboration Architecture; Bluarch Architecture+Interiors+Lighting; Kent Bellows Studio- [Contract magazine](#)

2012 Designer of the Year: MASS Design Group: ...on a trajectory to continue designing for dignity, to improve people's lives through design, and to be a primary example for how designers can rethink their role in a world of increasingly global impact. By John Czarnecki -- Michael Murphy; Alan Ricks [[images](#), [video](#)]- [Contract magazine](#)

Winners Announced for the New York City AIDS Memorial Park Competition: First place was awarded to Brooklyn-based studio a+i for their design proposal "Infinite Forest"...jury also selected three runners-up from the pool of 475 submissions... - Ooi Yin Mau; Rodrigo Zamora/Mike Robitz; Jonathan Kurtz/Christopher Diehl/Kathering Ritzman/Brant Mier/Mykie Hrusovski/David Berlekamp [[images](#)]- [Architizer](#)

Waller Creek Conservancy releases the full list of 9 international semifinalists who will vie for the chance to redesign the blighted Waller Creek in downtown Austin. -- Burgos & Garrido Arquitectos/Miro Rivera Architects; Civitas/BIG New York City; CMG/Public Architecture; James Corner Field Operations/SHoP; Imelk/PageSoutherlandPage; Michael Van Valkenburgh/Thomas Phifer & Partners; Stoss Landscape Urbanism/Saucier & Perrotte; Turenscape/Lake | Flato Architects; Workshop; Ken Smith Landscape Architect/Ten Eyck Landscape Architects/Rogers Marvel Architects - [CultureMap Austin \(Texas\)](#)

Call for entries: Aurora Borealis Arctic Observatory student architecture competition; a collaboration between the Architecture School of Barcelona and Aalto University of Helsinki; cash prizes; deadline: May 31 - [ArchMedium](#)

Book Review: How to be a Useful Architectural Critic: Alexandra Lange's Perspicacious Primer Points the Way: "Writing about Architecture: Mastering the Language of Buildings and Cities" - use it often and you'll never think of the word "critic" pejoratively again. By Norman Weinstein - [ArchNewsNow.com](#)

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