Today’s News - Monday, March 5, 2012

• ArcSpace brings us luscious eyefuls of Cloepfil's Clyfford Still Museum in Denver.

• Rochon cheers Pritzker pick: Wang Su's architecture "could provide a powerful counterpoint to his country's history-obliterating urbanization. China should listen up - that is, if it can hear his message over the roar of the bulldozers."

• King finds a silver lining in Salesforce.com suspending plans for its Legorreta-designed Mission Bay campus: "Even when they don't pan out, well-publicized designs that defy the conventional grain can alter reality" and "shift the public expectation of how things should be."

• Farrell x 2: she minces no words about what she thinks of potential Barangaroo casino: "our cretinous mediocrities tend to be big ones. Not grandiuloulsy, audaciously, breathtakingly big. Just big in terms of city-fabric devastation. Big in terms of opportunities lost."

• On the other hand, she pens an ode to engineers - and their "their near-endangered status": maybe "it's also time to tweak the knowledge model... Make the word engineer mean something a little less Roads and Maritime Services, a little more Brunelleschi."

• TED curator Anderson explains why The City 2.0 won this year's TED Prize: "The creation and redevelopment of the world's cities offers us all the ultimate design challenge. We must seize this moment."

• Two reports from Design Indaba 2012 in Cape Town: MIT's Ratti and Nabian explain how new technology is "democratizing access to urban information," allowing "citizens to participate in optimizing how the space of the city is used" + two South African architects tackle how "architecture can contribute to outcomes of change" and why "South Africa requires an architecture of equality.

• Heathcote's heart is heavy over "fine modernist buildings around London being destroyed to make way for bigger, more efficient and sustainable - and less interesting - architecture"; it's not a plea to save every one, but to think about ways of reusing "buildings that embody the intelligence and the energy of an era more confident and more comfortable in its vision of modernity than ours."

• McQuigan muses on the dilemma of architects and preservationists grappling with old buildings and new ideas: "How should the past be balanced with the present and the future? And who should decide?"

• Adler adds to the discussion, asking: "Is landmarking a shield or a sword in the fight against overdevelopment?"

• Two of New Zealand's most important Modernist architects are "shattered" by the loss of their buildings in the Christchurch earthquake.

• Hawthorne offers a spring architecture preview: the Barnes Foundation's new home "will face legions of doubters"; the CicLAvia urban-design event; and Pelli "exercising other architectural muscles" with his new Red Building at the PDC.

• Rose reviews the week in architecture (with lots of great links!): Aberdeen votes on DS+R's "Teletubby Park"; Poole's "rather clever" new bridge; and (another) cheer for the Wang Shu: "it's refreshing that this year's Pritzker could actually create a future star instead of "sealing an already stellar career" (could the Pritzker Effect be the new Bilbao Effect?)!

• Moneo to receive UVA's 2012 Thomas Jefferson Foundation Medal in Architecture.

• An eyeful of the eVolo 2012 Skyscraper competition winners.

• Call for entries: AFBC's 100 Mile House International Open Ideas Competition to design a house using only materials and systems made/manufactured/recycled within 100 miles of Vancouver + Dwell/DWR Live/Work Design Contest: create a workspace "classic of tomorrow."

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Allied Works Architecture: Clyfford Still Museum, Denver, Colorado

Wang Shu: A Chinese champion of the small wins big: Not much can derail the force of China... But now that Wang has won the... Pritzker Architecture Prize, his architecture... could provide a powerful counterpoint to his country's history-obliterating urbanization... China should listen up – that is, if it can hear his message over the roar of the bulldozers. By Lisa Rochon -- Lu Wenyu; Amateur Architecture Studio - Globe and Mail (Canada)

Salesforce.com campus gone, but too bold to forget:... doesn't mean the assertive octet of buildings abruptly "suspended" last week won't cast a shadow... Even when they don't pan out, well-publicized designs that defy the conventional grain can alter reality. They stretch the boundaries of what is acceptable and... shift the public expectation of how things should be. By John King -- Legorreta + Legorreta; Rem Koolhaas/Office of Metropolitan Architecture (OMA); Brand + Allen [images] - San Francisco Chronicle

Barangata-roulette? It's a piece of cake:... for O'Farrell to bless James Packer's Barangaroo casino concept before there's even a formal proposal... [is] plain irresponsible and could easily turn years of cultivated potential into something ugly indeed. "What happens at Barangaroo Central will define how people see Barangaroo in the future". Are we seriously going to choose a casino for this image? Are we that cheap? By Elizabeth Farrelly - Sydney Morning Herald

It's time art and science engineered an alliance: I like engineers...architects usually see engineers as bubble-busters... What I like...is their commitment to truth. Where architects commit to imaginative blarney, engineers deal in fact. They don't do PR, spin or vanity press. This is their strength... But it is also a weakness... maybe it's also time to tweak the knowledge model.... Make the word engineer mean something a little less Roads and Maritime Services, a little more Brunelleschi. By Elizabeth Farrelly - Sydney Morning Herald

Why Has TED Given the 2012 TED Prize to the City 2.0? Urbanization may well be the planet's largest systemic change in centuries... It's a daunting task, but also an amazing opportunity. The rise of a new kind of city is inevitable... But what will it look like? The creation and redevelopment of the world's cities offers us all... the ultimate design challenge. We must seize this moment. By Chris Anderson, curator - Huffington Post

A collaborative approach to architecture: Top-Down/Bottom-up Urbanism:... democratizing access to urban information – as it is happening with open data initiatives all across the world – allows citizens to participate in optimizing how the space of the city is used... a continuous and innovative re-programming of the built environment by its own inhabitants. By Nashid Nabian and Carlo Ratti/MIT SENSEable City Lab – Architectures Without Architects; Bernard Rudofsky; John Habraken; Constant Nieuwenhuys; Yona Friedman; Christopher Alexander; LVE Singapore; OpenIDEO; Open Architecture Network; Architecture for Humanity - MarkLives.com (South Africa)
Back to the Future: Architects and preservationists continue to grapple with old buildings and new ideas...How should the past be balanced with the present and the future? And who should decide? By Cathleen McGuigan -- Herzog & de Meuron; Jorge Otero-Pailos; Stephen Greenblatt; Rem Koolhaas/OMA- Architectural Record

Preservation Nation: Is landmarking a shield or a sword in the fight against overdevelopment? Landmarking is under attack on two fronts: architectural and economic...Critics and defenders...tend to agree on one key point: that the drive to landmark buildings of questionable significance is caused by a larger problem of communities feeling powerless to stop unwanted development. By Ben Adler -- Ed Glaeser; Rem Koolhaas; David Fixler; Sarah Williams Goldhagen- Architectural Record

Architects 'shattered' by Christchurch's loss: The life's work of two of New Zealand's most important architects has been largely destroyed in the Canterbury earthquakes...the city is renowned for developing a distinctive form of modernist architecture in the 1950s, 60s and 70s...Miles Warren and Peter Beaven were two of the leading exponents of...the Christchurch School, designing many groundbreaking buildings that have now been lost. - The Press (New Zealand)

Spring architecture preview: Barnes Foundation's new home will face legions of doubters...CicLAvia festival...will be extending its route...likely to include pop-up facilities and other quasi-architectural stops...an urban-design event as well one about bicycling and mobility...Red building at the Pacific Design Center...Cesar Pelli will be exercising other architectural muscles... By Christopher Hawthorne -- Tod Williams Billie Tsien - Los Angeles Times

Constructive criticism: the week in architecture: Aberdeen locals to vote on 'Teletubby Park', the people of Poole welcome a second harbour bridge, a new Hopkins home is a long time coming, and the Pritzker prize finds a new star...Rather than sealing an already stellar career, it's refreshing that this year's Pritzker could actually create one in the future. Is the Pritzker effect the new Guggenheim effect? By Steve Rose -- Diller Scofidio & Renfro; Wilkinson Eyre; Alain de Botton/Living Architecture; Architects; Wang Shu [images, links]- Guardian (UK)

2012 Thomas Jefferson Foundation Medal in Architecture to be awarded to Rafael Moneo: Kim Tanzer, dean of U.Va.'s School of Architecture, said his legacy, as both a practitioner and an educator, cannot be overstated. "His ongoing life's work continues to inspire architects around the world." - University of Virginia / Thomas Jefferson Foundation

2012 Skyscraper Competition Winners -- Zh Zheng/Hongchuan Zhao/Dongbai Song; Yiting Shen/Nanjue Wang/Ji Xia/Zhan Wang; Lin Yu-Ta [links to images, info]- eVolo Architecture

Call for entries: 100 Mile House Open Ideas Competition (international): design a house to accommodate 4 people...using only materials and systems made/manufactured/recycled within 100 miles of the City of Vancouver; cash prizes; registration deadline: April 19; submission deadline: April 26 - Architecture Foundation of British Columbia/AFBC

Call for entries: Live/Work Design Contest: create a workspace "classic of tomorrow" – a new home-office solution that DWR could potentially manufacture and sell; open to residents of U.S. and Canada (no fee); deadline: March 31 - Dwell / Design Within Reach

Book Review: Tracing a Hidden Track from Adolf Loos as Modernist Architect to Jennifer Post as Modernist Interior Designer: "The Looshaus" by Christopher Long, and "Jennifer Post: Pure Space: Elegant Minimalism" by Anna Kasabian...with this unlikely couple, we can air out that beleaguered term "architectural minimalism" and trace a trajectory of what might be better identified as "essentialist architecture." By Norman Weinstein- ArchNewsNow

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