

Today's News - Monday, March 26, 2012

EDITOR'S NOTE: We'd like to give a special shout-out to our friends at [Calori Vanden-Eynden Design Consultants](#) for reworking their (already fab!) design for ArchNewsNow by creating the 10th ANNiversary logo that we proudly launch today.

- ArcSpace brings us Caruso St John's Nottingham Contemporary + the Thomas Demand exhibition on view inside.
- A lot of must-reads today: Berger bemoans the archibabble accompanying some of the designs from the ideas competition for Seattle Center: "Stop communing with the dematerialized inverted void and tell us in plain English what you really want to build."
- A very plain-spoken assessment of three major redevelopment projects in Paris pulls no punches: they "will damage the well-being of all Parisians, far in excess of any contribution they will make."
- Kimmelman's eloquent assessment of NYU's massive expansion plan that "has escalated into one of the city's most acrimonious land-use battles."
- Heathcote traces eco-town plans back to their garden city roots: "With Britain's creaking infrastructure, crowded roads and hollowed-out city centers, it might be that the construction of 'garden cities' is a silly fantasy - a reaction to the wrong problem."
- A long (and totally fascinating) look at what's really going on in the "jungleground" that is New Orleans' Lower Ninth Ward: "Ecologically speaking, Katrina has created a monster."
- Rochon takes a walk on a more civilized wild side - NYC's High Line - to see what ideas Canadian cities could borrow.
- King makes a case for sidewalks, not asphalt at San Francisco's Fisherman's Wharf, and worries that "in the rush to hold down costs and start construction this fall, the changes will be too timid."
- Schumacher calls for Milwaukee to "remodel" rather than "bulldoze" the city's 1981 preservation ordinance that is "considered one of the best in the nation by experts," but has become "a symbol of ire."
- Dvir delves deep into the contentious controversy swirling around the competition to design the new National Library in Jerusalem that has angered a lot of local talent; the library board chairman "begs to differ" (and hopes "the winner will be a young Israeli architect").
- What's really behind the cancellation of Berlin's Guggenheim Lab: "Though initial reports implied that the threats issued from radicals angry over gentrification, the real story appears to be significantly more complicated."
- A look at what's behind a seeming "golden age" for architecture in Spain and Portugal: will it continue?
- Porter ponders the new King's Cross and the "uplifting power of ingenious design": it is "a fine example of what can be achieved when inspired architecture meets local activism...we no longer need to assert our modernity by competing with the past."
- Kamin cheers the Wrigley Building's new owners who "intend to treat it the right way. This is the sort of enlightened marriage of preservation and economics that will ensure the long-term survival of a treasured Chicago icon."
- Hanscom queries L.A.'s mayor, who "is about as green as they come," and finds out "how he's managed to stay green in a time when, as a famous frog once lamented, it's anything but easy."
- Doig parses research that explains why cities are often considered "meaner" - "but for surprising reasons."
- Brussat offers excerpts from Scruton's ode to architectural historian Watkin (a two-parter).
- Phoenix rises to its own Modernism Week.
- Call for entries: AIA|LA Restaurant Design Awards (registration deadline looms!).

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-- Caruso St John: Nottingham Contemporary, Nottingham, UK
-- Exhibition: Thomas Demand: Model Studies, Nottingham Contemporary

Why don't architects speak English? Grand plans for Seattle Center evoke hovering "Jelly Beans," "dematerialized urbanism," and "catalyzing atmospheres." That's just what Seattle needs: more gobbledegook...Stop communing with the dematerialized inverted void and tell us in plain English what you really want to build. By Knute Berger -- PRAUD; ABF [images, links]- Crosscut (Seattle)

Conclusions from an assessment of three major redevelopment projects in Paris: Le Projet Triangle, Paris Rive Gauche, Clichy-Batignolles: ...these three projects will damage the well-being of all Parisians, far in excess of any contribution they will make...they threaten to damage the wellbeing of urban residents elsewhere around the world, by re-affirming a destructive and failed precedent within this exemplar city. -- Herzog & de Meuron; Renzo Piano; François Grether, Planner; Jacqueline Osty; Yves Lion [images, links]- Council for European Urbanism (CEU) / SOS Paris

It Riles a Village: New York University's latest proposal to expand in Greenwich Village has caused a storm of protest...[NYU 2031] has escalated into one of the city's most acrimonious land-use battles. No wonder...The school needs to upgrade and consolidate its core. And what does the neighborhood need? Among other things, open space, green space. By Michael Kimmelman -- Hideo Sasaki; Toshiko Mori Architect; Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates; Grimshaw Architects; James Ingo Freed/I. M. Pei & Associates; Paul Lester Wiener [images]- New York Times

Echo of eco-towns to face fierce opposition: The garden city is a truly British innovation...a reaction to the dense dark slums of the 19th-century city...With Britain's creaking infrastructure, crowded roads and hollowed-out city centres, it might be that the construction of "garden cities" is a silly fantasy -- a reaction to the wrong problem. By Edwin Heathcote -- Ebenezer Howard (1898)- Financial Times (UK)

Jungleground: The Lower Ninth Ward in New Orleans Gives New Meaning to 'Urban Growth': Since Katrina, the cartoonish pace of vegetation growth resembles something out of a Chia Pet commercial...the neighborhood has undergone a reverse colonization -- nature reclaiming civilization...has made [it] one of the richest ecological case studies in the world...Ecologically speaking, Katrina has created a monster. By Nathaniel Rich [images]- New York Times Magazine

Take a walk on New York's High Line: What's enviable? What's unworkable? What ideas should Canadian cities borrow? By Lisa Rochon -- James Corner Field Operations; Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Piet Oudolf; Neil Denari; SHoP Architects; Janette Sadik-Khan; Polshek Partnership (now Ennead Architects)- Globe and Mail (Canada)

Fisherman's Wharf needs sidewalks, not asphalt: It's a test case, in many ways - and that's why it needs to be done right....The danger is that in the rush to hold down costs and start construction this fall, the changes will be too timid. By John King -- ROMA Design Group [images]- San Francisco Chronicle

Remodel, don't bulldoze preservation ordinance: ...acrimonious wrangle over a planned Marriott hotel in downtown Milwaukee has prompted some lawmakers to take aim at that very ordinance, which has done its job well for a generation...Urgent, shoot-from-the-hip calls for "common sense" trumped thoughtful dialogue...preservationists got

pigeonholed as foot-draggers and obstructionists. And the 1981 ordinance – considered one of the best in the nation by experts – became a symbol of ire. By Mary Louise Schumacher - Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Repository of rivalry: The National Library's part-open, part-invited design competition for its new Jerusalem premises has angered local architects who feel the contest is discriminatory. Library board chairman David Blumberg begs to differ..."I hope the winner will be a young Israeli architect." By Noam Dvir -- Ziva Armoni /Hanan Hebron/Amnon Alexandroni/Avraham Yaski/Michael and Shulamit Nadler/Shimon Povzner; Ada Karmi-Melamede; Bracha and Michael Chyutin; Carlos Prus; Udi and Ganit Mayslits-Kassif; David Chipperfield; Shigeru Ban; Moshe Safdie; Peter Bohlin- Ha'aretz (Israel)

Behind the Cancellation of Berlin's Guggenheim Lab: What Really Happened and What's Happening Next: Though initial reports implied that the threats issued from radicals angry over gentrification, the real story appears to be significantly more complicated...Is it Actually Canceled? For now, the answer to this question is unclear. All that is clear is that the Lab will absolutely not be taking place in Kreuzberg. -- Atelier Bow-Wow [image]- Artinfo

Iberian architecture builds a modern legacy: Spain and Portugal have been enjoying something of a golden age in recent years when it comes to hosting major new architectural projects. What are the reasons for this success and can it continue? -- MIMA Architects; M&AS Arquitectes; Eduardo Souto de Mouras; Frank Gehry; Rem Koolhaas; Jean Nouvel; Santiago Calatrava; Rafael Moneo; Alvaro Siza; Enric Ruiz-Geli/Cloud 9; Pedro Gadanho; Paulo Mendes da Rocha- Expatica

The uplifting power of ingenious design enhances our daily lives: The new King's Cross is a fine example of what can be achieved when inspired architecture meets local activism...something has fallen into place – we no longer need to assert our modernity by competing with the past. This sophistication seems so unlike the routine failure of town planners over the last 70 years... By Henry Porter -- John McAsian and Partners [slide show]- Observer (UK)

Bringing the Wrigley Building into the 21st Century; as city weighs landmark status for iconic skyscraper, new owners propose changes: It is that rare building which is appreciated by both the masses and the cognoscenti. And the new owners intend to treat it the right way...This is the sort of enlightened marriage of preservation and economics that will ensure the long-term survival of a treasured Chicago icon. By Blair Kamin -- Graham, Anderson, Probst & White (1921, 1924); Goettsch Partners [images]- Chicago Tribune

Mayor awesome: Against all odds, Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa is about as green as they come...how he's managed to stay green in a time when, as a famous frog once lamented, it's anything but easy. By Greg Hanscom - Grist Magazine

It's true: Cities are meaner: Urbanites are viewed as selfish and unconcerned about others. Research proves it - but for surprising reasons...As urbanites, we may not lack a moral compass, but our sense of direction is clear... By Will Doig-Salon

Roger Scruton on David Watkin: excerpts from "David Watkin and the Classical Idea" published in the book "The Persistence of the Classical," a collection of essays written in honor of the professor upon his retirement from Cambridge in 2008...(with no more than very minor clarifications and addenda by the editor/typist, me.) By David Brussat - Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

A week of events celebrates Modern Phoenix design -- Paolo Soleri/Cosanti (1959); Ed Varney (1956); Allen+Philp Architects; Jones Studio; SPS+ Architects; Gensler; Durkin + Durkin; Frank Lloyd Wright; George Nelson- Arizona Republic

Call for entries: AIA/ALA Restaurant Design Awards: open to projects located in the United States and to US-based individuals and practices for projects outside U.S.; registration deadline: April 2; submission deadline: May 4 - AIA Los Angeles (AIA/LA)

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