Today's News - Tuesday, March 27, 2012

- Webber wends her way through the London Olympics' post-game strategy, from "Games time" to "Legacy-mode" (so that's how all those pieces fit together - a great read).
- A Doha-based architect questions Qatar’s urban planning for the 2022 World Cup: "If scrutinized, current progress in urban infrastructure and architecture seems to be frail...Here are age-old lessons of walkable streets, mixed uses...that are being trampered under the rush to create the car-oriented city.
- Ghana's Minister of Environment claims the "continuous deterioration in the country was the failure of practitioners in the development of the built environment...Here are age-old lessons of walkable streets, mixed uses and the use of aged buildings that form still-relevant models... "
- Pondering whether "design can 'cure' our cities" with "curative" public spaces: "If the High Line can convince New Yorkers to hold hands, then anything is possible."
- Michigan is taking first steps towards Complete Streets by putting streets on "road diets" - "the low-hanging fruit with the most bang for your buck" (with some snags along the way).
- LOT-EK lands at the Whitney Museum with a new pop-up classroom made entirely of shipping containers (looks cool to us; what would Breuer think?).
- Rothstein cheers the Natural History Museum of Utah: "it is at home."
- Architect/activist Kruml has spent years fighting the "crime of kitsch - battling the Czech Republic’s 'cowboy architecture'" (from the look of things, we’re glad somebody’s doing it!).
- Sherry Ayittey, the Minister of Environment, Science and Technology, urges architects to design buildings to capture sunlight: "...continuous deterioration in the country was the failure of practitioners in the development of the built environment involving planners, architects, engineers and environmental and social scientists. -- Ghana Institute of Architects (GIA)-GhanaWeb"
- University of Chicago's big muse on campus: Expectations rise along with U. of C.’s Logan Center for the Arts: Ten years in the making and $114 million to build...will loom large in Hyde Park...Nothing quite like it, in fact, ever has arisen in the Chicago area...a most unusual complex... could become an important catalyst for the performing and fine arts in Chicago... reaching out to the community stands as a key priority. By Howard Reich -- Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects; Ralph Appelbaum Associates [images] - New York Times

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Passing the Torch: A preview of the Olympic built environment coming online... some 10 million ticketholders will descend on London for the 2012 Olympics where over $14 billion in construction nears completion. But that’s only the prelude...has been developed with two layers: "Games time" and "Legacy-mode." By Gwen Webber -- AECOM; Foreign Office Architects (FOA); Allies and Morrison; Zaha Hadid; Populous/Peter Cook; Hargreaves Associates; James Corner Field Operations; Anish Kapoor; Cecil Balmond; Arup; Fletcher Priest Architects; Alford Hall Monaghan Morris (AHMM); DSDHA; De Rijke Marsh Morgan (DRMM); Make Architects; Hopkins Architects; Eectect Architecture [images] - The Architect's Newspaper

Local Architect Questions the Logic of Qatar’s 2022 World Cup Groundwork: Doha-based Romi Sebastian questions the feasibility of Qatar’s urban planning...if scrutinised, current progress in urban infrastructure and architecture seems to be frail...Here are age-old lessons of walkable streets, mixed uses and the use of aged buildings that form still-relevant models for planning cities...these models are being trampered upon in the rush to create the car-oriented city...hasty, spur-of-the-moment approach...is not going to benefit the country or its residents in anyway. -- Green Prophet (Middle East)

Journey to the Center of New York: Can Design "Cure" Our Cities? While I find the idea that design should "force" healthiness somewhat paternalistic...I don't think this "medicalized" language is all bad...Delancey Underground (Low Line) urges us to reclaim these old, "sick" places...to see their potential as innovative, "curative" public spaces. After all, if the High Line can convince New Yorkers to hold hands, then anything is possible. By Vanessa Quirk [images, links] - ArchDaily

Complete Streets: Designing roadways for the benefit of all: In Michigan, some budget-wary city planners have been...putting streets on "road diets"..."the low-hanging fruit with the most bang for your buck". Implementation isn’t the only snag. Another hurdle...is education. Misunderstandings regarding costs, context, and how to deploy Complete Streets has stymied its development in some communities. -- Model D (Detroit)
Rapid transit slowly arrives: Osborne Street Station a beacon in a system that could transform this city... references the great train stations of Europe, while its arching trusses evoke Winnipeg’s elm tree canopy... a well-designed BRT system... can convey the image of quality and sense of permanence that attracts ridership and TOD... By Brent Bellamy/Number Ten Architectural Group -- GPP Architecture; Friesen Tokar Architects - Winnipeg Free Press (Canada)

"IN FORM: Communicating Boston": over,under’s Chris Grimley, Michael Kubo, and Mark Pasnik created an exhibition [at BSA Space] that is in many ways a love letter to Boston, increasing the public’s understanding of the city. By Mimi Zeiger -- Boston Society of Architects; Howeler + Yoon; pinkcomma, Peter Chermayeff/Cambridge Seven Associates; Ashley/Myer/Smith; Landing Studio; William Rawn Associates; Ann Beha Architects; Utile -- Domus

The finalists for the AJ’s inaugural Women in Architecture Awards announced; shortlist for the Emerging Woman Architect of the Year, a design award open to all women architects under 40... -- Alison Brooks; Zaha Hadid; Rosiin Heneghan/Heneghan Peng Architects; Amanda Levete; Deborah Saunt/DSDHA; Cindy Walters/Michäli Cohen/Walters and Cohen; Sarah Wigglesworth; Fran Balaam/Ple Architecture; Jude Barber/Collective Architecture; Katy Ghairemali/Make Architects; Sophie Golthill/Lidicoat & Goldhill; Hannah Lawson/John McAslan + Partners; Holly Lewis/We Made That; Pernilla Ohrstedt/Pernilla & Asif; Nathalie Rözenowagj/RARE Architecture -- The Architects’ Journal (UK)

Art on Chairs International Competition winners: chairs will be prototyped and exhibited at the Art on Chairs International Exhibition in Paredes, Portugal, September 14 to November 11, 2012 -- Vanessa Moreno/Gustavo Reboredo/Louis Sicard/Nenad Katic; Claire James Fernley & Fox; Joana Moreira de Carvalho [link to images] -- Domus

Ox Carts and No Coffee: Building a Monastery the Medieval Way: Historians, architects, archaeologists and volunteers in Germany are teaming up to build a medieval monastery the old-fashioned way. Working conditions will be strictly 9th-century... will take an estimated 40 years to complete. -- Bert Geurten [slide show] -- Der Spiegel (Germany)

Call for entries - deadlines extended (international): OPPTA Competition: Emergency Interventions: 5 sites are areas of risk or emergency situations where intervention will be through immediate action; earlybird (discount) registration deadline: April 20; submission deadline: May 4, 2012 - Pan-American Observatory of Landscape, Territory and Architecture

Call for entries: Douglas Haskell Award for Student Journals: open to any journal (online or print) published by a school of architecture, landscape architecture or planning in the U.S. that is edited by students; cash prizes; deadline: May 1 - Center For Architecture Foundation

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

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