

Today's News - Wednesday, April 4, 2012

- The world's London's and Bangkok's may become "hydro-cities" so mankind and water can coexist.
- Australia selects design for permanent pavilion for the Venice Biennale - a canal-side "sleek" black box - very white inside (great images/video).
- Harmon is unfazed by critics of his new N.C. Center for Architecture and Design: "I think anything that is new and important is going to offend some people."
- Goodyear cheers NYC's plan for a "6 ½ Avenue" for Midtown Manhattan pedestrians: "What the new proposal does is legitimize behavior that is already happening."
- High Line aspirations in D.C.: a new bridge-park (though obstacles abound).
- Moscow's Federation Tower turns into a towering inferno lighting up the skyline (amazing images; no one hurt).
- WMF launches a petition drive to save Rudolph's Orange County Government Center: "Once it's demolished, there are no second chances."
- Gehry hopes to meet with Eisenhower family (they have not responded to the invitation - yet).
- Is there a future for architectural criticism?
- Art Institute of Chicago names new assistant curator in architecture and design.
- Bad behavior (and sad news) re: GSA - let's hope it "doesn't lose any forward momentum in its effort to make the world's largest landlord more sustainable."
- On a brighter note, 2012 Ontario Association of Architects Awards winners announced.
- Call for entries: HOME International Open Design Competition for a single-occupancy home for the elderly or homeless + 2012 Australia Award for Urban Design + Contract's Inspiration Awards 2012 recognizing social responsibility in commercial interiors.

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Amphibious houses, floating islands becoming reality as architects design for rising waters: Around the world architects and city planners are exploring ways mankind and water may be able to coexist...The world's Londons and Bangkoks may become "hydro-cities"... -- Koen Olthuis/Waterstudio; Danaï Thaitakoo; Chutayaves Sinthuphan/Site-Specific Company; Prisdha Jumsai (AP) [images]- Kansas City Star

Goodbye to the dunny as Australia gets new arts outpost at the Venice Biennale: ...a sleek black granite building that will be ready by 2015...to replace the 1988 pavilion designed by Philip Cox and originally intended as a temporary venue. -- Denton Corker Marshall [images, video]- The Age (Australia)

Eyesore or inspiration? Raleigh's AIA-NC building: N.C. Center for Architecture and Design stands in serene composure, surrounded by the downtown traffic rush...."I think anything that is new and important is going to offend some people"..."We have one of the most sustainable buildings in North Carolina, and naturally, it challenges the norm." -- Frank Harmon Architects [image]- Technician (N.C. State University)

Why a Pedestrian Avenue Makes So Much Sense for Midtown Manhattan: Friends of Privately Owned Public Spaces, or F-POPS, which dubbed the route "Holly Whyte Way"...Others are calling it "6 ½ Avenue"...What the new proposal does is legitimize behavior that is already happening. By Sarah Goodyear -- Janette Sadik-Khan [links]- The Atlantic Cities

D.C. Could Break the Mold with a New Bridge-Park: The new park won't be like the High Line. It's not found in a dense urban neighborhood but in the middle of a river...Still, the early park concepts definitely seem inspired by the High Line and other parks that have reused transportation infrastructure...the downfall of the project could be the lack of access. [images, links]- The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

250m skyscraper in flames: Europe's tallest-to-be tower burns in Moscow: The fire broke on the Federation Tower's 67th floor...Authorities have expanded a cordoned-off area surrounding the building due to fears the burning floors could collapse. -- Schweger & Partner Architekten; Tchoban and Partners [images, video]- Russia Today

Orange County, New York Legislature: Oppose the demolition of Paul Rudolph's Orange County Government Center in Goshen, NY. Sign the petition...Once it's demolished, there are no second chances. - World Monuments Fund/WMF

Frank Gehry Hopes to Meet with Eisenhower Family to Allay Concerns Over Memorial Design: The family has not responded to the invitation, other than to say they will confer before considering their next move... [links]- Architectural Record

Paul Goldberger Moves To Vanity Fair, Eulogies For Architecture Criticism Not Far Behind: The dry spell isn't limited to The New Yorker...Witold Rybczynski positioned his bunking from Slate in line with a slacking off of architecture criticism across the board. -- Matt Chaban; Sarah Williams Goldhagen [links]- Huffington Post

Art Institute of Chicago names new assistant curator in architecture and design: Karen Kice will join Zoë Ryan...in building and strengthening the Art Institute's holdings of contemporary architecture. - Chicago Tribune

After Vegas Misadventure, GSA Leadership Gutted: General Service Administration administrator Martha Johnson has resigned...Public Building Commissioner Bob Peck took the fall earlier this week...Dan Tangherlini is going to take over Peck's spot...Let's hope he can ensure the GSA doesn't lose any forward momentum in its effort to make the world's largest landlord more sustainable. - The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)


2012 Ontario Association of Architects (OAA) Awards winners announced: ...more than 30 winners in nine categories... -- WZMH Architects; Paul Raff Studio; Tact Architecture; Menkès Shooner Dagenais LeTourneur/Provencher Roy + Associés Architectes; Drew Mandel Architects; bbb Architects Ottawa; CSV Consultants; Teeple Architects; superkül; Kuwabara Payne McKenna Blumberg Architects (KPMB); Kongats Architects; etc. - Canadian Architect magazine

Call for entries: HOME International Open Design Competition for a \$30,000 single-occupancy home for the elderly or homeless in an urban area of a developed country; registration deadline: June 30; submission deadline: July 31 - Building Trust International (UK)

Call for entries: 2012 Australia Award for Urban Design; deadline: May 10 - Planning Institute of Australia

Call for entries: Inspiration Awards 2012 recognizing social responsibility in commercial interiors; deadline: May 11 - Contract magazine

Colombia: Transformed / Architecture = Politics: The curators of the exhibition making its world debut in Chicago this week throw the spotlight on five Colombian architects who leverage brick, concrete, and glass forms to improve the lives of ordinary people. By Vladimir Belogolovsky and Fernando Villa, AIA, LEED AP - ArchNewsNow

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- Coop Himmelb(l)au: Musée des Confluences, Lyon, France
 - Zaha Hadid Architects: Rocca London Gallery, London, UK
 - The Camera: Fernando Alda: The poetry of the skeleton

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