

Today's News - Monday, April 23, 2012

- Rudolph alert: the architects behind the renovation/expansion of Paul Rudolph's UMass Dartmouth Library will present their solutions to similar challenges faced by the OCGC to Orange County officials tomorrow.
- ArcSpace brings us eye-fuls of Gehry and BIG's twisting towers in Hong Kong and Vancouver.
- Rochon at her most eloquent re: what a 9-year-old's cardboard arcade and an architect working with a remote Canadian aboriginal community have in common: "when we connect design with the human desire to craft and construct...the heart is pumped back into architecture."
- Anderton talks to an urban planner and landscape architect about "Caine's Arcade," L.A.'s search for a new design for the 6th Street Bridge, and much more.
- Jacobs looks at what might be in store for Atlantic City: "Overall, the master plan is well-intentioned, decent, smart - and perhaps, ultimately, doomed" (but maybe not).
- Chappell calls for a ceasefire between critics and champions of plans for 8 Washington on San Francisco's Embarcadero.
- News from Iraq is not all bad: Urban planners and architects "are at the vanguard" and "looking to Lebanon for inspiration as they rebuild Iraq" + Construction is underway for the \$100 million Baghdad Mall (though challenges persist) + High hopes to revive Corbu's Baghdad Gymnasium.
- A round-up of mixed reviews for revamped Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney.
- Moore travels to the top of the Shard: "It's hard to know what to do except gawp" - "an object of urban fascination" - "a work of the punk urbanism" (we're still not sure if he actually likes it).
- A look at how the "Small Hospital, Big Idea" competition winners hope to transform California healthcare design.
- Dvir ponders the future of Tel Aviv hotels from the 1960s and 70s, and whether they will lose their "original modernist spirit" in a "marathon of renewal."
- Lubell compiles a Shulman trail guide to visit mid-century modern masterpieces made iconic by the photographer.
- An interesting line-up of winners in the 2012 Architectural League Prize for Young Architects + Designers.
- Call for entries/Call for papers: "Smart Materials for Design and Architecture" seminar as part of a special exhibition at the red dot design museum in Essen in July.

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Rudolph Redux: The UMass Dartmouth Library Renovation/Addition by designLAB architects: A current project slated for completion this fall offers food for thought for the future of Paul Rudolph's Orange County Government Center. Press conference at OCGC tomorrow! - ArchNewsNow

-- Gehry Partners, LLP: Opus Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China
-- BIG-Bjarke Ingels Group: Beach and Howe St., Vancouver, Canada

Creative muscle in a digital world: "Caine's Arcade"...about a nine-year-old boy in Los Angeles...whose imagination and capable hands allowed him to construct a multi-game arcade...when we connect design with the human desire to craft and construct...the heart is pumped back into architecture...It may seem that the junkyards of east L.A. and a remote Canadian aboriginal community have nothing in common - except for the power of the human hand to evoke emotion and inspire change. By Lisa Rochon -- Guillaume Levesque- Globe and Mail (Canada)

DnA/Frances Anderton: A Bridge to the Imagination: The iconic 6th Street Bridge has to be rebuilt, and the City has announced a worldwide quest for a visionary designer; James Rojas and Jay Griffith on lessons from cardboard "Caine's Arcade"; Michael Boyd on taking chairs back to the basics; and Charles Phoenix, Ambassador of Americana, on being retro in the age of Instagram. [images, links]- KCRW (Los Angeles)

Repriming the Pump: The state of New Jersey, addicted to casino revenues, reinvests in a struggling Atlantic City...transform [it] into—wait for it—a beach resort...Overall, the master plan is well-intentioned, decent, smart—and perhaps, ultimately, doomed...an attempt to make Atlantic City into the place it might have become had the casinos never happened...In other words, NJ is using money generated by gambling to save the casinos from themselves. By Karrie Jacobs -- Jerde Partnership [image]- Metropolis Magazine

Op-Ed: 8 Washington is critical for the waterfront: if we could set aside the rhetoric for a moment, and look at our Embarcadero...The design challenge is to enhance this site by creating a project at a scale and quality commensurate with its premier location. The design meets that challenge... By Jim Chappell -- SPUR/San Francisco Planning + Urban Research Association; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Peter Walker/PWP Landscape Architecture- San Francisco Chronicle

Iraqi phoenix to rise from the ashes: plans are being drawn up to design a mega-city and urban planners and architects...are at the vanguard...looking to Lebanon for inspiration as they rebuild Iraq... -- Noaman Muna; Zaha Hadid; Khatib & Alami- The National (UAE)

Baghdad Mall a bright spot for city yet problems still much in evidence: ...\$100 million project in the affluent neighbourhood of Al Harthiya will include a shopping centre, a five-star hotel, a state-of-the-art medical centre, a gym and a giant covered parking lot. - The National (UAE)

Iraq aims to revive Baghdad's 'lost' Le Corbusier building: ...built under Saddam Hussein then forgotten: such was the fate of a gym that Iraq now wants, with the help of France, to restore to its former stature...Commissioned in 1957...the Baghdad Gymnasium was at the time only a small part of a planned Olympic city. [images]- AFP

Mixed reception for revamped Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney: Much of the praise the \$53 million renovation has received centres around the fact it now actually looks like a museum of contemporary art... "simultaneously impressed and overwhelmed"... "wanted the enchanting, the sophisticated, the sublime - and it's not that"... -- Sam Marshall/Architect Marshall; Benjamin Genocchio/Artinfo; Elizabeth Farelly; Ellen Himelfarb [links to reviews, slide shows]- Architecture & Design (Australia)

The view from Europe's tallest building: A trip up the Shard yields a 60-mile-wide panorama spanning London. But is its haphazard journey from pipe dream to reality a good thing for the capital? It's hard to know what to do except gawp...an object of urban fascination...a work of the punk urbanism in which modern London specialises. By Rowan Moore -- Renzo Piano [slide show]- Guardian (UK)

Game Changer: Kaiser Permanente competition aims to transform California healthcare design.... "Small Hospital, Big Idea" challenged architects to rethink healthcare facilities...Winning ideas will guide development of its moderate-sized hospitals in the region. -- Aditazz; Mazzetti Nash Lipsey Burch; Perkins+Will [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

A glimpse into Tel Aviv's 'synagogue with bedrooms': ...Deborah Hotel - Israel's first strictly kosher and Sabbath-observant

hotel - a novelty in the 1960s...But the hotel's pleasant modernist architecture ...desperately needs renovation...It remains to be seen whether veteran Tel Aviv hotels of the 1960s and 1970s will lose the original modernist spirit in this marathon of renewal. By Noam Dvir -- Yitzhak Toledano (1964); Moshe Vered [images]- Ha'aretz (Israel)

Trailing a Master Photographer in Los Angeles: Julius Shulman photographed some of the most iconic structures in Los Angeles, including Case Study House 22 and the Eames House. Here's how you can visit them. By Sam Lubell -- Richard Neutra; Raphael Soriano; Craig Ellwood; Pierre Koenig [slide show]- New York Times

2012 Architectural League Prize for Young Architects + Designers: No Precedent -- Jorge Arvizu, Ignacio del Rio, Emmanuel Ramirez, and Diego Ricalde, MMX Studio, Mexico City; Jimenez Lai, Bureau Spectacular, Chicago; WEATHERS/Sean Lally, Chicago; Seung Teak Lee and Mi Jung Lim, STPMJ, Brooklyn; Michael Szivos, SOFTlab, New York; Koji Tsutsui, Koji Tsutsui & Associates, San Francisco and Tokyo [link to images, info]- Architectural League of New York

Call for entries/Call for papers: "Smart Materials for Design and Architecture" Seminar as part of a special exhibition "Moving Materials" at the red dot design museum in Essen in July; organized by Design Zentrum Nordrhein Westfalen and PROUD (People Researchers Organisations Using Design for innovation and co-creation); deadline: May 14.- red dot design museum

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