

## Today's News - Wednesday, May 2, 2012

- Pogrebin ponders all the finger-pointing surrounding Piano's Nasher Museum "sunburn problem": "No one quite knows what to do."
- Hawthorne is more than disheartened by the "opportunities missed" in designing L.A.'s new Expo Line stations: with their "dated, and almost useless, canopies" (and "ornamental kudzu"), the architecture "is not just weak but somehow aggressively banal" (ouch!).
- Kimmelman, on the other hand, has (mostly) good things to say about Miami's new Marlins Park: "Major League Baseball has its first unapologetic 21st-century stadium...a modern building, with genuine panache, as opposed to another pastiche" (fine art, aquariums, and a pool included).
- Q&A with Kimmelman re: what he's looking forward to covering "from what is the most visible perch in architectural criticism."
- Dvir on the up- and down-sides of the growing trend in Tel Aviv to transform former (some historic) apartment buildings into private, luxury villas (not all are pleased).
- Ezban takes us on a long journey around, over, and into Monte Testaccio, an ancient landfill (and Rome's 8th hill) to explain how it "offers two models for reclamation of landfills in the creation of resilient public spaces."
- Hume is more than dismayed by the disappearance of Toronto's tree canopy that is leaving the city streets looking "naked, exposed and just a little sunburnt" (one row was actually cut down for a movie shoot - how that's depressing).
- In Christchurch, there's an "elephant in the room no-one is talking about" as plans are drawn up for the city's reconstruction: compulsory acquisition (a.k.a. eminent domain).
- Q&A with Selldorf re: her "elegant" portfolio now expanding to include a Brooklyn recycling plant (goats might be included).
- An interesting take on how CAD "stifles" design: "Instead of educating CAD users on how to automate design, we need to create a generation of designers who use technology to create wonderful neighborhoods instead of quick subdivision plans."
- We found three great reasons to head Down Under later this month: Vivid Sydney Festival 2012 + a stellar line-up for "7 Kinds of Happiness: Conversations on Design and Emotion" series + Open House Adelaide launches.
- Two winners of the Global Award for Sustainable Architecture are doing some amazing work in Yemen and Afghanistan.
- Eye-fuls of the 2012 AIA San Francisco Design Awards winners (great presentations).
- One we couldn't resist: now you, too, can own an iconic, 1936 Giles Gilbert Scott-designed red phone box - fully-refurbished (or the ultimate gift for someone who thinks they already have everything).

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[Renzo Piano's Nasher Museum in Dallas Has Sunburn Problems: ...suffering from excessive glare shining off a new condo tower the museum's fame helped attract to the area...reflects so much light that it is threatening artworks in the galleries, burning the plants in the center's garden...No one quite knows what to do.](#) By Robin Pogrebin -- Peter Walker; Scott Johnson/Johnson Fain [images] - New York Times

[Lackluster Expo Line reflects Metro's weak grasp of design: From dated, and almost useless, canopies to the jarring stretch of brick near USC...excitement tempered pretty quickly by a sense of disappointment, of opportunities missed...The architecture of the new stations, unfortunately, is not just weak but somehow aggressively banal.](#) By Christopher Hawthorne -- Roland Genick/Parsons; Gruen Associates; Miyamoto International [images] - Los Angeles Times

[A Ballpark That May Be Louder Than the Fans: With the colorful Marlins Park in Miami, baseball has broken from the now-familiar retro style...Major League Baseball has its first unapologetic 21st-century stadium...a modern building, with genuine panache, as opposed to another pastiche...Miami has reason to cheer.](#) By Michael Kimmelman -- Populous [slide show] - New York Times

[Newsmaker: Michael Kimmelman: ...the new architecture critic of the New York Times...his plans for covering the designs of buildings, New York, and the wider world...from what is the most visible perch in architectural criticism.](#) By Cathleen McGuigan - Architectural Record

[Luxury construction hits central Tel Aviv -- again: No. 9 Bialik Street is the latest structure...to be transformed from an apartment building to a private, luxury villa...There are two sides to this trend.](#) By Noam Dvir -- Pinchas Philip Huett (1928); Gidi and Tal Bar Orian [images] - Ha'aretz (Israel)

[The Trash Heap of History: Monte Testaccio, Rome's ancient landfill...offers two models for reclamation...of landfills in the creation of resilient public spaces...an ideal model of what a landfill can become: an agent of civic engagement and an urban catalyst.](#) By Michael Ezban -- James Corner Field Operations; Peter Latz; Hargreaves Associates; Mather + DaCunha; Tom Leader Studio [images, links] - Places Journal

[Toronto tree canopy more necessary than ever: As \[it\] slowly disappears, our streets are starting to look naked, exposed and just a little sunburnt...Though Toronto professes to care about its "urban forest," it can be cavalier in its attitudes...of all the measures a city can take to improve the quality of urban life, trees are among the least expensive and most effective.](#) By Christopher Hume - Toronto Star

[Compulsory acquisition could reconfigure Christchurch CBD: ...the elephant in the room no-one is talking about as the government moves to develop a new blueprint for the city's reconstruction.](#) - Stuff (New Zealand)

[Annabelle Selldorf Designs Sky Parking, Recycling Center: ...introduced the sky-garage concept to Manhattan's Chelsea district...also known for converting a decrepit 1913 mansion into the Neue Galerie...Now the elegant Selldorf portfolio has expanded to include a recycling station in Brooklyn.](#) By Manuela Hoelterhoff -- Selldorf Architects [images] - Bloomberg News

[How CAD Stifles Solutions: There is no technology that can create a better design; we can only create better designers. Instead of educating CAD users on how to automate design, we need to create a generation of designers who use technology to create wonderful neighborhoods instead of quick subdivision plans.](#) By Rick Harrison - New Geography

[Vivid Sydney Festival 2012 line-up announced: ...the largest celebration of light, music and ideas in the Southern Hemisphere and will be held from the 25 May until the 11 June...The Australian Institute of Architects will be recognising 2012 Gold Medal winner, Lawrence Nield... \[images, link\] - Architecture & Design \(Australia\)](#)

[7 Kinds of Happiness: Conversations on Design and Emotion: Taking place in Sydney May 14-16, this series of conversations with leading design thinkers explores the relationship between emotion and design practice. -- Alice Rawsthorn, Ilse Crawford/Studioilse; Stefan Sagmeister; Rotor; WORKac; Broached Commissions; Anthony Burke; Gerard Reinmuth; TOKO - Australian Design Review](#)

[Open House Adelaide launches: Three churches, two car dealerships and a Robin Boyd house among the 48 buildings on the inaugural Open House Adelaide program launching May 19-20.](#) - Australian Design Review

[Sustainable architecture embraces rammed earth and rock formations: Yemen's unique earth dwellings get a makeover while rocks and lakes find a special place in Afghan works...winners of the LOCUS Fund's Global Award for Sustainable Architecture... -- Salma Samar Damluji; Anne Feenstra/AFIR Architects; Andreas G Gjertsen/Yashar Hanstad/TYIN](#)

[Architects \[links\]](#)- Guardian (UK)

2012 AIA San Francisco Design Awards Winners -- Mark Cavagnero Associates; Paulett Taggart Architects + Tom Eliot Fisch; Mark Horton Architecture; Ogrydziak/Prillinger Architects; AECOM; Studio Sarah Willmer; Atlassian II Offices; Leger Wanaselja Architecture; ELS Architecture; Matarozzi Pelsinger Design + Build; Haas Architecture; Aidlin Darling Design; jones | haydu; Noll & Tam Architects; Turnbull Griffin Haesloop Architects; Diller Scofidio + Renfro/EHDD Architecture; Interstice Architects [[links to images, info](#)]- AIA San Francisco

BT sells off phone boxes: ...selling 60 traditional "K6" boxes, which have been fully refurbished and resprayed in the original red and black livery, for £1,950 plus VAT and delivery...Those who miss out...will have the option to bid for full-size fibreglass K6s decorated by artists as part of the BT Art Box exhibition... -- Giles Gilbert Scott (1936) [[links](#)]- Guardian (UK)

Book Review: "Social Media in Action: Comprehensive Guide for Architecture, Engineering, Planning, and Environmental Consulting Firms" by Amanda Walter & Holly Berkley. This practical handbook is invaluable for practitioners who realize that social media is not a passing phenomenon and can play a part in their business. By George Calys - ArchNewsNow



-- Exhibition: "Massimo Scolari: The Representation of Architecture, 1967-2012"; Architecture Gallery, Yale School of Architecture, New Haven, Connecticut  
-- Zellnerplus: Matthew Marks Gallery, Los Angeles, California

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