Today’s News - Thursday, May 3, 2012

• Welton cheers (and so do we!) the three winning teams in the National Mall competition whose “designs bring a vibrant, 21st-century attitude to the Mall. They’re nothing if not ambitious, but they’re sensitive to their sites and surroundings too.”

• A stellar line-up of winners in the Cooper-Hewitt.2012 National Design Awards.

• Dvir reports that four out of 81 firms made it through the first stage of Israel’s still-contentious National Library competition.

• Helsinki rejects Guggenheim Museum plan despite the mayor’s efforts (if you speak Finnish, you can link to the memorandum, though it doesn’t provide a reason for the rejection).

• A poet wonders whether the venues built for the London Olympics will leave an artistic legacy (a fascinating read).

• Rochon takes a hard-hat tour of the UN HQ that’s never really gotten the “attention that it deserves as a masterwork of modernism;” but the good news: the “original 1950s aesthetic will thankfully be honored.”

• Bernstein tackles the growing trend of cities building or expanding their convention centers despite a shrinking market (it’s good news for architects, at least).

• KPF snags Goldman Sachs’ London HQ project.

• Meier is set to bring “his taut and planar aesthetic” to Rio - and got to visit Niemeyer, “one of his role models” (though he found Brasilia a bit “overwhelming”).

• Lange and Berg offer their takes on “Kickstarter urbanism”: the approach is “ill-suited” for the timelines for urban projects - “maybe you should go offline and to your community board meeting” vs. “there are a few effective examples” that make the approach “a real possibility.”

• Q+A with Ando: this year’s Neutra Award and the role he believes that architects should play in society.

• Raja on the “not-so-newbie” Kimmelman: his “interest in social issues and public space-making are emblematic of the contemporary trend.”

• Brussat likes his brother’s idea for an “American Idol”-style TV show (“Architecture Idol” - what else?) “to help people select better architecture for cities and towns” instead of leaving it up to “experts of the design elite.”

• A good reason to start making plans to head to Madrid in July: IE/TUG Summer School will “explore the consequences and opportunities that derive from the gross.

• Who will jumpstart ‘Architecture Idol’: ...young architects are taught to suppress their own natural aesthetic sensibilities, and
to take pride in the public’s dislike of their work. While the power of modern architecture...might enable the design elite to "capture"..."Architecture Idol" show, perhaps the power of the voters in a democracy might be able to thwart them. It's worth a try. By David Brussat [images] - Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

"Emptiness: The Potentials of Vacancy": The Technical University of Graz, Faculty of Architecture and IE School of Architecture & Design, Madrid/Segovia will conduct the IE/TUG Summer School in Madrid, July 6-13...explore the consequences and opportunities that derive from the gross overbuilding of the past decade. - IE School of Architecture (Madrid)

Have Your Dog And Eat It: 'Cake Dogs' The Latest Confectionery Trend: Cake Doggy Dog...Dog lovers can now get their sugar and cute fix all in one bite. Prices start from £300...Weird or genius - you decide...[slide show] - Huffington Post 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

-- Zellnerplus: Matthew Marks Gallery, Los Angeles, California

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