

Today's News - Thursday, May 10, 2012

EDITOR'S NOTE: Apologies for missing post yesterday, but we had an unexpected kitty emergency (sorry - but Nyx takes precedence over news, and we're glad to report that all's well in furville).

- Flint reflects on the 20th CNU conference currently underway: the "milestone raises some interesting questions about what happens when a revolutionary movement reaches middle age" and is now considered part of the establishment.
- An urban planner ponders how Occupy Wall Street is transforming the concept of privately owned public space (POPS) and changing their Rules of Conduct.
- Farrelly and Reinmuth offer very interesting (and very different) takes on Make-Space 4 Architecture's Open Conversation: MCA in Sydney: "The crowd expected blood and not a few, moi included, thought it might be mine" + "I was not alone in holding my head in my hands, unable to watch the spectacle unfolding in front of me."
- Serisier takes a pragmatic look at Sydney's Museum of Contemporary Art Mordant Wing: "Granted, the external presence is important and the style may date...but the simple fact is that a much more effective set of exhibition spaces has been created."
- Goldberger is aglow in Philadelphia's new Barnes: it is "souful, self-assured, and soaked with light" and "absolutely wonderful."
- Kennicott gives (mostly) thumbs-up to P+W's Johns Hopkins addition in Baltimore, an "an impressive building" that "strives to combine whimsy and function...driven by compassion and the bottom line."
- Zandberg cheers a new preschool and daycare center for the children of foreign workers and refugees carved out of "lost space" in Tel Aviv's central bus station (noting a touch of "cosmic irony or perhaps poetic justice").
- Nobel welcomes the transparency of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's new visitor center that mostly "remains out of sight, seemingly lost in nature" creating "high-contrast oppositions between growing and built."
- CornellNYC Tech taps Mayne for its first building on its high-tech campus on Roosevelt Island (don't expect an ivory tower - but, then, who would?).
- A new bank HQ in Oman will be "a splendid architectural landmark" blending "modernity and globalism."
- They're down to putting the finishing touches on the PyeongChang 2018 Winter Olympics facilities.
- Dvir on the continuing "demolition derby for Tel Aviv's Modernist buildings" as another "wonderfully modest and elegant" gem faces the wrecking ball.
- Brussat calls for NYC to re-build the original 1910 Penn Station (and Madison Square Garden circa 1891): they would "serve as an antidote to the disappointing hackwork at the World Trade Center site."
- Moneo (finally) wins Spain's Prince of Asturias Award for the Arts.
- A Balinese architect opens an office in Hong Kong, but his "heart still rests on the Island of the Gods."

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At the 20th Congress for the New Urbanism, a Movement Feels its Age: They used to be radicals, now they're establishment. Has it changed their approach to development? ...milestone raises some interesting questions about what happens when a revolutionary movement reaches middle age...Radical. Audacious. Heretical. Until it became gospel. By Anthony Flint -- Wendell Cox; Joel Kotkin; Andres Duany/DPZ. Duany has been enjoying picking fights with Harvard's Charles Waldheim; John Norquist; Congress International Architecture Moderne (CIAM)- The Atlantic Cities

Rules of Conduct: ...Zuccotti Park...the foundational act of Occupy Wall Street, transformed the concept of privately owned public space (POPS)...Urban planner Douglas Woodward analyzes the rules posted...to investigate some of the challenges involved in the private provision of public goods. [images]- Urban Omnibus

Bold, frank criticism can only nourish architecture: ...Make-Space 4 Architecture's...consenting-adults chat about the new MCA...revealed a widespread misunderstanding of what criticism is and does...the critic's audience-building role is more than ever crucial to a profession too adoring of its own jargon to talk to the very public on whose understanding it depends. By Elizabeth Farrelly -- Philip Cox; Sam Marshall; Vanessa Quirk; Paul Goldberger - The Age (Australia)

Critical thinking: Open Conversation: MCA...created the potential for a direct, mature discussion between intelligent adversaries with different points of view...I was not alone in holding my head in my hands...unable to watch the spectacle unfolding in front of me. So what happened? ...it will be many years yet before Sydney can be home to a lively and intelligent critical architecture culture. By Gerard Reinmuth/Terroir -- Sam Marshall; Andrew Donaldson; Elizabeth Farrelly; Philip Cox- Australian Design Review

Lines of division: The new Museum of Contemporary Art/MCA in Sydney: Much has been made of the Mordant Wing's outward appearance, the politics of architectural competition and...the ways in which we critique the work of others...Granted, the external presence is important and the style may date...but the simple fact is that a much more effective set of exhibition spaces has been created. By Gillian Serisier -- Sam Marshall [images]- Australian Design Review

The New Barnes Foundation Building: Soulful, Self-assured, and Soaked with Light: This building won't please the absolutists...But it really ought to please everybody else, because—to cut to the chase—the new Barnes is absolutely wonderful...a handsome, self-assured building that has not a whiff of the sentimental. By Paul Goldberger -- Paul Cret (1922); Tod Williams Billie Tsien architects- Vanity Fair

Johns Hopkins Hospital \$1.1 billion addition strives to combine whimsy and function: ...an impressive building, not because it's entirely beautiful, but because it is enormous and because...it contains an astonishing internal complexity...driven by compassion and the bottom line, by sensitivity to the sick and the practical need of doctors to do their work in basic, mechanical ways. By Philip Kennicott -- Perkins+Will; Robert Israel [images]- Washington Post

Making Tel Aviv's central bus station child-friendly: Against all odds...in one of the "lost spaces" of the cavernous station, an experiment in community restoration has begun: a preschool and daycare center for the children of foreign workers and refugees who live in the area. By Esther Zandberg -- Yoav Meiri [images]- Ha'aretz (Israel)

At Brooklyn Botanic Garden's Visitor Center, a Welcome Transparency: ...most of the building remains out of sight, seemingly lost in nature, embedded in a grass-and-tree-covered berm...creates high-contrast oppositions between growing and built...not a craven, apologetic attempt to deny that what was once nature is now architecture. It's a model of one way those two opposed systems can coexist. By Philip Nobel -- Weiss/Manfredi [images]- New York Times

CornellNYC Tech Chooses Its Architect: Thom Mayne/Morphosis has been selected to design the first academic building for Cornell University's high-tech graduate school campus on Roosevelt Island in New York City...Mayne will not inaugurate Cornell's new campus by designing some kind of ivory tower. By Robin Pogrebin -- Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Arup- New York Times

Bank Sohar unveils design of new premises: ...new headquarters will be housed in a splendid architectural landmark that will serve as a testament to [its] lofty ambitions...a blend of "modernity and globalism"... -- Estudio Lamela Arquitectos [images]- Oman Daily Observer

The end is in sight: Compact design for PyeongChang 2018 Winter Olympics nears completion...smoothing the way for Korea's first winter games. -- Taeyoung; SWA Group; Space Group Architects [images]- World Architecture News (UK)

Demolition derby for Tel Aviv's Modernist buildings: Another gem from the 50s, Migdal House, faces wrecking ball...wonderfully modest and elegant...faithful to the spirit of design and the somewhat formal image of office life in Israel in the 1960s - a kind of three-dimensional episode of "Mad Men" in a miniature local version. By Noam Dvir -- Yitzhak Rapoport; Elisha Rubin Architects; Nitza Szmuk; Oded Rapoport; Max Tinter (1950); Rashkis Goldman (1955); Arie Sharon (1960) [images]- Ha'aretz (Israel)

Penn Station: Enter like a god again: ...plans to extend Pennsylvania Station's platforms...into the 1912 James A. Farley Post Office, designed by McKim, Mead & White. But that would not restore the grandeur lost...A far more ambitious idea...Penn Station should then be rebuilt as Charles Follen McKim designed it...Such a project would lift New York's spirits and its economy...rebuild yesterday's Madison Square Garden...and the High Line experience will end with a bang. By David Brussat [images]- Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

Rafael Moneo wins prestigious Spanish arts prize: ...the Prince of Asturias Award for the Arts...had been nominated...on more than a dozen occasions, beat out 38 other hopefuls...including Toyo Ito...the fifth architect to receive the [award] after Britain's Norman Foster (2009), Spain's Santiago Calatrava (1999) and Francisco Javier Saenz de Oiza (1993) and Brazil's Oscar Niemeyer (1989).- Fox News Latino

An Architectural Philosophy Born of Bali: ...Yoka Sara has left his footprints all over Bali...recently opened a new office in Hong Kong...[his] heart, however, still rests on the Island of the Gods..."It's about revealing the beauty of 'honest architecture,' and not merely about physical decorative elements...It's about finding answers outside the box."- The Jakarta Globe

Imperfect Health: Probing the Porous Interface between Architecture and Health: A new book and website linked to the recent Canadian Centre for Architecture exhibition "Imperfect Health: The Medicalization of Architecture" offer a healthy tonic countering academically anemic architectural education. By Norman Weinstein- ArchNewsNow



Steven Holl Architects: Institute for Contemporary Art (ICA), Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia

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