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 presently 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 wonders how Occupy Wall Street is transforming the concept of privately owned public space (POPS) and changing their Rules of Conduct.
- Farrelly and Reimnuth 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 "soulful, 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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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 ); Arieh Sharon (1960) [images]- Haaretz (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