Today's News - Tuesday, May 29, 2012

- ArcSpace brings us a fabulous eyeball of the Barnes (whatever your opinion, definitely worth a look).
- Rosenbaum offers more "critical reverence" for the Barnes, though she's "coming to terms with the fact that mine is a minority view...like someone who attended a revival meeting but didn't see the light."
- Esplund certainly minces no words: the Barnes is a "bloated mausoleum" representing "a worst-case example of philistinism, provincialism and avarice masquerading as public service and community outreach" in "a repackaged and rebranded commodity, a soulless shell" (ouch!).
- Lewis tries to fathom why modern design can still be "a hard sell" in Washington, DC, and why "those who assert that classicism is the only appropriate design language" are wrong (including Gehry's Eisenhower Memorial).
- Berger's take on why Washington State's "most endangered" list "brings to mind the Pogo line, 'We have met the enemy and he is us.'"
- Public design charrettes are in the offing to explore what to do with Rudolph's Sarasota High School because no one wants "to see a botched job like one at Riverview High School."
- Q&A with King and Hartig re: the color, romance, and impact of the Golden Gate Bridge on its 75th anniversary (some great pix).
- King and Calys weigh in on the Golden Gate's new visitors centers: one is "flawed but workable"; the Bridge Round House is "a suave Art Deco treat," and the landscape a "fascinating work in progress."
- Half Kaplan offers up the "joys and surprises of teaching 'guerilla planning'" with a student's project that, "though not the designated class assignment," it "certainly was in the spirit of the curriculum" (even better - it wasn't "just another theoretical study").
- The plot thickens for China Mobile Beijing HQ with Leo A. Daly's competition-winning design for Phase 2.
- Beverly Willis continues her untiring efforts to set the record straight about women's contributions to architecture + BWA's "A View from the Future" forum June 5 in NYC will explore how and why "the most profitable innovation comes when women's views join men's. And that innovation is minimized when women's voices are lacking."
- Badger reports on research being done to harness the urban heat island effect "into energy cities can actually use."
- Rose offers a most amusing review of the week in architecture: "size isn't everything"; a rap star's movie pyramid in Cannes; "Design Like You Give a Damn [2]" is "the sort of stuff that gives architecture, and humanity, a good name"; and much more.
- The up- and down-sides of technologies like 3-D printing: tasks may be completed more efficiently, but "when approached by the lazy or mediocre, results can still be lacking."
- We cheer our friends and colleagues (and everyone else) who are recipients of Graham Foundation grants for a number of fascinating projects and publications.
- The Joys and Surprises of Teaching "Guerilla Planning": Though not the designated class assignment...Linda Whitney's project certainly was in the spirit of the curriculum...That this is not just another theoretical study and actually involved broad community support makes it a compelling construct. Sam Hall Kaplan -- Rhett Beavers [links to images, info].
- warning Letter Sent to Chancellor, Regents, Real Estate Agent on Disclosure to Buyers of Hannah Carter Japanese Garden:...the sale has been delayed until August. -- Nagao Sakurai - UCLA Faculty Association
- The Joys and Surprises of Teaching "Guerilla Planning": Though not the designated class assignment...Linda Whitney's project certainly was in the spirit of the curriculum...That this is not just another theoretical study and actually involved broad community support makes it a compelling construct. Sam Hall Kaplan -- Rhett Beavers [links to images, info].- PLANetizen
Plot B of China Mobile International Headquarters Campus, Beijing: Leo A Daly, in collaboration with Local Design Institute WDCE to design Phase 2, Plot B...research and development office and laboratory buildings, each a five- and nine-story facility...campus totals 148,000 square meters... [images]- ArchDaily

Why We Need 'Well-Built' Women: Beverly Willis...is seeking to set the record straight -- that female architects have contributed much more...than they have ever been given credit for...blending opportunities for the future while documenting the past... BWAF's June 5th event aptly entitled, 'A View from the Future.' By Lori Sokol -- Beverly Willis Architecture Foundation- Huffington Post

“A View from the Future”; CUNY Graduate Center, New York City, June 5-- Beverly Willis Architecture Foundation (BWAF)

Don’t Lament the Urban Heat Island Effect. Harness It: Researchers are already at work turning toasty asphalt into energy cities can actually use...By some estimates, pavement covers 25-to-45% of urban areas. That equates to a huge urban heat island effect, but also a huge potential for untapped energy. By Emily Badger [images]- The Atlantic Cities

Constructive criticism: the week in architecture: Size isn't everything ... Norman Foster has the biggest practice in Britain, but is he as powerful as David Chipperfield? And in Cannes, Kanye West premieres a short film in a big pyramid... "Design Like You Give a Damn [2]"...the sort of stuff that gives architecture, and humanity, a good name. By Steve Rose -- Foster + Partners; Shohei Shigematsu/OMA; White; Sprunt; Thomas Heatherwick; Architecture for Humanity [images, links]- Guardian (UK)

Is 3D Printing Taking the Artistry out of Architecture? ...technology is a tool...tasks presented to us are simpler and can be completed more efficiently. This brings with it the downside that when approached by the lazy or mediocre, results can still be achieved even if they are not particularly groundbreaking. - DesignBuild Source (Australia)

Graham Foundation awards over $400,000 in grants to 55 individuals: ...a diverse national and international community of architects, scholars, writers, artists, designers, curators, and others.... -- Barnabas Calder; Neil M. Denari; Joseph Giovannini; Jeffrey Inaba; Peter L. Laurence; Karen McCloskey/PEG; Michael Maltzan/Jessica Varner; Justin McGuirk; Nina Rappaport/Erin Stoller; Beth Stryker; June Williamson; Andrew Witt; etc. [links to images, info]- Graham Foundation (Chicago)

Call for entries: Contract's Healthcare Environment Awards Competition 2012: Recognizing innovative designs that enhance the quality of healthcare delivery; deadline: July 2- Contract / The Center for Health Design / Vendome Group

The Psychedelic Deconstruction of an Ordinary New York City Street: Cyriak Harris, an animator known for his disturbing, Escheresque animations, brings his signature style to this music video for Eskmo’s "We Got More."- The Atlantic Cities