

Today's News - Thursday, June 14, 2012

- McGuigan ponders whether the soaring costs of the 2012 Olympics will be justified: "Tune in a decade from now to see how that brand of city making has begun to take hold."
- Lubell bemoans LA County's transit agency bureaucracy that may seem to be in favor of "vision plans," but "is organized to promote engineering and the bottom line over design at every turn" (consider plans to demolish the A+D Museum for a transit station "that could easily go elsewhere," but the Peterson Automotive Museum will stay: "Need I say more?").
- Meanwhile, his sources say Grimshaw and Gruen have won the commission to master plan the L.A. Union Station commission "(our leak is unconfirmed)."
- Belz adds his voice to the clamor over Gehry's Eisenhower Memorial: "A happy resolution would allow" his design "to be admired and enjoyed as one of many curious and far-fetched visions never executed" (that's the kind part).
- Rose meets up with Piano on the eighth floor of his "great glass elevator" (a.k.a. the Shard); his response to critics: "You do not get hostility because you are wrong, but because people have a fear of change."
- Reddy wishes Roche Happy Birthday - it's the master's 90th (and he's still hard at work - just not on Saturdays anymore).
- Altabe on the return of McMansions: the irony is "they're cropping up now because they're cheap."
- Two new "elegant waterfront firehouses" in NYC "communicate, architecturally and urbanistically, the specific function of these iconic buildings" (great pix).
- McGrew offers up the "hidden" (and totally fascinating) history of Neutra's Kaufmann House (fab photos!).
- Sokol reports on NTHP's list of America's 11 Most Endangered Sites: "The diverse list reflects the many kinds of threats that preservationists face" (there are some hopeful - and happy - endings).
- The 2012 MASTerworks Winners are led by New York by Gehry.
- Wanted: a Public Interest Design Director for the University of Minnesota College of Design.
- Call for entries: Bloomberg Philanthropies launches the "Mayors Challenge" for "breakthrough solutions" to urban problems + Spark:Concept Awards 2012 (student and professional) + AIAS/Kawneer Student Design Competition: Enlightening Libraries.
- EDITOR'S NOTE: our heartfelt thanks to AIANY for bestowing a Special Citation on ArchNewsNow at the Chapter's 145th Annual Meeting last night - we are truly honored to be among such amazing company!

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[Lessons from London: How the 2012 Olympics became the "alibi" for reclaiming a derelict swath of the city...was originally sold to the British public as the "austerity Olympics," but the costs have soared...Will the expense, in the long run, be justified?...Tune in a decade from now to see how that brand of city making has begun to take hold.](#) By Cathleen McGuigan- Architectural Record

[Editorial> Transit Travesty: Sam Lubell calls for higher design standards from LA County's transit agency...here's a very bad sign: with its upcoming Purple Line extension...planning to demolish the current Architecture and Design Museum...along with several other galleries and art spaces, for a station that could easily go elsewhere. Next door, the Peterson Automotive Museum will not be touched. Need I say more?- The Architect's Newspaper](#)

[Grimshaw and Gruen Take Union Station: Our sources divulge that \[they\] have won the commission to master plan the six million square feet of entitlements at Union Station in Los Angeles...\(our leak is unconfirmed\)... By Sam Lubell- The Architect's Newspaper](#)

[An insult to Ike: Proposed monument falls short of both what he represents and the very purpose of memorialization: The attempt to justify Frank Gehry's outlandish design...is to misunderstand the mind of both architect and subject...A happy resolution would allow Gehry's Eisenhower Memorial to be admired and enjoyed as one of many curious and far-fetched visions never executed.](#) By Herman Belz - Baltimore Sun

[Renzo Piano's great glass elevator: It has transformed the London skyline, but the giant Shard faced hostility all the way...Piano meets Steve Rose on the eighth floor - and answers his critics..."Architecture should not rely on full harmony. If everyone is agreeing, then you make a big mistake...You do not get hostility because you are wrong, but because people have a fear of change."](#) - Guardian (UK)

[A life at the top floor of architecture: Kevin Roche, the Irish-born, Pritzker prize-winning architect, celebrates his 90th birthday today..."He only stopped coming in on Saturdays last January"... By Tony Reddy/Reddy Architecture+Urbanism -- Eero Saarinen; Kevin Roche John Dinkeloo & Associates - Irish Times](#)

[Domestic architecture in the economic downturn: ...McMansions...ran riot on undersized lots during the housing boom until it went bust. Well, they're baaaack! The irony here is that while America's mansions in the 19th and early 20th centuries were built with significant money, they're cropping up now because they're cheap.](#) By Joan Altabe- Examiner

[Fighting Fire on the Water: Two new elegant waterfront firehouses prompt a closer look at the NYC Fire Department's Marine Operations unit, its unique architectural needs, cultural significance and essential function...communicates, architecturally and urbanistically, the specific function of these iconic buildings. -- CR Studio; Sage and Coombe Architects \[images\]- Urban Omnibus](#)

[The Hidden History of the Kaufmann House.](#) By Patrick McGrew -- Richard Neutra (1946); Frank Lloyd Wright; Julius Shulman; Beth Edwards Harris; Marmol Radziner Architecture [images, links]- KCET.org (California)

[National Trust for Historic Preservation Announces America's 11 Most Endangered Sites: This year marks the 25th anniversary for the organization's list...The diverse list reflects the many kinds of threats that preservationists face.](#) By David Sokol [slide show]- Architect Magazine

[MAS Announces 2012 MASTerworks Winners: New York by Gehry at 8 Spruce Street..."Best New Building," while "Best Restoration" goes to New York City Center. -- Frank Gehry; Ennead Architects; Cooper, Robertson & Partners; 1100 Architec/Skolnick Architecture + Design Partnership; Gruzen Samton; Ateliers Jean Nouvel- Municipal Art Society of New York](#)

[University of Minnesota College of Design Launches Search for Public Interest Design Director: "We see this as part of the emergence of a public-health version of the design fields," says Tom Fisher, Dean of the College of Design and pioneer in the public-interest design field. Priority consideration given to applications received by July 9, 2012.](#) - University of Minnesota

[Bloomberg Philanthropies Offers \\$5 Million Prize for City Innovation: The "Mayors Challenge" will award "breakthrough solutions" to urban problems...will award a \\$5 million grand prize and four \\$1 million secondary prizes...Any city with a population of 30,000 or more...is eligible; registration deadline: July 16; application deadline: September 14- The Atlantic Cities](#)

[Call for entries: Spark:Concept Awards 2012; deadline: July 15 & September 17 \(students/recent grads\); September 17 \(professionals\)- Spark](#)

Call for entries: Enlightening Libraries: Student Design Competition: rework a dated public library so it is an effectively urbanized, collaborative community space appealing to all generations and integrating the most recent technologies; cash prizes; registration deadline: October 14- American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS) / Kawneer

AIA New York Chapter 145th Annual Meeting honors those who contribute to the built environment of New York. - AIA New York



-- Herzog & de Meuron: Museum der Kulturen, Basel, Switzerland
-- Snøhetta: Wolfe Center for the Arts, Bowling Green, Ohio

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