

Today's News - Friday, June 29, 2012

EDITOR'S NOTE: After this week of struggling with technology (and heat), and with the 4th of July holiday landing on Wednesday, we are taking a break. The daily newsletter will return when we're back at home base on Monday, July 9.

- Gendall takes a look at how Leers Weinzapfel Associates addresses the interconnectivity of 21st-century campus environs and student experience.
- Hume x 2: cheers for Toronto's new Centre for Addiction and Mental Health: "Though understated, the buildings are elegant, even sophisticated," and "turned out to be a community-building exercise."
- But he continues to bemoan the city's short-sightedness when it comes to transit: it "will have nasty consequences for the whole community, not just passengers."
- Hall Kaplan is all but starry-eyed about the High Line: even though it is "one of the most successful planning and design stories in New York City...I am skeptical of its heralded success," especially in light of it "being viewed by the community as a mixed blessing."
- Litt outlines lessons to be learned from a study on cultural overbuilding: it "has the flavor of a morning-after reality check."
- The first piece of Singapore's plans to be the "botanical capital of the world" is pretty impressive, with two more gigantic garden parks in the works (great pix).
- RIBA takes umbrage with a design competition (and trend) that exploits architects.
- Baillieu minces no words about who is at fault: a "new breed of client adviser" to local authorities "is spreading the word that architects are sitting ducks: they'll work for free...better still - they rarely complain."
- Rose reviews the week: the new cross-Thames cable car "is a pleasure ride more than a piece of transport," the Barking Bath House, 4WTC, and Via Verde - "the type of sustainable, affordable and low-income housing project British cities are perpetually crying out for. Even more galling, it's the work of British architects."
- Wainwright to replace Glancey as the Guardian's new Architecture and Design Critic (our heartiest congrats!).
- A good reason to be in NYC in a couple of weeks: ONE Lab: Future Cities Summer 2012: Socio-Ecological Exploration of the Next Metropolis (an impressive line-up!).
- Weekend diversions:
- Parman parses "The Utopian Impulse: Buckminster Fuller and the Bay Area" at SFMOMA: it "raises timely and important questions about the regional legacy of this 'anticipatory design scientist.'"
- "2012 New Practices New York" at NYC's Center for Architecture puts the spotlight on the seven winning firms in the NPNY competition.
- Chan reports on high hopes for new opera about Louis Kahn's turbulent life (and melodies that "attempt to mimic the brickwork of his buildings") to be performed in two of his buildings.
- Loukissas's "Co-Designers: Cultures of Computer Simulation in Architecture" looks at the "ongoing negotiation about what constitutes the work of architects versus that of engineers."
- The collection of essays in "Ruins" explores "decay aesthetics in a constantly evolving succession of ontological contexts."

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[Campus Collective: Leers Weinzapfel Associates Rethinks Higher Education Design: Addressing the interconnectivity of campus environs and student experience.](#) By John Gendall - ArchNewsNow

[New CAMH campus a sign of civic and mental health: The most outstanding thing...is that nothing stands out...Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, says volumes about the maturity of a city that until fairly recently preferred to hide places such as this...Though understated, the buildings are elegant, even sophisticated...an excellent model for modern cities where mid-rise and mixed-use are the order of the day.](#) By Christopher Hume -- Montgomery Sisam; Kearns Mancini; KPMB - Toronto Star

[Transit is the key as cities now grow faster than suburbs: How appropriate then that Toronto should launch yet another transit debate...Toronto's transit failure will have nasty consequences for the whole community, not just passengers.](#) By Christopher Hume - Toronto Star

[From On High, Chelsea Looks Much Different. But, is it for the Better? The High Line...has to be one of the most successful planning and design stories in New York City in recent years...I am skeptical of its heralded success...Though a laudable public amenity for having inflated adjacent real estate values...\[it\] increasingly is being viewed by the community as a mixed blessing.](#) By Sam Hall Kaplan - PLANetizen

[University of Chicago study on cultural overbuilding has relevance for Cleveland: "Set in Stone" has the flavor of a morning-after reality check...800 institutions...\\$16 billion on construction projects...80% came in over budget, some by as much as 200%.](#) By Steven Litt - Cleveland Plain Dealer

[With Gardens by the Bay, Singapore Aims to Become the "Botanical Capital of the World": ...\\$545 million, 54-hectare project...just the first piece of a much bigger project \(two more gigantic garden parks are coming\).](#) -- Grant Associates; Wilkinson Eyre [images] - The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

[RIBA complains to prime minister over procurement: Witney Corn Exchange design competition sparks outcry as Ian Ritchie resigns over conditions...exploiting architects.](#) - BD/Building Design (UK)

[Project managers are helping to block procurement reform: It's time to take a stand against local authorities' expectations that architects will work for free...new breed of client adviser that is spreading the word that architects are sitting ducks: they'll work for free...better still - they rarely complain.](#) By Amanda Baillieu - BD/Building Design (UK)

[Constructive criticism: the week in architecture: The cross-Thames cable car is a pleasure ride more than a piece of transport, Barking Bath House brings things back down to Earth, and 4 World Trade Center finally tops out...Via Verde the type of substantial, sustainable, affordable and low-income housing project British cities are perpetually crying out for. Even more galling, it's the work of British architects.](#) By Steve Rose -- Wilkinson Eyre; Something & Son; Grimshaw/Dattner Architects; Fumihiko Maki; Santiago Calatrava; Alvaro Siza [images, links] - Guardian (UK)

[Guardian appoints new Architecture and Design Critic: Oliver Wainwright will join the Guardian in October, and will replace Jonathan Glancey, who left in February.](#) - Guardian (UK)

[ONE Lab: Future Cities Summer 2012: Socio-Ecological Exploration of the Next Metropolis, July 9 - August 3, New York City: Discover your ideas for the future metropolis with nine TED Fellows and nearly 40 internationally recognized scientists, researchers, designers, and artists.](#) - Terreform ONE

[Bucky by the Bay: "The Utopian Impulse: Buckminster Fuller and the Bay Area" at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art \(SFMOMA\): ...raises timely and important questions about the regional legacy of this "anticipatory design scientist."](#) By John Parman [images] - The Architect's Newspaper

["2012 New Practices New York" Exhibition and Lecture Series Gets Underway: NPNY competition was open to multidisciplinary firms undergoing the process of licensing. This year's brought seven firms to the winner's circle...at Center for Architecture, NYC -- AIANY; ABRUZZO BODZIAK ARCHITECTS; Christian Wassmann; formlessfinder; HOLLER architecture; The Living; MARC FORNES & THEVERYMANY; SLO Architecture \[images, links\]](#) - The Architect's Newspaper

An Architect's Aria: Louis Kahn's Turbulent Life Becomes an Experimental Opera: "ARCHITECT: A Chamber Opera" by Jenny Kallick and Lewis Spratlan...stages a complex and thorough contemplation of his life and work...melodies attempt to mimic the brickwork of his buildings...fundraising and planning has begun for live performances in two Kahn buildings. By Kelly Chan - Artinfo

Bits of Buildings: How Is Computing Changing the Architect's Job? As Yanni Loukissas points out in "Co-Designers: Cultures of Computer Simulation in Architecture"..."Certain new technologies have become part of an ongoing negotiation about what constitutes the work of architects versus that of engineers"...new design technologies placing the profession of architecture under new pressures. - Product Design & Development

Falling Slowly: A collection of 40 essays [edited by Brian Dillon] addresses the significance of "Ruins" on contemporary culture...explores decay aesthetics in a constantly evolving succession of ontological contexts. By T.A. Horton - The Architect's Newspaper

Albert Barnes Offers Critical Response to Placement of New "Barnes": He agrees to talk with fellow Central High School of Philadelphia alum after 61 years of silence, but only on the condition that his remarks remain unedited. This transcript respects his requirement. By Norman Weinstein - ArchNewsNow



BIG/Bjarke Ingels Group + FREAKS freearchitects: The MÉCA, Bordeaux, France

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