Today's News - Friday, July 13, 2012

- Pearman parses the Shard: visually, he likes it on the skyline, and it's "a start for Britain when it comes to making tall buildings which can multi-task a little" - but it "doesn't have nearly enough ordinary stuff in it."
- Altabe finds it "hard to understand Londoners' outrage over their newest skyscraper" - sure the Shard "can be viewed as an arrogant symbol of power. But there's nothing new about such symbols."
- Badger offers a most interesting take on the American shopping mall as it turns 60: Gruen "came to rue his creations. But now they are dying off anyway."
- Lewis laments that as urban vitality grows, housing affordability will shrink: can innovative engineering and architectural design help? "Regrettably, increases in land, labor and material costs persistently outstrip savings attributable to design."
- Kennicott cheers Adjaye's two D.C. branch libraries that "express well-channeled exuberance, a playfulness that is never merely arbitrary, and a deep sense of respect for what the building should do and for whom it does that work. Quality needs no gimmicks."
- An architect raises questions re: the Sydney Opera House revamp: "What is more important, the look or the function of architectural icons?"
- Hawthorne hails the "markedly" changed Los Angeles County Museum of Art campus: it's not the buildings, but "art, piece by gigantic piece. In an age of rather mindless museum expansion, there is something refreshing about LACMA's approach."
- Philfy's Rodin Museum reopens today "as something both familiar and utterly startling."
- Q&A with Jonsdottir (a "fierce female architect") re: the intersection between architecture and art, projects from L.A. to Beirut, and the challenges of being a female architect.
- NEA hands out Our Town Grants to support creative placemaking in 80 communities across the country.
- Weekend diversions:
  - Goldberger on the "practical, poetic" Heatherwick show at the V&A: "he may be the most original designer working today" (great slideshow).
  - Kamin is taken by "a small but thoughtful and altogether delightful" FLW show in Chicago.
  - Calatrava's "sprawling retrospective" at the Hermitage "seems to be as much about his ego as his art."
  - HWKN's "spiny blue beauty" at MoMA/PS1 is "eye catching, a little ridiculous, and already looks fun to hang out with."
  - An amusing stroll through the NBM's mini-golf course "designed by some devilish masterminds": "So how hard could a mini-golf course designed by architects, landscape architects, and building contractors actually be? Turns out kind of hard" (fun and stress included).
- Rogers Marvel Architects' monograph: "few have changed NYC so physically as RMA and Robert Moses, but comparing their practices shows the strides made towards humanistic design over 80 years."
- Hustwit's "Urbanized" introduces a "multitude of individuals who create our beguiling, often exotic, metropolises - architects don't always fair well."
- Gorsjt's "Modern Tide: Midcentury Architecture on Long Island" documents a fast-disappearing architectural legacy in this age of mega-mansions.
- Happy Friday the 13th!
Paul Goldberger on the Practical, Poetic Thomas Heatherwick Exhibition at the Victoria & Albert Museum: **"Heatherwick Studio: Designing the Extraordinary":** He may be the most original designer working today, and he is certainly the one who has done the most to erase the boundaries that divide...the realms of architecture, furniture, public space, and vehicle design. [slideshow]- Vanity Fair

How Frank Lloyd Wright resolved his inner struggles; a small but thoughtful and altogether delightful exhibition details architect's early vital years in Chicago: "Wright's Roots" argues (mostly persuasively) that these years produced seeds which would later flower into greatness. By Blair Kamin -- Tim Samuelsion; John Vinci [images]- Chicago Tribune

Santiago Calatrava Takes the Hermitage Museum's Winter Palace With His Sprawling Retrospective: It's an expansive show, both in scope and size, that seems to be as much about his ego as his art..."Quest for Movement"...choices show the evolution of his sculptural work as it transformed from from cubist shapes to more organic forms... [slide show]- Artinfo

Partying with Wendy: HWKN's spiny blue beauty is a return to form for MoMA P.S.1's Young Architects Program: Part architectural experiment and part well-branded cartoon character, the giant blue sea urchin...will skim pollutants out of the air...eye catching, a little ridiculous, and already looks fun to hang out with... [images]- Architectural Record

National Building Museum’s Mini-Golf Course: So how hard could a mini-golf course designed by architects, landscape architects, and building contractors actually be? Turns out kind of hard. All 12 holes...offer unique challenges... -- OLIN; Studios Architecture; Landscape Architecture Bureau; SOM; E/L Studio; Grizform Design Architects; Wiencek + Associates Architects; Hargrove [images]- The D1t/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Marvelous Interventions: Rogers Marvel Architects' monograph records the influence they've had on New York City's built environment...few have changed the city so physically as RMA and Robert Moses, but comparing their practices shows the strides made towards humanistic design over 80 years. [images]- Metropolis Magazine

Greater than the slum of its parts: By 2050, three-quarters of the world's population will live in cities."Urbanized" asks how on earth we will manage...introduces us to the multitude of individuals who create our beguiling, often exotic, metropolises...architects don't always fair well...the activists Gary Hustwit follows fight their own battles for a better, more liveable city. -- Rem Koolhaas; Norman Foster; Amandna Burden; Jane Jacobs - Brisbane Times (Australia)

Video: "Modern Tide: Midcentury Architecture on Long Island": Now, with the advent of the mega-mansion...it is becoming increasingly difficult to preserve such iconic and progressive architectural projects...Jake Gorst seeks to highlight some of the region's best work..."Sadly, much of it has disappeared because of redevelopment and natural disaster." -- Paul Goldberger; Albert Frey; Wallace Harrison; Frank Lloyd Wright; Marcel Breuer; Philip Johnson; Charles Gwathmey; Barbara and Julian Neski- ArchDaily


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