Today's News - Tuesday, July 17, 2012

• A look at whether the U.K.'s decade of gallery building boom is paying off - it seems to depend on who you ask ("These are well intentioned initiatives but they're sometimes rather naive").

• Meanwhile, the West Kowloon Cultural District in Hong Kong names an impressive shortlist to design its first arts venue.

• Goldberger weighs in on Gehry's Eisenhower Memorial and some of the underlying problems surrounding the controversy: "How do you design a memorial to effectiveness?"

• Riechers offers a fascinating look at the history - and future - of NYC's Roosevelt Island (we'll reserve opinion re: Kahn's rather stark, barren-look FDR Memorial until we see it in person).

• de Monchaux cheers SHoP's works-in-progress on Manhattan's East River: "There's a constellation of humane details...negotiating between the human and urban scale."

• Badger offers an amusing reminder of what "a former urban planner and mad-scientist/illustrator" envisions for gas stations "when hardly anyone uses gas."

• NYC is about to launch what could be the largest bike share program in the country, but will it work? "NYC has the potential to be the biking capital of the world" (on the other hand...).

• The Kuala Lumpur Design Forum offered multiple takes on the creative process: "Put three architects in a room, and you'll get five opinions."

• Eyefuls of Arch Record's (refreshingly, not totally starchitect-studded) 2012 China Awards (great presentations!).

• Davies hands out scant sympathy to architecture critics and professional journals, but what disappoints him most are the "institutions that do have a remit to evaluate the quality of buildings - our architectural schools," which "have given very little attention to this task."

• A terrific look at the challenges faced by communities dealing with thousands of now-closed gas stations: in some cases, "former neighborhood blight" is being transformed into new downtown buildings - but "it is not always easy to persuade developers."

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all of it" -- Malaysian Institute of Architects/Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia (PAM); Tony Liew Voon Fun; Ryuji Nakamura; Takenouchi Webb; Lim In Chong/Inchscape-- New Straits Times (Malaysia)

Good Design Is Good Business China Awards 2012 -- Neri&Hu Design and Research Office; Rocco Design Architects; WOHA/Institute of Architectural Design & Research Taiyuan University of Technology; Urbanus Architecture and Design; Vector Architects; Aedas Limited; One Plus Partnership; Gensler; Moore Ruble Yudell; AECOM; Johnson Fain; TAO (Trace Architecture Office); Zaha Hadid [slide shows]-- Architectural Record

Deadline reminder: Call for entries/Call for presentations: 2013 Environments for Aging Conference, April 7-10, 2013, New Orleans; deadline: August 10, 2012-- The Center for Health Design

Call for entries: 2012 Design Vanguard competition; deadline: August 10-- Architectural Record

Call for entries: USITT 2013 Architecture Awards for excellence in the design of theatre projects (international); deadline: September 1, 2012-- United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT)

A Very Cool Birthday: Given the searing heat in NYC and other locales this week...July 17 marks the 110th anniversary of the invention of modern air conditioning. Hooray! ...If you’re lounging comfortably in a mechanically cooled room, be sure to raise a glass...to the inventor Willis Carrier.-- Architectural Record

-- Park Associati: The Cube, London, UK...a nomadic, stateless and cosmopolitan piece of architecture, a pavilion designed to host a small, temporary restaurant.

-- Gabriela Gomes: Shelter ByGG, Guimarães, Portugal...a mobile, sustainable and itinerant sculpture installed in a public space.