
Today's News - Thursday, July 19, 2012

- We mark the 25th anniversary of the Rudy Bruner Award for Urban Excellence with a Q&A with Lubenau, the program's new director, who reflects on the award's past and looks to its future.
- West Coast architects let it all hang out in a discussion about working in China: "There were many moments when the shared 'wince' emerged as a collective groan or sigh."
- Russell ruminates on post-Olympic planning: "London hasn't built a showy assortment of stadiums and arenas. It has created 'a piece of city,' but "for all the cash, success is hardly assured" (the world will be watching).
- Gade offers a most interesting history of the urban forms of Olympics Athletes' Villages, from derelict ruins in Berlin to suburban townhomes in Sydney to public housing in Athens (the good, the bad, and the disappeared).
- Kubey revisits Marcus Garvey Park Village in Brooklyn, and finds "a revealing example of the design philosophies and policy priorities behind low-rise, high-density housing."
- Kimmelman can't say enough about what's happening to the once-forsaken stretch of the Bronx River that is becoming a "river of hope" in the South Bronx "with some notable, even miraculous, successes"; it is "perhaps the most unsung patch of heaven in New York City."
- Landscape architect Steinitz brings lessons from Valencia to Israel re: how the country can preserve its cultural landscapes that are being erased by rapid development.
- Gill is almost giddy about Melbourne's Hamer Hall makeover: "something miraculous has happened" (indeed!).
- Hume hails Toronto's 1916 First Church of Christ, Scientist: it is "one of those quietly magnificent if enigmatic buildings that add enormous richness to a city."
- A new U.K. survey shows "shocking results": "people don't know what architects do. Is it a bad thing that 15% don't know that architects design buildings, or a good thing that 85% do?"
- Bernstein offers a sneak-peek at what will be on view at the U.S. pavilion in Venice: "Spontaneous Interventions" will star 124 architect-initiated projects that document design for public spaces (and "in most cases lack clients or budgets").
- NYC's Model to Monument initiative brings sculptures by promising young artists to one of Manhattan's lesser-known public spaces.
- The WAF 2012 shortlist is a longggg one (301 schemes, to be precise).

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[The Rudy Bruner Award for Urban Excellence Marks 25 Years: New Director Anne-Marie Lubenau, AIA, reflects on the past, looks to the future.](#) - ArchNewsNow

[The China Construct: West Coast architects talk about translating expectations into reality...the promise of success can come with a price..."There is that knowing wince when you mention China"...Learn Mandarin"...](#) By Guy Horton -- Steven Holl.; OMA; Ma Yansong/MAD; Neil Denari; Alvin Huang/Synthesis Design + Architecture; William H. Fain, Jr./Johnson Fain; Craig Hartman/SOM; Michael Tunkey/Cannon Design; Mehrdad Yazdani; Jerde Partnership [images] - The Architect's Newspaper

[Olympics \\$14 Billion Turns Junkyard Into Meadow, Studios: London hasn't built a showy assortment of stadiums and arenas. It has created "a piece of city"...to unleash a wave of growth in largely poor, isolated east London neighborhoods..."For all the cash, success is hardly assured..."Many will be watching.](#) By James S. Russell -- Richard Burdett; Jan Gehl; Hargreaves Associates; Anish Kapoor [slide show] - Bloomberg News

[Olympic Urbanism: The Athletes' Village: Not until the 1952 Olympics in Helsinki did host cities begin to plan and develop permanent structures...A turning point...came in 1992 in Barcelona. The city's strategy of using the games to catalyze urban development projects..."](#) By Anisha Gade -- Luigi Moretti (1960); Kenzo Tange (1964); Kyu Sung Woo Architects (1988); Takis Gavrillis & Partners (2004) [slide show] - Places Journal

[Low-Rise, High-Density Housing: A Contemporary View of Marcus Garvey Park Village: ...in Brownsville, Brooklyn, a revealing example of the design philosophies and policy priorities behind low-rise, high-density housing...40 years after its completion, the faith in architecture's ability to redress social challenges, so evident in projects like \[it\], has waned.](#) By Karen Kubey -- Kenneth Frampton; Institute for Architecture and Urban Studies (IAUS); Peter Eisenman; Urban Development Corporation (UDC); Museum of Modern Art (MoMA); Arthur Drexler [images, links] - Urban Omnibus

[River of Hope in the Bronx: The yearslong process of cleaning up the Bronx River and the land along its banks continues, with some notable, even miraculous, successes...perhaps the most unsung patch of heaven in New York City.](#) By Michael Kimmelman -- Kiss & Cathcart; Sustainable South Bronx; Partnership for Parks; Jonathan Kirschenfeld; Morgan Powell; Donna Walcavage; Jim Mituzas; Signe Nielsen/Mathews Nielsen [slide show] - New York Times

[A lesson from Valencia: Rapid development is gradually erasing Israel's familiar landscapes. Landscape architect Carl Steinitz recommends learning about preservation from Spain's Valencia province.](#) - Ha'aretz (Israel)

[It's showtime at Hamer Hall: With its Hollywood interiors and showpiece auditorium...was the jewel in Melbourne's cultural crown when it opened three decades ago...reclaims its glory with a slick design that embraces the river...and, best of all, a much-needed acoustic overhaul...something miraculous has happened.](#) By Raymond Gill -- Roy Grounds; John Truscott (1982); Ashton Raggatt McDougall [slide show, video] - The Age (Australia)

[First Church of Christ, Scientist worth a second glance: ...whatever else it may be, \[it\] is one of the great mysteries of Toronto architecture...one of those quietly magnificent if enigmatic buildings that add enormous richness to a city...an architectural style that seems more rational than mystical.](#) By Christopher Hume -- Solon S. Beman (1916) [image, video] - Toronto Star

[It's true: people don't know what architects do...according to shocking results of a new survey: Is it a bad thing that 15% don't know that architects design buildings, or a good thing that 85% do? ..."architects do quite a good job of remaining invisible."](#) - The Architects' Journal (UK)

[Projects for the People: The U.S. pavilion at this year's Venice Biennale will document design for public spaces...124 architect-initiated projects that in most cases lack clients or budgets...Grouped under the headline Spontaneous Interventions...few of them are buildings, and some are apps and websites.](#) By Fred A. Bernstein -- Cathy Lang Ho; Institute for Urban Design; Michael Sorkin; Freecell; Interboro Partners; WORKac; Architecture for Humanity; Envelope a+d; Better Block [slide show] - Architectural Record

The Public Challenge: Model to Monument, a joint effort by New York City and the Art Students League of New York, brings sculptures by promising young artists to one of Manhattan's lesser-known public spaces...Riverside Park South...- Wall Street Journal

World Architecture Festival 2012 shortlists revealed: Judges name 301 international schemes that 'rethink and re-use' in the running... -- PES-Architects; Coop Himmelb(l)au; Koko Architecture; BVN Architecture; Diametro Arquitectos; Mackow Pracownia Projektowa; Mental Design Works [slide show, links]- The Architects' Journal (UK)



-- 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.

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