Today's News - Thursday, July 26, 2012

- Games, games - and then some: Woodman wonders if London construction will “fizzle out like the Olympic flame” - and actually comes to some optimistic conclusions.
- Buchanan boils down the “very different design strategies” between Hadid’s Aquatics Centre and Hopkins’ Velodrome that “raise questions pertinent to these confusing times about relevant approaches to design and architectural quality.”
- Maynard looks back at Montreal’s 1976 Olympics “boondoggle” and ponders whether its legacy can “finally right itself.”
- Schindler and Spertus offer an in-depth look at two very different (and very large) Bronx housing projects and “consider how their histories can inform future innovation in affordable housing” (a fascinating read).
- de Monchaux pays tribute to Kallman and others: “for a brief, brilliant moment, the reigning style, particularly for civic buildings, was something called Brutalism...What did they know, and aspire to, that we don’t?”
- Hume revisits KPMB’s Gardiner Museum of Ceramic Art in Toronto: it is “one of those rare projects that remind us that buildings can be small and sophisticated but still loom large.”
- Hawthorne has high praise for Downtown L.A.’s newest park that “makes exuberant use of a tough spot” (and oh those yummy magenta benches!).
- Berger gives thumbs-up to Steinbrueck’s bold idea for redeveloping Seattle’s central waterfront: it “looks a bit like the Sydney Opera house or a flapping manta ray” (that might even “glow in the dark like a bioluminescent sea creature”).
- Meanwhile, a Paris-based team snags first prize in the Seattle Urban Intervention competition.
- Dvir reports on a star architect–studded letter to Chicago’s mayor calling for Goldberg's Prentice Women's Hospital to be saved: “A building this significant - this unique in the world - should be preserved and reused.”
- He cheers Target’s takeover of Sullivan’s Carson Pirie Scott store: it “strikes the right balance between preserving the aesthetic integrity of one of the nation’s great works of architecture and projecting the visual brand of one of the nation's biggest retailers.”
- Brussat’s heart is filled with joy at the prospect of Collegiate Gothic design returning to Providence College: it “represents a sort of homecoming.”
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A bold idea to transform the ferry terminal: Peter Steinbrueck has something different in mind for redeveloping Seattle's central waterfront. Could his Sea Center idea for the ferry terminal float? ...looks a bit like the Sydney Opera house or a flapping manta ray...would be a signature structure...But importantly, it would serve the practical purpose of moving people around this complex, water-bound metropolitan area... By Knute Berger [image]- Crosscut (Seattle)

Public Awakening: Winners of Seattle Urban Intervention competition announced: winning project, In-Closure, by Paris-based ABF-lab...emphasized the notion of protecting and preserving the landscape through a flexible and adaptable human-scaled approach. [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Plan for new Bezalel Academy of Art and Design building in downtown Jerusalem unveiled: ...envisions a building of about 40,000 square meters...to encourage students to meet in a common space. By Noam Dvir -- Kazuyo Sejima/Ryue Nishizawa/SANAA- Ha`aretz (Israel)

Delfina Foundation Announces Expansion Architects: London-based Studio Octopi and Cairo-based Shahira Fahmy Architects are the winning duo of an architecture competition...will make it the largest international artist residency provider in London when it re-opens in autumn 2013. [image]- ArtLyst (UK)

Catalytic Competition: Finalists named for pavilion at old D.C. St. Elizabeths Hospital site: ...meant to accommodate food stalls, food trucks, a farmers market, and other community uses... -- ISTUDIO Architects/MCN Build; Ayers Saint Gross/Donohoe Construction; /Davis Brody Bond/HADCONE- The Architect's Newspaper

Famous Israeli Writer Commissions 4-foot Wide Parasitic House: Etgar Keret commissioned Jakub Szczesny from Centrala to build a tiny house between the crack of two buildings in Poland. [images]- Green Prophet (Middle East)

8 Truly Embarrassing City Souvenirs: it's really the afterthought that counts...The Eiffel Cower, San Francisco Canned Fog, Czech Out Prague, etc. [images, links]- The Atlantic Cities

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

Urbanus: Nanshan Marriage Registration Center, Shenzhen, China: a new architectural idea that gives an experience for life and a permanent memory of the journey of marriage to new couples.