

Today's News - Wednesday, August 15, 2012

- ArcSpace brings us Plant's winery planted into a hill in Hungary.
- Merkel offers and eloquent tribute to Henry Stolzman: "his generosity was extraordinary" (we couldn't agree more, and are truly, truly sad).
- Berg looks at Abu Dhabi's efforts to save its "disappearing past...When old isn't that old, should the past be preserved?" (w/link to another "fascinating" article by John Henzell - both must-reads!).
- Goldberger weighs in on the fight to save Chicago's Prentice Women's Hospital: "it's possible to preserve it for a new use - it just takes some imagination. And that's just what seems lacking right now in the nation's first city of architecture."
- Palafox urges Filipinos to turn to "adaptive architecture" to cope with flooding, which "seems to have joined death and taxes in the ranks of the inevitable."
- Perine offers London a lesson from New York: "If you face a housing crisis, setting guidelines for minimum unit sizes is not the answer."
- Hatherley has an interesting take on the Bluewater mall in Kent, U.K.: it's "a kind of undemocratic city" that is "not merely a shopping mall, but something much more ambitious."
- An architect laments the lack of focus on actual architectural design when it comes to public meetings: though the process is "laudable" in principle, they "have become pro forma" and "the tone is often hostile."
- Dvir looks at Israel's modern necropolises and how "high-density burial offers new architectural potential" and "presents an urban challenge as well."
- Schwartz brings us an eyeful of a dorm in Denmark that "you wish you lived in."
- Controversy swirls around an architect's winning design for (and placement of) a memorial to drug war victims in Mexico.
- Reinmuth and Burke explain how they found "common ground" for Australia's role at the Venice Biennale: "Architecture is understood here not as buildings but as a discipline."
- AIA announces the 2012 CAE Educational Facility Design Award winners + Eyefuls of Australia's 2012 ALA National Awards in Landscape Architecture.
- One we couldn't resist: Pogrebin reports on a Japanese artist building a living room 60 feet above Columbus Circle (TV included).

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PLANT: Bazaltbor Winery, Badacsonytomaj, Hungary

Obituary: Henry Stolzman, 1945-2012: A gifted architect of synagogues, boutique hotels, schools, and celebrity apartments...his generosity...was extraordinary. He even taught this tight-fisted Midwesterner to tip like a New Yorker. By Jayne Merkel -- Pasanella + Klein, Stolzman + Berg (now PKSB)- The Architect's Newspaper

What Does Preservation Mean in a City Without History? The rapidly developing Abu Dhabi considers saving its disappearing past...When old isn't that old and new is everything, should the past be preserved? By Nate Berg [link]- The Atlantic Cities

The Fight to Save Chicago's Prentice Women's Hospital: It's a key building in the history of structural engineering...More significant still, it's an exceptionally important building in the evolution of health-care design...it's possible to preserve [it] for a new use...It just takes some imagination. And that's just what seems lacking right now in the nation's first city of architecture. By Paul Goldberger -- Bertrand Goldberg (1975); Paul Rudolph- Vanity Fair

'Adaptive architecture' as a means to cope with flooding: ...despite flood-control efforts...flooding seems to have joined death and taxes in the ranks of the inevitable. Filipinos, therefore, need to make individual efforts to deal with deluges. They need to resort to "adaptive architecture" as proposed by urban planner Felino Palafox Jr. - GMA News (Philippines)

A warning from New York: don't introduce tough space standards: New York City is strangled by outdated regulations that make it impossible to meet today's housing need. London must not follow the same path...If you face a housing crisis, setting guidelines for minimum unit sizes is not the answer. By Jerilyn Perine/Citizens Housing and Planning Council (CHPC)- Guardian (UK)

Bluewater thrives by not alarming shoppers with anything new or strange: The expanding mall is a kind of undemocratic city, with levels of planning and security that almost guarantee 'no riots here'...it's not merely a shopping mall, but something much more ambitious. By Owen Hatherley -- Eric Kuhne/CivicArts - Guardian (UK)

It's the architecture that matters: ...one aspect of the process - the public meeting - is unsatisfying. In principle, this approach to public engagement is laudable...In practice, though, the built form of a proposed development often does not even enter into the discussion...Public meetings have become pro forma. The tone is often hostile...The good news is that some...have begun to use public meetings to create bridges. By Leslie M. Klein/Architecture Canada | RAIC - Journal of Commerce (Vancouver)

Sustainable development and Jewish law come into play in Israel's modern necropolises: High-density burial offers new architectural potential...The scale...also necessitates the development of a design language...presents an urban challenge as well... By Noam Dvir -- Eytan Ronel; Yecheil Komet; Eytan Ronel; Dorit Levy; Ponger-Sagiv Architects [images]- Ha'aretz (Israel)

The College Dorm You Wish You Lived In: A university in Denmark has created a circular dorm [Tietgenkollegiet] that will make you incredibly frustrated at the tiny double room where you spent your college years. Bet you didn't have french windows, balconies, and a bike workshop. By Ariel Schwartz -- Lundgaard & Tranberg Arkitekter [images]- Fast Company

Mexico memorial to drug war victims inspires debate: Even as the winning design for the monument was announced, conflicting visions and bitter disputes arose over who should be honored and how. -- Ricardo Lopez [image]- Los Angeles Times

Creative directors for the 2012 Venice Architecture Biennale, Gerard Reinmuth and Anthony Burke,

reveal how they found 'common ground': "We understand Chipperfield's theme...simultaneously as an optimistic projection of a discipline and a critical rejection of architecture as it is currently constructed. Architecture is understood here not as buildings but as a discipline." - Architecture & Design (Australia)

AIA recognizes 15 projects with the 2012 CAE Educational Facility Design Award -- NAC|Architecture; William Rawn Associates; Trilogy Architecture Urban Design Research; Lake|Flato Architects; SHW Group; Mahlum; Hennebery Eddy Architects; KMD Architects; Wight & Company; Lord, Aeck & Sargent/Office dA; CGA Architects/DLR Group; KieranTimberlake; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM)- American Institute of Architects (AIA)

2012 AILA National Awards in Landscape Architecture -- UDLA; Plan (E); John Mongard Landscape Architects; Jeavons Landscape Architects; Fresh Landscape Design; ASPECT Studios; Andrew Green (formerly Gamble McKinnon Green); Ecoscape (Australia); Vee Design; McGregor Coxall; Taylor Cullity Lethlean; Spackman Mossop Michaels; Fitzgerald Frisby Landscape Architecture; Harris Hobbs; Clouston Associates; etc. [images]- Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA)

High Above Columbus Circle, a Living Room, TV Included: The artist Tatzu Nishi...plans to erect a living room around the statue of Christopher Columbus 60 feet above Columbus Circle...When "Discovering Columbus" closes...workers will use the living room as an enclosed perch for restoration work. By Robin Pegrebin [images]- New York Times

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