

Today's News - Tuesday, August 21, 2012

- ArcSpace brings us two houses in Portugal that have a lot more going on than what you see from the outside.
- Berg checks in with the experts about whether there is a limit to how tall buildings can get.
- Moore looks at the post-Olympic future of east London: "For now we can only observe that the masters of Olympic legacy are saying the right things, and wish them good luck."
- Apparently, UNESCO wants a say in "any major proposed development" near the Tower of London and Westminster to rein in London's "skyscraper explosion" (that's sure to draw cheers and jeers).
- Peirce parses the possibility of a freeway-free future for cities: "There's nothing wrong with cars, it's how they're used."
- Hume cheers that transformation of Toronto's Yonge Street as "part of an urban 'experiment' - you can't help but be struck by how small moves can have such a huge effect."
- Maltzan's St. Petersburg Pier plans have marine scientists "lamenting the lack of consultation before the proposal was selected"; the architect "remains optimistic."
- Brownlee begs for a re-thinking of Philly's new Museum of the American Revolution: the current design is "not worthy of the museum's prominent location, ambitious leaders, or talented architect."
- Roche is more than rattled by the escalating cost estimates of the Eisenhower Memorial: "Even Eisenhower wouldn't approve."
- HKS /Pelli Clarke Pelli team wins competition to design the new Utah Performing Arts Center in Salt Lake City.
- An eye-ful of the winning design in the competition for the new People's Market in Melbourne (it's very green).
- King gives two thumbs-up to El Cerrito's new recycling center that "shows how even the least glamorous aspects of modern life can be housed in energetic style...there's no reason modest buildings can't shine" (it's very, very green).
- Dunlap gets a sneak-peek at NYU's Bobst Library atrium beginning to sport a "digitally inspired veil" that looks "as gauzy as theatrical scrim" (and intended to save lives).
- Mewburn is not amused with architects' websites that are "disaster zones": "What if architects designed their buildings the way they do websites?" (a most amusing read - and we couldn't agree more!).
- A (lengthy) comparison between Koolhaas and Stern "opens up a series of vexing questions about their respective attitudes towards late capitalism, globalization, postmodernism, and the architect as brand."
- Chaban reports on changes at The Architect's Newspaper: Iovine stepping down, Brake stepping in (we wish all good things to both).
- One we couldn't resist: an eye-ful of 10 industrial water towers converted into "awesome" homes (awesome, indeed!).
- Call for entries: 2012 Chicago Prize Competition: an international ideas competition to envision what Goldberg's Prentice Women's Hospital could become + 2012 Western Red Cedar Architectural Design Awards.

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-- ARX Portugal Arquitectos & Stefano Riva: House in Jusó, Portugal  
-- [j]da Arquitectos: DJ House, Carcavelos, Portugal

Is There a Limit to How Tall Buildings Can Get? Will this race ever stop? Not in the foreseeable future..."We could do at least a mile and probably quite a bit more." By Nate Berg -- Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat (CTBUH); Adrian Smith/Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture; William Baker/Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Tim Johnson/NBBJ [images, links]- The Atlantic Cities

How the Olympics will shape the future of east London: With plans to build 8,000 new homes at the Olympic Park over the next two decades, Stratford's future depends on a sympathetic approach to regeneration...For now we can only observe that the masters of Olympic legacy are saying the right things, and wish them good luck. By Rowan Moore - Observer (UK)

UNESCO in bid to stop South Bank skyscraper explosion: World heritage body is seeking greater control over the planning of tall buildings close to the Tower of London and Westminster...has requested sign-off on "any major proposed development"..."any irreversible commitment" is made. - The Architects' Journal (UK)

A 'Freeway-Free' Future for World Cities? "There's nothing wrong with cars, it's how they're used"...Rapidly growing 21st-century cities, providing they make smart, early expansion plans, can materially improve their prospects of achieving workable street networks. By Neal Peirce -- Peter Calthorpe; Enrique Peñalosa; Nicholas You - Citivire

Yonge Street basking in the sudden love of a city: ...has been transformed into boulevard where people...carry on like inhabitants of a big city...part of an urban "experiment" intended to test whether Toronto has any hope of realizing its urban potential...you can't help but be struck by how small moves can have such a huge effect. By Christopher Hume - Toronto Star

Will Maltzan's "Lens" in St. Petersburg Be Too Murky? ...local marine scientists have concluded that the tidal reef element of the design is simply too good to be true...lamenting the lack of consultation before the proposal was selected...he remains optimistic. -- Michael Maltzan Architecture - The Architect's Newspaper

Let's make it revolutionary: A design for the new Museum of the American Revolution...not worthy of the museum's prominent location, ambitious leaders, or talented architect. By David B. Brownlee/Design Advocacy Group -- Robert A.M. Stern Architects - Philadelphia Inquirer

Even Eisenhower wouldn't approve of excessive spending on memorial: The rising cost...has been overshadowed by its controversial design...questions of artistic merit and appropriateness might be debatable, but in this case...Gehry's experimental approach to design is expensive. By Sam Roche/Right By Ike: Project for a New Eisenhower Memorial -- Frank Gehry - Amarillo Globe-News (Texas)

Utah Performing Arts Center takes a big step toward reality: ...architects and city leaders pledged to create "an iconic structure"...The design will evolve as the architects get feedback from the public and arts community. -- HKS Architects/Pelli Clarke Pelli - Deseret News (Utah)

People's Market & Flea winning design revealed: Steven Vidovic and Kristina Taranto win the competition for the new People's Market in Melbourne with 'Recycled Garden', featuring recycled materials, vertical greenery and environmentally friendly infrastructure. [images]- Australian Design Review

El Cerrito recycling center has style: ...shows how even the least glamorous aspects of modern life can be housed in energetic style...it's a project that deserves attention...there's no reason modest buildings can't shine. Simple materials and streamlined budgets, deployed with creative efficiency, can leave a lasting mark. By John King -- Noll & Tam [images]- San Francisco Chronicle

A Digitally Inspired Veil, Intended to Save Lives, Appears at N.Y.U. Bobst Library: The interior...has become an inviting spot for suicides so in response the school has installed a screen intended to blend with the aesthetic of the atrium...in the right light — look as gauzy as theatrical scrims. By David W. Dunlap -- Philip Johnson/Richard T. Foster (1972); SHoP Construction Services; Joel Sanders Architect [images]- New York Times

Build it, and they won't come: It's an accepted cliché that architects' websites are disaster zones: un-user friendly, Flash-heavy and completely un-navigable. What if architects designed their buildings the way they do websites? ...putting white text on a yellow background is never a good idea. By Inger Mewburn- Australian Design Review

Manhattanisms : RAM(s) vs. REM: ...a new lens through which to view two media-celebrated architects, Rem Koolhaas and Robert A.M. Stern...comparison opens up a series of vexing questions about their respective attitudes towards late capitalism, globalization, postmodernism, and the architect as brand. By Alexander Maymind & Matthew Persinger (via Pidgin Magazine) [images]- Archinect

Trade-ing Up: The Architect's Newspaper Editors on the Move; Readership Grows Despite Shrinking Industry: Alan Brake will be taking over as executive editor...when Julie Iovine steps down...moving to London for a spell...returning to writing about architecture full time. By Matt Chaban- New York Observer

10 Industrial Water Towers Converted Into Awesome, Modern Homes -- Crepain Binst Architecture; Brian Messana Architect; Tom Dixon; Zecc Architecten; Bham Design Studio; Madako Architects; Ellis Williams Architects; Dorte Mandrup Arkitekter; F. Forbes Glennie [images, links]- Flavorpill

Call for entries: 2012 Chicago Prize Competition: Future Prentice international ideas competition - envision what Bertrand Goldberg's Prentice Women's Hospital could become; cash prizes; deadline: October 15- Chicago Architectural Club / AIA Chicago

Call for entries: 2012 Western Red Cedar Architectural Design Awards; open to all architects; no entry fee; deadline: December 15- Western Red Cedar Lumber Association (WRCLA)

Q&A with Nicole Migeon - Architect of "Warm Minimalism": Designing places of respite for creative clientele- ArchNewsNow

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