

Today's News - Tuesday, August 28, 2012

- ArcSpace brings us Piano's Shard.
- An architect takes issue with "Vancouverism" as being more about style than substance.
- Meanwhile, a new Vancouver condo weds automotive and architectural design "in a neighborhood, ironically marketed as a place where you don't need to drive" (Porches included).
- China is serious - and successful - at exporting its own design and construction talent.
- Challenges lie ahead for Moscow's new (35-year-old) chief architect, including winning over the city's architectural community: "creating a competitive environment for architects is crucial."
- El Paso requirement that architects working on city projects be accredited in new urbanism had many thinking "it was bureaucracy run amok," but architects are beginning to warm up to it.
- Russell gives us a sneak-peek at Gehry's massive "idea factory" for Facebook from the man himself: forget "shiny fronds of fluttering reflective metal," this is "architecture that won't preen, he promises."
- King on Snøhetta's two big San Francisco wins - the SFMOMA addition, and now a new basketball arena on the Embarcadero: "the two immense projects have more in common than meets the eye."
- The almost-ready-for-its-close-up Barclays Center in Brooklyn puts the spotlight on weathering steel, a.k.a. Cor-Ten: it "has many fans in the world of art and architecture" (along with a few puddles of rust).
- Kent makes the case for saving Goldberg's Prentice Hospital: "The complexity of this structure is breathtaking, the chutzpah of its architect staggering."
- A rather - no, make that very pessimistic take on the High Line: it's "destroying neighborhoods as it grows. And it's doing so by design."
- Rosenbaum cheers the "11th-hour rescue" of Tacha's "Green Acres" in Trenton that "also triggered traumatic flashbacks to a less happily resolved conflict between public art and public taste."
- Hawthorne tackles why the FLW-inspired stage design "could be wrong" for the Republican Convention: "The GOP wanted warmth, but it is also getting a bit of Ayn Rand."
- Ah to be in Venice: The Architect's Newspaper//Il Giornale Dell'Architettura special coverage + highlights from their Q&A with Chipperfield: "The Architecture Biennale is not an 'Architecture's Got Talent' show."
- Chen offers up his first impressions: "it's the starchitects who generally fall short, presenting what often feels like little more than advertisements for their latest projects."
- A not all that informative but lively video stroll through the Biennale + (how could we resist!) "Painted pigeons of St. Mark's square put Venice Biennale critics in a flap."
- An eyeeful of the Telegraph Young Architecture Competition winners (ages 6-15): "Some designs are crazy, others are contemporary, but all show that the future of British architecture is in safe hands" (another we couldn't resist).
- Call for entries: TH!NK:Art+ArchitectureCamp: a design-build camp in Ghana.

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[Renzo Piano Building Workshop: The Shard, London, UK](#)

'Vancouverism' architecture: It's style over substance: "...many architects are failing to look at the substance of how people inhabit buildings. They're looking at how buildings appear." -- Gair Williamson - Vancouver Sun

A Vancouver condo revs up the neighbourhood: ...the wedding of automotive and architectural design is being celebrated in a neighbourhood, ironically marketed as a place where you don't need to drive...Meccanica, offers an oddly retro fetishization of the automotive on the bones of an old custom designed Porsche workshop. By Hadani Ditmars -- Foad Rafii [image]- Globe and Mail (Canada)

Architectural companies find blueprint to success overseas: ...90% of Beijing's newest landmarks have been designed by Western companies. But as China's fancy for international style has grown...Chinese architects are also establishing a growing presence on the international stage. -- China Architecture Design and Research Group; Wang Shu - China Daily

New Chief Architect Well-Grounded in History: ...mayor described Sergei Kuznetsov' as "a well-known person in the architectural community"...But some said that he has yet to gain authority among the city's architectural community...creating a competitive environment for architects is crucial... "If [he] introduces the tender system for the city's major projects, Moscow will change" -- Sergei Kuznetsov/SPEECH Tchoban & Kuznetsov; Natalya Dushkina/Moscow Institute of Architecture; Boris Uborevich-Borovsky/Moscow Architectural Community- The Moscow Times (Russia)

Architects warm up to new urbanism: When El Paso became the first city in the U.S. to require that architects working on city projects be accredited in new urbanism, many local firms thought it was bureaucracy run amok...Now... "It's all the things you keep in the back of your head about what is wrong with our cities but never had anyone tell you"... -- Carl Daniel Architects; Mathew McElroy/Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU); Edward McCormick - El Paso Inc. (Texas)

Facebook, Frank Gehry Build Idea Factory for RipStik Geeks: This is not a Gehry project of shiny fronds of fluttering reflective metal...with partner Craig Webb, he's pushed and pulled the exterior to break down the building's intimidating [10-acre floor] size...It's architecture that won't preen, he promises. By James S. Russell [images]- Bloomberg News

Linking 2 worlds of culture: art, sports: It's hard to imagine a pair of high-profile building projects less obviously alike than the basketball arena proposed for a 13-acre pier along the Embarcadero and the mid-block addition to the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. But both now share the same architect...the two immense projects have more in common than meets the eye. By John King -- Craig Dykers/Snøhetta; AECOM- San Francisco Chronicle

Constructing a Facade Both Rugged and Rusty: The new Barclays Center uses 12,000 separate pieces of weathering steel, deliberately covered by a layer of rust...often known by its old brand name, Cor-Ten...has many fans in the world of art and architecture. -- Michael Devonshire/Jean Hirsh

Pokorny Associates; Dissimilar Metal Design; Matthew Baird; Brian Messana/Messana O'Rorke; Gregg Pasquarelli/SHoP Architects - New York Times

Prentice Hospital debate goes deeper than surface appearance: Bertrand Goldberg's design not loved by all, but it is important and should be saved: ...preservation is not and never has been about pretty...pretty is mutable...yesterday's outdated and ugly becomes today's beautiful and irreplaceable. Exceptional architecture is not mutable...The complexity of this structure is breathtaking, the chutzpah of its architect staggering. By Cheryl Kent - Chicago Tribune

Op-Ed: In the Shadows of the High Line: Disney World on the Hudson: ...has become a tourist-clogged catwalk and a catalyst for some of the most rapid gentrification in the city's history...destroying neighborhoods as it grows. And it's doing so by design...Gone entirely will be regular New Yorkers, the people who used to call the neighborhood home. But then the High Line was never really about them. By Jeremiah Moss/Vanishing New York - New York Times

Trenchant in Trenton: Athena Tacha's "Green Acres" Rescued from Planned Destruction: 11th-hour rescue of public sculpture from wrecker's ball strikes welcome blow for artists' rights. But it also triggered traumatic flashbacks to a less happily resolved conflict between public art and public taste. By Lee Rosenbaum -- The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF) [images, links]- ArtsJournal

Frank Lloyd Wright could be wrong for convention: The stage design at the Republican National Convention is influenced by the noted architect. The GOP wanted warmth, but it is also getting a bit of Ayn Rand. By Christopher Hawthorne - Los Angeles Times

Special Coverage from the 2012 Venice Biennale, Issue 2: ...a three-part series on the best of the Biennale, brought to you by The Architect's Newspaper and Il Giornale Dell'Architettura. [link to Issue 1]- The Architect's Newspaper

This is not a talent show, says curator of Venice Architecture Biennale: David Chipperfield urges fellow architects to explain their ideas. "The Architecture Biennale is not an 'Architecture's Got Talent' show." - The Art Newspaper (UK)

Venice Biennale: First Impressions: Aric Chen digs through the multiple layers of David Chipperfield's Common Ground exhibition...it's the architects who generally fall short, presenting what often feels like little more than advertisements for their latest projects. -- Case Study Vogt/ETH Zürich; Haworth Tompkins; FAT; Farshid Moussavi; Valerio Olgiati; Hans Kolhoff; Schaum/Shieh; Anupama Kundoo; Norman Foster; Urban-Think Tank/Justin McGuirk; Zaha Hadid/Patrik Schumacher; Toshiko Mori; Peter Eisenman/Jeffrey Kipnis/Dogma; Bernard Tschumi [slide show]- Architectural Record

Venice Architecture Biennale 2012: Common Ground: a video tour - Huffington Post

Painted pigeons of St Mark's square put Venice Biennale critics in a flap: Project to airbrush famous pigeons in garish, vibrant colours for architecture exhibition criticised by animal rights campaigners...Swiss artist Julian Charrière says by painting the pigeons...they will become 'better regarded' [image]- Guardian (UK)

Young Architect of the Year: 10 winners of The Daily Telegraph Young Architecture Competition. Some designs are crazy, others are contemporary, but all show that the future of British architecture is in safe hands...mostly, it was talented children taking matters into their own hands. By Christopher Middleton [slide shows]- Telegraph (UK)

Call for entries: THINK:Art+ArchitectureCamp (international): Design-build camp, Abetenim Arts Village, Ghana; open to students and graduates of design, architecture, art, engineering, schools; deadline: on a rolling basis - Nka Foundation

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