

Today's News - Monday, September 10, 2012

- ArcSpace brings us OMA in Moscow, and Pitágoras Architects in Portugal.
- We are so deeply saddened by the news that we've lost Bill Moggridge much, much too soon.
- Barns on Tasmania's newest quango: he hopes that (pleads for, actually) the bureaucrats "let creativity" (i.e. design professionals) "flourish" and "not seek to build an empire for the egos of those who run it."
- The trend in town center projects are bringing city life to the 'burbs: "The urban neighborhood has become an exportable commodity," but critics "consider them soulless corporate replicas" (a la Disney World).
- A community hospital in Chicago "spearheads mixed-use campus model for community development" in an effort "to bring evidence-based design to the community scale."
- Saffron cheers Drexel's "huge expansion east that would nevertheless concentrate growth in a compact core - minimizing sprawl into nearby neighborhoods" (keeping the neighbors happy).
- A "Legoland" of modular apartment buildings for Brooklyn's Atlantic Yards could be in the offing - if the first one can get off the ground.
- Pedersen queries Maurice Cox re: his plans as Tulane's new associate dean of community engagement: an apt title for someone "who has spent almost two decades forging ties between design education, the political realm, and the public."
- Calma bemoans the congested, haphazard state of Manila: "If you leave urban policy to mayors who don't know about architecture, it ends up being a mess."
- Lim looks into the future "where the urban and the rural overlap to form a 'smart city' that promotes healthy living and food sustainability" (he's on the case for Melbourne right now).
- Heathcote visits Chichester and its new Novium museum that "highlights a counterculture in England's south coast, where ancient and modern go hand in hand...a modernist cockpit from which to survey a city."
- McDonald cheers Ireland's Silver Lion prize: "It showed that anything is possible, even in these tough times for the profession" (and remarks on some other Biennale gossip).
- The upcoming London Design Festival will include "an experiment in acoustic design which can transform your perception of space."
- Hanley has an interesting take on offices as playgrounds: "playful design...can also become cloying clichés, lazy signifiers of hipness."
- Klayko climbs to the top of 4WTC, which "offers a more somber, reflective aesthetic" than its neighbors with "stunningly-precise detailing" (and stunning views!).
- One we couldn't resist: a "battered-but-burgeoning commercial corridor" in Philly is now home to Pizza Brain, a pizza restaurant that "holds the Guinness record for 'the world's largest collection of pizza-related items'" (hold the anchovies, please).

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-- OMA/Office for Metropolitan Architecture: Garage Gorky Park, Moscow, Russia
-- Pitágoras Architects: International Center for the Arts, Jose de Guimarães, Guimarães, Portugal

Obituary: Bill Moggridge, 69, director of the Smithsonian's Cooper-Hewitt and an outspoken advocate for the value of design in everyday life...Designer of the first laptop computer and co-founder of the renowned innovation and design firm, IDEO... - Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum

Real design will revitalise: Bureaucrats have a love of what are termed "quangos" -- quasi autonomous non-governmental organisations. Tasmania is about to get another one: the Hobart Waterfront Development Corporation...if the HWDC lets creativity flourish and does not seek to build an empire for the egos of those who run it, then it might prove a very worthy exception to the rule. By Greg Barns -- Terroir - The Mercury (Tasmania, Australia)

Can city life be exported to the suburbs? The spread of "town center" projects...is making it harder to distinguish what makes a city a city. The urban neighborhood has become an exportable commodity...Critics...consider them soulless corporate replicas... By Jonathan O'Connell - Washington Post

Saintly Ambitions: Chicago community hospital [Saint Anthony Hospital] spearheads mixed-use campus model...for community development...Revenue from the campus' various leases will help support the non-profit's community education and wellness programs..."attempts to bring evidence-based design to the community scale"... -- HDR [images] - The Architect's Newspaper

Drexel's big plans: The university is intent on a huge expansion east that would nevertheless concentrate growth in a compact core - minimizing sprawl into nearby neighborhoods...master plan is unlike anything...produced before...As Drexel's academic ambitions have grown, so have its architectural ones. By Inga Saffron -- Goody Clancy; Robert A.M. Stern Architects; Voith & Mactavish; MS&R [slide show] - Philadelphia Inquirer

Legoland comes to Brooklyn: Decision looms on plans for world's tallest prebuilt towers next to the Barclays Center, in the Atlantic Yards project...may ultimately be joined by 15 other modular apartment buildings, at least one soaring as high as 50 stories...What remains to be seen, however, is whether it actually gets built...Forest City hopes that its system eventually will become a model for other large-scale developers. -- SHoP Architects - Crain's New York Business

Q&A: Maurice Cox: Bringing community engagement to New Orleans: ...Tulane School of Architecture...associate dean of community engagement. The title is an altogether apt one for Cox, who has spent almost two decades forging ties between design education, the political realm, and the public. By Martin C. Pedersen - Metropolis Magazine

Calma before the storm: Whenever Lor or Ed Calma releases his work to the public, it always elicits quite a stir. Both father and son have a knack for shaking up the profession..."The next big thing for me would be designing a city"...bemoaned the congested and haphazard state of Manila. "Sometimes architecture doesn't solve things anymore, it's about urban policy. If you leave urban policy to mayors who don't know about architecture, it ends up being a mess." - Business Mirror (Philippines)

Malaysian-born Architect Says Future Is "Smart Cities": ...it will be where the urban and the rural overlap to form a "smart city" that promotes healthy living and food sustainability...His research in

Melbourne - 'Imagining the Emergent City'...explores the potential of large-scale urban infrastructural interventions to address the fundamental requirements of food, water and shelter... - CJ Lim/Studio 8 Architects - Bemama (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)

Postcard from ... Chichester: The Novium museum highlights a counterculture in England's south coast, where ancient and modern go hand in hand: A brand-new building – a solid chunk of cool civic culture – has brought this alternative side of the city into focus...a modernist cockpit from which to survey a city. By Edwin Heathcote – Keith Williams Architects; Powell & Moya (1962); Colin St John Wilson (2006); Haworth Tompkins - Financial Times (UK)

Irish architecture roars into Venice: There isn't a single under-employed architect in Ireland whose spirits weren't lifted by the news...that Yvonne Farrell and Shelley McNamara had carried off a Silver Lion from the 13th Venice International Architecture Biennale. It showed that anything is possible, even in these tough times for the profession. By Frank McDonald -- Grafton Architects; Paulo Mendes da Rocha; O'Donnell + Tuomey; Heneghan Peng Architects; Toyo Ito; David Chipperfield; Wolf Prix; Kieran Long - Irish Times

An Experiment in Acoustic Design: The London Design Festival Celebrates a Decade of Ingenuity...Trafalgar Square will host "Be Open Sound Portal"...an experiment in acoustic design...which can transform your perception of space. -- Arup; Decorex; 100% Design; Super Brands; Tent London - Wall Street Journal

Welcome to Corporate Kindergarten: Playful design is taking over the office, but are we really having that much fun? This is not your father's office, says the lime-green wall above the espresso machine...can also become cloying clichés, lazy signifiers of hipness. By William Hanley -- Lorcan O'Herlihy Architects; Allied Works Architecture; Gensler; Frank Gehry; Studio O+A; Studio Sarah Willmer [images] - Architectural Record

Manhattan at the Feet of Four World Trade Center: Compared to its neighbors, [it] offers a more somber, reflective aesthetic...stunningly-precise detailing...along with the breathtaking views of the surrounding New York region. By Branden Klayko -- Fuhimiko Maki [images] - The Architect's Newspaper

Pizza museum a testament to American culture: ...Pizza Brain — part pizza museum, part pizza restaurant — purchasing and renovating two 19th-century buildings along Frankford Avenue's battered-but-burgeoning commercial corridor. [slide show] - Philadelphia Inquirer

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