

Today's News - Tuesday, September 11, 2012

- On the 11th anniversary of 9/11: an "exquisite web-based 9/11 Memorial (with promises the museum will be completed by 2012) + commemorative time-lapse videos of Ground Zero developments.
- Nearing the first anniversary of Occupy Wall Street movement, Walljasper has a timely take on the "fall and rise of great public spaces...they are the starting point for community, commerce and democracy."
- Reed looks to the future of walkable urban spaces: a new report "vindicates smart growth policies," but we still have a way to go.
- A promising sign: "Steps to a Walkable Community" offers "innovative tactics" to encourage walking in all kinds of communities.
- A look at how ZEBs (net-zero buildings) are gaining traction that should assuage "underlying industry fear that the green building sector will bust."
- Even though "a few kinks" have to be worked out, PlaNYC's first annual building energy consumption report offers "a few surprising revelations" that should be of interest to other cities.
- High hopes surround Detroit's participation in ProsperUS, a national "place-based community development strategy."
- Gratz minces now words about what New Orleans has lost with LSU's "bad decision" to demolish Charity Hospital: beyond the loss of a hospital, it's causing "the destruction of a reviving working class neighborhood and the loss of irreplaceable historic structures and local businesses - and the new losses keep coming."
- Hill conducts "a short international survey" of a number of firms re: why they chose storefront offices "to find out why how it affects their practice, and if they'd recommend the same to others."
- Esperdy offers a must-read: "The Incredible True Adventures of the Architectress in America": women in architecture have traveled "pretty far - but not far enough" (an insightful and engaging read).
- How could we not follow with the headline: "Awesome Woman Alert": Berke wins \$100,000 Berkeley-Rupp Prize (yay Deborah! So will Pritzker Prize will ever amend Scott Brown's omission?).
- Robbins has issues with TEDTalks: the "slogan shouldn't be 'Ideas worth spreading,' it should be: 'Ego worth paying for'" (after our own many hours spent, we tend to disagree).
- A review of the Biennale: it "makes a profound statement about the common ground that architects share": they "must strive to uphold the relevancy of architecture as a force for positive change."
- Sudjic pays tribute to Moggridge: "He was the softly spoken, diffident and modest antithesis of the designer showmen of the 1980s."
- BD's Architect of the Year Awards 2012 shortlist announced (it's really long).
- An eyeful of "10 Awesome Bookstores Repurposed from Unused Structures" (no architects credited, but what an eyeful!).
- Call for entries: 2012 IALD International Lighting Design Awards.
- ArchNewsThen: September 11, 2002.

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An Exquisite Web-Based 9/11 Memorial: ...the museum, which was slated to be completed in 2012...has yet to be completed. In the meantime, the directors of the museum have taken to assembling the visual memory...makehistory.national911memorial.org...We only hope the museum is as thoughtful as this website. - Obit magazine

Never Forget: In honor of the 11th anniversary of September 11th, EarthCam released a new commemorative time-lapse with cinematic views of the World Trade Center site from multiple webcams...focuses on the rise of One World Trade Center. - EarthCam

The Fall and Rise of Great Public Spaces: The decline of public places represents a loss far deeper than simple nostalgia...They are the starting point for community, commerce and democracy. By Jay Walljasper -- Jan Gehl; Project for Public Spaces - Citiwire

"Walkable urban" places enjoy economic success, but face social equity challenges: The WalkUP Wake-Up Call...vindicates smart growth policies..."What was perceived as a niche market is becoming the market" ...the benefits of pedestrian-friendly, transit-oriented development have yet to reach the people who need it the most. The real "wake-up call" isn't about how far we've come, but how far we still have to go. By Dan Reed -- Christopher Leinberger - Greater Greater Washington (Washington, DC)

America Walks and Sam Schwartz Engineering Release 'Steps to a Walkable Community: A Guide for Citizens, Planners, and Engineers': ...a collection of innovative tactics that have successfully improved and encouraged walking in communities around the country. [links]- America Walks

The New Green Frontier: Net-Zero Buildings: The underlying industry fear that the green building sector will bust can be assuaged by the surge in...mainstreaming sustainable building practices...focus has been shifted from developments that include green features or a basis of sustainability to a concentrated effort in delivering net-zero carbon buildings (ZEBs). [links]- DesignBuild Source (Australia)

Numbers Crunch: First round of data on New York City building energy consumption is in...While a single year's worth of information isn't enough to track trends, it does provide a few surprising revelations...early 20th-century buildings tend to be more efficient than later generations...there are a few kinks that have yet to be ironed out. -- PlaNYC - The Architect's Newspaper

Global Detroit: ProsperUS turns vision into neighborhood action: ...new initiative will conduct training sessions in...predominantly Arab-American, African-American, and Hispanic/Latino neighborhoods...there is much cause for excitement...a place-based community development strategy... - Model D (Detroit)

Charity Redux: A bad decision is rarely made better over time; more likely, it is made worse. This is the case with Louisiana State University's decision, within weeks of Hurricane Katrina in August 2005, not to reopen Charity Hospital in New Orleans...has meant the loss of a hospital...the destruction of a reviving working class neighborhood and the loss of irreplaceable historic structures and local businesses -- and the new losses keep coming. By Roberta Brandes Gratz - Citiwire

Storefronts for Architects: A noticeable trend...is the growing number of architecture firms moving into ground-level storefronts...a short international survey to find out why...how it affects their practice, and if they'd recommend the same to others...there is a shared desire on the part of the architects to engage with life on the street. By John Hill -- Bernheimer Architecture; Futurafrosch; gh3; José Adrião Arquitecto; LENS'ASS Architects; Leroy Street Studio; Magnus Ståhl Arkitektbyrå AB; Schemata Architects; Vamos Architects [images]- World-Architects.com

The Incredible True Adventures of the Architectress in America: Back in the '70s, second-wave feminists were...attempting to pry open...the "exclusively male preserve" of the American architecture profession. Gabrielle Esperdy revisits their "amazing adventures fighting for gender equality" and measures the distance we've traveled since. It's pretty far — but not far enough. -- Anne Griswold Tyng; Eleanor Raymond; Sarah Pillsbury Harkness/Jean Bodman Fletcher/The Architects Collaborative; Julia Morgan; Louise Blanchard Bethune; Judith Edelman; Dolores Hayden; Ellen Perry Berkeley; Lucia Bogatay; Natalie de Blois/SOM; Denise Scott Brown; Gwendolyn Wright; Susan A. Maxman; Beverly Willis [images, links] - Places Journal

Awesome Woman Alert: Deborah Berke Wins \$100,000 Berkeley-Rupp Prize: ...honor will be bestowed every two years upon a worthy architect or academic who has gone above and beyond to not only further women in the field of architecture, but also to promote sustainable design. - Architizer

The trouble with TEDTalks: In the cult of TED, everything is awesome and inspirational, and ideas aren't supposed to be challenged...TED's slogan shouldn't be 'Ideas worth spreading', it should be: 'Ego worth paying for'. By Martin Robbins - New Statesman (UK)

Venice Architecture Biennale: Common Ground...makes a profound statement about the ground that architects share...understanding of the ultimate aim of architecture: the provision of structures and spaces for people and the communities they belong to...architects must strive to uphold the relevancy of architecture as a force for positive change...for the good of the communities... By Jonathan Davies and Anna Meyer -- David Chipperfield; Toyo Ito; Zaha Hadid; Norman Foster; Caruso St John; FAT; Urban Think Tank/Justin McGuirk; Herzog & de Meuron [images] - Design Week (UK)

Obituary/Tribute: Bill Moggridge: Designer of the world's first laptop, the Grid Compass...was not interested in fame. He was the softly spoken, diffident and modest antithesis of the designer showmen of the 1980s...What really interested [him] were the people who used technology, and what they did with it, rather than the technology itself. By Deyan Sudjic -- IDEO; Cooper Hewitt National Design Museum - Guardian (UK)

Architect of the Year Awards 2012 shortlist announced -- Rogers Stirk Harbour; Stanton Williams; Adam Khan; FAT; Hall McKnight Mitchell Taylor Workshop; etc. - BD/Building Design (UK)

10 Awesome Bookstores Repurposed from Unused Structures: Despite the media-fueled fear that they'll all be abandoned buildings themselves someday soon, brick-and-mortar bookstores are also recycling spaces, cleaning out old factories, theaters and even boats, and filling them up with books. - Flavorwire

Call for entries: 2012 IALD International Lighting Design Awards; early-bird deadline (save money!); October 19 - International Association of Lighting Designers (IALD)

ArchNewsThen: September 11, 2002: 9/11/2001: A Reflection: ...on the 12th, we go back to work trying to make better places for people to work, live, play, and worship. By Kristen Richards - ArchNewsNow



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

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