

Today's News - Thursday, September 13, 2012

- Japan Art Association's 24th Praemium Imperiale laureates include Denmark's Henning Larsen.
- Rafi Segal tops 80 other entrants to snag win to design Jerusalem's new National Library.
- Stratigakos (of Architect Barbie fame) offers a compelling argument for the "for next-wave feminism in architecture and design" (a must-read!).
- Kimmelman almost runs out of adjectives for Kahn's reborn Roosevelt Memorial: "It gives New York nothing less than a new spiritual heart."
- Flint reports from the World Urban Forum in Naples, pondering the question: "In aiding struggling megacities, can any conference solve these problems?"
- Australian Gold Medalist Nield minces no words about "zombie architecture" and "the art of drawing" being "integral in creating architecture with soul."
- King finds "one thing wrong" with an otherwise "handsome residential tower" proposed for San Francisco - the location: "there's a real danger that one of the city's most urbane small plazas could be overwhelmed."
- Pearman ventures to Walthamstow and discovers a "splendidly eccentric little grouping of buildings...pure Festival of Britain."
- Studio O+A's design director explains her firm's interest in Pinterest (but we wonder how everyone finds the time!).
- Birnbaum on the "big task of managing nature" in NYC's Central Park that raises issues "playing out around the country."
- ASLA launches the (very cool!) "Landscape Architect's Guide to Washington, D.C." - penned by an impressive roster of landscape architects (what a concept!).
- Woodman waxes not so poetically (but often amusingly) about the 2012 Carbuncle Cup winner: it's a "ship in a throttle" that won out "over five other distressing contenders."
- Call for entries: 2012 Palladio Awards Honoring Excellence in Traditional Design.

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24th Praemium Imperiale Recipients: ...recognized and awarded for their achievements, for the impact they have had internationally on the arts, and for their role in enriching the global community. -- Henning Larsen [images]- Japan Art Association

Architect chosen and plans unveiled for Jerusalem's new National Library: Rafi Segal was one of 81 competitors...collaborating on the project with Yonatan Cohen and Matan Meir... -- Rafi Segal Architecture Urbanism [image]- Ha'aretz (Israel)

Why Architects Need Feminism: Are we really ready to be post-feminist? Inspired by a series of Van Alen Institute roundtables...and by the alarming attrition rate of women practitioners — Despina Stratigakos advocates for an expanded role for next-wave feminism in architecture and design. -- Kyna Leski/RISD; Dagmar Richter/Pratt; Organization of Women Architects; Chicago Women in Architecture; Beverly Willis; Peggy Deamer/Yale; Yolande Daniels /Studio Sumo; etc. - Places Journal

Decades Later, a Vision Survives: A new park opening Oct. 24 on Roosevelt Island is based on a plan four decades old: Louis Kahn's Four Freedoms Park...perseverance sometimes pays off...a belated and monumental triumph for New York and for everyone who cares about architecture and public space...It gives New York nothing less than a new spiritual heart. By Michael Kimmelman -- Mitchell/Giurgola Architects [slide show]- New York Times

In Aiding Struggling Megacities, Can Any Conference Solve These Problems? Thousands gathered in Venice last week to discuss the future of cities. But urbanization seems almost impossible to coordinate on a global basis...A 30-minute train ride away from Naples lie the ruins of Pompeii, a glorious example of functioning urbanism...They had everything...but an evacuation plan. By Anthony Flint -- UN-Habitat World Urban Forum VI- The Atlantic Cities

Is 'Zombie Building' Trend Ruining Our Cities? Australian Institute of Architects (AIA) gold medalist Lawrence Nield...has called on architects to move away from the 'look at me' architecture styles that competes with its surroundings rather than reflecting them...[he] asserts that the art of drawing and having a tactile design experience is integral in creating architecture with soul and in creating successful buildings. - DesignBuild Source (Australia)

Plaza could suffer if tower climbs high: There's one thing wrong with the handsome residential tower proposed at 706 Mission St. in San Francisco - the location...along the east edge of Jessie Square...there's a real danger that one of the city's most urbane small plazas could be overwhelmed. By John King -- Handel Architects [images]- San Francisco Chronicle

Walthamstow Carnavalesque: ...my mission was to view the refurbished and extended William Morris Gallery...Please go to see it, it's a nice if unexceptional little project...I'm going to tell you about a splendidly eccentric little grouping of buildings...pure Festival of Britain...It's rare for me to find a bit of postwar civic architecture that doesn't slightly depress me but here is a shining exception. By Hugh Pearman -- Pringle Richards Sharratt; F.G. Southgate (1958) [images]- RIBA Journal (UK)

Should Architecture Firms Use Pinterest? ...it would be easy to dismiss [it] as just another Next Big Thing. To do that, though, would be to undervalue the service the site can provide to design firms and the design community at large. By Denise Cherry/Studio O + A - Architizer

The Big Task of Managing Nature at New York's Central Park: ...issues of guiding and managing change, who gets to decide and measuring success are playing out around the country...a daylong conference in New York on October 5, titled Bridging the Nature/Culture Divide II - Stewardship of Central Park's Woodlands, that features stewards of some of the nation's leading urban forests... By Charles A. Birnbaum/he Cultural Landscape Foundation -- Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr.; Calvert Vaux- Huffington Post

Introducing The Landscape Architect's Guide to Washington, D.C.: The guide offers tours of 75+ historic, modern, and contemporary landscapes in the nation's capital by nationally-recognized landscape architects. - The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Carbuncle Cup winner 2012: Ship in a throttle: Grimshaw's disastrously conceived restoration of the Cutty Sark...tragically defiling the very thing it sets out to save...unanimously selected over five other distressing contenders. By Ellis Woodman -- youmeheshe; Cecil Balmond/Anish Kapoor; CivicArts/Todd Architects; Andrew Smith Architects; IDP Partnership; Broadway Malyan [images, links]- BD/Building Design (UK)

Call for entries: 2012 Palladio Awards Honoring Excellence in Traditional Design; deadline: November 23- Traditional Building Magazine / Period Homes

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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

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