

Today's News - Monday, September 17, 2012

- ArcSpace brings us eyefuls of Ken Price in L.A., Palladio at Yale, and Keith Williams Architects' Novium museum Chichester, U.K.
- Some thoughtful (and sometimes cranky) commentary from all over: Zhou takes the "pulse of public sentiment" about some of China's more "outrageous" architecture (think "jeans tower" - a.k.a. Gate of the Orient): "If to err is human, I'd rather we err on the side of audacity. I'd derive more gratification from a building that is annoying than one that is utterly forgettable" (illustration a must-see!)
- A Zambian architect calls for the new Ministry of Tourism and Arts "to relook at tourism and art"; it "desperately needs to get out of its current malaise of producing buildings that are totally utilitarian," and get "beyond the current campaign limits of Keep Zambia Clean."
- Roche adds his voice to the calls to recall Gehry's Eisenhower Memorial: "the controversy has only deepened...moving us away from the consensus this or any public memorial needs."
- Boddy takes a look at Pei's impact (good and bad): the "ascent" of the "first non-Western architect to rise to the peaks of the global profession...is worth examining."
- Wahlroos-Ritter takes issue with Prix's pummeling of the Biennale, offering a "second look at some exceptional entries" that are "anything but an exhibitionist display."
- On brighter notes, Hawthorne finds "optimism and anxiety" along L.A.'s Crenshaw Boulevard "as a revived rail service push and an auto-free younger generation herald changes for one close-knit community."
- King finds a transformed power plant "one of the most provocative new works of architecture in San Francisco."
- Rochon is revved about Toronto's new Regent Park Aquatic Centre: "there's pure design joy to be found," along with "disarming integrity; don't confuse sensitive design gestures with less fun."
- KieranTimberlake and client reflect on what went into making the Sidwell Friends School such a success.
- Oklahoma City's iconic Gold Dome recently went on the auction block; there was only one bidder who says "he does not intend to tear down the building."
- Kieran Long talks about his stint as assistant director of the Venice Biennale and "being a non-architectural voice for architecture."
- World Green Building Week 2012 starts today, with 92 nations participating.
- London is gearing up for 100% Design 2012, beginning Wednesday.
- Eyefuls of the Landscape, Architecture & Wine International Student Design Competition winners.
- Call for entries (and lots of 'em!): EOI for Hong Kong's West Kowloon Cultural District M+ museum + Latrobe City (Australia): Transitioning Cities - Low Carbon Futures International Design Competition + Call for papers: 50th International Making Cities Livable Conference + 2013 Berkeley Prize Student Essay Competition.

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-- Ken Price Sculpture: A Retrospective, LACMA, Los Angeles  
-- Exhibition: "Palladio Virtuel," Yale School of Architecture Gallery, New Haven, Connecticut  
-- Keith Williams Architects: The Novium, Chichester, UK

Controversial constructions: Populism in judging provocative architecture may attest to the pulse of public sentiment, but rarely does it foretell the fate of icon status...As China booms, there is no lack of outrageous structures...you never see a public protest against blandness and mediocrity...If to err is human, I'd rather we err on the side of audacity. I'd derive more gratification from a building that is annoying than one that is utterly forgettable. By Raymond Zhou - China Daily

Architecture vs tourism: The relatively new Ministry of Tourism and Arts needs to relook at tourism and art beyond what seems to have become the norm...desperately needs to get out of its current malaise of producing buildings that are totally utilitarian...The current trend where applications to develop submitted by unqualified persons...will forever condemn this nation to mediocrity unless this tendency is checked. By Dixon Bwalya/Zambia Institute of Architects Copperbelt Chapter - Times of Zambia

Consider MIT, etc., and halt Gehry lke memorial plan: ...the controversy has only deepened...moving us away from the consensus this or any public memorial needs...concerns about process and cost can undermine the very legitimacy of the Eisenhower Memorial, which makes them more threatening to its future than any design debate. By Sam Roche -- Frank Gehry - Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

Following the life and impact of IM Pei: the first non-Western architect to rise to the peaks of the global profession...[he] should ultimately join his former teacher Walter Gropius near the front of the long line of most over-praised architects of the 20th century. But he is important for other reasons... That ascent is worth examining... By Trevor Boddy - Architectural Review (UK)

Wolf Prix Criticism of Venice Biennale: Hollow, Bleak and Boring: ...a second look at some exceptional entries...The Japanese entry...is anything but an exhibitionist display of who is who in Japanese architecture...Herzog & de Meuron's contribution...is also a testimony of the vigorous, public participation in the debate around a cultural building... By Roland Wahlroos-Ritter/WROAD -- Zaha Hadid [images] - e-architect (UK)

Crenshaw Boulevard comes to a crossroads: Optimism and anxiety travel along its route, as a revived rail service push and an auto-free younger generation herald changes for one close-knit community. By Christopher Hawthorne -- Albert C. Martin; Stiles O. Clements; Paul R. Williams; Helen Liu Fong/Armet & Davis; Frederick Law Olmsted [images] - Los Angeles Times

Architectural sparks when old meets new: The recent conversion of a former power plant...is easy to miss...Yet in its own modest way, the renamed Arc Light building...is one of the most provocative new works of architecture in San Francisco...captures the mood of a decade where our urban culture is very much in flux, and looks to the future as well. By John King -- Ian Birchall and Associates; HKS Architects [images] - San Francisco Chronicle

Putting Regent Park in the swim of things: Instantly magnetic and powerfully sculpted -- there's pure design joy to be found at the Regent Park Aquatic Centre...Its disarming integrity...helping to rescue the neighbourhood -- brilliantly -- from decades of marginalization...Do not confuse sensitive design gestures with less fun...there's a culture of yes at work here. By Lisa Rochon -- MacLennan Jaunkalns Miller Architects (MJMA) - Globe and Mail (Canada)

Old Friends in New Places: Architect and client reflect on making a new worship space on a Quaker school campus: Sidwell Friends School...Guided by the Quaker tenet of consensus, the planning

process was both deliberate and inclusive. By Stephen Kieran and Jason Smith/KieranTimberlake, and Michael Saxenian/Sidwell Friends School [images]- Faith & Form Magazine

Gold Dome auction attracts one buyer: David Box...submitted the sole bid at a public foreclosure auction for the troubled landmark...has yet to come up with a plan for the [geodesic dome building in Oklahoma City]...said he does not intend to tear down the building. By Steve Lackmeyer -- Bailey, Bozalis, Dickenson & Roloff (1958) [image]- The Oklahoman

Kieran Long's common ground: journalist, critic and assistant director of the 2012 Venice Architecture Biennale, talks to HY William Chan about being a non-architectural voice for architecture. - ArchitectureAU (Australia)

Australia celebrates World Green Building Week 2012: ...begins today with more than 90 nations around the world uniting for the series of events. - Architecture & Design (Australia)

100% Design 2012, London, September 19-22: broad spectrum of new talent, fresh ideas and innovative design. - 100% Design

Landscape, Architecture & Wine International Student Design Competition winners from Spain, Australia, Mexico, and Uruguay [images]- Arquideas (Spain)

Call for entries/Expression of Interest/EOI: West Kowloon Cultural District M+ museum (international); deadline: October 15- West Kowloon Cultural District Authority (WKCDA)

Call for entries: Latrobe City (Australia): Transitioning Cities - Low Carbon Futures International Design Ideas Competition; cash prizes; earlybird registration (save moeny!): October 29- OUTR/Office of Urban Transformations Research (Australia)

Call for entries/Call for papers: 50th IMCL/International Making Cities Livable Conference on Reshaping Suburbia into Complete Healthy Communities, Portland, OR, June 23-27, 2013; deadline: November 1, 2012- International Making Cities Livable (IMCL)

Call for entries: 2013 Berkeley Prize Essay Competition: The Architect and the Accessible City (international); open to all current full-time registered students in accredited schools of architecture worldwide; Stage One deadline: November 1, 2012- Berkeley Prize

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