Today's News - Monday, September 24, 2012

- ArcSpace brings us Coop Himmelblau in South Korea, and Amateur Architecture Studio (of Pritzker fame) in China.
- Davidson and Lange offer very different views of Brooklyn’s new Barclays Center: “a great, tough-hided beast of a building...yet somehow it’s more alluring than fearsome,” says he; “a designer U.F.O...its aggressive form and color, its otherworldliness, condition the rest of the development site for more of the same,” says she (did they go to the same building?).
- King is a bit concerned about how architecture will fare in a larger SFMOMA: “all signs indicate that the A+D galleries will grow only slightly - even though the overall museum is doubling in size” (it doesn’t help that there’s been no A+D curator named since Utrich left over a year ago).
- An impressive shortlist named for the Winnipeg Art Gallery Inuit Art and Learning Centre: “Any of these firms could give us a spectacular design.”
- Chaban wonders whither went de Portzamparc in an “8-acre bait and switch” going on at NYC’s Riverside Center (but such “switchooos” are nothing new).
- Holyrood architects join the campaign against plans for a new building entrance without “prior public consultation.”
- Bentley divines the future of two Chicago coal plants scheduled to be shuttered: “reuse speculation is at peak capacity,” and what happens “could have nationwide implications” (that seem fairly optimistic).
- Remark cheers an initiative in San Francisco to “bring the arts to the forefront of community change.”
- Meier, Spear, Brownlie, and others are on board to advise on the aesthetics of a planned overhaul of the Tappan Zee Bridge crossing the Hudson River.
- NYC is first in U.S. to publicly post its 2011 energy benchmarking results.
- Chan is enchanted by WXY’s drawings of the redesign of NYC’s Drawing Center.
- Genevra and Wessner discuss “their reactions and favorite moments” at the Biennale (and a lively, thoughtful discussion it is).
- Chan is enchanted by WXY’s drawings of the redesign of NYC’s Drawing Center.
- An eyeeful of Park(ing) Day around the U.S.
- Two we couldn’t resist: stunning images of Gaudi’s Basilica Sagrada Familia lit up in spectrum of color for Barcelona’s Merce Festival (truly stunning!) + “Hilarious” screenshots of Apple’s new Maps app, “showing an apocalypse-like rendition of various parts of Earth” (very funny - and scary for so many reasons).
- Call for entries: Design Museum Boston’s Street Seats Design Challenge: Design furniture for the city's Fort Point Channel.
bridge's aesthetics and its appropriateness to its surroundings... - Wall Street Journal

An Inside Look at the Luminous Redesign of NYC's Drawing Center: "...the role of experience is important, but the role of making a spectacle of the architecture is actually less important"...This variety of architecture rarely finds its place in contemporary discourse, where spectacle and experience have become casually interchangeable. By Kelly Chan -- WXY Architecture + Urban Design [slide show]- Artinfo

Reflections on the Venice Architecture Biennale 2012: Rosalie Genevro, Executive Director of the Architectural League, and Gregory Wessner, the League's special projects director...discuss their reactions and favorite moments...touches on the cyclical preoccupations of architectural discourse, the discipline's ability to address urgent challenges, and design's role in responding to the shifting priorities of government. [images]- Urban Omnibus

New York City Sets Precedent for Energy Transparency: NYC is first in U.S. to disclose private-sector building energy data from a mandatory benchmarking policy...has publicly posted its 2011 energy benchmarking results for 2,065 large commercial properties, which together cover more than 530 million square feet. - Institute for Market Transformation (IMT)

Park(ing) Day Around the U.S.- Streetsblog

Praise Gaudi! Architect's magnificent Basilica Sagrada Familia lit up in spectrum of colour for Barcelona's Merce Festival [images, video]- Daily Mail (UK)

Hilarious Screenshots Of Apple's New "Maps" App: ...some searches end up showing an apocalypse-like rendition of various parts of Earth. [images]- DesignTAXI

Call for entries: Street Seats Design Challenge: Design Furniture for Boston's Fort Point Channel; cash prizes; early registration deadline (save money!): November 20- Design Museum Boston

"Just Trying to Do This Jig-Saw Puzzle": How architecture's and urban design's practice can change through studying of a little-appreciated Renaissance art, intarsia. By Norman Weinstein- ArchNewsNow.com

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