

Today's News - Thursday, September 27, 2012

- Zumthor is named 2013 RIBA Royal Gold Medalist.
- Tsay says cities have a "crucial role in addressing the global challenges of climate change": they're "small enough to act, and big enough to matter" (a most excellent read!).
- Kimmelman is a bit confounded by Louisville's plans to expand its downtown highways (and eat into a piece of an Olmsted park).
- Zandberg takes on the current mode in Modern architecture: the "embrace of Modernism belongs more to processes of gentrification than to an effort to find suitable and affordable housing solutions."
- Architecture and women take center stage at the Clinton Global Initiative: "Architecture and design is a huge employer of men. Are there things we can do to make this an employer of women as well?"
- A good question, considering a new survey predicts there will be a shortage of architects by 2014 (comments are worth a look, too).
- London "must decentralize to become sustainable," says Rogers Stirk Harbour's Mike Davies.
- Russell minces no words about the rusty "huge frog" (a.k.a. Barclays Center) that's landed in Brooklyn: "an extraordinarily expensive lost opportunity," and "an object lesson in how form follows finance."
- Iovine tours the Biennale with Chipperfield, while Menking seeks its common ground.
- Lasky reports from London's recent design festival: with apologies to Paris, Milan, and New York, "ounce for ounce, bloke for bloke, Britain produces better designers and design impresarios than anywhere else."
- Berger "digs into what caused Seattle's scientific love affair and what it means for the city now."
- A big win for MVRDV in Almere, Netherlands.
- We're a bit saddened by the news that DEGW has been gobbled up - 'er, make that "rebranded."
- SCI-Arc launches an impressive online Media Archive (we've spent way too much time there - and will go back for more!).
- One we couldn't resist: plans for a chicken coop designed as a massive Palladian manse are a "fowl extravagance - not just tasteless - they're clucking offensive" (check out the comment section, too!).
- Call for entries: WoodWorks' US Wood Design Awards for excellence in wood design, engineering and construction (no fee).

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[Peter Zumthor to receive the 2013 RIBA Royal Gold Medal for architecture \[images, links\]](#) - Dezeen

[Cities and Climate Change: Small Enough to Act, Big Enough to Matter: Shin-pei Tsay calls on urbanists to better communicate the crucial role cities can play in addressing the global challenges of climate change by clearly identifying what cities can offer, which innovations are working, and where the impediments to their effectiveness exist.](#) - Urban Omnibus

[Does Louisville Need More Highways? ...cities everywhere have been tearing down postwar highways that ripped through downtowns...successfully recovering historic riverfronts. So what is Louisville doing now? Pursuing a plan that would, in part, enlarge the downtown highways...So Louisville has good bones, good architects and some good ideas. But for three decades the city has wrestled with the interstate and bridge problem. By Michael Kimmelman -- Mies van der Rohe; Frederick Law Olmsted; Hargreaves Associates; De Leon & Primmer; Deborah Berke; Louis & Henry; Jasper D. Ward \[slide show\]](#) - New York Times

[Modern architecture: When less is more \(expensive\): 'Ornament is a crime' is the 'thou shalt not kill' of modern architecture, but 'minimalism' and 'simplicity' is only for the select few...The embrace of Modernism...belongs more to processes of gentrification...than to an effort to find suitable and affordable housing solutions...When simplicity did reach these classes, it generally became shabbiness. By Esther Zandberg -- Louis Sullivan; Adolf Loos; Mies van der Rohe; Dov Karmi; Ram Karmi- Ha'aretz \(Israel\)](#)

[Can architecture and design help improve women's rights? At the Clinton Global Initiative's Annual Meeting, leaders in the architecture field discussed how innovation in the built environment can help empower women and girls worldwide... "Architecture and design is...a huge employer of men. Are there things we can do to make this an employer of women as well as men?" By Reena Jana -- Joan Clos/UN-HABITAT; Salma Samar Damluji/Daw'an Mud Brick Architecture Foundation; Elizabeth Heider/Skanska USA; Jonathan Reckford/Habitat for Humanity International- SmartPlanet](#)

[Survey Predicts Architect Shortage by 2014: ...a combination of designers exiting the profession, baby boomers retiring, a lack of skills among architects looking for work, and less talent in the pipeline as job prospects discourage students from entering the field. By William Hanley- Architectural Record](#)

[London must decentralise to become sustainable, says Dome architect: Rogers Stirk Harbour director Mike Davies says capital should become "more balanced"... "I think we've got opportunities to make a great polyvalent city..." \[video link\]](#) - BD/Building Design (UK)

[Jay Z Concerts to Open Rusty \\$1 Billion Barclays Center: A huge frog has landed in Brooklyn...arena has dark bands of pre-rusted steel that undulate sensuously and senselessly around the building...the gloomy exterior never comes into focus as the iconic presence it strives to be...an extraordinarily expensive lost opportunity...Sadly, \[it\] and Atlantic Yards has become an object lesson in how form follows finance. By James S. Russell -- SHoP Architects; Ellerbe Becket/AECOM \[images\]](#) - Bloomberg News

[-- The Thinking Behind the Biennale: Julie V. Iovine tours the exhibition with David Chipperfield, conversing about his ideas on contemporary architecture culture. -- Seeking Common Ground: William Menking surveys the 2012 Venice Architecture Biennale \[images\]](#) - The Architect's Newspaper

[Planting the Flag: London is emerging as a new world capital of design — even if the city's recent London Design Festival only hinted at it...Ounce for ounce, bloke for bloke, Britain produces better designers and design impresarios than anywhere else...if \[LDF\]...failed to express the full radiance of contemporary British design, blame it on growing pains...What it offered, which was fascinating and redeeming in every way, was London itself. By Julie Lasky \[slide show\]](#) - New York Times

[Seattle's great science renaissance: As the Pacific Science Center gears up for its half-century birthday, Mossback digs into what caused Seattle's scientific love affair and what it means for the city now...Science became an official part of civic life...played a prime role in the development of Pugetopolis. By Knute Berger- Crosscut \(Seattle\)](#)

[MVRDV Wins Competition To Design Massive Green Oasis For Almere, Netherlands: ...to host the next Floriade, in 2022...an international gardening exhibition held every 10 years...is also the planner for the Almere 2030 vision, which aims to turn the city \(the youngest in the Netherlands, built in 1976\) into the country's fifth largest metropolis. \[images\]- Architizer](#)

[End of an era mourned as DEGW rebrands: Pioneering workspace practice renamed by Aecom...to become Strategy Plus at Aecom..."The work of Frank Duffy and John Worthington is all literally tied up in the DEGW name, and to lose that to a large generalist design name is very sad."- BD/Building Design \(UK\)](#)

[SCI-Arc Launches Comprehensive Media Archive at sma.sciarc.edu: More Than 3,000 Topics Covered in 1,000-Plus Hours of Recordings, From 1974 to Present- GlobeNewswire](#)

[The fowl extravagance of Crispin Odey's chicken house: The hedge fund manager's plans to house his hens in a galline Parthenon are not just tasteless – they're clucking offensive...it's a vision of clucking hell. -- Christopher Smallwood Architects \[image\]- Guardian \(UK\)](#)

[Call for entries: US Wood Design Awards for excellence in wood design, engineering and construction, as well as innovative projects; multiple submissions are encouraged; no fee; projects must be located in the U.S. or its territories; deadline: November 30- WoodWorks](#)

["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](#)



[-- Coop Himmelb\(l\)au: Busan Cinema Center, Busan, South Korea](#)
[-- Amateur Architecture Studio/Wang Shu/Lu Wenyu: China Academy of Art, Zhuantang Town, Hangzhou City, China](#)

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