

Today's News - Friday, October 5, 2012

- Maltzan snags commission to design U.S. Embassy annex in Paris.
- An impressive list of architects is transforming the Lyon Confluence district into a "genuine cultural hub," and "one of Europe's boldest city-center urban developments."
- St. Louis preservationists cheer the salvation of two of the city's "strangest and most recognizable mid-century modern buildings" (a flying saucer included).
- A downtown Philadelphia project is "using kids as designers, planners and builders" (can we join the fun?).
- TCLF releases its Landslide 2012 list of endangered landscapes (Pennsylvania Avenue, Nasher Sculpture Garden, and Jones Beach included!).
- A young Brazilian architect wins competition to design the golf clubhouse for the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.
- Weekend diversions (and lots of 'em!):
- This weekend: 6th Architecture Days in Moscow 2012 festival + openhousenewyork "is pulling out all the stops" + Open House Dublin: Architecture Alive!
- Selin Davis explores the "tragedy of modern retirement communities" spotlighted in a new documentary: "At worst, it's an architecture of endemic loneliness, pitting our need for independence against our need for community."
- Wainwright is practically singing in the rain in the "Rain Room" at the Barbican: it's "a startlingly surreal experience" (video makes us wish we could join the chorus!).
- Lind cheers "Detroit Is No Dry Bones" and "Detroit Disassembled" at the National Building Museum that show how two "talented photographers work in this contested territory" (more than just "gorgeous ruin porn").
- "Eero Saarinen: A Reputation for Innovation" at L.A.'s A+D museum "is unique in shedding light on the little known chapter of his secret professional life during the WWII...and his still very valid principles."
- Kent finds optimism and joy wandering through "Building: Inside Studio Gang Architects" at the Art Institute of Chicago.
- At Harvard's Gund Hall, "Tectonic Visions Between Land and Sea" explores the "floating worlds" and "metabolist ideals" of Kiyonori Kikutake.
- "City of Mirages: Baghdad, 1952-1982" has landed at BSA Space, Boston.
- Zara has a most amusing and thoughtful Q&A with Pesce re: his "6 Tables on Water" show in London, New York's place "as the center of the universe, and why architecture has yet to arrive in the 21st century."
- "Thanks for the View, Mr Mies" x 2: architect Dittmer's take on living in Mies's Lafayette Park in Detroit - a place where the design itself encourages "a shared sense of intimacy that fosters community." + Lange's conversation with interior designer and resident Neal and her 12-year experience of "living and accessorizing with Mies."
- Lanks luxuriates in the pages of "Concrete": it is a showcase of the "noble material" that "proves concrete can sing" (luscious slide show, too).
- Goldring finds a few good things to say about Scolari's "Oblique Drawing," though "his 'story' overwhelms when it should instruct, perplexes when it should illuminate."
- Heathcote's second excerpt from "The Meaning of Home" explores two houses that "hide extraordinary interiors...The most affecting spaces are the architectures of love."

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C'est Bon Michael!: Michael Maltzan Architecture wins U.S. Embassy annex in Paris...beat out Allied Works and Mack Scogin Merrill Elam Architects... -- Michel Desvigne- The Architect's Newspaper

Cultural Revival: From a former wasteland to a genuine cultural hub, Lyon's Confluence area accounts for one of Europe's boldest city-center urban developments...has drawn an impressive roster of local and international architects... -- Jean-Paul Viguier; Odile Decq, Rudy Ricciotti, Massimiliano & Doriana Fuksas, and Coop Himmelb(l)au; François Grether; Michel Desvigne; Z Architecture; Xanadu; Jean-Michel Wilmotte; Christian de Portzamparc; Jakob + MacFarlane; Herzog & de Meuron; MDP Michel Desvigne Paysagiste [slide show]- Architectural Record

Starbucks in a Flying Saucer: STL Preservationists Embrace Modernism: St. Louis will retain two of its strangest and most recognizable mid-century modern buildings, proving that local preservationists have embraced complicated buildings of the recent past. -- Richard Henmi/Schwarz & Van Hoefen (1967); Wenceslao Sarmiento (1976) [images]- Next American City

Temporary Playground to Turn Kids Into Planners: Public Workshop, a design firm devoted to community participation and youth engagement, is using a mix of crowd-sourcing and top-down management to create a temporary playground in downtown Philadelphia using kids as designers, planners and builders.- Next American City

D.C.'s Pennsylvania Avenue On The Cultural Landscape Foundation's Endangered Spaces List: "America's Main Street"...among the nation's endangered landscapes...Eleven other sites are being added to the group's Landslide 2012 list... -- M. Paul Friedberg; Carol Johnson [slide show]- Huffington Post

Rio 2016 golf clubhouse design unveiled: A large veranda showcasing the lush tropical landscape of Barra da Tijuca defines the character of the winning project in the competition to choose the design for the Rio 2016 Olympic Games... -- Pedro Évora; Pedro Rivera [image]- Golf Australia

6th Architecture Days in Moscow 2012 festival, October 6-14: to draw attention of professional communities, municipal authorities, general public and tourists, and especially of those interested in city life, to the achievements, challenges, and origin of modern architecture.- Agency P-Arch

Open House New York: A Decade of Showcasing New York's Secret Spaces: For its 10th anniversary, OHNY is pulling out all the stops...There are also a few sites that will soon be a piece of history themselves. October 6-7. [images, links]- New York Observer

Open House Dublin: Architecture Alive! an exploration of the vitality of Dublin through its architecture and the people who experience it. October 5-7- Irish Architecture Foundation (IAF)

The Tragedy of Modern Retirement Communities: When America's first "active" retirement communities opened, average life expectancy was 69.7...But what happens now that the average is 78.7...the subject of a new documentary by Sari Gilman called "Kings Point"...At worst, it's an architecture of endemic loneliness...pitting our need for independence against our need for

community. By Lisa Selin Davis [images]- The Atlantic Cities

Random International installs torrential rain in Barbican gallery: Latest work by young experimental practice invites brave visitors to enter downpour, without getting the slightest bit wet..."Rain Room" is a startlingly surreal experience. By Oliver Wainwright [video]- Guardian (UK)

Detroit Is No Dry Bones: ...capturing the city soul is not easy, and makes photographs of gorgeous ruin porn and chest-beating television ads about the city's pride look like cheap shots...So it is interesting to see two exhibits at the National Building Museum that show how talented photographers like Andrew Moore and Camilo José Vergara work in this contested territory. By Diana Lind [slide show]- Next American City

"Eero Saarinen: A Reputation for Innovation" will highlight his short but brilliant career: ...is unique in shedding light on the little known chapter of Eero Saarinen's secret professional life during the WWII...promotes the rediscovery of the man...his passion for design, and his still very valid principles which he promoted throughout his life and career; at the A+D Architecture and Design Museum >Los Angeles opening Oct. 5 [images]- ArchDaily

New Art Institute of Chicago exhibit focuses on works of Jeanne Gang: Architecture is an optimistic discipline: Nobody builds without believing in the future. In "Building: Inside Studio Gang Architects"...Gang and her crew take hope to a whole new level...the range of projects — and their sense of joy — feels identifiable as Studio Gang's. By Cheryl Kent- Chicago Tribune

Future man: "Tectonic Visions Between Land and Sea" explores floating worlds of Kiyonori Kikutake: ...introduced two concepts that shook the design world — so hard that the vibrations are still felt today...There is renewed interest now in the metabolist ideal of organic flexibility in architecture. -- Ken Tadashi Oshima [images]- Harvard Gazette

"City of Mirages: Baghdad, 1952–1982" at BSA Space, Boston: presents built and unbuilt work by 11 architects, including Frank Lloyd Wright, Le Corbusier, Walter Gropius, Josep Lluís Sert, Alvar and Aino Aalto, and Robert Venturi...curated by Pedro Azara and installed by over,under...- Boston Society of Architects/BSA/AIA

Q&A: Gaetano Pesce on "6 Tables on Water," His London Show of Eco-Conscious Design: ...also discussed with us New York's station as the center of the universe, and why architecture has yet to arrive in the 21st century. By Janelle Zara [slide show]- Artinfo

Lafayette Park: Living in Ordered Exhibition: When architect Melissa Dittmer moved...to Detroit...the modernist development created in the early '60s by Mies van der Rohe, Ludwig Hilberseimer and Alfred Caldwell — a place where the design itself encourages "a shared sense of intimacy that fosters community." [adapted from a chapter in "Thanks for the View, Mr Mies"]- Places Journal

Home Sweet Architectural Masterpiece: "Thanks for the View, Mr. Mies" Celebrates Mies van der Rohe's Lafayette Park Complex in Detroit: Jacqueline Neal, an interior designer and 12-year resident...spoke about living and accessorizing with Mies. By Alexandra Lange- New York Times

10 Masterpiece Buildings That Turn Concrete Into Poetry: The material may commonly be associated with drab, rain-stained affordable housing. But, as "Concrete" proves, concrete can sing...thoughtfully and comprehensively compiled by William Hall to showcase the noble material's breadth of form, texture, and purpose. -- By Belinda Lanks -- Le Corbusier; Frank Lloyd Wright; Oscar Niemeyer; Tadao Ando; Louis Kahn; etc. [images]- Fast Company

The Long View: "Oblique Drawing: A History of Anti-Perspective" by Massimo Scolari: ...his "story" overwhelms when it should instruct, perplexes when it should illuminate...His many remarkable insights disappear in the proliferation of information...Yet, despite its weaknesses this enormous compendium...does provide an excellent resource for artists, architects, and historians. By Nancy Goldring- The Architect's Newspaper

On the threshold of a dream: Two 19th-century homes in the UK and France whose interiors are flamboyant orientalist fantasies...Despite their unpromising façades, both houses hide extraordinary interiors...what is it that makes them still so surprising and seductive? The most affecting spaces are the architectures of love. Excerpt from "The Meaning of Home" by Edwin Heathcote [images]- Financial Times (UK)

"Harry Seidler: Architecture, Art and Collaborative Design": A new traveling exhibition celebrates the 90th anniversary of the birth of Harry Seidler, the leading Australian architect of the 20th century who followed his convictions and vision. By Vladimir Belogolovsky [images]- ArchNewsNow.com



-- Rudy Ricciotti & Mario Bellini: Department of Islamic Arts, Louvre Museum, Paris, France
-- Book: "Mobile Architecture: Construction and Design Manual" by Kim Seonwook & Pyo Miyoung

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