

Today's News - Monday, October 8, 2012

- ArcSpace brings us stunning eye-fuls of Amsterdam's new Stedelijk Museum, and Meier's OCT Clubhouse in Shenzhen.
- Saffron cheers the Barclays Center: it "manages to be both glam and gritty, foreign and familiar. It contains Brooklyn in all its multitudes" (it also "resembles a duck-billed platypus").
- Brandes Gratz, on the other hand, considers the entire Atlantic Yards project the "Great Brooklyn Bait-and-Switch": "nothing is, or ever will be, as promised. Much more is lost than is gained, including the opportunity to do it right with minimum damage."
- It seems that Major League Soccer is so taken by the arena that it has tapped SHoP to design a new stadium in Queens.
- Hume high-fives Gehry's Toronto mega-project that "will change the way the world perceives this city - as well as Canada itself...the stage is set for this to be one of Gehry's most brilliant efforts ever."
- Heathcote finds Piano's new museum on Oslo's waterfront to be "a sophisticated, elegant, not at all challenging work, a remix of familiar Pienesque elements" that "suffers in comparison with Snøhetta's subversive opera house."
- Litt x 3: the new, "darkly elegant" MOCA Cleveland is "a powerful, multifaceted presence, but it's also elusive, challenging and ever-changing" + with Moussavi, "you get something different every time" because she "has avoided giving her buildings a signature look."
- He's a bit disappointed that Cleveland State University is "playing it safe" in its selection of a shortlist for signature a project that has "lowered the odds for a truly great piece of architecture. Why has CSU put itself in the position of choosing from three predictable design teams that will have to avoid repeating what they've already done in Cleveland?"
- LeBlanc gives thumbs-up to University of Toronto's New College Wilson Hall: it is "an easy space to love. Best of all, this intervention - and the others - don't distract from the 1960s design language."
- Murray reports from Geli of Cloud 9's WAF keynote, where he "called on the profession to design out climate change. 'Are we interested in global warming, or are we interested only in our fees?'"
- Cary and Martin expound on the crisis facing the "relatively young field of public-interest design: interest in human-centered design far outpaces the formal opportunities" - and kudos to those trying to change that.
- Columbia's Urban Design Lab issues "Destination Sud: Haiti," a study to "promote touristic activity as a tool for development that 'protects and enhances the environment, stimulates economic growth, promotes education and creates sustainable jobs.'"
- Buchanan puts architectural education front and center: it "must be radically reconsidered, through a new, more fully human paradigm that engages with society and culture."
- Lubell likes what he sees going on at UCLA's Suprastudio this year: Denari has students thinking way outside their comfort zones, with lots of "opportunities to make mistakes, get frustrated, and eventually have things fall into place like puzzle pieces."
- The University of Houston's Graduate Design/Build Studio's Peters has students creating amenities for local schools, parks and non-profits: "students respond well to the challenges of real-world projects. They're not making paper projects that stay on a shelf."
- Young Cameroonians now have a place to study architecture closer to home.
- A young Somali-born, London-based architect credits his mentors, and has taken up the mentoring mantle himself.
- Two good reasons to be on two sides of the globe this week: 2012 DesignPhiladelphia offers "an impressively democratic array of design events" + 100% Design Singapore 2012 kicks off.
- Call for entries: The 2013 Palladio Awards Honoring Excellence in Traditional Design.

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-- Benthem Crouwel Architecten: New Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
-- Richard Meier & Partners: OCT Clubhouse, Shenzhen, China

Brooklyn's Barclays Center a glam, gritty architectural success: The new, \$750 million basketball palace is the borough - in all its multitudes...it balances Brooklyn's conflicting visions of itself...Most big-box buildings...deaden their surroundings. Barclays energizes them. It is one of the first modern sports arenas to take mixed-use seriously. By Inga Saffron -- SHoP Architects; Ellerbe Becket/AECOM- Philadelphia Inquirer

The Great Brooklyn Bait-and-Switch: ...no one should be surprised that at Brooklyn's Atlantic Yards site, nothing is, or ever will be, as promised...No urban renewal project of this over-the-top scale has EVER delivered on its promises...it uses a failed and destructive approach to urban change. Much more is lost than is gained, including the opportunity to do it right with minimum damage. Roberta Brandes Gratz - Citewire

Major League Soccer enlists the Barclays Center team for its Queens stadium project: ...has asked SHoP Architects, the firm that designed the new Nets stadium in downtown Brooklyn, to prepare initial schematic designs for a stadium in Flushing Meadows Corona Park. - Capital New York

Mirvish and Gehry partnership will transform Toronto: Frank Gehry is best known as an architect who designs icons; less well understood is that he's also one who builds cities. For Toronto, that's what's important...they will change the way the world perceives this city — as well as Canada itself...the stage is set for this to be one of Gehry's most brilliant efforts ever. By Christopher Hume- Toronto Star

Stuck in neutral: Star architect Renzo Piano's new museum opens on Oslo's waterfront: ...a sophisticated, elegant, not at all challenging work, a remix of familiar Pienesque elements...suffers in comparison with...Snøhetta's subversive opera house in the next bay along the fjord...a potent reminder of architecture's continuing willing subsumption into a global form of shopfitting for the display of fashionable, expensive and vacuous art. By Edwin Heathcote - Financial Times (UK)

From every angle, the new MOCA Cleveland will surprise and delight visitors: Farshid Moussavi's darkly elegant Museum of Contemporary Art is an iconic

new presence...destined to evoke sharply differing responses...a powerful, multifaceted presence, but it's also elusive, challenging and ever-changing. By Steven Litt -- James Comer Field Operations; Westlake Reed Leskosky [slide show, links]- Cleveland Plain Dealer

Farshid Moussavi designed MOCA Cleveland as a city ornament, unfolding over time: With Frank Gehry, you get shiny curves. With Daniel Libeskind, you get jagged shards. And with [her], you get something different every time...has avoided giving her buildings a signature look. By Steven Litt -- Alejandro Zaera-Polo/Foreign Office Architects (FOA)- Cleveland Plain Dealer

Cleveland State University and NEOMED playing it safe...for new Center for Innovation and Health Professions: ...conceptual proposals...by the three design teams vying for the job, raised the issue of whether CSU and NEOMED have lowered the odds for a truly great piece of architecture...finalists who look an awful lot alike, whose ideas were similar...there were no sparks. By Steven Litt -- Pelli Clarke Pelli/Stantec; NBBJ; HOK/Perspectus [images]- Cleveland Plain Dealer

In with the new at the University of Toronto's New College: Wilson Hall is an easy space to love...Best of all, this intervention -- and the others -- don't distract from the 1960s design language... By Dave LeBlanc -- Macy Dubois (1964); Saucier + Perrotte (2003); Elsander Carter Architects [slide show]- Globe and Mail (Canada)

WAF keynote: Architects labelled 'number one cause of global warming': Spanish architect and net zero carbon advocate Enric Ruiz Geli of Cloud 9 has called on the profession to design out climate change..."Are we interested in global warming, or are we interested only in our fees?" By Christine Murray- The Architects' Journal (UK)

Dignifying Design: The relatively young field of public-interest design already faces a crisis: interest in human-centered design far outpaces the formal opportunities...But once you see what good design can do...you can't unsee it or unexperience it. It becomes a part of your possible. The public-interest design movement is counting on it. By John Cary/PublicInterestDesign.org and Courtney E. Martin -- Michael Murphy; Paul Farmer; MASS Design Group (Model of Architecture Serving Society); IDEO.org; Enterprise Rose Architectural Fellowship; Theresa Hwang; Michael Maltzan Architecture- New York Times

"Destination Sud: Haiti - A Nodal Approach Towards Sustainable Tourism": The study explores a pragmatic approach...proposes a vision for development implementable with low initial investment through an approach that keeps an open door for community involvement. [link to study]- Urban Design Lab/Earth Institute/Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation (GSAPP)

The Big Rethink: Rethinking Architectural Education: Education for architects must be radically reconsidered, through a new, more fully human paradigm that engages with society and culture...we are in the throes of massive epochal change that must profoundly impact architecture. By Peter Buchanan- The Architectural Review/AR (UK)

Outside Their Comfort Zones: UCLA's Suprastudio once again pushes students beyond the norm: Neil Denari challenged teams of students...to work at a much larger scale than they had been trained for...the course's year-long format allows plenty of opportunities for students to make mistakes, get frustrated, and eventually have things fall into place like puzzle pieces. By Sam Lubell [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Patrick Peters: Architect of Change: ...has been quietly helping Houston grow into a bigger, better city...director of University of Houston's Graduate Design/Build Studio...guide students as they design and construct amenities for local schools, parks and non-profit organizations..."students respond well to the challenges of real-world projects...They're not making paper projects that stay on a shelf." [images]- Houston Chronicle

Urban development - Architects now trained: ...Young Cameroonians wishing to study architecture can now undergo training...in the Special Advanced Architecture School of Cameroon (ESSACA)...In the past, Cameroonian architects were trained abroad..."This is far cheaper than what is paid in North Africa and Europe..."- AllAfrica

The Urban Planner Reveals All: Courses that changed my life: architecture & civil engineering: Rashid Ali, Somali born Building Design Young Architect of the Year Award finalist...has now himself taken on the mentoring role for the new generation of young Architects...in a number of inner city workshops, he has helped to develop the aspirations of young people, who may otherwise be struggling in their choice of creative career. - The Voice (UK)

Design as Destination: Hilary Jay is a dynamo. She presides over DesignPhiladelphia...an impressively democratic array of design events...follows Philadelphia's great tradition of free access to many important cultural institutions; October 10 - 14. By Joseph G. Brin- Metropolis Magazine

100% Design Singapore 2012: the first and only curated contemporary exhibition for design-led interiors in Southeast Asia; October 10-12- 100% Design Singapore

Call for entries: The 2013 Palladio Awards Honoring Excellence in Traditional Design; deadline: November 23- Traditional Building Magazine / Period Homes

"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

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