

Today's News - Wednesday, October 10, 2012

- ARB's chief executive explains the e-mail to BD re: "architect" as adjective: "We should have been more cautious so that we get the right message across at the right time, and for that I apologize" (perhaps using Piano as an example was not such a good idea).
- Greenberg on Gehry's "extreme makeover" of Toronto's entertainment district: "Change at this scale and rate can be terrifying" (never mind the lack of infrastructure and the prospect of a "bait and switch").
- Mays weighs in with a reminder for critics: the Mirvish/Gehry "proposal has come forward from the significant history of Toronto's long-term modernizing (and Americanizing) of itself."
- Moore mulls the prospect of prefab skyscrapers leading to "zombie architecture": "questions turn to whether this kind of 'off-the-shelf' architecture will add to boring and soulless regions," and "whether architecture will become less relevant."
- A Rio favela once terrorized by drug gangs gets a cinema on a square that has now been "reclaimed by the community as a public space."
- Wainwright is wowed by [Y/N] Studio's entry in the High Line for London competition: "What other redundant bits of London's infrastructure could be transformed into functional and recreational routes?"
- A look at why other cities are looking to replicate the High Line's success: "the first thing for any would-be imitator to bear in mind is that it took a great deal of cash to make it happen."
- Bestor's Blackbirds development "gives a single-family look to high-density housing" in L.A., "hoping to turn a one-acre hillside parcel into a prime example of smart growth."
- Kansas City, Mo., has high hopes of building a National Museum of Suburbia, but critics claim "there is plenty of real suburb in these parts already."
- Olcayto parses Stirling Prize jurors' comments: when one "says there are a couple of buildings 'we already know won't win', we can be fairly sure he's talking about the Olympic Stadium and New Court" + Videos of the Lyric Theatre and other nominees.
- Calys cheers that Berkeley's cherished 1903 Greek Theatre "will stand when the big one hits" (with a great video of how the "clever" seismic upgrade was done).
- IIT's new Dean Arets promises to shake things up at its architecture school: "We have stable ground here and an incredibly interesting intellectual climate in which to do research."
- Goldberger will "focus on the need for expertise in media" when he accepts his Vincent Scully Prize.
- One we couldn't resist: tool around Rauzier's amazing - no, breathtaking - hyperphotos (today's must-see!).
- Deadline reminders: Call for entries: The Battery Conservancy Americas Design Competition + Gowanus by Design's Water_Works Open Design and Planning Competition (deadline extended!).

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BD article and use of the title "architect": ...it is up to BD what they do with our comments. But do I think that this was a great example to bring to BD's attention and help raise awareness? No I don't. We should have been more cautious so that we get the right message across at the right time, and for that I apologise. Alison Carr, Registrar and Chief Executive- Architects Registration Board (ARB)

Extreme makeover: Toronto's density challenges: David Mirvish's proposal...seems to have caught the city off guard. But should it have? Change at this scale and rate can be terrifying...The extreme makeover of the King Street West entertainment strip may be the pretext or catalyst for exactly the kind of public conversation Toronto needs to have about the future of our city and its downtown. By Ken Greenberg -- Frank Gehry- *Globe and Mail* (Canada)

Mirvish's King West megaproject begins its trial by fire: At stake, according to some commentators, is the very future of the inner city...Is every downtown street destined to be crowded and shadowed by huge stacks of condos? ...critics...should remember that this proposal has come forward...from the significant history of Toronto's long-term modernizing (and Americanizing) of itself. By John Bentley Mays -- Frank Gehry; Viljo Revell; Mies van der Rohe- *Globe and Mail* (Canada)

Will Prefab Skyscrapers Lead to Zombie Architecture? ...a factory-based process of prefabrication would appear to threaten a zombie building surge...questions turn to whether this kind of 'off-the-shelf' architecture will add to what many architects have labeled boring and soulless regions, whether architecture will become less relevant...or whether this will actually fight the issues relating to cohesive modern design. By Tim Moore -- Gair Williams; Frank Gehry; Lawrence Nield; Einberg Fraser; Phillip Goad; Nonda Katsalidis- *DesignBuild Source* (Australia)

Rio's first favela cinema brings normality to a once-brutal district: ...the residents of a neighbourhood once terrorised by drug gangs are getting their first taste of the big screen...CineCarioca Nova Brasilia was followed by a school for training in audio, visual and digital skills. The square on which the cinema sits was reclaimed by the community as a public space. Bars and restaurants have opened up around it...- *Guardian* (UK)

London 'LidoLine' could allow commuters to swim to work: Proposal by [Y/N] Studio would transform canals into a swimmable network...runner-up in [High Line for London] ideas competition..., which Pop Down by Fletcher Priest architects, which proposed to transform the disused Mail Rail tunnel...into an urban mushroom garden...What other redundant bits of London's infrastructure could be transformed into functional and recreational routes? By Oliver Wainwright [images, links]- *Guardian* (UK)

New York's High Line: Why cities want parks in the sky: It has been so popular that other cities are following suit, with plans to replicate the formula in London. What is the secret of its success? ...a relic of the 1930s has become the catwalk of 21st Century New York...the first thing for any would-be imitator to bear in mind is that it took a great deal of cash to make it happen. -- Joshua David; Robert Hammond; James Corner; Piet Oudolf [images]- *BBC Magazine*

Stealth Density: Barbara Bestor's Blackbirds gives a single-family look to high-density housing that puts pedestrians and cyclists first. With the help of Los Angeles's 2004 Small Lot Ordinance...hoping to turn a one-acre hillside parcel in Echo Park into a prime example of smart growth. [images]- *The Architect's*

Newspaper

Suburban Kansas Dream: National Museum of Suburbia: Plan for Exhibits on Bowling, Lawn Furniture Inspires Neighborhood Spat; Faux Fence: ...coming to this Kansas City, Mo., suburb if local planners have their way. Museum officials...propose spending \$34 million to create...there is plenty of real suburb in these parts already...could also serve as a place for scholarly study on the subject. There are naysayers.- Wall Street Journal

Black box: Hepworth Wakefield and Lyric Theatre are the Stirling Prize frontrunners: ...jury comments are always revealing...When jury member Mark Jones...says there are a couple of buildings 'we already know won't win', we can be fairly sure he's talking about the Olympic Stadium and New Court. By Rory Olcayto -- Populous; OMA; Stanton Williams; O'Donnell + Tuomey; David Chipperfield- The Architects' Journal (UK)

AJ TV: The Lyric Theatre by O'Donnell + Tuomey: Exclusive 8-minute video building study and interview with Sheila O'Donnell and John Tuomey + link to video re: Hepworth Wakefield by David Chipperfield- The Architects' Journal (UK)

Rest easy! Berkeley's Greek Theatre [1903] will stand when the big one hits: Historic structures are often the most difficult to strengthen without defacing the historic and architectural qualities that create the building's charm....seismically strengthened, will continue to serve audiences for years to come. By George Calys -- Cody Anderson Wasney; Tipping Mar [video]- San Francisco Examiner

A new dean promises to shake up IIT's architecture school: ...the tricky rite of passage that greets all incoming deans...coming to terms with the ghost of Ludwig Mies van der Rohe..."This is also a moment when Chicago has a lot of possibilities to become a kind of test ground for change...We have stable ground here and an incredibly interesting intellectual climate in which to do research." -- Wiel Arets - Crain's Chicago Business

A Call to Critical Arms: Paul Goldberger wins Vincent Scully Prize, speech to focus on the need for expertise in media...National Building Museum has added him to its illustrious roster of winners..."I don't know that I'll ever be on another list that includes Prince Charles and Jane Jacobs."- The Architect's Newspaper

This Picture Is Worth 1,000 Pictures: Hyperphotos are to panoramic photos what Google Earth is to a globe. You can keep clicking and zooming and clicking and zooming, seemingly endlessly, until you find yourself on a dramatic balcony, looking up a statue's nose. -- Jean-François Rauzier [images]- Slate

Deadline reminder: Call for entries: The Battery Conservancy Americas Design Competition: Draw Up a Chair: design iconic moveable outdoor seating for Battery Park at the tip of Manhattan; open to professionals and students from U.S., Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean; cash prize + fabrication; deadline: October 30- The Battery Conservancy

Deadline change: Call for entries: Gowanus by Design's Water_Works Open Design and Planning Competition; cash prizes; registration deadline: November 12- Gowanus by Design

"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



-- Benthem Crouwel Architecten: New Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

-- Richard Meier & Partners: OCT Clubhouse, Shenzhen, China

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