Today's News - Thursday, October 11, 2012

- Long makes his pick for the Stirling Prize, and offers a very interesting riff on RIBA's Royal Gold Medal.
- Rochon sees the Mwish/Gehry plan for Toronto's theater district as "an architectural challenge" that "will require Toronto's planners and politicians to match the team's faith in urban ambition."
- Brussat explains why he likes to "pick on Gehry" (a bit - no, very harsh).
- Wainwright is not totally won over by Piano's new Oslo art gallery: it is "a strangely soulless place" hoping "to play the role of glamorous civic savior," but is more "a well-tailored envelope covering a vapid haul of corporate cultural capital."
- Kennicott makes the case that a Georgetown heating plant, a "mothballed gem of federal architecture," could be D.C.'s own Tate Modern - it's a "once-in-a-generation opportunity shouldn't be squandered."
- Piiparinan and Trubek outline the "perils of Rust Belt memes" favored by the national press: "coverage of ruin and revival gloss over deeper truths about these cities," and "can be as problemactic as the 'ruin porn' ones."
- Nelson explains the plight - and pluck - of some Detroit neighborhoods: "Ah, collaboration - hardly a novel idea around these parts" (nary a meme in sight).
- Gallagher cheers "new life for an old Detroit landmark" that fits into "wider plans to remake the Detroit riverfront."
- Speaking of national press and the Rust Belt, Arch Record highlights three cities in its New Life for the American City series, but penned by locals who know: Litt, O'Toole, and Lackmeyer.
- Moore considers the impending Kingdom Tower in Jeddah set to be the world's tallest skyscraper: "Should we celebrate egoism?" Height does not necessarily equal quality.
- Williams and Tsien's Logan Center at U. of C. "adds another landmark to the university's architecturally rich campus": the "mixing bowl for the arts" opens tomorrow with a three-day arts festival.
- Flint makes the case that FLW and Corbu "have earned a place in history."
- King cheers FLW's Marin Civic Center at 50: "the building is an old-fashioned joy to experience on foot" (even though "some aspects have not weathered well)."
- Woodman is heartened that Kahn's Four Freedoms Park "accurately reflects its architect's design" (not the case with some other projects "designed by celebrated architects but realized posthumously)."
- King says "CityTarget store makes Metreon a better box: An improvement, but also a reminder that you can only do so much with a box that shouldn't be there in the first place," but it "might become an integral part of downtown San Francisco after all."
- Winners all: WAF 2012 Awards + 28 projects honored in 2012 Auckland Architecture Awards: "just as fine wine comes from scrappy soil, so good architecture emerges from challenging circumstances."
- Call for entries: Architizer A+ Awards to be judged by "architects, thought leaders and the people who actually hire architects."
--- Cleveland, Ohio: The Metropolis of the Western Reserve Reclaims its Urbanity: ...several decades of patient stewardship...is paying off in selected parts of the city...adding a fresh layer of architecture and landscape to the handsome civic armature. By Steven Litt

--- Pittsburgh: The former steel city embraces green design and its rivers. By Christine H. O'Toole

--- Oklahoma City: Fueled by public initiatives and energy dollars, a plains city calls on design to improve quality of life. By Steve Lackmeyer

--- Architectural Record

World’s Tallest Skyscraper Confirmed – but Should We Celebrate Egoism? Any building that fits into the category of the world’s tallest will always be well-known for its height alone...being the biggest is often equated by some with being the best. Architects in the know realise that height does not equal quality. By Tim Moore – Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture [images] - DesignBuild Source (Australia)

Logan Center for the Arts bolsters arts and architecture at University of Chicago: ...adds another landmark to the university’s architecturally rich campus...a “mixing bowl for the arts” will spark new, sometimes unexpected, cross-genre collaborations...opens officially Oct. 12-14, with a three-day arts festival. – Todd Williams Billie Tsien Architects [slide show] - Chicago Sun-Times

How Should We Celebrate Our Architects? We may not think of architects as cultural heroes. But those who have made breakthroughs in how we live deserve recognition...No one is suggesting that all architects can be enduring cultural heroes or the focus of national pride...But Frank Lloyd Wright and Le Corbusier have earned a place in history... By Anthony Flint [images, links] - The Atlantic Cities

At 50, Marin Civic Center comes of age: It is the last major work of Frank Lloyd Wright...It's also his most accessible...the building is an old-fashioned joy to experience on foot...Some aspects have not weathered well...what has endured for a half-century is that rarest of buildings: a popular favorite that also holds lessons for architectural scholars. By John King [images] - San Francisco Chronicle

Kahn’s vision of freedom lives on: Nearly 40 years after his death, the newly completed Four Freedoms Park accurately reflects its architect’s design...joins a select band of projects designed by celebrated architects but realised posthumously...For once, one can say with conviction that the original architect would wholeheartedly approve. By Ellis Woodman – Louis I. Kahn; Miralles Tagliabue; Gaudí; Charles Rennie Mackintosh; Le Corbusier - BD/Building Design (UK)

S.F. CityTarget store makes Metreon a better box: An improvement, but also a reminder that you can only do so much with a box that shouldn’t be there in the first place...Feels like anywhere...[but] who knows - Metreon might become an integral part of downtown San Francisco after all. By John King - Westfield [images] - San Francisco Chronicle

World Architecture Festival winners 2012 – Wilkinson Eyre Architects/Grant Associates/Atelier One/Atelier Ten; Atelier Dreiseitl/AECOM; Arcau; Li Xiaodong Atelier; Billard Leece Partnership/Bates Smart; Stanton Williams; Wingårdh Arkitektkontor; Vo Trong Nghia Architects; Kerry Hill Architects; Menis Architectos; Francis-Jones Morehen Thorp; Nikken Sekkei; Vo Trong Nghia Architects; P.A.C; Klein Dytham Architects; Isay Weinfeld; Tabanlioglu Architects; John Wardle Architects; etc. [images, info] - World Architecture Festival (WAF)

Top designs emerge in hard times: An office building of glass shards and a cave-like home are among 28 winners at 2012 Auckland Architecture Awards...“just as fine wine comes from scrappy soil, so good architecture emerges from challenging circumstances.” — Patterson Architects; Glazunzina Paterson Architects; Stevens Lawson Architects; Cheshire Architects; Williams Ross Architects; Jasmax; Architectus; Hill Manning Mitchell Architects; etc. [slide show] - New Zealand Herald

Call for entries: Architizer A+ Awards: ...break architecture out of the echo chamber to celebrate the world's best structures, spaces and the minds behind them...a jury of 200 architects, thought leaders and the people who actually hire architects; deadline: November 9 - Architizer

--- Bentheim Crouwel Architekten: New Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

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