

Today's News - Wednesday, October 17, 2012

- Nobel notes "a cleansing" in architecture: "We see far less reflexive fealty to 'starchitects' now. Even that insipid term seems dated, pejorative. What changed?" (your must-read of the day).
- Saffron is quite taken by (and most eloquent about) Kahn's FDR memorial: in a world where "posthumous architecture rarely ends well," this is "as pure a distillation of his architectural philosophy as you can imagine...it expresses something few contemporary memorials would dare to suggest: confidence in the future" (great slide show, too).
- Lange lobs a few good ones re: Mayne's Cornell NYC Tech: "The metaphors are vegetal, but the concepts are digital."
- Rosenbaum is troubled by Cornell's philosophy, 'Not tech for tech's sake, but tech in support of commerce.' So much for pure research."
- Merrick muses on Piano's new museum in Oslo: "Welcome to the Comb-over where...mental disturbance will make you feel better."
- Long takes a long look at Fretton's new London restaurant that proves "small architecture is just as important as iconic towers when it comes to our enjoyment of urban life" (the view and food are good, too).
- On a bigger scale, NY Mag offers up eyefuls of "9 Experiments in Large."
- A 1939 WPA post office in Venice, CA, now set to be restored as new HQ for "The Matrix" producer.
- Ruin-porn fix for the day: eyefuls of abandoned mid-century modern homes by mid-century masters, from Scandinavia to Siesta Key.
- Code for America fellows have designed a new app that helps communities do their own urban planning.
- A good reason to be in NYC next week (besides Archtober): Design Management Institute's annual conference: "New Ambition: The Promise of Design" that will lead with the question: what is design today?
- The winner of NYC Best For Business Infographic Competition: "57,321,231,319 reasons to do business in NYC" (very cool!).
- Cast your vote for the inaugural Icon of the Year (a definite "fealty to 'starchitects'" here).
- Call for entries (and lots of 'em!): abstracts for the 6th Making Cities Liveable Conference in Melbourne next June + Breathe: The new urban village project in Christchurch + Cambodian Sustainable Housing International Open Design Competition + RFP for EPA 2013 Environmental Justice Small Grants + IIDA International Student Sustainable Design Competition + 3 ACSA Student Competitions.

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Last Stars Standing: Architecture has undergone something of a cleansing fealty to "starchitects" now. Even that insipid term seems dated, pejorative. What changed? By Philip Nobel -- Herbert Muschamp; Peter Eisenman; Charles Gwathmey; Richard Meier; Steven Holl; United Architects; Greg Lynn; Daniel Libeskind; Frank Gehry; Zaha Hadid; ARO; Lewis Tsurumaki Lewis/LTL; LOT-EK; Bjarke Ingels; Thom Mayne/Morphosis; Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Rem Koolhaas/OMA- Metropolis Magazine

A posthumous New York project preserves architect Louis Kahn's legacy: Four Freedoms Park...on Roosevelt Island...is as pure a distillation of his architectural philosophy as you can imagine...it expresses something few contemporary memorials would dare to suggest: confidence in the future. By Inga Saffron -- Harriet Pattison; Mitchell/Giurgola Architects [slide show]- Philadelphia Inquirer

Silicon Island: Can photovoltaics ever be romantic? Morphosis Architects' design for a new academic building for the Cornell NYC Tech campus...on Roosevelt Island...suggests the answer could be yes...By calling it the "lilypad," Thom Mayne is trying to get out ahead of the nickname curve...massive array...is more an element of landscape than of architecture...The metaphors are vegetal, but the concepts are digital. By Alexandra Lange -- Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); James Corner Field Operations- New Yorker

First Look (with video) at Cornell NYC Tech Campus and Thom Mayne's Academic Building: The corporate-academic nexus at the heart of this project also troubles me...new school's philosophy is: "Not tech for tech's sake, but tech in support of commerce." So much for pure research. By Lee Rosenbaum -- Morphosis; Skidmore, Owings and Merrill (SOM)- ArtsJournal

London's got the Shard -- Oslo has the Comb-over: Renzo Piano has made his mark in the Norwegian capital...Astrup Fearnley Museum...where, according to the Italian maestro, mental disturbance will make you feel better...Despite its vitreous lounge-lizard comb-over, the museum is a pretty straightforward demonstration of modernist design... By Jay Merrick- Independent (UK)

Food with a view: Tony Fretton's new riverside restaurant [The Perkin Reveller], nestled between Tower Bridge and a Unesco World Heritage Site...a building that tells us something important about the value of the small scale...reminds us of something the City of London is in the throes of forgetting: that small architecture is just as important as iconic towers when it comes to our enjoyment of urban life. By Kieran Long [slide show]- Evening Standard (UK)

9 Experiments in Large: A really long bus, a massive new park, balconies that double as swimming pools. -- ZM Architecture; Baca Architects; DCCP Arquitectos; JDS Architects; Steven Holl Architects; Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture; Iñaki Echeverria; C.F. Moller Architects [slide show essay]- New York Magazine

Joel Silver Reveals Venice Post Office Restoration Plans: ...will include a \$100,000 restoration of a historic Edward Biberman mural...The Matrix producer is planning a renovation of the building, which was built in 1939 by the Federal Works Progress Administration (WPA). -- Boto Design Architects [images]- Hollywood Reporter

Stunning Photos of Abandoned Mid-Century Modern Homes -- Bruno Matthson; Paul Rudolph; Frank Lloyd Wright; Knud Blach Petersen & Herbert Jensen [images]- Flavorwire

[LocalData, An App That Helps Communities Do Their Own Urban Planning:](#) Three young Code for America fellows have developed an app that puts expert tools in the hands of communities, letting them control, analyze, and visualize their own data. By Kelsey Campbell-Dollaghan - Fast Company

[DMI annual conference: "New Ambition: The Promise of Design":](#) In the last decade, design has earned "a seat at the table" and garnered the respect of business leaders around the globe. But what is design today? New York City, October 23-25- Design Management Institute (DMI)

[NYCEDC Announces Winner of NYC Best For Business Infographic Competition 2012: "57,321,231,319 reasons to do business in NYC" -- Sara Matiz/MAD Studio \[image\]-](#) New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC)

[Vote now: inaugural Icon of the Year 2012; deadline: October 29 --](#) Barber Osgerby; David Chipperfield; Herzog & de Meuron; Michael Hopkins; Patricia Urquiola; Rem Koolhaas; Renzo Piano; Thomas Heatherwick; Yves Behar; Zaha Hadid- Icon magazine (UK)

[Call for entries: Call for abstracts for the 6th Making Cities Liveable Conference in Melbourne, Australia, June 10-12, 2013; deadline: February 8, 2013-](#) Healthy Cities

[Call for entries: Breathe: The new urban village project; international 2-stage competition to design and build a new place for living in the Central City, Christchurch, New Zealand; no fee; cash prizes; Stage One deadline: January 15, 2013-](#) Christchurch City Council / Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority (CERA) / Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE)

[Call for entries: Cambodian Sustainable Housing International Open Design Competition \(open to professionals and students\); in partnership with Karuna Cambodia, Habitat for Humanity & the Cambodian Society of Architects \(CSA\); keep below a budget of \\$2000; winning design will be built by Habitat for Humanity Cambodia as prototype; registration deadline: December 15-](#) Building Trust International (UK)

[Call for entries/Request for Proposals/RFP: EPA 2013 Environmental Justice Small Grants; applicants must be incorporated non-profits, federally recognized tribal governments, or tribal organizations working to educate, empower and enable their communities to understand and address local environmental and public health issues; deadline: January 7, 2013-](#) U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

[Call for entries: IIDA Student Sustainable Design Competition \(international\); cash prizes; deadline: November 15-](#) International Interior Design Association (IIDA) / Interface

[Call for entries: 3 ACSA Student Competitions: Timber in the City: Urban Habitats Competition; Steel Design Student Competition; and Preservation as Provocation Ideas Competition: Castle Pinckney for the 21st Century; varying eligibility requirements; cash prizes; registration deadline for all: March 6, 2013-](#) Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA)



-- Grieg Architects: Oseana - Art & Culture Center, Os (Bergen), Norway
-- 3XN: The Arch, Mandal, Norway
-- Wingårdh Arkitektkontor: Spira Performing Arts Center, Jönköping, Sweden

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