

Today's News - Wednesday, October 24, 2012

EDITOR'S NOTE: With early-morning meetings and our annual post-Heritage Ball/Party@the Center break (a.k.a. recovery) ahead - we will not be posting tomorrow or Friday, but will return Monday, October 29.

- Weinstein looks deeply into Ando's "thoughtful heart" and his "spiritual engagement with Modernism" presented in two new books.
- Mehta has questions "all creative placemakers should ask," including are "the outcomes we're aiming to achieve actually the right ones to begin with?"
- Wainwright wanders Mecca and is more than a bit appalled by the "voracious development that has seen historic sites bulldozed and locals forced into shantytowns" (so much for creative placemaking - though it does have a "Big Ben on steroids").
- Bernstein reports on plans to build a viaduct connecting Panama City to outlying suburbs that opponents say would be like "putting a roof over Machu Picchu" (but it would shorten the drive to Gehry's Museum of Biodiversity).
- It seems the "starchitects are descending on Toronto"; first the Gehry-Mirvish King West project, and now Foster's massive Oxford Place.
- Perhaps they should all attend the Designing Cities Conference in NYC right now and pick up a copy of the first-ever Urban Street Design Guide (you can get it online).
- Most excellent tips and info available on the MAS Summit for New York City's Development, Density and Diversity conference website, including the 3rd Annual MAS Survey on Livability and much more (with coming updates).
- Baillieu minces no words when it comes to troubles brewing around Kuma's V&A Dundee scheme that "calls the whole competition process into question. We've been here before, of course."
- A neighborhood group is ganging up on Studio Gang's design for "an eye-catching, flower-shaped" rooftop ballroom atop a Michigan Avenue hotel.
- Russell offers refreshing relief from all this grousing with a glowing review of H&deM's Parrish Art Museum: it is "quietly monumental" and "exudes a powerful primordial calm."
- Hill asks an intriguing question: "What do you do with a building that's been the site of a mass shooting?"
- Through the ongoing Jakarta Architecture Triennale, IAI Jakarta is reintroducing its profession to the public.
- The AIA ABI report on architectural billings is up - the best since 2010 (fingers crossed it's a trend!).
- The AIA teams up with the U.S. Commerce Department to promote the export of American architectural services to India and Sri Lanka.
- The RIAI takes its show on the road to Shanghai to promote Irish architectural talent to Chinese businesses.
- Eyefuls of winners in Building Trust International's HOME Competition (some great ideas!).
- A good reason to be in NYC this weekend: the Designers & Books Fair offers a star-studded line-up (and lotsa books!).
- One we couldn't resist: Niemeyer "sees his nonlinear approach to design carried over onto a quintet of Converse sneakers" (a must-have for your shoe rack - next to Zaha's sandals).

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Tadao Ando's Thoughtful Heart: Two recent books track a trajectory of a spiritual engagement with Modernism. By Norman Weinstein- ArchNewsNow.com

The Question All Creative Placemakers Should Ask: For whom are we trying to create benefit when implementing our creative placemaking strategies? I wish somebody would talk more about if the outcomes we're aiming to achieve are actually the right ones to begin with... By Neeraj Mehta [\[links\]](#)- Next American City

Mecca's mega architecture casts shadow over hajj: Towering over Mecca, this is the world's second-tallest building – and it is just a tiny part of a voracious development that has seen historic sites bulldozed and locals forced into shantytowns...Visible 30km away, this is the Abraj al-Bait, which rises like Big Ben on steroids..."It is the end of Mecca. And for what?" By Oliver Wainwright - Sami Angawi/Hajj Research Centre [\[images\]](#)- Guardian (UK)

Panama City Highway Stirs Controversy: Opponents of a viaduct connecting Panama City, Panama, to outlying suburbs say that it will destroy the atmosphere of a neighborhood protected by UNESCO World Heritage status. By Fred A. Bernstein [\[images\]](#)- Architectural Record

Massive Project by Norman Foster could Transform Toronto: ...dubbed Oxford Place, the plan calls for upgrades to the current convention center and four new towers...surrounding a five-and-a-half acre park spanning a railroad...some have noted the resemblance of the two towers to Foster's proposal for the World Trade Center, nicknamed the "kissing towers." -- Foster + Partners [\[images\]](#)- The Architect's Newspaper

NACTO President and NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) Commissioner Janette Sadik-Khan today kicked off the three-day Designing Cities Conference with the release of the first-ever Urban Street Design Guide. New data shows innovative street design fosters economic growth. [\[link to guide\]](#)- National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO)

2012 MAS Summit for New York City: Development, Density and Diversity highlighted trailblazing initiatives in New York and other cities across the globe. 3rd Annual MAS Survey on Livability; GCT: The Next 100 Presentations; etc. Check back for updates, videos...- Municipal Art Society of New York (MAS)

V&A learns too late to pick an architect, not a design: Kengo Kuma's troubled Dundee scheme calls the whole competition process into question...V&A was forced to admit that it would be "irresponsible" to proceed with the original plan because of the risk to budget and timescale. We've been here before, of course... By Amanda Baillieu [\[links\]](#)- BD/Building Design (UK)

Streeterville group opposes Jeanne Gang firm's design for Marriott addition: ...has panned her recently unveiled design for a new ballroom atop a Michigan Avenue hotel...an eye-catching, flower-shaped addition to the Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile, a stark contrast to the boxy building... -- Studio Gang [\[image\]](#)- Crain's Chicago Business

For \$26 Million Parrish Art Museum, Herzog & De Meuron Taps Seascope: Up close [it] is quietly monumental. Its great length -- 615 feet, or about two

football fields -- and almost windowless solidity exude a powerful primordial calm...a kind of unself-conscious beauty found in the local landscape. By James S. Russell -- Reed Hilderbrand [images]- Bloomberg News

Architecture Heals: What do you do with a building that's been the site of a mass shooting? Tear it down? Remodel it? Turn it into a memorial for the victims? How do you make a decision? ...Cinemark Theatres asked the city of Aurora, Colorado, to conduct an online survey asking the community what should be done with the multiplex. By David Hill -- J.D. Nelson- Architectural Record

Jakarta's Architects Build Awareness: Behind many of these buildings are great architects...But people tend to overlook their important role. Through the ongoing Jakarta Architecture Triennale 2012, IAI Jakarta is reintroducing its profession to the public. JAT 2012 runs until Sunday... -- Indonesian Architects Association- JakartaGlobe

Growth Speeds Up: The AIA's Architecture Billings Index records its best score in two years, with Multifamily Residential work and the West region leading the way.- Architect Magazine

Commerce Department Award To Help Architects Increase U.S. Exports and Create Jobs: AIA accepted an award from the U.S. Commerce Department's International Trade Administration's Market Development Cooperator Program to promote the export of American architectural services to India and Sri Lanka. - American Institute of Architects (AIA)

Irish architects showcase in Shanghai: ...Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland (RIAI) [presented] "Irish Architecture – A History of Culture and a Sustainable Future"...promoting Irish architecture among Chinese businesses who are interested in working with or employing Irish architects in China....education is also an important area.- Irish Times

Winners of HOME Competition Announced: Levitt Bernstein's HAWSE (Homes through Apprenticeships With Skills for Employment) uses temporary 'pop-up' structures to occupy redundant garages on existing housing estates... -- 360 Architects; Gensler; Insitu Studio; Groundwork HK; Hugh Holder Architects; Hugh Holder Architects; Brian Butch; Mulloway Studio; Adriano Pupilli Architects [images]- Building Trust International (UK)

Designers & Books Fair 2012: presentations, interviews, and panel discussions—all with leading members of the international design community, and expo of leading U.S. and European design book publishers and booksellers; at the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT), New York City, October 26-28- Designers & Books

Oscar Niemeyer x Converse Collection: ...he pushed the envelope when it came to utilizing reinforced concrete and sees his nonlinear approach to design carried over onto a quintet of Converse collaborative releases...they arrive at select Brazilian retailers (yesterday). [images]- Sneaker News

Prime Time for Landscape Architects: Mathews Nielsen Landscape Architects Masters the New Collaborations: The expanding influence of landscape represents a fundamentally different way of thinking about urbanism. By John Gendall [images]- ArchNewsNow



-- Zaha Hadid Architects: Pierresvives, Montpellier, France
-- Gonçalo Byrne Arquitectos: Joao Góis and David Sinclair Pousada de Cascais, Cascais, Portugal

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