

Today's News - Tuesday, November 13, 2012

- Iovine parses the post-Sandy debate re: hard infrastructure vs. soft infrastructure: "with the emergence of a technologically savvy, ecologically oriented landscape profession, a more holistic approach is attracting advocates."
- Tenner tackles post-Sandy questions: "How should we decide what is worth rebuilding? The Dutch have a way of deciding what is worth saving with a dike or sea wall, and what is not. Should we follow their example?" (great links)
- Jones ponders lessons to be learned from currently inundated Venice: what can it "teach us about protecting our cultural treasures from hell and high water?" + He and The Atlantic offer two amazing slide shows of the city under almost 5 feet of water (kayaking and swimming in Piazza San Marco!).
- Binelli on blighted Detroit and how the city "became the world capital of staring at abandoned old buildings... you can't talk aesthetics without talking ruin porn."
- Meanwhile, Johnson of Citistates Group explains why Detroit's TechTown is "one of the best platforms for turning ideas into companies - its leadership gets it about the 'millennial' generation," and provides the kind of environment emerging entrepreneurs want.
- Goldberger at his best re: the "firestorm on Fifth Avenue" and "the tempest that hit the New York Public Library...over plans for an ambitious renovation. Will it become a glorified Starbucks, as some fear?" (in the end, that's doubtful)
- Roche offers a way around the Eisenhower Memorial impasse: "The current debate presents the opportunity to reestablish a public design process that that reinforces our democratic political one. And that, in itself, would make a good memorial to Eisenhower."
- King gives two thumbs-up to a new parking garage in Mission Bay: its "kinetic beauty...taps into a basic truth - that smart buildings fuse the reality of what they do with the potential of where they are" (and pix to prove it).
- Altabe is not very taken by Hadid's "dizzying zigzag forms" of MSU's Broad Art Museum: its "wild configurations" are "more in keeping with amusement parks."
- Hawthorne finds everything old is new again in rereading "Design for the Real World," Papanek's "scathing, 41-year-old critique of the profession" that reads "as if it were written today."
- Q&A with the Cosanti Foundation's Stein re: Soleri's Arcosanti and "how an urban system can function as a super-organism...and many other timely topics."
- Eyefuls (and actual information!) of the winners of the international 2013 SEED Award for Excellence in Public Interest Design (great presentation!).
- Eyefuls of the finalists' proposals for Japan's massive new National Stadium.
- Five emerging firms (all East Coast-based) selected as finalists for MoMA/P.S.1 Young Architects Program pavilion.
- Morris mounts Nishi's "Discovering Columbus": "a strangely intimate room perched high above Central Park like an urban tree house" (and only on view through Sunday).
- One we couldn't resist: 15 buildings that don't look like buildings (a few are real zingers we've never seen!).
- Call for entries: Infill Philadelphia: Soak It Up! Design Competition: Design green storm water infrastructure to revitalize Philly neighborhoods and other cities.

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[Between a Soft and a Hard Place: ...following Sandy's retreat, engineers, planners and architects started to consider what preparations are needed to better battle the next storm. The discussion quickly devolved into a debate about hard infrastructure...versus soft infrastructure...with the emergence of a technologically savvy, ecologically oriented landscape profession, a more holistic approach is attracting advocates. By Julie V. Iovine -- Weiss/Manfredi; Guy Nordenson; Adam Yarinsky; Catherine Seavitt; Susannah Drake - Wall Street Journal](#)

[After Sandy, How Should We Decide What Is Worth Rebuilding? The Dutch have a way of deciding what is worth saving with a dike or sea wall, and what is not. Should we follow their example? ...Are we ready for a "cultural shift" in which the likelihood of extreme events...will affect all government and private planning, and individual decisions. By Edward Tenner - The Atlantic Cities](#)

[Venice has the battle against extreme weather down to a fine art: What can the flooded Italian city teach us about protecting our cultural treasures from hell and high water? ...the inundation of 70% of the city following heavy rain -- one of the most dramatic floods of modern times in Venice -- is surely a catastrophe, an apocalypse. Well, not necessarily. By Jonathan Jones \[slide show, links\] - Guardian \(UK\)](#)

[Venice Under Water: Sunday's level of 149 centimeters \(4 ft, 10 in\) was below the 160 centimeters \(5 ft, 2 in\) recorded four years ago in the worst flooding in decades...images from Venice as it endures this recent acqua alta. - The Atlantic](#)

[How Detroit Became the World Capital of Staring at Abandoned Old Buildings: Every modern ruin tells a story...not exactly a question of gentrification; when your city has 70,000 abandoned buildings, it will not be gentrified anytime soon. Rather, it's one of aesthetics...you can't talk aesthetics without talking ruin porn..."I came to see the end of the world!" By Mark Binelli; from "Detroit City Is the Place to Be: The Afterlife of an American Metropolis" - New York Times Magazine](#)

[Talk of the TechTown: Detroit is home to the third highest concentration of design professionals in the U.S., seemingly attracts entrepreneurs by the minute and has one of the best platforms for turning ideas into companies...why TechTown is one of the catalysts for this growth...\[its\] leadership gets it about the "millennial" generation. By Curtis Johnson/Citistates Group - Model D \(Detroit\)](#)

[Firestorm on Fifth Avenue: No one expected the force of the tempest that hit the New York Public Library...over plans for an ambitious, \\$300 million renovation. Will the "palace of culture" ...become a glorified Starbucks, as some fear? Interviewing all sides, Paul Goldberger walks the controversy back to its flash point: the nature of the library's 21st-century mission and the values at the center of the Norman Foster-designed project. -- Carrère and Hastings \(1911\) - Vanity Fair](#)

[A Way Around the Eisenhower Memorial Impasse: Reinstating a fair and open access to public design competitions: The current debate...presents the opportunity to reestablish a public design process that that reinforces our democratic political one. And that, in itself, would make a good memorial to Dwight Eisenhower. By Sam Roche -- Frank Gehry - Metropolis Magazine](#)

[Mission Bay garage's architectural edge: ...treats the structure as a sculpture on the landscape...doubles as a sliced metallic collage or a monochromatic quilt...there's kinetic beauty in a structure...It taps into a basic truth - that smart buildings fuse the reality of what they do with the potential of where they are. By John King -- WRNS Studio \[images\] - San Francisco Chronicle](#)

[A roof over art's head shouldn't compete with it: A dizzying zigzag forms the new \\$40-million Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum at Michigan State University...wild configurations...more in keeping with amusement parks...Zaha Hadid says "I believe we can create buildings that evoke original experiences, inspire people and make them excited about new ideas." Isn't the art on exhibit supposed to do that? By Joan Altabe - Examiner](#)

[Rereading "Design for the Real World: Human Ecology and Social Change": Why does Victor Papanek's scathing, 41-year-old critique of the profession still read as if it were written today? ...Why...doesn't the book seem more dated? Certainly the answer in part is that the movement is concerned with timeless questions about access, morality and equity. By Christopher Hawthorne - Metropolis Magazine](#)

[Q&A: Jeff Stein/Cosanti Foundation: Arcosanti: a global educational resource about sustainability, urban design, and](#)

landscape? he gives some revealing answers about how an urban system can function as a super-organism, how historic context can shape a place and its life...and many other timely topics. By Jared Green/The Dirt -- Paolo Soleri- Metropolis Magazine

Winners of the international 2013 SEED Award for Excellence in Public Interest Design: ...recognize excellence in social, economic and environmental design. Six projects were selected out of sixty-five submitted from 21 countries. -- HCI Architecture; AECOM UrbanSOS Program; Environmental Works Community Design Center [images, links]- Design Corps / Social, Economic, Environmental Design Network (SEED)

Finalists Named for Japan's Massive New National Stadium -- Zaha Hadid; Toyo Ito; SANAA + Nikken Sekkei; UNStudio; Tadao Ando; Azusa Sekkei Co.; Cox Architecture; Dorell.Ghotmeh.Tane : Architects & A+Architecture; gmp-International; Mitsuru Man Senda/Environment Design Institute; Populous; Tabanlıoğlu Architects [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

The New Guard: Five emerging firms selected as finalists for MoMAP.S. 1 Young Architects Program pavilion. By Alan G. Brake -- CODA; Leong Leong Architects; Moorhead & Moorhead; Temp Agency; French 2D- The Architect's Newspaper

Review> Room with a View: Tatzu Nishi's "Discovering Columbus"...a strangely intimate room perched high above Central Park like an urban tree house...on view in New York through November 18. By Susan Morris [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

15 Buildings That Don't Look Like Buildings: Pyongyang's Ryugyong Hotel resembles a giant ballistic missile. As the so-called "Hotel of Doom" prepares to open in 2013, TIME looks at 15 buildings that don't look like buildings -- Fariborz Sahba; C.Y. Lee; Bjarke Ingels Group/BIG; Frank Gehry; Zaha Hadid [slide show essay]- Time Magazine

Call for entries: Infill Philadelphia: Soak It Up! Design Competition: Design green stormwater infrastructure to revitalize Philly neighborhoods...and other cities; at least one of the required design professionals on each team must be Philadelphia-based; cash prizes; registration deadline: November 30, 2012; submission deadline: January 22, 2013- Community Design Collaborative



- OMGEVING: Boekenberg Park, Deurne, Belgium
- schmidt hammer lassen: New Library, University of Aberdeen, Scotland
- Steven Holl Architects: Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki, Finland

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