

Today's News - Wednesday, December 5, 2012

- Russell takes a long, thoughtful look at building for the next major storm: "Resilience thinking helps us choose solutions that protect us while delivering other benefits that make large investments worthwhile."
- Huxtable is none too happy about New York Public Library's plans for its 42nd St. landmark, with an eloquent explanation and no mincing of words ("profound ignorance," "willful disregard," and "folly" included).
- Jacobs puts her "hate on hold" re: Atlantic Yards Barclays Center, and wishes SHoP could transform the master plan "into a sophisticated urban scheme" - then "there could be a reason to stop hating."
- Schwartz cheers the transformation of a down-and-out neighborhood in Birmingham, Alabama, into "a thriving destination" - and "it's working beautifully."
- Wainwright x 2: he wanders the shimmering Louvre-Lens, and finds out why the architects "erased all the gallery walls" (great video) + locals say interest in the museum proves the stereotype of an uncultured region is wrong.
- He spends a pleasant time with Westminster Abbey's architect-in-residence to find out about his "plans to reinvent a cornerstone of British history": "It is unusual for an architect to be so at ease with both modernity and pastiche" (a "delightfully surreal pavilion" included).
- Brussat, meanwhile, bristles at Wainwright's use of the word "pastiche": it is "the classic modernist sneer at any new traditional work of architecture."
- Q&A with Daniel Solomon re: his merger with Mithun.
- Peter Cook pens a heartfelt tribute to Lebbeus Woods: "he irritated the academic bean counters but left audiences wanting more."
- Brake cheers "landscape architecture's ascendance" and "reclaiming the profession's civic role," which "also points to certain weaknesses in contemporary architecture and planning" (and education).
- Two thumbs-ups for the new Canal Park in Washington, DC's "mixed-use mecca" called the Yards: it is "a model neighborhood park that has transformed a three-block brownfield into simple yet enchanting space."
- A touching video interview with 76-year-old landscape architect Shlomo Aronson re: his work in Tel Aviv, and in Jerusalem "with his friend and mentor Lawrence Halprin."
- Schwartz reports on the continuing saga of Christo's plans for the world's tallest sculpture made of oil barrels outside Abu Dhabi: "No high-level political decision has yet been made" (with pix we haven't seen before).
- Woodman cheers winners of BD's Architect of the Year Awards 2012, and Young Architect of the Year Coffey Architects: its "beautifully conceived projects show it is a practice to be watched."
- Six architects and designers take home United States Artists \$50,000 Prizes.
- Call for entries: Citizen Entrepreneurs: Citizen Sandy - ideas for green rebuilding of devastated communities + Deadlines loom for Architizer A+ Awards, and Architectural League/Socrates Sculpture Park's "Folly" design/build competition.

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Sponge Parks, Sand Dunes May Boost Resilience to Storms: ...decisions that are currently being made will affect how well rebuilt neighborhoods and infrastructure will withstand the next major storm...Resilience thinking helps us choose solutions that protect us while delivering other benefits that make large investments worthwhile. By James S. Russell- Bloomberg News

Undertaking Its Destruction: There is no more important landmark in New York City than its 42nd Street Library. Yet one of the building's key elements is on a fast track to being demolished...a plan devised out of a profound ignorance of or willful disregard for not only the library's original concept and design, but also the folly of altering its meaning and mission and compromising its historical and architectural integrity. By Ada Louise Huxtable -- Carrère and Hastings (1911); Foster+Partners - Wall Street Journal

Putting the Hate on Hold: A longtime opponent of Atlantic Yards visits the new Barclays Center and comes away grudgingly impressed...If SHoP could persuade Ratner to ditch the amorphous tower-in-park site plan and transform [it] into a sophisticated urban scheme...there could be a reason to stop hating. By Karrie Jacobs -- Gregg Pasquarelli/Vishaan Chakrabarti/SHoP Architects - Metropolis Magazine

Occupy Avondale: Turning a Down-And-Out Alabama Neighborhood Into A Thriving Destination: What does it take to transform a neighborhood? Replace crime with local business. That's what REV Birmingham and the Avondale Brewing company did, and it's working beautifully. By Ariel Schwartz [images] - Fast Company

On reflection...: Tokyo-based SANAA, young practice Imrey Studio/Imrey Culbert in New York and Paris-based Mosbach Paysagistes complete Louvre-Lens - World Architecture News (UK)

Louvre-Lens art gallery: 'We're going to make it so you never hang anything on the walls': Oliver Wainwright meets the architects, explores their creation – and finds out why they erased all the gallery walls. + Louvre-Lens hopes to bring the glory of art to France's mining heartland...vilified as uncultured by southerners but locals say interest in museum proves stereotype is wrong. -- SANAA; Imrey Culbert [images, video] - Guardian (UK)

Westminster Abbey: meet the architect-in-residence: Ptolemy Dean...plans to reinvent a cornerstone of British history...working on a project that could be the most exciting the abbey has seen for a century..."Hawksmoor, Wren and Lutyens were all forced into gothic – we just play the game," he says gnomically..."it will be of its time. And it's got to be fun." By Oliver Wainwright [slide show, video] - Guardian (UK)

Westminster Abby, you're bringing me up! ...Wainwright...seems to try to join Ptolemy Dean in somehow feeling sorry for himself for being condemned to always being architecturally subservient...His use of the word pastiche for design based on principles of the past...is the classic modernist sneer at any new traditional work of architecture. By David Brussat - Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

After the merger: Q&A with San Francisco architect Daniel Solomon: Daniel Solomon Design Partners made headlines when it merged with Mithun..."The intention is to create a broadly-based, multi-skilled firm that deals with two fundamental issues: the restoration and revitalization of cities, and green design. They are deeply intertwined..." - San Francisco Business Times

Obit> Lebbeus Woods, 1940-2012: ...the visionary life of architecture's maverick...Leb was one of the last of that tribe of individuals (Cedric Price was another) who lived life according to their own standards...he irritated the academic bean counters but left audiences wanting more... By Sir Peter Cook/Archigram/CRAB studio - The Architect's Newspaper

Editorial> Landscape Architecture's Ascendance: Landscape architects have been actively redefining what they do, reclaiming the profession's civic role...effective in claiming urbanism as their purview...also points to certain weaknesses in contemporary architecture and planning. By Alan G. Brake - The Architect's Newspaper

In D.C., a New Park Where There Was Once a Canal: Washington, D.C.'s Navy Yard...was once an isolated naval base and seedy area...has become...a mixed-use mecca...LEED-Neighborhood Development (ND) Gold...new "Canal Park," a model neighborhood park that has transformed a three-block brownfield into simple yet enchanting space... -- M. Paul Friedburg ; AECOM; Landscape Architecture Bureau; OLIN; STUDIOS Architecture [images] - The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Shlomo Aronson: Olive Trees and Other Secrets: ...filmed by The Cultural Landscape Foundation, Aronson, who is 76, talks about his life, times, and designs, including his work in Jerusalem with his friend and mentor Lawrence Halprin....[and] his work on the Suzanne Dellal Dance and Theater Center in Tel Aviv. [video]- Landscape Architecture Magazine

The World's Largest Sculpture Will Be A 500-Foot-Tall Pyramid Of 410,000 Oil Barrels: Christo has been planning the [\$340 million] sculpture called the Mastaba for decades. Is it now about to become reality outside Abu Dhabi? ..."No high-level political decision has yet been made." By Ariel Schwartz [images]- Fast Company

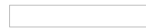
Young Architect of the Year 2012: Coffey Architects' beautifully conceived projects show it is a practice to be watched + Architect of the Year Awards 2012: a golden year for British architecture. By Ellis Woodman -- Hayhurst & Co; Alison Brooks Architects; Hugh Broughton Architects; Witherford Watson Mann Architects; Reiach & Hall Architects; Allford Hall Monaghan Morris (AHMM); Adam Khan Architects; Adams & Sutherland; Stanton Williams; 5th Studio; Civic Architects [images]- BD/Building Design (UK)

Six Architects & Designers Take Home \$50,000 Prizes: United States Artists (USA), a national grant-making and advocacy organization, named 50 artists to receive the USA Fellowships... -- Stephen Luoni/University of Arkansas Community Design Center (UACDC); Marcelo Spina/Georgina Huljich/P-A-T-T-E-R-N-S; Kate Orff/SCAPE; Jesse Reiser/Nanako Umemoto/Reiser + Umemoto, RUR Architecture- The Architect's Newspaper

Seeking Citizen Sandy: Call for Ideas for Green Rebuilding of Devastated Communities: ...search for Citizen Entrepreneurs: Citizen Sandy, submit your idea -- or nominate someone you know or may have learned about -- to help rebuild on the East Coast. By Matt Petersen/Global Green USA- Huffington Post

Deadline reminder: 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....juried by architects, thought leaders and the people who actually hire architects; deadline: December 21 - Architizer

Deadline reminder: Call for entries/Call for proposals: Folly. A competition for a design/build studio residency leading to an exhibition at Socrates Sculpture Park; deadline: January 7 - Architectural League of New York / Socrates Sculpture Park



Books: "Tadao Ando: Conversations with Students"
-- "Sou Fujimoto – Sketchbook"
-- "Wang Shu – Imagining the House"
-- "Hans, His Chairs and The World" by Anne Blond, illustrated by Birgitte Haahr Lund

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