

Today's News - Friday, December 7, 2012

- Wainwright weighs in twice on Niemeyer: "The man behind the monuments: Baroque buttocks, cardboard phalluses" + Architects and critics pay tribute (and link to a special Niemeyer section).
- The Atlantic revisits Schwarz's 2008 review essay that appraises Niemeyer's life and work, which "continues to enchant and appall students of architecture and urban planning."
- Goldberger writes glowingly about H&deM's "wonderful" Parrish Art Museum: "A museum that evokes barns and lofts might, in lesser hands, be a bit hokey. They have produced a building of clarity, dignity, and exuberance."
- Parramatta selects 19 urban design concepts for 15 sites that "aim to map out the future" of the city's center (links to great website and e-book).
- Hume x 2: he hails "the Big Apple's extreme pedestrianism" that has made "New York one of the most exciting cities on the planet. In Toronto, that remains the road not taken."
- And he has high hopes for Toronto's dream of having its own High Line with the launch of the Green Line initiative, "an opportunity whose time has come; whether we seize it or not remains to be seen."
- Call for entries: Toronto's Green Line Ideas Competition (international).
- Heathcote is heartened by his experience as co-chair of this year's FT/Citi Ingenuity Awards: Urban Ideas in Action program, though it "threw up a number of difficulties in the judging process," which "have prompted us to make some changes for next year's submissions."
- Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects, Mayne, Greenstreet, and Anderson take top AIA 2013 awards (our heartiest congrats to all!).
- Weekend diversions:
- Bernstein queries Tunkey re: his "provocative" exhibition "UnMade in China": "Some of the architects in the videos are more blunt than even I would have been" (great slide show).
- Lifson cheers the Art Institute of Chicago's "anti-retrospective" of Studio Gang: "The firm is too nimble to be caught in a snapshot, and too collaborative to pin down. The visitor would do well to go see the honest-to-goodness built work...and one's optimism in the city is renewed."
- Freeman is hopeful for the future of a cultural exchange program presenting emerging Cuban designers at Architecture Omi in upstate New York: it is "a reminder that the arts community can help to reverse the harmful and pointless political and economic estrangement between the U.S. and Cuba" - though one designer is now seeking asylum - it's too early to say if the program will be affected.
- WMF Britain's Foyle inhales "The Art of Scent" at the Museum of Arts and Design in NYC: "we may be approaching a new age of nostril-quivering architecture."
- Brussat gives two thumbs-ups to "WaterFire: Art & Soul of a City": it is "the best sort of documentary" that shows "the mainstay of Providence's civic renaissance, arises from the architectural beauty and the almost perfectly realized urbanism."
- Peirce, Benfield, and Dale all find Speck's "Walkable City" to be a real page-turner: "he has seen a lot of urban disasters in his career. But the thrust of his book is anything but downbeat"; and "loaded with illustrative stories and humor."
- ROMs Browne recommends two tomes: Goldberger's eloquent "Why Architecture Matters," and Frederick's "101 Things I Learned in Architecture School": "When I read it, I thought, 'I didn't need five years of architecture school; I could have done it in two.'"
- Patt's "How to Architect" is an A-B-C book that "explains architecture to those not so creatively inclined as well as to those looking to reignite their inspiration."

To subscribe to the free daily newsletter [click here](#)

Oscar Niemeyer: The man behind the monuments: Baroque buttocks, cardboard phalluses ... the Brazilian architect's memoirs reveal a vibrant life full of women, parties and a passion for practical jokes. + Architects and critics pay tribute: ...describe the influence and legacy of the great king of curves. By Oliver Wainwright -- William JR Curtis; Norman Foster; Kathryn Findlay; Zaha Hadid; Richard Rogers; Deyan Sudjic [images, links]- Guardian (UK)

Oscar Niemeyer: A Vision in Concrete: The work of the great Brazilian architect...continues to enchant and appall students of architecture and urban planning...a review essay originally published in 2008...appraises Niemeyer's life and work... By Benjamin Schwarz [images]- The Atlantic

The Hamptons Get a New Museum—and Not Only Is It Not Garish, It's Wonderful: Parrish Art Museum bespeaks reason and simplicity, and feels deeply rooted in its setting...A museum that evokes barns and lofts might, in lesser hands, be a bit hokey...They have produced a building of clarity, dignity, and exuberance. By Paul Goldberger -- Herzog & de Meuron [slide show]- Vanity Fair

Architects unite to map Parramatta's future - city selects 19 urban design concepts which aim to map out the future of Parramatta's city centre on 15 sites...HASSELL, Cox Richardson Architects and Planners, Andrew Burns Architect, BKK Architects, Glas Urban Design & Landscape Architecture, TERROIR, DRAW were amongst 80 contributors... -- Anderson Hunter Home, Roberts Day; GAO Landscape Architecture; etc. [images, link to details]- Architecture & Design (Australia)

Toronto talks, New York walks: ...the Big Apple's extreme pedestrianism puts a spring in one's step. All our local niceties about "obeying your signals" and jay-walking fly out the door in...a city that takes walking very seriously...Harnessing the power of pedestrianism has made New York one of the most exciting cities on the planet...In Toronto that remains the road not taken. By Christopher Hume- Toronto Star

Dreaming of a High Line on Toronto's Green Line: Suddenly, every city wants one...So it came as no surprise that this city's Green Line initiative, launched this week, was billed as "Toronto's High Line"...an opportunity whose time has come; whether we seize it or not remains to be seen. By Christopher Hume- Toronto Star

Call for entries: Green Line Ideas Competition (international): ...create visionary design proposals for the public use of an overhead transmission line corridor (a.k.a. hydro corridor) in midtown Toronto; cash prizes; deadline: February 4, 2013- Green Line Toronto / Workshop Architecture

Compare and contrast: FT/Citi Ingenuity Awards: Urban Ideas in Action programme...is an effort to gather the most ingenious solutions to the most ubiquitous problems...threw up a number of difficulties in the judging process...have prompted us to make some changes to the categories for next year's submissions. By Edwin Heathcote -- Community Cooker Foundation; Colloge Possible; GlaxoSmithKline New Citizen; JCDcaux - Velib' [links to info, images]- Financial Times (UK)

Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects Receive the 2013 AIA Architecture Firm Award: ...noted for its exquisite care for detail with subtle, reverent architecture that's both timeless in its abstracted + 2013 AIA Gold Medal Awarded to Thom Mayne, FAIA: ...architect known for daring approach to public works architecture + AIA/ACSA Topaz Medallion for Excellence in Architectural Education: Robert Greenstreet, Intl. Assoc. AIA + 2013 Edward C. Kemper Award: John D. Anderson, FAIA- AIArchitect / American Institute of Architects

Unbuilt Projects in China Are Revived in a Provocative Exhibition: Q&A with curator Mike Tunkey, founder of Cannon Design's Shanghai office, about "UnMade in China"..."Some of the architects in the videos are more blunt than even I would have been...Although the show is about projects that didn't happen, we tried to focus on the positives." By Fred A. Bernstein - Nader Tehrani/NADAAA; Mack Scogin Merrill Elam/MSMEA; Ben van Berkel/UNStudio; Ron Henderson/L+A Landscape Architecture; MVRDV; de Architekten Cie; Min | Day; Spark; amphibianArc; VMX [slide show]- Architectural Record

The Anti-Retrospective: "Inside Studio Gang" at the Art Institute of Chicago...is about making, and research, and pushing

traditional forms into higher performance...The firm is too nimble to be caught in a snapshot, and too collaborative to pin down. The visitor...would do well to go see the honest-to-goodness built work...and one's optimism in the city is renewed. By Edward Lifson [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Alternative Practice: Belmont Freeman on the work of emerging Cuban designers on display at Architecture Omi, Ghent, NY: "Skyline Adrift"...a cultural exchange program such as this is a reminder that the arts community can help to reverse the harmful and pointless political and economic estrangement between the United States and Cuba. -- Ricardo Porro; Yilena Lourdes Fietó Echarri; Yoandy Rizo Fiallo; Armando Mariño Calzado; Alexandre Arrechea [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Scent of a building: Oak, tobacco and terracotta are all part of the olfactory architecture: ...we may be approaching a new age of nostril-quivering architecture whose designers draw a breath, having thought about the smell of the places we live in..."The Art of Scent" at the Museum of Arts and Design in New York... By Jonathan Foyle/World Monuments Fund Britain -- Carlos Huber- Financial Times (UK)

Movie review: "WaterFire: Art & Soul of a City": ...[its] surreal beauty, and its success as the mainstay of Providence's civic renaissance, arises from the architectural beauty and the almost perfectly realized urbanism of Bill Warner's inspired waterfront design...the best sort of documentary, expressing both the humanity of Warner's waterfront and the incongruous humility of Barnaby Evans's accomplishment. By David Brussat [images]- Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

Sketching the Map of the "Walkable City": Jeff Speck's new book starts with a chilling quote as he laments the fate of the many American cities plagued by "fattened roads, emaciated sidewalks, deleted trees, fry-pit drive-thrus, and 10-acre parking lots"...he has seen a lot of urban disasters in his career...But the thrust of his book is anything but downbeat. By Neal Peirce- Citiwire

10 Techniques for Making Cities More Walkable: Jeff Speck's excellent new book, "Walkable City"...I don't necessarily agree with every detail...But it's a heck of a good menu to get city leaders and thinkers started in making their communities more hospitable to walkers. By Kaid Benfield- The Atlantic Cities

Sidetracks in Jeff Speck's Walkable City: [his] newest book challenges the way urbanists traditionally think about achieving walkability...It is filled with micro and macro evidence that...is tough to argue with...loaded with illustrative stories and humor. By Brady Dale- Next American City

Two books for design fans: "Why Architecture Matters" by Paul Goldberger, speaks as eloquently to the layman as the design professional..."101 Things I Learned in Architecture School" by Matthew Frederick. When I read it, I thought, "I didn't need five years of architecture school; I could have done it in two." By Kelvin Browne/Royal Ontario Museum- National Post (Canada)

"How to Architect": Doug Patt explains architecture to those not so creatively inclined as well as to those looking to reignite their inspiration. - Architect Magazine



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

Note: Pages will open in a new browser window.
External news links are not endorsed by ArchNewsNow.com.
Free registration may be required on some sites.
Some pages may expire after a few days.

[Yesterday's News](#)

© 2012 ArchNewsNow.com