

Today's News - Thursday, January 10, 2013

- Kimmelman tools around London with Burdett to find the city suffering a case of what Ada Louise called "Skyscrapers Gone Wild": he gives (mostly) thumbs-up to OMA's Rothschild HQ, despite its touch of "an architecture of openness meets the architecture of paranoia" (and what was Viñoly thinking?!?).
- Detroit Works Project releases its recommendations for revitalizing the city - and gets some serious philanthropic funding for moving forward.
- Goodyear x 2 re: Hurricane Sandy: "Creating resilient wetlands is going to require coordinated effort and expertise. That shouldn't stop us, though" + "What the Dutch know about flooding that we don't: American cities face not just rising waters, but also political obstacles unknown to the Dutch."
- King cheers a shift in plans for Pflueger's 1925 Pacific Telephone Building: "The shift paid off."
- An impressive finalist list of six in Glasgow's George Square competition; Dunlop comments: "With just two whacky exceptions...the submissions are restrained befitting such an important space."
- Metcalfe is taken aback by a proposal to cover Marrakech's historic open-air market in concrete: "Proof that any project can garner accolades if it's eccentric enough" (what were they thinking, we wonder!).
- Lamb Hart's A New Humanism: Part 5 takes on Hildebrand's "The Origins of Architectural Pleasure."
- APA hands out 2013 National Planning Excellence Awards and the first-ever National Planning Achievement Awards.
- CTBUH's Tall Trends of 2012: "Tall building completions drop, but the industry is on the cusp of another burst of tall building development" (oh joy).
- Call for entries: Harvard GSD launches the Wheelwright Prize, a \$100,000 traveling fellowship for early-career architects worldwide (GSD affiliation no longer required).
- Ada Louise tributes and appreciations continue:
- Iovine remembers "the critic's humor, humanity, and voracious intelligence."
- Lamster recalls his conversations re: "her long and checkered relationship with Philip Johnson. If he thought he had her in his pocket, he was mistaken."
- Becker beams: "In our age of hyperbole, the word 'great' flows like ketchup on the great, unwashed mass of the barely 'ok.' Huxtable was far beyond 'ok.' She was the best."
- A great round-up of moving and humorous anecdotes from the likes of Newhouse, Russell, Campbell, Ivy, Bernstein, and others.
- Rosenbaum is trying to get to the bottom of why ALH's archives landed at the Getty: it "raises the obvious question: What was she thinking?"
- Weinstein's 2009 "Life After Ada" (an ArchNewsThen): "There is a life for architecture criticism after Ada Louise - but like 21st-century architecture, no one knows exactly what it is - yet" (ALH's response: "I couldn't agree more.")
- Goldberger's lovely 1996 tribute made on the occasion of ALH receiving the Museum of the City of New York's Louis Auchincloss Prize.

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Where Modernity Frames Tradition: With London enduring a case of Skyscrapers Gone Wild...New Court headquarters for Rothschild Bank...Opulent, context friendly, almost stealthy, it's an "adult building"...Meaning that it's not what you might expect from Koolhaas...unfortunately, an architecture of openness meets the architecture of paranoia that has reshaped cities...for more than a decade. By Michael Kimmelman -- Ellen van Loon/Rem Koolhaas/OMA; Ricky Burdett; Richard Rogers; Rafael Viñoly; James Corner Field Operations; John McAslan; Stanton Williams [images]- New York Times

Detroit Initiative Unveils Recommendations for City's Renewal: ...Detroit Works Project unveiled a host of recommendations for tackling the city's most daunting economic, infrastructural, and social challenges...philanthropies...public and private funders, have pledged financial support for various projects...expanding existing neighborhood initiatives, such as community gardens... -- Toni Griffin- Architectural Record

Lessons From Sandy: Even New Green Infrastructure Was Destroyed: Restoring or creating wetlands that last is no small feat...The Oak Point story is a reminder...Creating resilient wetlands, especially in an environment as degraded by pollution and construction as New York, is going to require coordinated effort and expertise. That shouldn't stop us, though. By Sarah Goodyear- The Atlantic Cities

We're In This Together: What the Dutch Know About Flooding That We Don't: The country's survival depends on water management, and its political structures allow for decisive, speedy action...American cities...face not just rising waters, but also political obstacles unknown to the Dutch... By Sarah Goodyear- The Atlantic Cities

Phone company site rings in new era: The Pacific Telephone Building...hasn't been the focus of such attention since it debuted as the tallest high-rise in the city...Last year the developers abandoned the idea of posh living and shifted back to office use...The shift paid off... By John King -- Timothy Pflueger (1925); Wilson Meany; Perkins+Will- San Francisco Chronicle

Revealed: the six finalists in Glasgow's George Square contest; Alan Dunlop comments: "With just two whacky exceptions...the submissions and images are restrained with an emphasis on the quality of surface material and hard landscaping befitting such an important space." -- James Corner Field Operations/Gillespies/Make Architects; Gustafson Porter; Agence Ter/Hengehan Peng/Atmos; jmarchitects/Graeme Massie Architects; John McAslan & Partners; Burns + Nice [images]- The Architects' Journal (UK)

Why Would Anyone Want to Cover Marrakech's Beloved Open-Air Market in Concrete? Proof that any project can garner accolades if it's eccentric enough: Jamaâ el-Fna is one of the most incredible public squares on earth...boldly dubious proposal, called the "Revised Pantheon...would encapsulate the [market] in a stone cocoon... By John Metcalfe -- Felipe Paixão; Fala [images]- The Atlantic Cities

A New Humanism: Part 5: Architectural pleasure and evolved human behavior: In a study he calls The Origins of Architectural Pleasure, Grant Hildebrand has distilled the enormous complexity of a mind and body into concepts usable in day-to-day design... By Robert Lamb Hart/Hart Howerton; illustrations by Albrecht Pichler- Metropolis Magazine

APA names 18 recipients of 2013 National Planning Excellence Awards. Also honored were 12 recipients of first-ever National Planning Achievement Awards. -- Goody Clancy; Interface Studio; Ronald Shiffman; etc. [images, links]- American Planning Association (APA)

CTBUH Year in Review: Tall Trends of 2012: Global Tall Building Completions Drop, But Uptick Expected in 2013: ...the industry is on the cusp of another burst of tall building development. [links to images, info]- Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat (CTBUH)

Call for entries: Harvard Graduate School of Design launches the Wheelwright Prize: \$100,000 traveling fellowship awarded annually to talented early-career architects worldwide...affiliation to the GSD is no longer required; registration deadline: February 15; submission deadline: February 28- Harvard Graduate School of Design (GSD)

Ada Louise Huxtable: ...the critic's humor, humanity, and voracious intelligence: I first met [her] snickering gently over the latest irony...Her nose for pretentious posturing was sharply honed, but her reporter instincts were even more precise. By Julie V. Iovine- The Architect's Newspaper

The Queen of New York: The grand dame of architectural criticism, Ada Louise Huxtable, remembered: My conversations with her...pertained to her long and checkered relationship with Philip Johnson...If he thought he had her in his pocket, he

was mistaken. By Mark Lamster - Architect Magazine

The woman who created the Architecture Beat: Ada Louise Huxtable: ...championed the best in modern architecture and made the guilty sweat...In our age of hyperbole, the word "great" flows like ketchup on the great, unwashed mass of the barely "ok." Huxtable was far beyond "ok." She was the best. By Lynn Becker - ArchitectureChicago Plus

Tributes to Ada Louise Huxtable: We asked a number of critics to remember Ada Louise: her influence on their work, an anecdote, a favorite quote. -- Victoria Newhouse; Julie V. lovine; James S. Russell; Robert Campbell; Robert Ivy; Paul Goldberger; Justin Davidson; Carter Wiseman; Fred A. Bernstein; etc. - Architectural Record

Ada Louise Huxtable's Posthumous Commentary? Her Entire Estate to the Getty: The startling news that she arranged for the transfer of not only her archives her entire estate to the J. Paul Getty Trust in Los Angeles raises the obvious question: What was she thinking? By Lee Rosenbaum - ArtsJournal

Life After Ada: Reassessing the Utility of Architectural Criticism: Ada Louise Huxtable deserves mucho thanks and praise - but other questions moving us to a new flavor of criticism have to be asked: There is a life for architecture criticism after Ada Louise – but like 21st-century architecture, no one knows exactly what it is – yet. By Norman Weinstein (March 2, 2009) - ArchNewsNow

Tribute to Ada Louise Huxtable, Museum of the City of New York, March 25, 1996: I could cite a thousand of her individual accomplishments...but in the end they would all add up to bringing architecture out of the periphery and thrusting it, absolutely and irrevocably, into the mainstream of our culture. By Paul Goldberger - PaulGoldberger.com

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