

Today's News - Wednesday, January 16, 2013

- Goodyear cheers UNICEF's "The World We Want" online forum seeking "insight from the people who work on the ground in the world's biggest and most dysfunctional cities."
- London preservationists square off with urban planners and developers re: skyscrapers near heritage sites - concerned that Unesco would consider adding them to the "Heritage in Danger" list.
- Beal and Lee issue a plea for Massachusetts to not "abdicate its responsibility" for the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway, which is now "on life support": the High Line and Millennium Park "have created prosperity, acclaim, and tourism. Why not here in Boston?"
- On a brighter note, NYC begins restoration of its oldest bridge, closed since 1970, transforming it into a grand promenade for pedestrians and bicyclists high above the Harlem River.
- Litt tackles the dilemma of a Passive House replacing a historic mansion: it "exemplifies a clash between two positive values - historic preservation and environmental sustainability."
- Chan queries Bone re: his upcoming "Lessons From Modernism" exhibition that "attempts to dispel the stigmatized conception of modern architecture" when it comes to green design.
- Rago raves about the Louvre's newest gallery; "It may appear to be a giant sheet floating in the breeze, but the new Department of Islamic Art is grounded by some pretty formidable engineering."
- AIA and NIBS launch BRIK, a free building research portal that "connects building science researchers, practitioners, and users."
- The Australian Graduate survey doesn't bode well for rectifying the salary disparity between the genders in the architecture and building industry (it's even worse than last year).
- On a brighter note, Public Architecture's fourth survey of pro-bono service by U.S. firms finds "leadership buy-in is increasing, and pro bono is becoming a fundamental part of practice."
- The Istanbul Biennial (titled "Mom, am I Barbarian?") will explore "the notion of the public domain as a political forum" (we love the title!).
- Getty kicks off Pacific Standard Time 2.0: it may be "smaller in scope than the previous iteration," but is still impressive.
- The AIA 2013 Twenty-five Year Award goes to Piano's Menil Collection in Houston: "this modest neighborhood museum set a new precedent in museum architecture."
- Call for entries (deadlines loom!): 2013 IES Illumination Awards + Architecture of Necessity 2013 international triennial for sustainable community building.

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UNICEF Wants Us to Talk About Urban Inequality: An online forum invites insight from the people who work on the ground in the world's biggest and most dysfunctional cities... "The World We Want" divided into different themes -- social inequality, political inequality, spatial inequality...In a globalized economy, the problems of these cities are everybody's business. By Sarah Goodyear - The Atlantic Cities

Battle lines drawn to protect views of old London: Preservationists square off with urban planners and developers over building skyscrapers near heritage sites...the capital is currently witnessing a boom in the construction of tall office blocks. If this continues in the vicinity of the Tower of London and around the Palace of Westminster and Westminster Abbey...there is a concern that Unesco would consider adding them to the "Heritage in Danger" list. -- Renzo Piano - The Art Newspaper (UK)

Keeping the public in parks: State shouldn't abdicate its responsibility: The Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway...has quickly become a crown jewel of the city's open space...But less than five years after opening, the Greenway is on life support...The High Line in Manhattan and Millennium Park in Chicago have created prosperity, acclaim, and tourism...Why not here in Boston? By Eugenie Beal and Henry Lee - CommonWealth Magazine (Massachusetts)

New York City Breaks Ground on High Bridge Restoration: Built in 1848...the city's oldest bridge...closed to the public in the 1970...after construction wraps up on the \$61 million rehabilitation, strolling New Yorkers and bicyclists can once again cross high above the Harlem River—116 feet—and connect with the city's growing waterfront Greenway. [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

The Butler-Nissen 'Passive House' replaced a Walker and Weeks mansion to point the way to a sustainable future: ...exemplifies a clash between two positive values - historic preservation and environmental sustainability. By Steven Litt -- Joseph Ferut Jr./Vermilion[images]- Cleveland Plain Dealer

Le Corbusier's Ecology: What Modern Architecture Teaches Us About Green Design: Q&A with Kevin Bone, curator behind "Lessons From Modernism: Environmental Design Considerations in 20th Century Architecture"...attempts to dispel the stigmatized conception of modern architecture...this oft-misunderstood movement championed a surprisingly relevant agenda to find harmony with the natural world. By Kelly Chan -- Oscar Niemeyer; Johannes Duiker; Alvar Aalto; Paul Rudolph; Ralph Twitchell; Constantinos Decavallas; Atelier 5 Architects [slide show]- Artinfo

Walk underneath the magic carpet to discover the Louvre's newest gallery: It may appear to be a giant sheet floating in the breeze, but the new Department of Islamic Art is grounded by some pretty formidable engineering. By Danielle Rago -- Mario Bellini; Rudy Ricciotti [slide show]- Wired UK

AIA and NIBS (National Institute of Building Sciences) Launch Free Building Research Portal: BRIK — the Building Research Information Knowledgebase — connects building science researchers, practitioners, and users. - American Institute of Architects (AIA)

Architecture has worst pay gap of any industry: The Australian Graduate survey has once again shown Architecture & Building to have the highest salary disparity between genders of any industry...now 17%, up from 14% reported in the same survey last year. - Architecture & Design (Australia)

Fourth Survey of Pro Bono Service by U.S. Architecture and Design Firms: "This latest survey underscores the evolution of pro bono service in the design profession...leadership buy-in is increasing; and pro bono is becoming a fundamental part of practice"... -- John Peterson; "The 1%" - Public Architecture

Istanbul Biennial to explore the public domain: Organisers launch a series of forums across the city in lead up to event..."Mom, am I Barbarian?" will explore "the notion of the public domain as a political forum" - The Art Newspaper (UK)

Getty Kicks Off Pacific Standard Time Presents: Modern Architecture in LA: ...will be smaller in scope than the previous iteration...Among the offerings..."A. Quincy Jones: Building for Better Living"; "The Presence of the Past: Peter Zumthor Reconsiders LACMA"... [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

2013 Twenty-five Year Award: The Menil Collection, in Houston...As Renzo Piano's first American project, this modest neighborhood museum set a new precedent in museum architecture and propelled Piano into his current status as one of the world's most trusted designers of cultural buildings. - American Institute of Architects (AIA)

Call for entries: 2013 IES Illumination Awards: recognition of professionalism, ingenuity, and originality in lighting design; deadline: February 7 - Illuminating Engineering Society (IES)

Call for entries: Architecture of Necessity 2013: International triennial for sustainable community building at Virserum Art Museum, Sweden, May - September, 2013; deadline: February 15- Virserum Art Museum

- OMA: CCTV Headquarters, Beijing, China
- "Torre David: Informal Vertical Communities" by Alfredo Brillembourg & Hubert Klumpner
- "Invisible Cities" at MASS MoCA, North Adams, Massachusetts - ArcSpace

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