

Today's News - Wednesday, February 6, 2013

EDITOR'S NOTE: Early-morning obligations will prevent us from posting tomorrow, but we'll return Friday, February 8.

- We lose Toan, a master who "helped change the course of college-campus library design in North America."
- Florida reports on a new, "especially timely and useful" report offering "a range of useful suggestions and lessons on how to combine high density and high livability."
- Edmonton, Canada's mayor, who has zero tolerance for architectural "crap," is behind a "bold series of architectural and urban planning initiatives" to transform the city's downtown core and suburbs (involving lots of architects!).
- A more detailed look at SCAPE's plan to bring Lexington, KY's underground river into the daylight with "a procession of distinct 'blue rooms'" (great pix).
- Marseille has high hopes - and big makeover plans - to live up to its designation as European Capital of Culture for 2013.
- Budapest's popular "ruin pubs have been a catalyst for gentrification," but as the neighborhood goes upscale, pseudo-ruin pubs are popping up "to cater to a clientele that wants the ruin pub experience but prefers a slightly more sanitized version" (we like the look of the gritty ones!).
- Chaban (from his new perch at Crain's) reports on the DS+R/Rockwell-designed "Culture Shed" at Hudson Yard awaiting its final review (170,000 square feet is a "shed"?!?!?).
- High hopes for a rebirth of Gillespie, Kidd & Coia's 1966 St. Peter's Seminary in Scotland (some sad - and hopeful - images).
- Lubell on L.A. being bitten by the parklet bug.
- Wainwright and Pallister shed light on "architecture's man of mystery" - Royal Gold Medalist Zumthor (both great reads!).
- King has a chat with Berke re: receiving the first Berkeley-Rupp Prize, which promotes advancement of women in architecture, and why she doesn't talk much about being a woman in a male-dominated profession: it's "a conscious decision...and it gets to the core of a truth that architecture's fetish for icons can obscure: The best architects are defined by what gets built, not by the buzz they generate."
- Clemence celebrates - with eloquence and his beautiful photography - Grand Central's centennial and why it remains "a relevant, vital, and inspiring urban space."
- Call for entries: Core77 Design Awards 2013 (international).

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Obituary: Danforth W. Toan, Designer of Libraries, 94: The architect of Toronto Brutalist-style Robarts Library, once said to be the largest academic building in the world, as well as inspiration for Umberto Eco's first novel...helped change the course of college-campus library design in North America. -- Warner Burns Toan & Lunde Architects & Planners/WBTL; Architects/Designers/Planners for Social Responsibility (ADPSR) - Architect Magazine

Density vs. Livability in the World's Biggest Cities: The two don't necessarily go together, according to a new report from the Urban Land Institute and the Centre for Liveable Cities...contains a range of useful suggestions and lessons on how to combine high density and high livability...is especially timely and useful... By Richard Florida [link to report] - The Atlantic Cities

Big D Design in The Big E: A bold series of architectural and urban planning initiatives are transforming Edmonton's downtown core and suburbs...mayor sees architecture as vitally important... -- Dub Architects; Diamond and Myers; Cohos-Evamy; Randall Stout; HIP Architects; 360 Architecture; DIALOG; Lundholm Associates Architects; Perkins+Will; Civitas; Group2; MacLennan Jaunkalns Miller Architects; Teeple Architects; ATB Architects; Hughes Condon Marler Architects; schmidt hammer lassen architects; Marshall Tittmore Architects; gh3; marc boutin architectural collaborative; Rayleen Hill Architecture + Design [images] - Canadian Architect

Branching Out: SCAPE/ Landscape Architecture wins competition to daylight an underground river in Lexington, Kentucky...used "karst topography"—a geological formation of water-worn rock—as inspiration for a linear urban watershed running through downtown...to create a procession of distinct "blue rooms" where Town Branch Creek surfaces... -- Kate Orff, -- [images] - The Architect's Newspaper

Known for Crime and Poverty, but Working on Its Image: Marseille, France's second largest city, is hoping that its designation as European Capital of Culture for 2013, and its makeover, will lift tourism and its economy...region is hoping for a surge in civic pride that endures... - New York Times

What Will Happen to Budapest's 'Ruin Pubs' Once All the Ruin Is Removed? ...have been a catalyst for gentrification in the city's Jewish Quarter. But as the neighborhood changes, the bars may be forced to change along with it...A new generation...has cropped up...to cater to a clientele that wants the ruin pub experience but prefers a slightly more sanitized version. [images] - The Atlantic Cities

Hudson Yard's Culture Shed detailed: ...170,000-square-foot visual and performing arts institution that will anchor the southern end...envisioned as a kuntschalle... By Matt Chaban -- Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Rockwell Group [image] - Crain's New York Business

Plans submitted for St Peter's Seminary rebirth: will 'partially restore and consolidate' the Grade A-listed building [in Cardross] which was abandoned 25 years ago...aims to 'rehabilitate' the main Brutalist building as a 'raw' space. -- Gillespie, Kidd & Coia (1966); NVA Glasgow; Avanti Architects; ERZ Landscape Architects [images] - The Architects' Journal (UK)

Power to the Parklet: Los Angeles' first mini-park kicks off citywide program...they can easily be copied because they use inexpensive, off-the-shelf materials...part of a bigger initiative for streetside improvements...the Streets for People program... By Sam Lubell -- Shared Spaces; Berry and Linné; utopiad.org; AHBE Landscape Architecture [images] - The Architect's Newspaper

Peter Zumthor: RIBA awards Royal Gold Medal to architecture's man of mystery...So where did the mythical aura around him come from? He is the architect every architect wants to be...In comparison to the unbearable lightness of pomo, his buildings contained a glimpse of a deeper, more poetic sensibility...he is an important reminder for why it can be useful to slow down and look a bit more closely. And that you don't always have to answer the phone. By Oliver Wainwright - Guardian (UK)

Interview with Royal Gold Medalist Peter Zumthor: What would your advice be to a young architect starting now? "Select your school carefully. Select your professors carefully...Don't let any kind of gap come up between your architectural concept and living architecture." By James Pallister - The Architects' Journal (UK)

Deborah Berke stresses the work: [She] emphasized one thing and one thing only in her lecture...What she did not explore is what it means to be a woman in a profession made up largely of men...It was a conscious decision...and it gets to the core of a truth that architecture's fetish for icons can obscure: The best architects are defined by what gets built, not by the buzz they generate. By John King - San Francisco Chronicle

Grand Central Terminal at 100: Celebrating endurance, beauty, and service: Styles have changed, architecture trends and movements have passed, politicians, utopian urban planners, Robert Moses...the airplane, now the Internet -- Grand Central has survived them all. It remains a relevant, vital, and inspiring urban space. By Paul Clemence [images] - Metropolis Magazine

Call for entries: Core77 Design Awards 2013 (international): open to Professionals, Students and DIYers in 17 categories;
deadline: March 15- [Core77](#)

Laurie Olin Remembers Ada Louise Huxtable, Champion of Urban Design: With eloquence and warmth, the master
landscape architect shares his personal encounters with most notable of critics.- [ArchNewsNow](#)



-- Gehry Partners: Biomuseum/Biomuseo, Panama City, Panama -- Bruce Mau Design; Edwina von Gal
-- Provencher Roy + Associés Architectes: Claire & Marc Bourgie Pavilion, Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, Montreal, Canada
-- Visiting the Shard, London, England -- Renzo Piano

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