

Today's News - Wednesday, February 13, 2013

- Hockenberry waxes eloquently (as always) about indigenous architecture and its "important lessons in building with nature rather than against it. Resilience is everywhere. Do we see it?"
- "For safer, prettier cities pick a woman to build them" ("prettier"?!?!? this headline wins our groaner-of-the-year award).
- Perhaps a social housing project in Perth (sort of) proves the point; designed by the winner of Australia's National Emerging Architect Prize, she focused on "identity, authenticity, and atmosphere."
- The Detroit Future City plan takes a softer, gentler approach to urban renewal, avoiding any mention of "eminent domain," but some planning experts wonder whether it can succeed "without harder-edged tools."
- Schwarzer traces the historic roots of container architecture, from Corbu and the Metabolists to Envelope A+D and LOT-EK (fascinating read!).
- Life in the age of instant architecture: "would you sleep soundly in a cut 'n' shut skyscraper?"
- Betsky parses the winners of the Cincinnati Live/Make Competition that harken back to the Arts & Crafts days - "It is a romantic notion."
- King cheers the news that work has (finally) started on DS+R/EHDD's Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive.
- An architectural historian recalls John Andrews, "a hero of Australian architecture," and makes a plea to save one of his important remaining public buildings, the Sydney Convention Centre (great pix).
- Meier beats Foster and Zaha for plum job in Hamburg's HafenCity.
- Balmori talks about how to strike a happier balance between modern cities and nature; she aims to "put the city in nature rather than putting nature in the city."
- Lamb Hart's A New Humanism: Part 9 is all about creating a sense of place: "Experiencing a sense of community is one of the great pleasures of the places we build."
- The World's Top 10 Most Innovative Companies in Architecture (and they're not all starchitects; some interesting comments).
- World's Top 10 Happiest Cities (great infographic, too).
- One we couldn't resist: the Community Cat Café project at Florida Southern College to provide Frank Lloyd Wright-styled dorms for stray cats (purr-purr).
- Call for entries (deadlines loom!): projects for upcoming "FitNation" exhibition on active design at NYC's Center for Architecture + Detroit Revitalization Fellows Program "is looking for a few more good men and women" to help advance the city's renewal.

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The Adapters: Indigenous architecture provides some important lessons in building with nature rather than against it...Today's individualism is more ragged than rugged. Skylines, levees, and other monuments to manifest destiny and material success have proven to be shoddy defenses against the capabilities of nature...Resilience is everywhere. Do we see it? By John Hockenberry - Metropolis Magazine

For safer, prettier cities pick a woman to build them: The fabric of Britain's towns and cities is suffering due to a lack of female architects, industry experts have warned amid claims that sexism is rife in the profession..."it is not to say that men cannot design excellent cities, or a good nursery or workplace, but everybody would benefit from designs by both halves of the gene pool." -- Christine Murray; Yasmin Shariff/Dennis Sharp Architects; Hannah Lawson/John McAslan + Partners - Telegraph (UK)

Lime Street: This social housing facility in East Perth acknowledges the unique challenges presented by homelessness, and responds with sensitive architectural design focusing on identity, authenticity & atmosphere. -- Kelly Rattigan/Formworks - Australian Design Review

Detroit Planners Try a Softer Approach to Urban Renewal: As a city planner in the 1950s, Edward Hustoles worked on relocating residents from neighborhoods marked for "slum clearance"...Detroit Future City plan strenuously avoids any use of "eminent domain"...some planning experts wonder whether [the plan] can succeed without harder-edged tools. - Detroit Free Press

The Emergence of Container Urbanism: The repurposed shipping container has become a fixture of urban architecture...Schwarzer examines the rise of container urbanism from the mid 20th century to now...Container urbanism has historic roots... By Mitchell Schwarzer -- Archigram; Envelope A+D; Le Corbusier; Buckminster Fuller; C.I.A.M. (Congress of International Modern Architecture); Yona Friedman; Louis Kahn; Metabolists; Arata Isozaki; Kenzo Tange; Peter Cook/Archigram; Lucio Costa; Moshe Safdie; Paul Rudolph; Kisho Kurokawa; Andrea Zittel; Wes Jones; Adam Kalkin; LOT-EK; Nicholas Lacey & Partners; MVRDV; Macro-Sea; Spillmann Echsle [images] - Places Journal

The age of instant architecture: Can a block of flats built in 48 hours really be safe? India, China and even the US have put their faith in high-speed construction..."But would you sleep soundly in a cut 'n' shut skyscraper?" ...prefabrication can have a dark side. -- adAPT NYC; nARCHITECTS [images] - Independent (UK)

Architects and Designers Reimagine a Former Factory in Cincinnati: Aaron Betsky judges the Cincinnati Live/Make Competition for a former factory building...called for a new community of DIY folk who would share skills and tools, harkening back to the Arts & Crafts days...It is a romantic notion... -- Olivier Terrisse; Jenny Kim/Andrew Lord; Lara Lesmes Escudero; Iniesta Nowell [slide show] - Architect Magazine

Work begins on Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive: ...will pair a restored 1939 printing plant and its subdued Art Deco look with a stainless steel-clad addition that suggests a streamlined abstraction of a whale. By John King -- Diller Scofidio + Renfro; EHDD [images] - San Francisco Chronicle

Icon revisited: Philip Drew recalls John Andrews, who brought Australian architecture into world focus with his competition-winning scheme for Toronto's Scarborough College in the 1960s...and makes a plea to save one of Andrews' important remaining public buildings, the Sydney Convention Centre. [images] - ArchitectureAU (Australia)

Meier beats Foster and Zaha to scoop Hamburg HQ: ...will create Engel & Völkers' new headquarters in the HafenCity district -- Richard Meier & Partners; Zaha Hadid Architects; Foster + Partners [images] - The Architects' Journal (UK)

Diana Balmori: The designer of urban landscapes talks about how to strike a happier balance between modern cities and nature...aims to "put the city in nature rather than putting nature in the city ... you make the whole city work according to how nature works." -- Balmori Associates - Financial Times (UK)

A New Humanism: Part 9: Building the habitat and creating a sense of place: Experiencing a sense of community -- belonging to a successful network of human alliances -- is one of the great pleasures of the places we build. By Robert Lamb Hart/Hart Howerton; illustrations by Albrecht Pichler [images] - Metropolis Magazine

The World's Top 10 Most Innovative Companies in Architecture -- Foster + Partners; Snohetta; Adjaye Associate; Wang Shu/Amateur Architecture Studio; Perkins + Will; Herzog & de Meuron; Populous; Arup; Mazzanti Arquitectos; Lake|Flato-Fast Company

World's Happiest Cities: San Francisco Is The Happiest City In America; #1: Rio de Janeiro [images] - Huffington Post

Florida Southern College's Stray Cats Getting Own Frank Lloyd Wright Styled Dorms: Treasured for its storied collection of Wright buildings...college is making room for six more structures inspired by the famed architect...the Community Cat Café project in concert with the SPCA. -- Mesick Cohen Wilson Baker Architects [image]- The Ledger (Florida)

Call for entries: Call for projects: "FitNation" exhibition on active design in the U.S.; looking for the best examples of completed projects that demonstrate active design; deadline: February 22- Center for Architecture / AIANY (NYC)

Call for entries: Detroit Revitalization Fellows Program is looking for a few more good men and women to help advance the renewal of Detroit; application deadline: March 6- Model D (Detroit)

One-on-One: Revolution in Architecture: Interview with Gregg Pasquarelli, SHoP Architects: "We never limit ourselves to simply designing an image. Part of our initial concept is always about knowing how something is going to be built." By Vladimir Belogolovsky [images]- ArchNewsNow



-- "Le Corbusier Redrawn - The Houses" by Steven Park: the only collection of consistently rendered original drawings of all 26 residential works

-- Fran Silvestre Arquitectos: House on the Cliff, Calpe, Alicante, Spain

-- Berger + Parkkinen: Ice Sports Center, Vienna, Austria

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