

Today's News - Friday, February 22, 2013

- Florida calls on Obama to create a new Department of Cities: "cities have become laboratories for pragmatic bipartisan policy innovation, pioneering new approaches. Just imagine what a Mike Bloomberg could accomplish as America's first Secretary of Cities" (comments make for an interesting read, too).
- Fairs explains how "tech has killed green - green's message did not adapt and it ran out of steam."
- Voted England's ugliest building, Bournemouth's Imax cinema (opened in 2002) is coming down - it "was ugly as sin."
- It looks like Glasgow's red George Square will stay red until after the 2014 Commonwealth Games (McAslan still insists "a radical revamp" is still possible).
- Bey cheers a new college dorm as an "architectural gem" bringing some sparkle to a Chicago neighborhood.
- MIT and AIA launch a new joint research collaboration focused on how design can improve the health of urban communities.
- Alsop's at it again: in a "humorous debate," he "laid into the majority of Britain's 32,000 architects, saying they weren't worthy of the title" (and barbs for big names to boot).
- Eyefuls of Gowanus by Design Water_Works competition winners.
- Weekend diversions (and lots of 'em):
- Pearman cheers "Venice Takeaway: Ideas to Change British Architecture" at RIBA: "without all the noise of competing attractions" at the Biennale, the show "has the chance to blossom."
- The fascinating story of "the man who tried to change the soul of Paris: He thought he was creating a utopia, but most of the city disagreed."
- Perreault parses MCNY's "Making Room": "Here's the secret to our brave new future: We have to become Japanese."
- 3rd Design Biennial Boston puts the spotlight on "the most significant design leaders among Greater Boston's early-career, independent professional talent."
- Young Melbourne architecture firms inhabit "Ghost Town," a pop-up exhibition in a Melbourne subway station (great slide show).
- 12 major Australian firms star in "Icons by Icons" on view in Sydney.
- Lebbeus Woods @ SFMOMA x 2: Wallace calls him "the architect who dared to ask 'What If?'" + Q&A with co-curator re: putting together a show before and after the architect's death.
- Helsinki shows off 11 entries in the city's international bridge design competition.
- LaBarre laps up Myers' "Bio Design": it's "a lush tome that works as both high-minded eye candy and environmental battle cry...a vibrant petri dish of our bio-connected future."
- "Learn for Life: New Architecture for New Learning" compiles "rivetingly-good innovative and experimental projects that embrace new modes of learning, with some surprising typologies given fresh consideration."

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Obama, build a lasting urban legacy: Create a new federal Department of Cities: ...our cities have become laboratories for pragmatic bipartisan policy innovation, pioneering new approaches...If the President takes the lead, the products of those urban laboratories can be harnessed, their progress accelerated...Just imagine what a Mike Bloomberg could accomplish as America's first Secretary of Cities. By Richard Florida- NY Daily News

Sorry green design, it's over: Marcus Fairs explains why designers have dumped dowdy green design in favour of glamorous robots. Tech has killed green. Until recently the design world was on a mission to save the planet...green's message did not adapt and it ran out of steam...technological development is more sustainable than sustainability, since it will never run out of ideas. - Dezeen

The cinema that became the film: Here's a great example of a building bringing the community together...It was voted England's ugliest building, and it's coming down...Crowds gathered to watch demolition work begin on Bournemouth's Imax cinema...That's more interest than the hulking box of a building generated in its unsustainably short lifespan...The Waterfront Building...was ugly as sin. - BD/Building Design (UK)

Glasgow's red square to stay until after the 2014 Games: George Square is unlikely to have its unpopular red tarmac surface ripped up before the showpiece 2014 Commonwealth Games....John McAslan...said he believed a radical revamp was still possible ahead of the Games. - The Herald (Scotland)

Pilsen's new architectural gem: New college dorm is gaining attention--and accolades: Much too often, Chicago neighborhoods get stuck with a bad pieces of architecture. So it is worth celebrating...La Casa Student Housing and Resource Center...earned the Richard Driehaus Foundation Award for Architectural Excellence in Community Design... By: Lee Bey [images]- WBEZ Chicago Public Radio

MIT Center for Advanced Urbanism to Collaborate on AIA "Decade of Design" Public Health Commitment for Clinton Global Initiative: ...new joint research collaboration focused on how design can improve the health of urban communities. - American Institute of Architects (AIA)

Will Alsop attacks non-architects who shape our cities: In a humorous debate with critic Stephen Bayley...he also laid into the majority of Britain's 32,000 architects, saying they weren't worthy of the title...Barbs were also directed at David Chipperfield, Allies & Morrison and Norman Foster. - BD/Building Design (UK)

Gowanus by Design Water_Works competition winners in Urban Ecology, Architectural Design, and Community Programming. -- Studio TJOA/Audrey Worden/Alex Worden; Amanda Gann; Josip Zaninovic/Krešimir Renic/Ana Ranogajec/Tamara Maric/Branko Palic; etc. [images]- Gowanus by Design/Gowanus Canal Community Development Corporation

Learning from Lax Lagos: Shifted from the frenzy of the biennale to the more generous time and space of Portland Place [RIBA], the ideas of "Venice Takeaway: Ideas to Change British Architecture" have room to flourish...Taken on its own terms, without all the noise of competing attractions, [it] has the chance to blossom. By Hugh Pearman- RIBA Journal (UK)

The Man Who Tried to Change the Soul of Paris: Michel Holley built a mini-city of hulking towers on the Left Bank. He thought he was creating a utopia, but most of the city disagreed...at Paris' Pavillon de l'Arsenal, "Olympiades, Paris 13e," chronicles the 13th Arrondissement...where 44 towers were built between 1960 and 1970. [images]- The Atlantic Cities

Roomers: Micro-Housing in the Big Apple: Big cities now need smaller housing. Could you live in a 300 square foot apartment? "Making Room," at the Museum of the City of New York showcases various proposals. Note that ...the centerpiece is not the adAPT NYC winner. Instead the star attraction is a full-size, 325-square-foot, studio...Here's the secret to our brave new future: We have to become Japanese. By John Perreault -- nARCHITECTS; Amie Gross Architects- ArtsJournal

BSA Space: 3rd Design Biennial Boston: Curated by over,under, this exhibition recognizes the most significant design leaders among Greater Boston's early-career, independent professional talent... -- Brandon Clifford/Matter Design; Kiel Moe; Wilson Martin/Eden Dutcher/GroundView; Ana Mijacki/Lee Moreau/Project_ ; etc. - BSA Space (Boston)

"Ghost Town": A pop-up exhibition animates the unbuilt projects of young Melbourne architecture practices, bringing them to

public attention at Degraeves Street Subway...promotes not only the exhibited practices, but architecture itself. -- Index Architecture; Bild Architecture; Searle x Waldron Architecture; Tessellate; Freadman White + L'Abbattoir de Plastique; Wowowa; Edmund Carter and Catherine Ranger; And Projects; Branch Studio; Musk Studio; Architecture Architecture with Tom Ross @ Brilliant Creek; Kart Projects [slide show]- ArchitectureAU (Australia)

"Icons by Icons" presents significant homes by 12 major Australian architecture practices, at Tusculum, Sydney...understated but important exhibition...the calibre of practitioners sets the benchmark high. -- McBride Charles Ryan; Denton Corker Marshall; John Wardle Architects; Sean Godsell Architects; Popov Bass Architects; Durbach Block Jagers; Glenn Murcutt; Ian Moore Architects; Luigi Rosselli Architects; Peter Stutchbury Architecture; Clare Design; BVN Donovan Hill- ArchitectureAU (Australia)

Lebbeus Woods: The Architect Who Dared to Ask "What If?": ...one of the most influential conceptual architects ever to walk the earth had only one of his wildly imaginative designs become a permanent structure. ("Lebbeus Woods, Architect" at San Francisco Museum of Modern Art) By Lewis Wallace [images]- Wired

Posthumous Exhibition on Lebbeus Woods Focuses on Architecture's Potential: Co-curator Joseph Becker of 'Lebbeus Woods, Architect' at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art talks about putting together a show before and after the subject's death. By Lindsey M. Roberts [slide show]- Architect Magazine

World's best bridge designers building bridges for Helsinki: 11 entries for the international bridge design competition Kruunusillat (Crown Bridges) are on display and available for public comment at an exhibition in Helsinki and on the Internet to March 9- City of Helsinki (Finland)

Design With Nature? "Bio Design: Nature + Science + Creativity" by William Myers...a lush tome that works as both high-minded eye candy and environmental battle cry...compiles an impressive kaleidoscope of projects, each lusciously—almost pornographically—illustrated...a vibrant petri dish of our bio-connected future...a question he does not address: Is biodesign good design? By Suzanne LaBarre [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

"Learn for Life: New Architecture for New Learning": ...a compilation of innovative and experimental architecture and interior design projects that embrace new modes of learning. The selection of projects is rivetingly good...permits an extended interpretation of what constitutes a learning environment, with some surprising typologies given fresh consideration. -- Elap Arquitectos; Alejandro Munoz Miranda; Sako Architects; Petersen Po?rksen Partner Architekten; Stadtplaner; Frei Rezakhanlou Architects; Faulders Studio; Tezuka Architects; Albert France-Lanord Architects [images]- Australian Design Review

How an Architect Stole the Stockholm Furniture Show: Gert Wingårdh's architectural folly proves the extraordinary power of architecture, even when a building lasts just four days. By Linda Hales [images]- ArchNewsNow



-- I.M. Pei/Pei Partnership Architects: Bank of China Headquarters, Beijing, China
-- Zaha Hadid Architects: Antwerp Port Authority Headquarters, Antwerp, Belgium

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