

Today's News - Wednesday, March 6, 2013

- ArcSpace brings us a tome on Copenhagen's Tietgen Dormitory, Meier in Bergamo, and Coop Himmelb(l)au in Dresden.
- King cheers (for the most part) "vibrant cities" that "roll with the punches: It's a tug of war where the memorable exerts more pull than the mundane. As long as the good outweighs the bad, the latter fades into the background."
- Kimmelman finds much to like (with a few exceptions) at Holl's new sports complex for Columbia University: "It's not a beauty. But it is a tough, sophisticated and imaginative work of architecture for a devilish site."
- Gehry's Maggie's Centre in Hong Kong is ready for its close-up.
- Chaban reports on NYC's largest housing project since Co-op City: "Snubbing Sandy, the city breaks ground in a flood zone," but it's "being built under strict flood mitigation standards to protect against future storms."
- Long takes a long look at just-released plans for London's Southbank Centre makeover, and likes (most of) what he sees: the new Festival Wing will be "a glowing lozenge on the skyline," though he is "wary about us editing out all of the roughness of central London" + AJ report with lots of images.
- Fuller's largest "Fly's Eye" dome is being restored, to make its debut in Toulouse in May.
- On a sadder note, a modernist Raleigh home by Fitzgibbon bites the dust despite preservationists' efforts: "It was an act of vandalism."
- Big news for BIG: Ingels' "mountain-slash-ski-slope-slash-waste-to-energy-power-plant" in Copenhagen is a go + His LEGO Brand House will be "a public museum and experience center" that will look at LEGO as "an art form" and "its cultural impact."
- In one of Bangkok's poorest neighborhoods, Spark Architects sparks things up with a youth center for disadvantaged kids where "the users - the children themselves - called the shots."
- Ditto in Boston, where the new MassArt Student Residence Hall was inspired by a Klimt: "It was the students' idea that the building look like a painting and that it be just as colorful and vibrant as they are" ("pajama floor" included).
- Our heartiest cheers to van der Leer, who has just been appointed executive director of New York's Van Alen Institute (a most excellent fit, we think)!
- A New Humanism: Part 12: Structuring experience: Order and Patterns (one of our faves in the series).
- Call for entries: Architect mag's 7th Annual R+D Awards to honor innovative materials and systems at every scale + 4th Annual ONE Prize: Stormproof: Open International Design Competition for Building Resilient Cities + Cradle to Cradle/ Make It Right Foundation Product Innovation Challenge: design a product for the affordable housing market.

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-- "Tietgen Dormitory / An imaginary journey around a real building" edited by Torsten Bløndal
-- Richard Meier & Partners: Italcementi i.lab, Bergamo, Italy
-- Coop Himmelb(l)au: UFA Cinema Center, Dresden, Germany

Vibrant cities roll with the punches: It's a tug of war where the memorable exerts more pull than the mundane...As long as the good outweighs the bad, the latter fades into the background...There's no moral to all this, simply a pair of conflicting observations. By John King [images] - San Francisco Chronicle

A Sports Complex Shows Its Brains and Brawn: Columbia University's new Campbell Sports Center fills a difficult site at the northern tip of Manhattan...it's not a beauty. But it is a tough, sophisticated and imaginative work of architecture for a devilish site. By Michael Kimmelman -- Steven Holl Architects [image] - New York Times

The journey to recovery: Frank Gehry-designed Maggie's Hong Kong cancer support centre to open...the first completed Maggie's Centre outside of the United Kingdom...a series of pavilions...arranged to encourage movement between the interior spaces and the landscape. -- Lily Jencks - World Architecture News (UK)

Huge LIC housing development to rise post-Sandy: Two 30-story-plus apartment towers will be the first to rise in the 5,000-unit Hunter's Point South project on the Long Island City, Queens, waterfront...being built under strict flood mitigation standards to protect against future storms. By Matt Chaban -- SHoP Architects; Ismael Leyva [image] - Crain's New York Business

Southbank Centre: thinking outside the glass box: The proposed Festival Wing is a towering, gleaming landmark that will turn the South Bank inside out...a glowing lozenge on the skyline...The existing buildings are loved and loathed...I am absolutely convinced that the vision of a host of new spaces for children, for education and for families is the right one. I am also wary about us editing out all of the roughness of central London. By Kieran Long -- Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios - Evening Standard (UK)

Southbank Centre overhaul revealed: ...big glass box...£120 million Festival Wing redevelopment...Featuring a glazed 'liner' building and a semi-transparent, box-like sky pavilion...will double the size of the 1967 Thameside, Brutalist concrete complex. -- Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios [images] - The Architects' Journal (UK)

Reviving a Visionary: Robert Rubin restoring a monumental Buckminster Fuller dome...has purchased the largest of his "Fly's Eye" domes...will be displayed, for the first time in more than 30 years, at the Festival International d'art in Toulouse, France... -- Daniel Reiser/DR Design; John Warren; Carlson Arts; explorations-architecture [images] - The Architect's Newspaper

Demolition of modernist Raleigh home draws fire from preservationists: ...once drew praise from Frank Lloyd Wright was demolished Friday, following an eight-year effort to save it...one of several remaining in the area designed by modernist architect James Fitzgibbon..."It was an act of vandalism." [images] - News & Observer (North Carolina)

Groundbreaking Pushes Bjarke Ingels' Hedonistic Sustainability Into Spotlight: Against all odds, he is actually building a mountain-slash-ski-slope-slash-waste-to-energy-power-plant in Copenhagen...the Amager Bakke Waste-to-Energy Plant represents his concept...that a sustainable building shouldn't only be green, but should also be fun. -- Bjarke Ingels Group/BIG [images] - The Architect's Newspaper

LEGO Goes BIG: The Bjarke Ingels Group will design a museum in the company's historic home...LEGO Brand House, a public museum and experience center, in Billund, Denmark..."It's going to be looking at LEGO from all its different aspects—LEGO as an artform, its cultural impact"... - Architect Magazine

Fai Fah, Bangkok: In a poor part of Bangkok, Spark Architects rejuvenated two shop-houses to provide a colourful youth centre for disadvantaged kids. The result is an instructive and entertaining model for improving the community through

architecture...giving disadvantaged children and teenagers access to the arts for self-development and creative thinking...the users – the children themselves – called the shots. [images]- Australian Design Review

ADD Inc Creates New Architectural Landmark in Boston Skyline with Massachusetts College of Art and Design's MassArt Student Residence Hall: ...inspired by Gustav Klimt's 1909 painting "The Tree of Life"... "It was the students' idea that the building look like a painting and that it be just as colorful and vibrant as they are." -- Shauna Gillies-Smith/Ground [image]- Times Union (Albany, NY)

Van on Van: David van der Leer, an associate curator of architecture and urban studies at the Guggenheim, has been appointed executive director of New York's Van Alen Institute. He will take over in May.- The Architect's Newspaper

A New Humanism: Part 12: Structuring experience: Order and Patterns: Repetition and consistency over a variety of formats simplify decisions by steering them into the well-carved channels in the brain making it easier to say "yes; this is right" than to stop and analyze. By Robert Lamb Hart/Hart Howerton; illustrations by Albrecht Pichler - Metropolis Magazine

Call for entries: 7th Annual R+D Awards to honor innovative materials and systems at every scale; deadline: April 5- Architect Magazine

Call for entries: 4th annual ONE Prize: Stormproof: Open International Design Competition for Building Resilient Cities; cash prizes; early registration deadline: June 30- Terreform ONE

Call for entries: Cradle to Cradle Product Innovation Challenge: design a product for the affordable housing market; winning entrants share \$250,000 prize; application deadline: June 30- Cradle to Cradle Products Innovation Institute / Make It Right Foundation

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