

Today's News - Thursday, March 14, 2013

- An in-depth (and fascinating) look at how, despite all its good intentions, Make It Right Foundation's "beautiful" houses in the Lower Ninth Ward are turning out to be "a drag on New Orleans - it didn't have to be this way."
- O'Sullivan takes a long look at Athens' high hopes to revamp "an area of shabby charisma into one of real, walkable charm," despite austerity: "reactions seem to be generally approving, if skeptical" + An eyeeful of the ReThink Athens winning proposal.
- Bike lanes, parklets (and palm trees) are beginning to get in the way of filmmakers finding the (formerly) "ghost town quality" of downtown L.A. that made it "such an attractive back lot" (they'll just have to get used to it).
- Capps reports on a House of Representatives bill that would scrap Gehry's Eisenhower Memorial design - and slash federal funding.
- Jones is a bit taken aback by the 2012 Olympic Cauldron winning the South Bank Sky Arts Award: "I cooed and wowed as much as anyone" - but it "is not a work of art, and Heatherwick is not an artist. If he were, he would be a really bad one."
- Saffron reports on a new deal between Philly's Preservation Alliance and a developer that means losing two landmarked church buildings but saves a cathedral: "It was a very tactical, utilitarian thing to do."
- Chicago Preservation Society releases its 2013 Most Endangered Historic Buildings list: "Here's hoping 2013's assembly fares better than Prentice Women's Hospital" + Images and details re: Chicago's most at-risk architectural treasures.
- Architecture for Humanity and the USGBC form a partnership to fix America's schools, and release their "Center for Green Schools 2013 State of Our Schools Report."
- Wing is wowed by a new graduate program that offers a different model for design education that combines practical skills with critical thinking in support of design and social activism.
- Nobel catches up with ARO, now "poised for greatness. Trusting in intellect and acting with thoughtful restraint is its lasting innovation."
- Holt reports on Lange's adventures in discussing the state of architectural criticism Down Under.
- Speaking of which, Canberra's CAPITheticAL competition winners announced.
- Call for entries reminder (deadline tomorrow!): MoMA PS1's EXPO 1: NEW YORK - Rockaway Call for Ideas for urban recovery, post-Sandy.

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[If You Rebuild It, They Might Not Come: Brad Pitt's beautiful houses are a drag on New Orleans: It didn't have to be this way, and it's costing the city...If the Lower Ninth has any chance at becoming a livable community, new people are going to have to move in..."It's just not a great solution to affordable housing issues"... By Lydia DePillis -- Make It Right Foundation- The New Republic](#)

[Despite Austerity, Athens Completely Revamps Its Downtown: Tramlines! Bike paths! Trees! The plans could turn an area of shabby charisma into one of real, walkable charm...a rare bright spot in bleak times. Whether or not it's what Athens currently needs most is another question...reactions seem to be generally approving, if skeptical. By Feargus O'Sullivan -- Rethink Athens - The Atlantic Cities](#)

[ReThink Athens Winning Proposal: "One step beyond" focuses on creating a resilient city, accessible city and vibrant city. -- OKRAMxst Urbanism/Wageningen University/Studio 75/Werner Sobek Green Technologies \[images, links\]- ArchDaily](#)

[The Street Stays in the Picture: Film industry bucks downtown Los Angeles alterations including bike lanes, parklets...concerns about how the modifications are impacting business...street level decisions that can ruin the illusion the film industry desires...the ghost town quality that made downtown such an attractive back lot...is a thing of the past. \[images\]- The Architect's Newspaper](#)

[House of Representatives Bill Requires New Design for the Eisenhower Memorial: ...would scrap Frank Gehry's design and slash federal funding...The purpose of the new legislation is to "facilitate the completion of an appropriate national memorial"...It would do so, specifically, by mandating an alternative to Gehry's design. By Kriston Capps \[slide shows\]- Architect Magazine](#)

[Thomas Heatherwick's Olympic Cauldron: it's flaming well not art: The glorious candelabra that opened the 2012 London Games has won the South Bank Sky Arts Award, but leaves this art critic cold...the Cauldron is not a work of art, and Heatherwick is not an artist. If he were an artist, he would be a really bad one...this was just a design concept. By Jonathan Jones - Guardian \(UK\)](#)

[Deal ends fight to keep 2 W. Phila. buildings, funds cathedral: ...Preservation Alliance has dropped its legal opposition to demolishing two landmarked church buildings in West Philadelphia after the property's developer agreed to create a fund to preserve the main church, the Episcopal Cathedral..."It was a very tactical, utilitarian thing to do..." By Inga Saffron -- Samuel Sloan \(1856\); Charles M. Burns \(1906\); BLT Architects \[images\]- Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

[2013 Chicago 7: Chicago Preservation Society Reveals List Of City's Most Endangered Historic Buildings: While the list gives the buildings...new attention, the efforts don't always end happily...Here's hoping 2013's assembly fares better than Prentice Women's Hospital. -- Bertrand Goldberg \[link to images, info\]- Huffington Post](#)

[Chicago Seven: 2013 Chicago's 7 list of Most Endangered Buildings: ...to raise public awareness about the threats facing some of Chicago's most at-risk architectural treasures. Patrick C. Keely \(1880\); Jens J. Jensen \(1927\); Harry Weese \(1959\); Holabird and Roche \(1915\); Carr and Wright \(1949\); M. F. Strauch \(1929\); Robert S. De Golyer/Hugh M.G. Garden/Jens Jensen/etc. \(1938\) \[links to images, info\]- Preservation Chicago](#)

[Class in Session: Partnership to Fix America's Schools: Architecture for Humanity and the Center for Green Schools at the U.S. Green Building Council Partner to Address School Facility Modernization Needs...release of the Center for Green Schools 2013 State of Our Schools Report... \[link to report\]- Architecture for Humanity](#)

[A Different Model for Design Education: Design and social activism combines practical skills with critical thinking: One case in point is the graduate program at Art Center College of Design's Media Design Practices \[with Designmatters\]...provides students with a unique foundation of theory and on-the-ground training...not intervention by "helicopter"... By Sherin Wing- Metropolis Magazine](#)

[Life Starts at 50: Having reached architectural early middle-age, ARO now seems poised for greatness...Trusting in intellect and acting with thoughtful restraint is its lasting innovation...the thing that has differentiated these architects from their peers...Without making a fuss about it, Yarinsky, Cassell, and Yao have become the architects' architects and the designers' designers. By Philip Nobel -- Stephen Cassell and Adam Yarinsky/Kim Yao/Architecture Research Office- Metropolis Magazine](#)

[Barriers of Entry: Michael Holt on architectural criticism: ...reflects on two recent panel events in Melbourne and Sydney surrounding criticism in the contemporary architecture discipline, featuring critic Alexandra Lange...it is particularly concerning that we find ourselves having to justify our own relevance... + Video of "More than one way to skin a building" panel- Australian Design Review](#)

CAPITheticAL competition winners announced: ...international competition to design a hypothetical Australian city...part of Canberra's Centenary celebrations. -- Ecoscape Australia; Brit Andersen/Mara Francis; Julian Bolleter/Richard Weller/Australian Urban Design Research Centre; Kate Dickinson/Annabel Koeck- [Australian Design Review](#)

Call for entries: EXPO 1: NEW YORK - Rockaway Call for Ideas: present ideas for alternative housing models, creation of social spaces, urban interventions, new uses of public space, protection of the shoreline, etc.; deadline: March 15- MoMA PS1

Architects Opposing Prisons Gain Support: AIASF and international groups endorse human rights changes to AIA Code of Ethics. By Raphael Sperry, AIA -- Architects/Designers/Planners for Social Responsibility (ADPSR)- [ArchNewsNow](#)

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