

Today's News - Monday, April 1, 2013

- A Dallas architecture expert takes on Hawthorne's take-down of Mayne's Perot Museum: "Christopher has some good points, especially in the building's hostility to its surroundings, but from the perspective of a 10-year-old - no one cares at all."
- Moore minces no words when it comes to a "modern mishmash" that is a new addition to a Sheffield hospital that came at the cost of a landmarked wing ("dangers lurking in our new planning laws").
- Calys weighs in on the prospects for three contentious San Francisco projects that "include one certainty: the clash of the titans will be vociferous."
- Saffron makes the case that billions for big highway projects would be better spent on transit: a "schizoid approach has cost us dearly. No highway project has ever made a city a better place to live. Yet we continue to treat mass transit like an unloved stepchild."
- The new developer of the massive Domino Sugar project in Dumbo (Brooklyn) took a novel approach that should end up as a sweet deal for the entire neighborhood - it is "a paradigm that others would be wise to adopt" (they went to the community first - what a concept!).
- Hume hails the "brilliant" makeover of a 60-year-old Toronto library branch that turned "a dark and dingy space into one people would choose to spend time," and "a powerful symbol of what lies ahead" for a neighborhood with one of the lowest literacy rates in the city.
- Heathcote x 2: he heaps high praise on Amsterdam's restored Rijksmuseum: it is "as sophisticated, minimal and understated as Pierre Cuypers' original was grand, eclectic and overblown - it not only looks wonderful but also works wonderfully well."
- He has an enlightening conversation with Pritzker-winner Wang Shu, who "cuts an intriguing figure in Chinese architecture."
- Rochon is "in love with trees, and the potential for poetic, resilient architecture built from them," especially in Vancouver.
- One of those architects "says his wooden towers can help offset climate change. Can he find a client willing to go out on a limb and build one?"
- Arthur Erickson's Vancouver bungalow that sits on property "prized by developers" faces the wrecking ball; the house may not be much, but it is "a unique site with a rich history and one of the first true West Coast modern gardens."
- Speaking of which, April is National Landscape Architecture Month: Healthy Living Through Design (and lots going on!).
- A "delicious - and staggeringly creative - feast" of 100 Big Ideas (we agree with most of them).
- Call for entries (and lots of 'em!): 2013 Burnham Prize Competition: NEXT STOP - Designing Chicago BRT Stations + Redesigning Detroit: A New Vision for an Iconic Site + 2013 Innovation By Design Awards + IFAC 2013 Sunshade Competition open to students and young professionals + 2nd HYP Cup 2013 International Student Competition: "Architecture in Transformation: The Disappearance of Architectures."
- Happy April Fool's Day! (not that any of us are, right?)

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Dallas architecture expert rebukes LA Times bashing of Perot Museum: ...Christopher Hawthorne said some mean things...I asked...Kate Holliday...what she thought about his takedown. "Christopher has some good points, especially in the building's hostility to its surroundings...but from the perspective of a 10-year-old...no one cares at all." - CultureMap Dallas

Jessop hospital, Sheffield: The absurd reason for replacing a listed hospital wing with a modern mishmash exposes the dangers lurking in our new planning laws...a big box...composed by some computer jockey out of misunderstood borrowings from Rem Koolhaas and Herzog & de Meuron...the implication is that any developer...without trying too hard to prove that a listed building is not viable, can go ahead and demolish it. By Rowan Moore -- John Dodsley Webster (18978); RMJM [image]- Observer (UK)

Development disputes aplenty: 2013: So far the prospects for these three projects include one certainty: the clash of the titans will be vociferous: California Pacific Medical Center, Warriors Arena, 8 Washington. By George Calys -- SmithGroup JJR; Snohetta; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) [images]- San Francisco Examiner

Money for costly roadwork would be better spent on transit: No highway project has ever made a city a better place to live, while transit projects improve our quality of life...and are better for the environment...Yet we continue to treat mass transit like an unloved stepchild, even though Marilyn Jordan Taylor argues that rail and bus projects "are far more cost effective." By Inga Saffron- Philadelphia Inquirer

Editorial: A sweet design for Domino: Developers in Dumbo took their cues from community residents and designed a project likely to flourish, even as it casts a slightly longer shadow...Two Trees Management has found a better way...a paradigm that others would be wise to adopt. -- SHoP Architects - Crain's New York Business

New Mount Dennis Public Library a neighbourhood beacon: The recent reopening of a 60-year-old local branch a sign that libraries are alive and well in Toronto: ..the task was to turn a dark and dingy space into one people would choose to spend time...is welcoming in a way the old version never was. By Christopher Hume -- G. Bruce Stratton Architects [image]- Toronto Star

The architecture of the Rijksmuseum: The restored museum is as sophisticated, minimal and understated as Pierre Cuypers' original was grand, eclectic and overblown. The result is a building that still allows the public to cycle right through it, that not only looks wonderful but also works wonderfully well. By Edwin Heathcote -- Cruz y Ortiz - Financial Times (UK)

Building society: Wang Shu is eager to stop his country forgetting its past: Now 49, he cuts an intriguing figure in Chinese architecture...The announcement...that he had won the Pritzker prize...surprised everyone...For those who knew his work...the choice of the first Chinese winner...was inspired. By Edwin Heathcote -- Lu Wenyu; Amateur Architecture Studio- Financial Times (UK)

Going with the grain, and building with wood: ...I'm in love with trees, and the potential for poetic, resilient architecture built from them. In British Columbia, a series of award-winning projects reveal that Vancouver-based architects and engineers are making strides in leading the world with their all-wood designs. By Lisa Rochon -- Michael Green Architecture; Saucier + Perrotte Architectes/Hughes Condon Marler Architects; Perkins+Will- Globe and Mail (Canada)

Branching Up: Michael Green says his wooden towers can help offset climate change. Can he find a client willing to go out on a limb and build one? ...argues that the need for so much new housing will contribute to climate change if there isn't a systemic structural shift in high-density urban construction. -- Michael Green Architecture [images]- Architect Magazine

Arthur Erickson's home faces the wrecking ball: Spread across two lots in Vancouver's coveted Point Grey neighbourhood, the property would be prized by developers...."It is a unique site with a rich history and one of the first true West Coast modern gardens"....- Globe and Mail (Canada)

[April is National Landscape Architecture Month: Healthy Living Through Design 2013- American Society of Landscape Architects \(ASLA\)](#)

[100 Big Ideas: ...delicious — and staggeringly creative — feast ...outstanding projects and products... \[images\]- Interior Design magazine](#)

[Call for entries: 2013 Burnham Prize Competition: NEXT STOP – Designing Chicago BRT Stations: single-stage international design ideas competition; cash prizes; deadline: May 13- Chicago Architectural Club / Chicago Architecture Foundation](#)

[Call for entries: Redesigning Detroit: A New Vision for an Iconic Site \(international\): innovative, creative, and inspired designs for a new building on the historic Hudson's site, one of the most beloved locations in downtown Detroit; cash prizes; registration deadline: April 30 \(submission deadline: May 31\)- Opportunity Detroit](#)

[Call for entries: 2013 Innovation By Design Awards: a celebration of the year's most inspiring design work in virtually every design discipline; deadline: May 6- Fast Company / Co. Design](#)

[Call for entries: IFAC 2013 Sunshade Competition: design a temporary textile sunshade structure to be built during IFAC summer workshop in Covarrubias, Spain; open to students and young professionals; no entry fee; registration deadline: April 25 \(submission deadline: April 27\)- IFAC_International Festival of Art and Construction \(Spain\)](#)

[Call for entries: 2nd HYP Cup 2013 International Student Competition: "Architecture in Transformation: The Disappearance of Architectures"; cash prizes; registration deadline: June 30 \(submission deadline: August 15\)- Urban Environment Design \(UED\) Magazine \(China\) / International Union of Architects \(UIA\)](#)



-- Image Library: Gehry Partners: Walt Disney Concert Hall, Los Angeles, California
-- "Richard Meier. Architecture and Design": Fondazione Bisazza, Montecchio Maggiore, Italy, May 08 - July 28, 2013

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