Today's News - Thursday, May 2, 2013

- Hawthorne x 2: he parses Zumthor's plans for LACMA that would involve some pretty serious demolition (and inspiration from the "oozing, fluid forms of the La Brea Tar Pits") - he "will also have to face down the ghosts of failed plans." + Meanwhile, MOCA's show on contemporary Southern California architecture faces possible cancellation - less than a month before opening (could Gehry pull something else together with it?):
- King x 2: UC Davis taps SO - IL and Bohlin Cywinski Jackson for an "architecturally ambitious" museum that includes "an acre-plus sloping roof draped over galleries"
  + The Presidio Trust names 3 finalists for a cultural hub in the famed park (George Lucas included).
- In New Zealand, NIMBYism is on the march in Auckland suburbs as a "unitary plan" goes for density. + An exchange student is in awe (not in a good way) of Auckland's "commander-in-chief" - the car, leaving pedestrians and cyclists as "sitting ducks."
- Wolfe explains why, "before applying any prescription, we need to first isolate spontaneous and latent examples of successful urban land use" if we really want dynamic urbanism.
- Hume hails Waterfront Toronto as an economic engine: "As investments go, Toronto's waterfront has turned out to be one of the best."
- Bernstein wonders whether 1 WTC ("a blandly corporate obelisk") really will meet the measure as the tallest building in the west: "Do you know your antenna from your radome?"
- Bernstein x 2: he fears the over-glazing of New York: "If the trend toward placing featureless glass boxes continues, it is the reputation of contemporary architecture that will suffer most."
  + He reports on "three of the most important modernist houses in the Northeast" that are for sale - with uncertain futures.
  + Howorth undertakes the preservation of E. Fay Jones' Pinecote Pavilion "to ensure it is still wowing viewers decades from now."
- Brussat has high hopes that the design of a new visitors center for Newport's historic The Breakers will "fit like a glove into its context...My chief concern is that the devil might re-emerge in the details."
- Farrelly and Wheeler discuss the role of libraries - and their architecture - in a digital world: "Architecture doesn't even want authority anymore, architecture wants celebrity."
- A long list of reasons to be in NYC for the month of May: NYCxDesign, Frieze New York; ICFF - and so much more (we're exhausted just thinking about it all).
- One we couldn't resist: A six-story inflatable rubber duck floats into Hong Kong: "we're one family and all the waters in the world is our global bathtub."
Architect working on plans for Pinecote Pavilion: A preservation project on one of Mississippi's iconic structures is underway...the nearly 30-year-old structure is earmarked for work to ensure it is still wowing viewers decades from now...Why all the to-do over a pavilion? [It] was designed by famed architect E. Fay Jones. -- Howorth & Associates - Mississippi Business Journal

In Newport, a pavilion for The Breakers: Visitors centers provide among the best opportunities for architects who practice a parasitic modernism to deface fine old buildings with carbuncles...Epstein Joslin Architects has proposed a design, sort of like an old Gilded Age conservatory or greenhouse, that would fit like a glove into its context...My chief concern is that the devil might re-emerge in the details. By David Brussat -- Richard Morris Hunt (1895); Reed Hilderbrand [images]; Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

Libraries: maintaining a role in the digital world: ...architecture critic Elizabeth Farrelly and architect Tone Wheeler about the powerful connection between knowledge and the design of libraries...Are they still important? "Architecture doesn't even want authority anymore, architecture wants celebrity"... By Janne Ryan - ABC News / By Design (Australia)

New York City Kicks Off a Month of Design Events -- NYCxDesign; Frieze New York; International Contemporary Furniture Fair (ICFF); New Museum; IDEAS CITY; Center for Architecture; MoMA PS1; Pratt Institute; Van Aken Institute; Storefront for Art and Architecture; etc. - Architectural Record

Giant inflatable 'rubber duck' floats into Hong Kong: A six-storey inflatable 'rubber duck' created by Dutch artist Florentijn Hofman..."we're one family and all the waters in the world is our global bathtub."

Yesterday's News
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