

Today's News - Tuesday, May 7, 2013

EDITOR'S NOTE: With early morning commitments tomorrow, we will not be posting, but we'll be back Thursday, May 9.

- Heymann explains why he thinks Williams and Tsien's AFAM "is a great Modernist building" that should be "part of the MoMA collection, rather than its campus."
- Gray presents a most interesting history showing AFAM "isn't the first important building to get in MoMA's way."
- Davidson minces no words about what thinks of "a three-pronged corporate invasion of public land" in Flushing Meadows Corona Park: "These gifts bedazzle bureaucrats, but here are good reasons to be skeptical of the new sugarplum visions."
- FEMA gives the final thumbs-down to the University of Iowa's pleas for funds to repair Holl's flood-damaged Museum of Art - the "current building likely will be put toward a different use."
- Lewis x 2: he cheers three new DC-area developments (lots of New Urbanist elements), "but who can afford them?"
- He calls for the U.S. to follow the European model, and change "public housing" to "social housing": "Clearly, affordable housing strategies need a makeover. Let's change our thinking and vocabulary."
- Wainwright visits two self-build co-housing projects - one is "very much not another Poundbury"; the other is a "legal and financial model that is nothing short of revolutionary."
- Bullivant reports on a £6.6 billion IT hub in Ghana that "will offer technological, socio-cultural, touristic and investment opportunities."
- Will AS+GG's 116-story tower in Mumbai really "confuse the wind" (and really be built)?
- Henley is not convinced by FCBS's plans for London's South Bank Centre: "I haven't seen a more out-of-scale extension" since Michael Graves' proposed 1985 "Post-Modern giant" for the Whitney Museum (great history, too).
- Pogrebin reports on Norton's plans for a NY public library branch "designed to emphasize places to congregate rather than those for books."
- "Only if you stare really hard, will you realize that there's a modern high-rise office building on top" of Tokyo's newly-renovated Kabuki theater, courtesy of Kuma.
- Mouzon muses on the "7 reasons architecture (as we know it) is over" (he's more optimistic than the title lets on).
- HLM rescues Llewelyn Davies, which "scuppers" part of Ken Yeang's plans.
- ASLA's Business Quarterly survey shows things are looking up for landscape architects (more work, more hires!).
- Fire claims part of the Heidelberg Project, but the artist will rebuild - again - "the meaning of the project will once again deepen...tied to the epic struggle of modern Detroit and the power of art to transform experience and remake the world."
- Hill queries a number of architectural publishers re: the state of architectural publishing today.
- Call for entries: 2013 HYP Cup International Student Competition: "Architecture in Transformation."

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Please Save Modernism from the Modern: While some claim the American Folk Art Museum should be preserved because it's a great Modernist building, and therefore part of the MoMA collection, rather than its campus, no one has unequivocally answered the question of why it is so...Here is why I think the AFAM is a great Modernist building. By David Heymann -- Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects [images]- Places Journal

With a Museum for a Neighbor ...: The American Folk Art Museum isn't the first important building to get in MoMA's way...will leave the museum in possession of four-fifths of a city block, and no further place to go ... but up. Fortunately, the new tower will be a thousand feet high. By Christopher Gray [images]- New York Times

Towers in the Park: And stadiums, and shopping centers: This is not what Flushing Meadows Corona Park needs...a three-pronged corporate invasion of public land...more than 40 acres of your land...These gifts bedazzle bureaucrats, because they promise to undo decades of selective dereliction...There are good reasons to be skeptical of the new sugarplum visions...once we let go of parkland, we're unlikely to get it back. By Justin Davidson - New York Magazine

FEMA gives final 'no' to University of Iowa's flood-damaged Museum of Art: ...\$4 million worth of damage in the 2008 flood...did not meet its threshold for replacement...roughly \$500 million art collection...can't be insured in the building at its current site...current building likely will be put toward a different use. -- Steven Holl Architects - Iowa City Press-Citizen

Lots of new homes going up, but who can afford them? Geographically dispersed but locationally desirable projects in this region show the varying character and cost of new homes. They also show that most new homes are unaffordable for many people. By Roger K. Lewis -- Foster + Partners; Shalom Baranes Associates; Torti Gallas; Creaser/O'Brien Architects - Washington Post

Let's go from 'public housing' to 'social housing': To keep region's housing affordable, government has to play a role, but without the attached stigma...We should take a cue from Europe, where...social housing is subsidized yet serves middle-class as well as low-income households...Clearly...affordable housing strategies need a makeover. Let's change our thinking and vocabulary. By Roger K. Lewis - Washington Post

The future's communal: meet the UK's self-build pioneers: They share tools, toys - and are planning their own hydroelectric plant. But is a new wave of DIY homes the answer to the housing crisis? ...just outside Lancaster. A new co-housing development of 41 homes...without a developer in sight...the Forgebank community...this is very much not another Poundbury...on the outskirts of Leeds...the Low Impact Living Affordable Community...While the architecture might not win awards, Lilac's legal and financial model is nothing short of revolutionary. By Oliver Wainwright -- EcoArc; White Design [images]- Guardian (UK)

HOPE City IT hub in Accra designed by OBR launched: ...a £6.6 billion IT hub...Home Office People Environment, partnering with the Government of Ghana...will offer technological, socio-cultural, touristic and investment opportunities...includes an IT university for over 5000 students...a residential area, a hospital and social and sporting amenities. By Lucy Bullivant -- Open Building Research - Urbanista.org

Will Mumbai's Tallest Skyscraper Be Its Greenest Too? The proposed 116-story Imperial Tower will offer a slew of sustainable options...the svelte structure is designed to "confuse the wind"...though this is a competition winner, its future is by no means certain. -- Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture [images]- The Atlantic Cities

London Calling: The Latest Twist in the Tale of London's Concrete Island: London is engrossed in a vigorous debate over recently unveiled plans for the South Bank Centre...We are being set up for a very big move indeed. In fact, I haven't seen a more out-of-scale extension since Michael Graves

mated Breuer's Whitney Museum of American Art in New York in 1985 with his own Post-Modern giant. By Simon Henley/Henley Halebrown Rorrison -- Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios [images]- ArchDaily

A Place to Hang Out (Read, Too): The Donnell branch of the New York Public Library has been reconceived to fit at the base of a high-rise hotel and designed to emphasize places to congregate rather than those for books. By Robin Pogrebin -- Enrique Norten/TEN Arquitectos [images]- New York Times

Architectural design of Tokyo's newly-renovated Kabuki theater keeps focus away from offices: Only if you stare really hard...will you realize that there's a modern high-rise office building on top of it...Kabukiza Tower office section to keep a "low profile" despite being 29 stories tall. -- Kengo Kuma [images]- Japan Daily Press

7 Reasons Architecture (As We Know It) Is Over: Architecture has changed irreparably in the past decade, but those who know how to adapt just might find themselves in a far better place in a few years. By Steve Mouzon/Studio Sky/Mouzon Design- ArchDaily

HLM picks up Llewelyn Davies: Rescue deal will see return of Llewelyn Davies name...scuppers Ken Yeang's hope of luring Bert McCabe and Steve Featherstone to a new practice...He has registered the Llewelyn Davies Ken Yeang name... - BD/Building Design (UK)

Latest ASLA Business Quarterly Survey Reveals Improved Business Conditions: Significant jump in inquiries for new work; more firms plan to hire. - American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Fire claims part of Heidelberg Project, but the art, like Detroit, will survive: In 1991, Detroit Mayor Coleman Young, who considered Tyree Guyton's project an eyesore...had a big chunk of it demolished. The artist rebuilt...the meaning of the project will once again deepen...tied to the epic struggle of modern Detroit and the power of art to transform experience and remake the world. [images]- Detroit Free Press

A Short Survey of Architectural Publishing: What is the state of architectural publishing today? ...we asked publishers... By John Hill - World-Architects.com

Call for entries: 2013 HYP Cup International Student Competition: "Architecture in Transformation: The Disappearance of Architectures"; cash prizes; registration deadline: June 30 (submission deadline: August 15) - International Union of Architects (UIA)/School of Architecture, Tianjin University/Urban Environment Design Magazine (UED)



-- TEN Arquitectos: Museo Amparo, Puebla, Mexico
-- Exhibition: "Frank Gehry: At Work" - Leslie Feely Fine Art, New York City
-- and more

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