

## Today's News - Thursday, May 16, 2013

- Peabody Essex Museum decides to drop Mather's expansion plans and will look for a "replacement architect," though his "master plan would 'inform' future developments."
- Eyefuls of Zaha's winning design for a new metro station in Riyadh (sadly, no pix of Snøhetta's and Gerber's stations).
- Brits beat out Americans for the \$1 billion-plus Barangaroo tower in Sydney - the "competition capped a list of controversies to dog the site."
- Farrelly minces no words about what she thinks of the whole thing: "The three shortlisted designs are remarkable only for their sameness. Ultra-glassy, cryogenically frozen Dubai-type towers..." (and those already approved are "depressing because they're so damned ordinary").
- Barangaroo "has a voracious appetite for conflict" ("participatory democracy is difficult"): "History will harshly judge those who trample all to impose their shiny visions."
- Meanwhile, the Australian Institute of Architects has issued a statement re: Darling Harbour redevelopment, saying it "betrays the public interest" and that "the decision to demolish and rebuild is 'wasteful'."
- Hume is slightly more optimistic about development plans for a "still-gritty part of Toronto" by Canada's "biggest unenclosed mall-maker" (Wal-Mart not included).
- A very fine shortlist of four tapped to refurbish the U.S.'s Athens Chancery.
- Chaban parses NYC tapping Rose, Gehl, and Skanska to re-imagine East Midtown's public realm, "but critics say time is wasting."
- Silverstein finally gathers enough steam to move ahead with Stern's previously-stalled 82-story residential tower in Lower Manhattan.
- In the Philippines, "concrete jungles will be less concrete and more jungle - or at least more green" - especially with its first LEED tower in Makati, a "marvel of glass and green architecture."
- While the Hefei Grand Theatre in China is "one of the pioneers of green architecture" with a remarkable solar energy system inside the roof structure, solar power isn't for every building or place.
- Hopkirk talks globalization with Correa ("who seems to carry a walking stick for the sole purpose of emphasizing his points"): he "laments the culture of 'carpet-bagging architects' who design a building every time they get off a plane."
- A Brooklyn-based architect, designer, and instructor wins GSD's inaugural Wheelwright Prize - a \$100,000 traveling fellowship to explore "Floating City: The Community-Based Architecture of Parade Floats."
- Cary's commencement address to graduates of the University of New Mexico School of Architecture & Planning: "The architecture profession, at least as we've known it, is dying and you graduates are exactly the people we need to resurrect and reconstitute it."
- Call for entries/portfolios: Ground/Work Competition to envision Van Alen Institute's new work and program space.

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US museum drops Rick Mather's practice following his death: Peabody Essex Museum to seek replacement architect for \$300 million project...a \$30 million renovation of a 1970s wing will be completed this September...a "tidy conclusion"...Mather's masterplan would "inform" future developments. - BD/Building Design (UK)

Zaha Hadid contest-winning Saudi metro station designs revealed: ...has beaten Henning Larsen and HOK to bag the new metro station...in Riyadh...Other stations on the rail network will be designed by Norway's Snøhetta and Germany's Gerber Architekten. [images]- The Architects' Journal (UK)

British architect's Barangaroo tower a winner: Wilkinson Eyre Architects has beaten two American challengers in the competition to build James Packer's \$1 billion-plus Crown Sydney...The hotel competition capped a list of controversies to dog the site... -- Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture; Kohn Pedersen Fox (KPF) [images]- Australian Financial Review

We are taken for idiots as others take a gamble on greatness at Barangaroo: ...the buildings already approved, depressing...because they're so damned ordinary...The three shortlisted designs are remarkable only for their sameness. Ultra-glassy, cryogenically frozen Dubai-type towers... By Elizabeth Farrelly -- Wilkinson Eyre; Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill; Kohn Pedersen Fox (KPF) [images]- Sydney Morning Herald

The bland and the beautiful: battle for a public treasure: The Hungry Mile [Barangaroo] has a voracious appetite for conflict..."Participatory democracy is difficult...Inevitably, the more you say 'let people decide' the less likely anything is going to happen."...History will harshly judge those who trample all to impose their shiny visions. By Rick Feneley and Sean Nicholls -- Hill Thalys Architecture -- Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill; Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates (KPF); Wilkinson Eyre Architects - Sydney Morning Herald

AIA speak out against Darling Harbour redevelopment: The controversy over the planned overhaul...has continued with the Australian Institute of Architects issuing a statement...said that the decision betrays the public interest and that the government has relinquished its responsibility for the site and that the decision to demolish and rebuild is 'wasteful'. -- Cox Richardson; Hassell; OMA; Populous [images]- Architecture & Design (Australia)

SmartCentres hopes there is life after Walmart: Canada's biggest unenclosed mall-maker has come in from the cold and moved downtown. Last time it tried, the results weren't pretty...This time around, it has...come up with something that will be a better fit in this still-gritty part of Toronto...The best one can say about this proposal is that it's better than the last. By Christopher Hume -- Diamond Schmitt [image]- Toronto Star

Four Firms Shortlisted to Refurbish U.S. Embassy in Athens -- -- Walter Gropius/Pericles A. Sakellarios (1961); Ann Beha Architects; DesignLab Architects; Machado Silvetti/Baker; Mark Cavagnero Associates - ArchDaily

City partners with experts to re-imagine midtown: The city tapped Jonathan Rose Co., Gehl Architects and Skanska to detail what the streets in midtown east would look like after the 73-block area is rezoned. The trio will release a plan [East Midtown Public Realm Vision Plan] in the fall, but critics say time is wasting. By Matt Chaban - Crain's New York Business

Stalled Residential Tower in Lower Manhattan to Rise Next to Woolworth Building: This massive building will climb up to 82-stories - making it the tallest residential tower in Downtown Manhattan... -- Robert A.M. Stern Architects; Yabu Pushelberg [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

For 'taipans' architect, the future is green: In the future, concrete jungles will be less concrete and more jungle—or at least more green...Zuellig Building in Makati, may look all glass, but there's more to it than meets the eye...A marvel of glass and green architecture... -- William Coscolluela/W.V. Coscolluela & Associates [images]- GMA News (Philippines)

Hefei Grand Theatre: ...has attracted considerable attention from the public as one of the pioneers of green architecture...The massive curved roof has been likened to waves...what is new is the solar energy system inside the roof structure. By Li Yirong [images]- MPTF [masterplanning the future] (China)

Charles Correa: 'Globalisation — that's a joke': A 'cookie-cutting' approach to working internationally only diminishes architects...he laments the culture of "carpet-bagging architects" who design a building every time they get off a plane...In one sense he is grateful that some practices are satisfying the market for "airport best-seller" buildings because it takes the pressure off architects like himself... By Elizabeth Hopkirk- BD/Building Design (UK)

Architect Gia Wolff Wins the Inaugural Wheelwright Prize: Brooklyn-based architect, designer, and instructor, has won the...\$100,000 traveling fellowship reintroduced by the Harvard University Graduate School of Design this year...Her proposal, "Floating City: The Community-Based Architecture of Parade Floats"... By Kriston Capps [images]- Architect Magazine

Everyone Deserves Good Design: A call for today's architecture and planning graduates to become "dignifiers"...The architecture profession, in particular, at least as we've known it, is dying and you graduates are exactly the people we need to resurrect and reconstitute it...Look for something that needs doing and do it. By John Cary- Metropolis Magazine

Call for entries/Call for portfolios: Ground/Work Competition (international): Envision Van Alen Institute's new work and program space; open to those within 10 years of graduation with a professional architecture degree or a professional degree from a related design field; deadline: June 13- Van Alen Institute

Nuts + Bolts #4: Spring into Growth Mode: Organize Your Process to Maximize Your Potential: Internal organization, clearly defined workflows, and a focused approach to the things you do best will put you on the right track to long-term growth. By Steve Whitehorn- ArchNewsNow



- Foster + Partners: Musée de Préhistoire des Gorges du Verdon, Quinson, France
- Hotels: Tree Hotel, Harads, Sweden
- Richard Meier & Partners: Museum of Contemporary Art, Barcelona, Spain

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