Today's News - Friday, May 17, 2013

- We’ll let the grumpy guys go first: Gardner weighs in on the MoMA/AFAM (Bambi vs. Godzilla) debate: "Tear it down" - why preserve "a poorly designed and poorly executed structure that should never have been built in the first place."
- Brussat raises the question: "Why is so much modern architecture so violent in spirit?"
- From the other side of the Big Pond, Mount agrees: "No wonder we all become Nimbys - who can blame us when we say, don't build anything new until you learn how to build beautifully?"
- Heathcote reassesses an "optimistic moment" in the 1960s with visions for modular housing and the "legacy of the pod-fathers."
- Farrelly reassesses the Seidler/Dusseldorp (of Lend Lease) partnership: "Together, the two made a formidable team;" with Sydney as their "sandpit."
- Foundation stones are laid for Heneghan Peng's Palestinian Museum on the West Bank: "It is not without cross-border support."
- Eyefuls of BIG and OMA's competing visions for the Miami Beach Convention Center district (we'll know in a few weeks who gets the plum job).
- Moss and others discuss urban revitalization as he plays a real-life Sim City.
- Bey reports on a hopeful plan to restore and maintain FLW's Unity Temple, "but the plan is conditional."
- A 2-part Q&A with Pritzker-winner Wang Shu: "If you listen carefully, you will find out that your clients have no idea what they are talking about."
- One we couldn't resist: Carbuncle Cup 2013 ("the competition that architects love to hate") is now open for nominations.
- Weekend diversions:
  - Hawthorne offers a great, in-depth take on the Getty's "Pacific Standard Time" series (and other shows): "Is the city of eternal youth finally embracing its past?"
  - Tylevich thinks so: "L.A. is noisy with observations and opinions. The shows that make up PSTP in Los Angeles suggest that someone's listening."
  - Brake explains why SCI-Arc's "A Confederacy of Heretics" resonates: "While architects in the East and in Chicago were puzzling over the in-jokes of postmodern historicism, these West Coast radicals were redefining architectural form and practice in ways that remain bracingly contemporary."
- Yale's Kevin Roche: Architecture as Environment" lands in Toronto.
- Adler gives (mostly) thumbs-up to Heller's Ed Bacon biography: "Ironically for a master builder, Bacon's true legacy is not so much in what he built as what he refrained from building."
- Calys cheers Wels's "Arts for the City": it's "a coffee table book that actually deserves to be read" (great slide show, too).

Why L.A. is important: The Getty’s mega-initiative "Pacific Standard Time" gives substance to a city’s swagger: The L.A. of the last decade (and especially the last five years) seems acutely aware of a past inferiority complex... and it’s vigorously trying to shake it off... "Overdrive: L.A. Constructs The Future 1940-1990" is careful to take an approach that’s not all Googie Lite... "A Confederacy of Heretics"... has a "Behind The Music" feel... By Katya Tylevich - Uncube magazine (Germany)

LA’s Radicals in Retrospect: SCI-Arc exhibition "A Confederacy of Heretics: The Architecture Gallery, Venice, 1979"... While architects in the East and in Chicago were puzzling over the in-jokes of postmodern historicism, these West Coast radicals were redefining architectural form and practice in ways that remain bracingly contemporary. By Alan G. Brake -- Thom Mayne; Frederick Fisher; Robert Mangurian; Eric Owen Moss; Coy Howard; Craig Hodgetts; Michael Rotondi; Frank Gehry [images] - The Architect’s Newspaper

"Kevin Roche: Architecture as Environment"... at the Eric Arthur Gallery, University of Toronto... reflects Roche’s understanding of architecture as part of a larger context, both human-made and natural... -- Kevin Roche John Dinkeloo and Associates - Canadian Architect

The Philadelphia Story: "Ed Bacon: Planning, Politics and the Building of Modern Philadelphia" by Gregory L. Heller explores Bacon’s role... as a third way between the visions of Jane Jacobs and Robert Moses... Ironically for a master builder, Bacon’s true legacy... is not so much in what he built as what he refrained from building... worth learning about, especially now that his ideas have come into fashion. By Ben Adler - Architect Magazine

Arts for the City: civic art and urban change: Susan Wels, in her new book "Arts for the City," explores public art in San Francisco against the backdrop of historic change in America’s most socially progressive city... from 1932 to the present... it’s a coffee table book that actually deserves to be read. By George Calys [slide show] - San Francisco Examiner

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