

Today's News - Tuesday, May 21, 2013

- Russell weighs in on the Pritzker "snub of women": "Talented women designers must still challenge a presumption that they aren't the master builder types. This 'great man, big building' myth has long damaged architecture."
- Welton walks through Woltz's plans for 14 acres of grand parks and open spaces at NYC's Hudson Yards: if he "gets it right, we'll see a delicate appreciation for scale and proportion...if he can harness it all successfully here, the city will bask in a new kind of glory."
- Bergen takes a look at revised plans for Chicago's Navy Pier: it adds urban park elements, but "does not include some of the more dramatic elements" of the earlier proposal (oh, those pesky budgets).
- Volner parses an Argentinean developer's starchitect-designed plans for Miami: "his brand of culture-and-commerce urbanism may prove more effective in giving developers a quick burst of good publicity than in making lasting contributions to the city's cultural life."
- Engberg finds much to like in Godsell's RMT Design Hub, an "almost armadillo-like, samurai chest-plate-wearing building - rigorous, uncompromising and beautiful, it is already iconic" (great slide show).
- Davidson wanders the restored Donald Judd Loft with art critic Saltz: ARO "made a lot of great invisible decisions... achieving simplicity means hiding a lot of mess"; "It's not a 'how the great man lived' mausoleum or reliquary."
- The Atlanta Falcons may have chosen 360 Architecture for its new stadium, but the four others on the shortlist are worth a look, too.
- The Minnesota Vikings are in for a "similarly eye-snagging design," this time by HKS - the "giant immobile Sandcrawler" is "pretty darn striking."
- Wainwright ponders the Carbuncle Cup: there are so many architecture awards around these days that "the phrase 'award-winning architect' has never been so meaningless. But there is one prize that the profession does its best to avoid winning."
- Bey comes across a 1989 PBS documentary re: Chicago's Harold Washington Library competition, with the shortlisted architects "damning each other's designs with the faintest of praise," and a "critique of each design that is both erudite and devastating" (and they're all so young!).
- An amusing conversation between Nouvel and fashion designer Alaïa re: working together for the first time on "The Marriage of Figaro" for the Los Angeles Philharmonic: "I accepted because of you."
- Fifty-four fabulous organizations garner 2013/2014 ArtPlace America grants totaling \$15.2 million to support their work in creative placemaking in their communities.

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Pritzker Snub of Women Cuts Deep With 1991 Venturi Award: Next week the Pritzker Prize will be awarded to Toyo Ito...Talented women designers must still challenge a presumption that they aren't the master builder types...This "great man, big building" myth has long damaged architecture... By James S. Russell -- Zaha Hadid; Kazuyo Sejima; Denise Scott Brown; Robert Venturi; Jeanne Gang/Studio Gang; Claire Weisz/WXY Architecture and Urban Design- Bloomberg News

Human Scale at Hudson Yards: ...14 acres of grand parks and open spaces...If Thomas Woltz gets it right, we'll see a delicate appreciation for scale and proportion...if he can harness it all successfully here, the city will bask in a new kind of glory. By J. Michael Welton -- Nelson Byrd Woltz; Kohn Pedersen Fox (KPF); Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Diller of Diller Scofidio + Renfro [images]- Huffington Post

Navy Pier remake would add urban park elements: Array of upgrades planned for Illinois' most-visited tourist attraction...initial remake does not include some of the more dramatic elements floated by the design team selected last March... By Kathy Bergen -- James Corner Field Operations; nARCHITECTS; Gensler [images]- Chicago Tribune

The Formula: Argentinean developer Alan Faena likes to add culture to his large and glitzy real estate ventures. Will it work in Miami? ...he sees his brand of culture-and-commerce urbanism as replicable and exportable...may prove more effective in giving developers a quick burst of good publicity than in making lasting contributions to the city's cultural life. By Ian Volner -- Philippe Starck; Brandon Haw/Foster + Partners; Roman and Williams; Shohei Shigematsu/Office of Metropolitan Architecture (OMA) [images]- Metropolis Magazine

RMT Design Hub: With its external walls of discs, it is almost armadillo-like, a kind of samurai chest-plate-wearing building: a warrior structure with which Godsell attempts to save architecture from its unruly cousins, from itself...Exhibition spaces are lofty and capacious, daring a different approach to installation for design...Rigorous, uncompromising and beautiful, it is already iconic. By Juliana Engberg/Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA) -- Sean Godsell Architects [slide show]- ArchitectureAU (Australia)

Jerry Saltz and Justin Davidson on the Restoration of Donald Judd's Loft [101 Spring Street]: Architecture Research Office...made a lot of great invisible decisions...As with all minimalist architecture, achieving simplicity means hiding a lot of mess...It's not a "how the great man lived" mausoleum or reliquary.- New York Magazine

Innovation marked Atlanta Falcons stadium architectural competition: 360 Architecture won the contract...But the four other architectural teams also presented worthy and unique concepts... -- EwingCole/Manica Architecture; Populous/SHoP Architects; HKS/TVSdesign/Heery/Gensler [link to slide shows]- Atlanta Business Chronicle / Saporta Report

New Minnesota Vikings stadium design is indeed a new stadium design: ...in the spirit of similarly asymmetrical and eye-snagging designs like the new Atlanta Falcons design [by 360 Architecture], it's pretty darn striking...hope to start work on the giant immobile Sandcrawler this fall. -- HKS Sports and Entertainment [images]- Yahoo News

Carbuncle Cup: what's the ugliest building of the year? From bloated 'icons' to dreary sheds...Architecture is one of the most awarded professions around...The phrase "award-winning architect" has never been so meaningless. But there is one prize that the profession does its best to avoid winning. By Oliver Wainwright -- Building Design magazine/BD - Guardian (UK)

From 1989: PBS documentary on Harold Washington Library competition: Watching "Design Wars" a quarter century later, there is much to note...the scene with architects damning each other's designs with the faintest of praise...Norman Ross...critique of each design is both erudite and devastating—as is architect Stanley Tigerman's assessment of Beeby's design at the end. By Lee Bey -- Dirk Lohan; Thomas Beeby; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Helmut Jahn; Arthur Erickson [video]- WBEZ Chicago Public Radio

Design, set, match: Fashion designer Azzedine Alaïa and Jean Nouvel: ...working together for the first time on "The Marriage of Figaro" [for the Los Angeles Philharmonic]...JN: "We are both influenced by the culture of the Mediterranean and, by chance, this opera takes place in Seville. I did

not hesitate." AA: "...I accepted because of you."- Financial Times (UK)

ArtPlace America Announces 2013/2014 Grants: 54 organizations...are recipients of a substantial monetary award to support their work in creative placemaking in communities across the U.S....a total of \$15.2 million to 54 projects... [link to images, info]- ArtPlace

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



-- SANAA: Musée Louvre-Lens, Lens, France

-- Moving. Norman Foster on Art, Carré d'Art, Nîmes Museum of Contemporary Art, Nîmes, France

-- Ingarden & Ewý: The Malopolska Garden of Arts, Krakow, Poland

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