

Today's News - Thursday, May 23, 2013

- Cheers for Denver's FasTracks, "a land-use plan designed to encourage TOD development in a region that long considered 'density' a dirty word," but "there are downsides to the current boom."
- Probably not as many downsides as Maryland's Silver Spring Transit Center, a 23-year saga that's ended up pretty much a "fiasco" (with everyone finger-pointing everywhere).
- Grabar grapples with the ramifications of the world's next tallest building in China that intends to "reinvent urban life" for 30,000 people (100 elevators included) - the developer "doesn't plan on stopping at 220 stories, either."
- Meanwhile, China's museum building boom (nearly 400 in 2011 alone) is hitting a snag: "many museums are going up faster than curators can fill them with works and audiences."
- Wood Marsh's "artistic treatment of materials" for a new apartment building makes it "destined to become a Melbourne landmark."
- Mays cheers a Toronto firm's solution for low-rise density in Dhaka, Bangladesh, that, if built, "could add an interesting page or two to the postwar history of this controversial housing type."
- Mariinsky II in St. Petersburg "has earned praise from all quarters," but "it is not without its critics."
- Wainwright wanders the "the inimitable world of Zaha Hadid Design," with everything from "jewelry that should come with a hazard warning to tables that have given up on legs - furniture from the future does not come cheap."
- Olcayto finds a "thoughtful, metaphysical side" of Correa during a tour of his RIBA show: "Still, Correa's bottom line is down to earth: 'Get drinking water to everyone,' he says."
- The British Council taps We Made That to design its "Ice Lab: New Architecture and Science in Antarctica" traveling exhibition.
- An Irish architect hopes to teach Medellín children about architecture and the environment "to give them more awareness of their roles in the design and planning" of their city.
- The AIA ABI heads to negative territory for the first time in 9 months, but "given that inquiries for new projects continue to be strong, we're hopeful that this is just a short-term dip."
- A good reason to head to Salt Lake City next week: CNU 21: "Living Community" conference.
- One we couldn't resist: Murg muses on the Whitney Museum's new graphic identity that looks more like "a line graph that got lost in a museum on its way to a sales report - it leaves us wondering, Why?"

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Mile High on Rail: The city's close relationship with the car isn't over just yet. But a wave of transit-oriented development is starting to take Denver in a new direction...Union Station project "ground zero" for TOD...FasTracks...a land-use plan designed to encourage TOD development in a region that long considered "density" a dirty word...there are downsides to the current boom. -- Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM)/Hargreaves Associates; Urban Land Conservancy; Studio Completiva; Parikh Stevens Architects; Studiotrope Design Collective [images]- Architect Magazine

How Silver Spring Transit Center plan grew into a fiasco: Although the facility is supposedly 95% finished, it is crippled by major structural flaws...That leaves some \$120 million questions: Was the investment worthwhile? ...How and why did the center's troubles metastasize...And who is responsible for the center falling apart?- Washington Post

Why You Can't Be Blasé About the Next World's Tallest Building: Zhang Yue's dream to reinvent urban life...Sky City [in Changsha, China] will be a historic construction project...thanks entirely to Broad Group's pioneering use of modular construction...could reduce the transportation needs of 30,000 people to a hundred elevators...Zhang doesn't plan on stopping at 220 stories, either. By Henry Grabar- The Atlantic Cities

China Builds Museums, But Filling Them Is Another Story: In recent years, about 100 museums have opened annually here, peaking at nearly 400 in 2011...many museums are going up faster than curators can fill them with works and audiences.- National Public Radio (NPR)

Architects adopt a textured approach: Artistic treatment of materials provides an understated elegance: ...the building in Domain Road, South Yarra...is destined to become a Melbourne landmark. -- Wood Marsh Architecture- The Age (Australia)

Toronto architects build sideways in Bangladesh: JCI Architects finds novel way to erect a condo development in Dhaka and stay out of nearby airport's airspace...Shobuj Pata complex (Bengali for "Green Leaf"), if built out according to the plans, could add an interesting page or two to the postwar history of this controversial housing type. By John Bentley Mays [image]- Globe and Mail (Canada)

Diamond Schmitt Architects' New Opera House in St. Petersburg: The New Mariinsky Theatre...Russia's first major performance venue since the time of the czars...completion of a project of this massive scale...is seldom smooth...Though Mariinsky II's design has earned praise from all quarters, it is not without its critics. - Azure magazine (Canada)

Zaha Hadid beyond buildings: architect launches new design gallery: From jewellery that should come with a hazard warning to tables that have given up on legs...the inimitable world of Zaha Hadid Design...Furniture from the future does not come cheap...the real treasure trove...a vast archive of architectural models... By Oliver Wainwright [images]- Guardian (UK)

Charles Correa: "We must create cities where the poor are not dehumanised": Correa on cities, slums and architectural emotions..."If you allow densities to climb too high, cities become useless." By Rory Olcayto- The Architects' Journal (UK)

We Made That chosen for Antarctic Architecture exhibition: British Council launches "Ice Lab: New Architecture and Science in Antarctica"...a new international touring exhibition...including projects by Hugh Broughton and Danish practice Map Architects.- BD/Building Design (UK)

Irish architect to teach Medellín children: "Mi Ciudad: Arquitectura para Niños"...a course aimed at raising understanding about architecture, the environment and...knowledge about how to influence urban planning directed towards the future generation of Colombian citizens..."to give them more awareness of their roles in the design and planning..." -- Martin Dolan- Colombia Reports (Medellín)

Architecture Billings Index Reverts into Negative Territory for First Time in Nine Months: Difficulty in obtaining financing for construction projects continues..."given that inquiries for new projects continue to be strong, we're hopeful that this is just a short-term dip." - American Institute of Architects (AIA)

CNU 21: "Living Community": Leading urbanists coming to Salt Lake City, Utah, May 29 - June 1 - Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU)

Say WWWhat? Whitney Museum Unveils New Graphic Identity: ...it's out with Abbott Miller's 13-year-old wordmark (which, like a fine wine, would only have gotten better with age) and in with a…spindly, shape-shifting line? ...a line graph that got lost in a museum on its way to a sales report...it leaves us wondering, Why? By Stephanie Murg -- Experimental Jetset [images]- UnBeige



- 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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