

Today's News - Tuesday, May 28, 2013

EDITOR'S NOTE: We'll be attending an early-morning unveiling of proposals by DS+R, H3 Hardy Collaboration Architecture, SHoP, and SOM in the MAS Design Challenge for Penn Station and Madison Square Garden, so there will be no newsletter. But we'll be back Thursday, May 30.

- Architecture for Humanity launches Rebuild Moore to develop a long-term response to the devastating tornadoes that hit Oklahoma.
- Kimmelman warns that a recent NYC Planning Commission vote re: Madison Square Garden poses "a critical moment" for Penn Station that could end up being "an open invitation to a back-room deal and to wholesale compromise of the sort that has made what should be a showcase gateway for the city into a blight and a safety hazard."
- Chan parses a new report that "could uncouple...environmental sustainability and historic preservation and justify potentially invasive development in some of Manhattan's most iconic neighborhoods."
- The Arab Center for Architecture in Beirut "is in the throes of its first public function" with an exhibition in an effort to save Lebanon's remaining Modernist structures from destruction.
- Hume cheers Toronto's effort to protect its heritage by slapping a summons on an owner and contractor who demolished a landmarked building that could mean heavy fines and jail time, a hopeful sign "this sort of casual vandalism will no longer be tolerated."
- Anderson cheers the board of Chicago's Navy Pier recognizing "the importance of top-notch landscape architecture" (architects included): "Welcome to the High Line Ferry Building Spanish Steps!"
- Peirce has high hopes for the Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilient Cities Centennial Challenge: "Resilience may not have the instant verbal appeal of Green Revolution. But it's just as essential for humankind" (and hats off to requiring a "chief resilience officer").
- Hosey hails a change in the green building movement that "has shifted the measure of good design from what the architect wants to what the world needs - a better standard of 'better.'"
- An insider's take on what it took for a team of architects and landscape architects to get some of NYC's post-Sandy beaches back into swimmingly fine shape in a very short time.
- Wainwright isn't sure if Bompas & Parr are "architects, artists, or just novelty caterers," but he's enthralled with their "brilliantly brash and surreal addition" to a Kew Gardens pond (and lauds "bringing rowing boats back to Kew for the first time since 1775").
- Goldberger offers a most interesting take on the new Bush Library, which he calls "Bureaucratic Classicism - serious in its determination to remind us that Government Exists for a Purpose and Does Worthy Things" (and "almost defiantly conventional").
- Moore has most interesting conversation with Fujimoto, the youngest architect to design the Serpentine Gallery pavilion: he "speaks calmly, a little abstractly, but with assurance."
- The "Michigan Modern: Design that Shaped America" symposium is coming up mid-June (fab line-up!) - but the registration deadline is this Friday.
- A good reason to be in Manhattan next week: ADPSR and the Planners Network's conference, "Beyond Resilience: Actions for a Just Metropolis."
- Winners all: Zaha's Riverside Museum in Glasgow wins the 2013 European Museum of the Year Award.
- An eyeful of the winners in the Lodge on the Lake Design Ideas Competition for a new official residence for the Prime Minister of Australia in Canberra.
- Sir Peter Cook on the Australian Institute of Architects' 2013 Gold Medalist Peter Wilson's work, and aptitude for invention.
- Emerging talent and revived buildings star in New Zealand Architecture Awards + Great presentation of the winners.

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Rebuild Moore: Architecture for Humanity is in the process of developing its long-term response to the devastating tornadoes that hit Oklahoma on May 20. - Architecture for Humanity

A Critical Moment for Penn Station: The plan for Penn Station and Madison Square Garden...tries to address the hub's limitations...This is an open invitation to a back-room deal and to wholesale compromise of the sort that has made what should be a showcase gateway for the city into a blight and a safety hazard...Close the loophole. Make the next decade count. By Michael Kimmelman - *New York Times*

Should NYC Raze Its Wasteful Modernist Skyscrapers to Go Green? ...recently published report "Midcentury (Un)Modern: An Environmental Analysis of the 1958-73 Manhattan Office Building"...could uncouple what it terms the "sister ethics" of environmental sustainability and historic preservation and justify potentially invasive development in some of Manhattan's most iconic neighborhoods. By Kelly Chan -- Terrapin Bright Green; COOKFOX Architects; Historic Districts Council [link to report] - *Artinfo*

Arab Center for Architecture champions Lebanese modernism: Founded...in 2008, the NGO is in the throes of its first public function...an exhibition... "Modern Design and Architecture in the Arab World: The Beginnings of a Project" [in Beirut through June 1]...actively participating in efforts to save the remaining modernist structures from destruction. -- George Arbid; Mazen Haidar [images] - *Daily Star (Lebanon)*

Wreckers of heritage building under fire at last: The city might actually punish the demolishers of a building on Queen St. E., and that's a welcome change...have been served with a summons that could see them fined \$1 million and spend a year behind bars. That's a long way from happening, but...such a step...means that this sort of casual vandalism will no longer be tolerated. Historically, such acts have gone largely unpunished. By Christopher Hume - *Toronto Star*

Can High Line Hero James Corner Rescue A Lowbrow Waterfront Mall? Chicago's Navy Pier is a South Street Seaport in a High Line era...it was clear that Navy Pier's board had grasped the importance of top-notch landscape architecture for our own time's big buzzphrase, urban placemaking...Welcome to the High Line Ferry Building Spanish Steps! By Lamar Anderson -- James Corner Field Operations; Gensler; nARCHITECTS - *Architizer*

Girding Cities for a Perilous Century: It's as bold a move as one could imagine. The Rockefeller Foundation...launching a "100 Resilient Cities Centennial Challenge." It will invest \$100 million in 100 cities across the world...Resilience may not have the instant verbal appeal of Green Revolution. But it's just as essential for humankind...will be required to appoint a "chief resilience officer"... By Neal Peirce - *Citiwire*

A Better Standard of Better Design: With architecture, often what passes for good is whatever the designer says it is...The green building movement...has shifted the measure of good design from what the architect wants to what the world needs - a better standard of "better." By Lance Hosey/RTKL - *Huffington Post*

The Green Team: Hurricane Sandy Recovery for NYC's Beaches: Back in January, [NYC] issued a directive to reconstruct beach sites damaged by Sandy throughout Queens' Rockaways, Brooklyn, and Staten Island by Memorial Day. We had only 45 days to create documents for bidding... By Terrie Brightman/Mathews Nielsen Landscape Architects -- McLaren Engineering Group; Garrison

[Architects; LTL Architects; Sage & Coombe Architects \[images\]](#) - Metropolis Magazine

Kew Gardens pond transformed into giant fruit salad by Bompas & Parr: 'Architectural foodsmiths' inject a dose of fruity fun into Kew's Incredibles summer festival of edible plants...a brilliantly brash and surreal addition to the rest of the gardens – and must be lauded for bringing rowing boats back to Kew for the first time since 1775. By Oliver Wainwright [images] - Guardian (UK)

On Not Hating the New George W. Bush Library: In an oddly appropriate way, the architecture seems to mirror the eager-to-please-everyone-and-offend-no-one tone of the exhibitions...I'd call it Bureaucratic Classicism...serious in its determination to remind us that Government Exists for a Purpose and Does Worthy Things. By Paul Goldberger -- Robert A. M. Stern; Michael Van Valkenburgh [slide show] - Vanity Fair

Sou Fujimoto and building with nature: ...at 41 is the Serpentine Gallery's youngest choice of architect ...speaks calmly, a little abstractly, but with assurance...His works are not necessarily straightforward to inhabit, and it is striking that austere means such as steel and grids are used to pursue sensual ends, but that seems to be part of his game. By Rowan Moore [images] - Guardian (UK)

A Visual History of Michigan's Outsize Influence on American Modernism: "Michigan Modern: Design that Shaped America" symposium (June 13-16) and four-month design exhibit at the Cranbrook Art Museum...will highlight the role Michigan played in the history of American Modernism, one that's largely been under appreciated; registration deadline: May 31 - The Atlantic Cities

Beyond Resilience: Actions for a Just Metropolis: a progressive, practice-based planning conference that explores alternatives to urban development and planning practice; June 6-8, New York City - Architects/Designers/Planners for Social Responsibility (ADPSR) / Planners Network

Zaha Hadid Wins European Museum of the Year Award 2013 for Riverside Museum: Scotland's Museum of Transport and Travel in Glasgow: ...fulfilled the EMYA criteria of 'public quality' at the highest level. - ArchDaily

The Lodge on the Lake Design Ideas Competition winners: ...a new official residence for the Prime Minister of Australia on the shores of Lake Burley Griffin in Canberra. -- Jack Davies/Nicholas Roberts/Henry Stephens; Alan Pert/NORD Architecture/Atelier Ten; Monica Earl/Nic Moore; Narendra Kaley [link to images, info] - University of Canberra / Gallery of Australian Design

2013 Gold Medal: Discriminating Shapes: Sir Peter Cook discusses the distinguished career and practice of Peter Wilson: ...it became clear that his ultimately enduring quality would be his aptitude for invention. -- Bolles+Wilson - ArchitectureAU (Australia)

Emerging talent, revived buildings star in NZ Architecture Awards: Alongside the awards...the New Zealand Institute of Architects' [NZIA] Gold Medal for career achievement was conferred on Auckland architect Pip Cheshire. -- Fearon Hay Architects; Irving Smith Jack Architects; Pearson & Associates Architects; Glamuzina Paterson Architects; Assembly Architects; Patterson Architects; Athfield Architects; architecture+; The Buchan Group; Architectus; Tennent+Brown Architects/SKM Architects; Designgroup Stapleton Elliott; Paul Rolfe Architects/Tonkin Zulaikha Greer; Crosson Clarke Carnachan Architects; Stevens Lawson Architects - National Business Review (New Zealand)

2013 New Zealand Architecture Awards honour the best [images, info - great presentations] - New Zealand Institute of Architects (NZIA)

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