

## Today's News - Tuesday, June 4, 2013

- Westwater has a very different take than Hawthorne (see Yesterday's News) re: Zumthor's LACMA plan: its "ability to function within the urban infrastructure and its ability to properly display art appears to have become an after-thought to the theoretical and architectural conceits."
- Merrick, Long, and Woodman offer their takes on Fujimoto's Serpentine Pavilion: it "hits the 'delight' button, in particular, with great panache"; the architect is "part of a new generation of architects, far from the ageing enfants terribles who have gone before him"; "the most ineffable contribution to the program yet - a place to explore rather than simply gawp at" (hopefully without hazard tape).
- Olcayto weighs in on why the proposed redevelopment of Istanbul's Gezi Park has provoked riots + A statement by the Turkish Architects Association.
- Goodyear recommends a 2011 documentary that is a "scathing critique of Istanbul's urban planning policies" that "have fueled the anger in the streets."
- Lahore authorities want to restore the splendor of the Walled City, but "as ever in Pakistan, this is less simple than it might sound" - especially when they have to deal with street vendors and developers (and the local mafia).
- A fascinating report about China's NIMBY protests - "it is a lopsided struggle due to a failure to balance interests and form consensus."
- Düsseldorf partners with Wuxi, China: can two very different cities find common solutions to climate when the collaboration is set to end before implementation even starts (data gathering is one problem).
- Jaffe explains "why we shouldn't rely on smart growth incentives to fix sprawl."
- Who do you think should win the OMA vs. BIG "Miami showdown"?
- Holl's Maggie's centre in London is set for approval, despite a series of objections.
- After four years "wrangling by local politicians," the Munch Museum on Oslo's waterfront gets the go-ahead.
- Conti cheers the nearly 10-years-long restoration of Pittsburgh's Point State Park that "hews faithfully to the dramatic intent of the park's original designers."
- Litt cheers plans for a gigantic chandelier for Cleveland's PlayhouseSquare: "The idea sounds glitzy, audacious and maybe even a bit surreal," but it "just might turn out to be a brilliant move."
- Menking pays tribute to Soleri: "He was a brilliant designer and one wishes he had stuck a little more closely to design, rather than trying to solve all the world's ills."
- Eye-fuls of the 2013 Australian Interior Design Awards.
- Call for entries: A House for Pink Floyd international architecture contest.

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Is the Peter Zumthor Redesign of LACMA the Architectural Equivalent of "Beyond Earth"? ...a physically aloof and alien presence that will look magisterially, if not, disdainfully, down upon the rest of the city...In too many ways, the building's ability to function within the urban infrastructure and its ability to properly display art appears to have...become an after-thought to the theoretical and architectural conceits. By Brady Westwater - CityWatch LA (Los Angeles)

Cloud of steel: Sou Fujimoto's temporary pavilion for London's Serpentine Gallery unveiled: ...a beautiful mystery of light, space and geometry...Everything about the pavilion is ambiguous. It looks finished and unfinished, delicate and substantial, hard-edged and softly indistinct...a seductive maze of perspectives...hits the "delight" button, in particular, with great panache. By Jay Merrick [images]-Independent (UK)

Sou Fujimoto on his 'house of straws' Serpentine Gallery summer pavilion: ...the ideas behind his design...which will catapult the demure architect to the top of his profession...He's part of a new generation of architects, far from the ageing enfants terribles who have gone before him. A model of professionalism, he is intense, polite, committed. By Kieran Long - Evening Standard (UK)

Serpentine Pavilion 2013: Stewarding will be needed to avoid it being draped in hazard tape: ...the most ineffable contribution to the programme yet...a place to explore rather than simply gawp at and human occupation offered as a fundamental part of its image. How well it can fulfil those ambitions, however, remains to be seen. By Ellis Woodman -- Aecom [images]- BD/Building Design (UK)

The Istanbul riots are fundamentally about a city struggling to catch its breath: ...why the proposed redevelopment of Gezi Park has provoked such strong reactions + A statement on Gezi Park and Taksim Square by the Turkish Architects Association. By Rory Olcayto -- Hüseyin Başçetinçelik - The Architects' Journal (UK)

A Filmmaker's Scathing Critique of Istanbul's Urban Planning Policies; A 2011 documentary paints a frightening picture of the way bulldozers, bankers, and politicians are demolishing the city without regard to the environment..."Ekümenopolis" by Imre Azem...provides one window into how Turkey's urban planning practices of the last decade have fueled the anger in the streets. By Sarah Goodyear - The Atlantic Cities

Lahore authorities battle to restore splendour of ancient Walled City: Body organising revamp of Pakistani city's oldest district face resistance from street vendors, developers and local mafia...gardens and squares are now obscured by illegal shops and businesses, the skyline cluttered by unplanned tenements and bundles of cables...ambitious plan to restore the past glory...As ever in Pakistan, this is less simple than it might sound. - Guardian (UK)

China's 'nimby' protests sign of unequal society: Skewed environmental rights are behind recent spate of citizen protests against polluting developments...The nimby movement has emerged alongside rising public awareness of environmental and rights issues...and it is a lopsided struggle...China's development may struggle in the future due to a failure to balance interests and form consensus. - ChinaDialogue.net

Wuxi-Düsseldorf and the challenge of green city partnerships: Can two very different cities in China and Germany find common solutions to climate change? "Cities have to learn from each other so that not every single city has to go through its own process of trial and error"...researchers have found little evidence of greener habits in China's low-carbon pilot cities... - ChinaDialogue.net

Why We Shouldn't Rely on Smart Growth Incentives to Fix Sprawl: When it comes to development, local desires often render state smart growth incentives insufficient..."This is the tricky thing about the incentive approach...The whole conversation can change, really, if we succeed to reach the public." By Eric Jaffe - The Atlantic Cities

Who Should Win the OMA vs. BIG Miami Showdown? The Miami Beach Convention Center, a giant box of a building constructed in 1957, is in desperate need of a makeover and two design teams have bravely accepted the challenge...Who do you think should win? -- Rem Koolhaas/OMA/Tishman/UIA/MVA/Michael Van Valkenburgh/Raymond Jungles/TVS; BIG/Bjarke

Inels Group/West 8/Fentress/JPA/Portman CMC [images]- ArchDaily

Steven Holl's Maggie's centre set for approval: ...plans for a Maggie's Cancer Care Centre at St Bart's hospital are set to be approved today, despite a series of objections..."It will provide an extraordinary counterpoint to James Gibbs' classic building adjacent..." [images]- BD/Building Design (UK)

Munch Museum on Oslo waterfront gets greenlight: Agreement reached just days before the opening of a show celebrating the 150th anniversary of the artist's birth...The "Lambda" project had stalled because of wrangling by local politicians over the cost and location... -- Herrerros Arquitectos [image]- The Art Newspaper (UK)

The Point reborn: Renovations update and honor original design: Point State Park has undergone a gradual, nearly 10-years-long, \$40 million restoration...still hews faithfully to the dramatic intent of the park's original designers...an amazingly talented bunch — and they were all local. By John Conti -- Ralph E. Griswold/Charles Morse Stotz/George S. Richardson/Gordon Bunshaft/Skidmore, Owings & Merrill/SOM (1974); Pressley Associates [images]- Pittsburgh Tribune-Review

A towering outdoor chandelier for PlayhouseSquare? Bring it on: The idea sounds glitzy, audacious and maybe even a bit surreal...just might turn out to be a brilliant move...part of the next stage of evolution for one of the city's most successful cultural enterprises. By Steven Litt -- Barnycz Group [image]- Cleveland Plain Dealer

Paolo Soleri, 1919-2013: Maverick visionary architect leaves unique legacy: Soleri did not build a great many buildings...His most famous work is, of course, Arcosanti...He was a brilliant designer and one wishes he had stuck a little more closely to design, rather than trying to solve all the world's ills. Soleri did believe that design can save the world and this belief drove him to create a legacy that is singular and unique. By William Menking [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

2013 Australian Interior Design Awards: Among the standout projects are a sustainable kindergarten in Western Australia, a sumptuous loft in Tribeca and a vibrant Melbourne coffee haunt. -- Design Institute of Australia; designEX; ARTICHOKE; Leeton Pointon Architects + Interiors/Allison Pye Interiors; Brooking Design Architects; Tobias Partners; Elenberg Fraser; Zwei Interiors Architecture; Nexus Designs; Genesin Studio; etc. [links to images, info]- ArchitectureAU (Australia)

Call for entries: A House for Pink Floyd international architecture contest inspired by the dictum "Architecture is frozen music"; no fee; registration deadline: July 1 (submission deadline: July 31)- ICARCH (International Competitions in Architecture) / AdeP Magazine



Sambuichi Architects: Inujima Seirensho Art Museum, Inujima, Higashi-ku, Okayama, Japan: Recycling the Remnants of History

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