

Today's News - Tuesday, June 18, 2013

EDITOR'S NOTE: We head to Denver tomorrow morning for the AIA convention, and will not be posting again until Monday, June 24. So we leave you with lots of thoughtful reading (and calls for entries) to keep you busy while we're gone...

- Weinstein has a few pointed questions for Krier, Stern, and Rybczynski re: Albert Speer's monumental classicism (sure to ruffle some feathers?).
- Badger offers an interesting take on Kuper's argument that global cities are turning into "vast gated communities where the 1% reproduces itself": "perhaps things don't have to turn out this way."
- Dunlop finds OMA and BIG's big plans for the Miami Beach Convention Center to be "sleek and smart with an extraordinary level of intelligence and promise," but there's a "fundamental flaw in the process" that makes it "one of the better examples of cart-before-the-horse urban planning in our recent history."
- Betsky was more than a little disappointed in the conversations at the Mies van der Rohe Prize conference: "The best thing to emerge? Barcelona itself."
- Bey cheers McPier officials' redraft of their search for a new Chicago arena designer "aimed at also getting top-drawer architects who have never designed sports facilities...the Jeanne Gangs of the world."
- Hume x 2: he's saddened by the planned "façadomy" (a.k.a. façadectomy) of an Art Deco gem in Toronto: "In terms of development; it has much to recommend it. In terms of city building; not so much."
- He hails the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario new HQ that is "one of those rare architectural projects that offer a glimpse into our possible if not probable future."
- The University of Toronto taps NADAA to lead the team to design its Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Design's new home that will include "a stunning work of contemporary architecture."
- Biomimicry Chicago's Prairie Project should be a model to mimic everywhere.
- Rainwater says it's time to "shrink America's waistline and grow the economy. What would it take? We need a design diet."
- A good place to start would be the Fit City 8 conference in NYC on Monday (available via livestream should you not be able to attend) + You can take in "FitNation," a groundbreaking exhibition "that showcases the ways design, policy, and grassroots strategies are promoting physical activity as part of daily life."
- Kimmelman has only a few small quibbles with MoMA's Corbu show: "A little pruning might have helped. But as an omnibus, long overdue, the show is riveting, fun, a landmark."
- Davidson x 2: a "virtuoso of light and disturber of visual fields" (a.k.a. Turrell) transforms the Guggenheim rotunda "into a vacant, shimmering cocoon."
- He gets some very interesting (and sometimes amusing) feedback from husband-and-wife teams re: "the beauty - and complexity and contradiction - of designing with a spouse."
- Bergdoll's eloquent tribute to (and fond memories of) Mather, still hoping "to catch a glimpse of him in the mirrors of the AA bar."
- ASLA announces 2013 Honors - our heartiest congrats to them all!
- A good reason to be in L.A. this weekend: Dwell on Design 2013, "where prefab comes to life and design luminaries [like Michael Graves] debate the issues of today."
- Call for entries: Designing Recovery Post-Disaster Housing Competition + AIA 2014 Institute Honor Awards + 2013 IFI/WING Global Student Design Competition.

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Some Pointed Architectural Queries for Three Connoisseurs of Albert Speer's Monumental Classicism on the Occasion of the Re-publication of "Albert Speer: Architecture 1932-1942" by Leon Krier. By Norman Weinstein -- Robert A.M. Stern; Witold Rybczynski - ArchNewsNow

Are Global Cities Really Doomed to Become 'Citadels' for the Rich? Surely there's something we can do about this. Simon Kuper argues that places like New York and Paris are turning into "vast gated communities where the 1% reproduces itself"...Great cities don't naturally evolve to serve only the super-rich as if through some organic process. They come to exclude people by decision and design. By Emily Badger - The Atlantic Cities

Designs for Miami Beach Convention Center are sleek, smart — but flawed: Both teams include legendary architects and renowned landscape designers and plans with an extraordinary level of intelligence and promise...the fundamental flaw in the process...one of the better examples of cart-before-the-horse urban planning in our recent history. By Beth Dunlop -- Rem Koolhaas/OMA/Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates/Raymond Jungles; Bjarke IngelsGroup/BIG/West 8 - Miami Herald

Barcelona and the Mies van der Rohe Prize for European Architecture: The best thing to emerge at a conference? Barcelona...What to me was a particular shame was that the group didn't focus on either the list of 25 prize winners...there was no chance to learn from what I think is the most thorough and successful sustained experiment in urbanism since the Second World War: Barcelona itself. By Aaron Betsky -- Henning Larsen Architects/Batterio Architects/Olafur Eliasson; Zaha Hadid; Alvaro Siza; Langarita/Navarro - Architect Magazine

McPier now seeks better architecture for DePaul event center: But some residents remain wary of the plan: Fearing the planned \$195 million sports arena near McCormick Place could be an architectural missed-shot, officials have redrafted the search...aimed at also getting top-drawer architects who have never designed sports facilities..."The Jeanne Gangs of the world..." By Lee Bey - WBEZ Chicago Public Radio

Celebrated Toronto Art Deco tower victim of growth: The striking 1928 Concourse tower will be next victim of corporate growth, albeit for a LEED Platinum tower...It's been called "façadomy," and the term is painfully apt...In terms of development; it has much to recommend it. In terms of city building; not so much. By Christopher Hume -- Kohn Pederson Fox (KPF) [images] - Toronto Star

Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario new headquarters an architectural lesson: ...sets a new standard in sustainability and livability...one of those rare architectural projects that offer a glimpse into our possible if not probable future...The designers have given us exactly the kind of building cities need in the 21st century. By Christopher Hume -- KPMB Architects - Toronto Star

University of Toronto's Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Design to receive new home: ...will renew the south-facing 19th-century Gothic Revival building and build out the unrealized northern face of the circle with a stunning work of contemporary architecture. -- NADAAA; Adamson Associates; ERA Architects [image] - Canadian Architect

The Prairie Project: Biomimicry Chicago...is dedicated to providing the information and tools necessary for everyone...to (Re)Connect with nature and our sense of place, (Re)Learn the wisdom of our ancestors, and (Re)Think how we live and design in our bioregion. By Amy Coffman Phillips -- Global Biomimicry Network - Metropolis Magazine

Just Get Up and Walk: Let's shrink America's waistline and grow the economy: What if we built

health-promoting communities, from city centers to suburbs? What would it take? We need a design diet...to examine traditional models of development...What we need are options. By Brooks Rainwater - Metropolis Magazine

Fit City 8 conference at the Center for Architecture on June 24 - and via livestream; day-long conference will bring together architects, planners, designers, landscape architects, developers, and public health professionals to discuss how design, policy, and practice decisions can address the key health epidemics of our time. - AIA New York / York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

"FitNation": ...groundbreaking exhibition brings together...33 projects in 15 states...that showcase the ways design, policy, and grassroots strategies are promoting physical activity as part of daily life...inspired by New York City's Active Design Guidelines and the annual Fit City conference (June 24) -- AIA New York; Center for Architecture; Abruzzo Bodziak Architects; Pentagram [images]- ArchDaily

Celebrating a Poet of 3 Dimensions: "Le Corbusier: An Atlas of Modern Landscapes" is really two exhibitions...A little pruning might have helped...But as an omnibus, long overdue, the show is riveting, fun, a landmark...while he's no longer the influence he used to be, he's an architect for our time...He lives on because we still can't live without him. By Michael Kimmelman -- Jean-Louis Cohen; Barry Bergdoll [slide show]- New York Times

James Turrell's Hallucinatory Guggenheim Transformation: ...virtuoso of light and disturber of visual fields...a vertical tunnel of light and color receding into the heavens. The space is familiar but transformed...into a vacant, shimmering cocoon..."Aten Reign"..."The work I do is about bringing dream light into the conscious state." By Justin Davidson [image]- New York Magazine

Mr. & Mrs. Architect: The beauty—and complexity and contradiction—of designing with a spouse...husband-and-wife firms are not just proliferating; they're dominating...the Scott Brown controversy also shows how hard it is to dismantle the myth of the solitary auteur... By Justin Davidson -- Jing Liu/Florian Idenburg/SO-IL; Gregg Pasquarelli/Kimberly Holden/Coren and William Sharples/SHoP Architects; Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Asymptote Architecture; Tod Williams Billie Tsien; Amale Andraos/Dan Wood/WORKac; Denise Scott Brown/Robert Venturi; Wang Shu/Lu Wenyu; Marion Weiss/Michael Manfredi/Weiss/Manfredi; Elizabeth Ranieri/Kuth/Ranieri Architects- New York Magazine

Obit> Rick Mather, 1937-2013: Barry Bergdoll remembers an architect known for intelligent interventions at cultural institutions in England and the US.: ...became one of the most convincing—and least shrill—voices demonstrating that an architecture of contrast could bring new life to even some of the most beloved of English architectural monuments. - The Architect's Newspaper

ASLA Announces 2013 Honors: Warren T. Byrd Jr. earns the ASLA Medal, Reed Hilderbrand wins the Firm Award -- Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects; Stuart O. Dawson/Sasaki; Max Z. Conrad; Stuart Weinreb/Massachusetts Audubon Society; Shlomo Aronson; Nicholas T. Dines; etc. - Wall Street Journal

Dwell on Design 2013: ...transforming 200,000 square feet of concrete into a design incubator where prefab comes to life and design luminaires debate the issues of today + 3rd annual Green Car Tour ride and drive; Los Angeles Convention Center, June 21-23- Dwell

Call for entries: Designing Recovery Post-Disaster Housing Competition for affordable, single-family residential designs for New Orleans, LA; Joplin, MO; and New York; cash prizes; deadline: August 15- American Institute of Architects (AIA) / Architecture for Humanity / Make It Right Foundation / St. Bernard Project

Call for entries: AIA 2014 Institute Honor Awards for Architecture, Interior Architecture, Regional and Urban Design, and the Twenty-five Year Award; deadline: August 24- American Institute of Architects (AIA)

Call for entries: 2013 IFI/WING Global Student Design Competition and Awards: THINK/WORK: re- envision, re-invent and re-design future workspaces; deadline: July 31- International Federation of Interior Architects/Designers (IFI)



-- Kazuyo Sejima & Associates [SANAA]: Inujima Art House Project (2010), Inujima, Higashi-ku, Okayama, Japan  
-- 3XN: The Blue Planet, Copenhagen, Denmark

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