

## Today's News - Monday, June 24, 2013

- We lose Henning Larsen, a "master of light" who walked away from his opera house in Copenhagen because "it looked like Buick," but "the man who paid for it wanted it that way."
- Miami Beach Convention Center Advisory Board gives the nod to the BIG team (over OMA - though we won't know who actually wins until July).
- Heathcote x 2: He strolls Marseille's revamped waterfront and likes what he sees (much of it, anyway - a great read) + Two schemes in England and Egypt may seem to have little in common, "yet the architecture of both settlements has more in common than it might first appear."
- Wainwright reports that Heatherwick's Olympic cauldron has "fanned flames of fury at an American design studio."
- Saffron gives (mostly) thumbs-up for a "tide" of apartment towers in Philadelphia "rolling westward, and it's looking like a tsunami" (she may not be thrilled with all the designs, but "at least the developers have learned some important lessons in urbanism").
- A new tower in Milwaukee may have "lost some of its swagger" because of value engineering, "but it's still minor miracle a building this good was created - with HUD money no less"; hopefully, another being built on public land will not be just "a tall closet for fancy people."
- Lamster lambasts "an act of brazen philistinism" with the "surprise destruction of a modernist gem" in Fort Worth "before a campaign could be mounted in its defense."
- What "could become the teardown of all teardowns" in Wisconsin: a 1970 Giurgola that sold for \$10 million could join an increasing number of demolished lakeside houses that include an FLW, a Rapson, and a Gehry.
- Wainwright ponders the point of architecture and design festivals as "the world is inundated with design fairs": the good ones "show the power that fleeting festivities can have when they are linked to real issues in a city. And when commercial promotion is not the only goal."
- Calys cheers San Francisco's trifecta of shows dedicated to Italian design.
- Patton pays tribute to FLW's "theatrical auto showroom" on Park Avenue: "A small landmark of New York City architectural and automotive history disappeared recently, almost without notice."
- Pickrel mourns the passing of Wright's "bijou": "It wasn't a masterwork, but it was the master's work. A hidden gem in plain sight."
- The 2013 AZ Awards represent "a global snapshot of the world of architecture and design."
- Call for entries: AIA San Francisco Constructed Realities competitions (you don't have to be an AIA SF member) + 3rd ISARCH Awards for Architecture Students.

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Obituary: Architecture's master of light passes: Among colleagues, Henning Larsen, 87, was known for his use of light - He was known to everyone else for walking out on a project [Royal Danish Opera] funded by the country's richest man...Larsen felt it looked like Buick. Others have jested it looks like a toaster. The man who paid for it wanted it that way. [images]- The Copenhagen Post (Denmark)

Miami Beach Convention Center Advisory Board Recommends Bjarke Ingels & Company...the Portman-CMC team... -- BIG/Bjarke Ingels Group; John Portman & Associates; Fentress Architects; West 8; Revuelta Architecture International- Curbed Miami

Out of the shadows: A look at Marseille's revamped waterfront: ...Museum of the Civilisations of Europe in the Mediterranean (MuCEM) is the expensive centrepiece...exudes a strange, almost sinister, presence...Villa Mediterranée...nearly steals the show...an enigmatic structure by Foster & Partners...could have been a pointless city bauble. But it is, in fact, beautiful. By Edwin Heathcote -- Rudy Ricciotti; Stefano Boeri; Studio Andrew Todd; Roland Carta; Corinne Vezzoni; Kengo Kuma; Ora-Itto- Financial Times (UK)

Housing for secretaries and tomb raiders: The shared architectural vision between two schemes in England and Egypt: I would be surprised if New Gurna and Hampstead Garden Suburb have ever appeared together on a page...Yet the architecture of both settlements has more in common than it might first appear. By Edwin Heathcote ("The Meaning of Home") -- Raymond Unwin/Barry Parker; Mackay Hugh Baillie Scott; Hassan Fathy [images]- Financial Times (UK)

How Olympic cauldron fanned flames of fury at American design studio: Spokesperson for Thomas Heatherwick says he knew nothing of ideas shown to London Games organisers in 2007...New York practice Atopia claims cauldron design is strikingly similar to an idea it presented to Locog ... By Oliver Wainwright- Guardian (UK)

Apartment towers growing toward Phila.'s west: High-rise construction in Philadelphia comes in waves...This time, the tide is rolling westward, from Center City out toward the universities, and it's looking like a tsunami...At least the developers have learned some important lessons in urbanism... By Inga Saffron -- Erdy McHenry/Pelli Clarke Pelli; Varenhorst Architects; Robert A.M. Stern Architects; Barton Architects; BLT Architects [slide show]- Philadelphia Inquirer

How The Moderne Lost Some of its Swagger: Value engineering made it stouter, but it's still minor miracle a building this good was created...with HUD money no less...Let's hope The Couture will not live up to its name -- a tall closet for fancy people...being built on public land. It's our land, our city, our view. We should set our sights higher. Build something we all can look up to. -- Rinka Chung Architecture [images]- Urban Milwaukee

Modernist Masterwork Demolished in Fort Worth: ...the surprise destruction of the Ruth Carter Stevenson House, a modernist gem designed in the 1950s by Harwell Hamilton Harris, with landscape by Thomas Church...owners...preemptively destroyed the house before a campaign could be mounted in its defense, an act of brazen philistinism. By Mark Lamster [image]- Dallas Morning News

\$10 million house ready for wrecker: It could become the teardown of all teardowns in the Twin Cities...increasing number of teardowns has many in the architectural community grieving the loss of lakeside houses by world-renowned architects, including Frank Lloyd Wright, Ralph Rapson and Frank Gehry. -- Romaldo Giurgola (1970); Dan Nepp/TEA2 Architects [images]- Minneapolis Star Tribune

What's the point of architecture and design festivals? From Beijing to Belgrade, the world is inundated with design fairs. But what exactly are they for? ...these projects show the power that fleeting festivities can have when they are linked to real issues in a city. And when commercial promotion is not the only goal. By Oliver Wainwright- Guardian (UK)

Love Italian design? San Francisco's got a trifecta!: ...the kind people at Giannino Bassetti Foundation have organized not one, but three exhibits that feature the state of Italian design past and present. "Poltrona Frau: 100 years of Italian Leathership" + "Cappellini's Heroes"; "The New Italian Design"; "The New Shape of Artisans' Identities" By George Calys - San Francisco Examiner

Wright's New York Showroom, Now Just a Memory: A small landmark of New York City architectural and automotive history disappeared recently, almost without notice. The theatrical auto showroom designed by Frank Lloyd Wright at 430 Park Avenue...designed in 1954 for the pioneering auto importer Max Hoffman. By Phil Patton [images]- New York Times

Remembering Frank Lloyd Wright's Bijou: It wasn't a masterwork, but it was the master's work...A hidden gem in plain sight, the Hoffman Auto Showroom at 430 Park Avenue, opened in 1955. It was one of just three Frank Lloyd Wright projects in New York City. And now, it's gone. By Debra Pickrel-Metropolis Magazine

Winners of the 2013 AZ Awards: Representing a global snapshot of the world of architecture and design...14 outstanding winners... -- Saucier + Perrotte Architectes/Hughes Condon Marler Architects; Daoust Lestage; El Dorado; Plain Projects/UrbanInk/Pike Projects; MZ Architects; Sitbon Architects; etc. [images]- Azure magazine (Canada)

Call for entries: Constructed Realities: AIA San Francisco Social Impact Design Award (with Public Architecture/Interface); Restaurant Design (with Golden Gate Restaurant Association); Architecture – Small Projects; Architectural Detail; entrants need not be AIA SF members; deadline: July 18- AIA San Francisco

Call for entries: 3rd Edition IS ARCH Awards for Architecture Students; cash prizes; early registration (save \$\$\$): July 15 (submission deadline: November 4)- ISARCH

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

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