Today's News - Friday, June 28, 2013

- Häussel and TFP Farrells rise to the top of a starchitect-filled shortlist to design the Mr museum in Hong Kong's West Kowloon Cultural District.
- NYC's plan to deal with climate change is only the beginning of a long struggle to fortify cities around the world - resiliency construction could very well be its own industry, and "as if on cue," some design competitions that should help things move along.
- Speaking of which, 3C: Comprehensive Coastal Communities Competition to re-imagine the coastal communities hit by Superstorm Sandy has extended the registration deadline to July 8.
- The Ikea Foundation and the UNCHR are planning to "roll out one of the major innovations for war-torn homeless since the canvas tent: cheap, flat-packed, build-it-yourself homes" (solar power included).
- Russell and Rosenbaum have a conversation about the Whitney Museum's new digs: he likes the terraces; she doesn't think the inside is as well-designed as the exterior + Rosenbaum expands on her take: even with its downsides, "the new Whitney promises to be an exciting addition to New York's cultural life."
- Wainwright weighs in on the growing pressure from U.K. architecture students to change "training that has remained largely unchanged since 1960s": everyone seems to agree, but change to what? "At least students' plaintive pleas for relevant teaching are finally being taken seriously -- and they may soon have an alternative to costly years trapped in fantasy factories."
- Weekend diversions (and lots of "em - catching up after not posting last Friday).
- Kaplan and Hess review the Getty's "Overdrive" from two very different perspectives (both great reads - did they see the same show?).
- Russell wrestles with Corbu at MoMA, and finds "the architect who wanted to bulldoze much of Paris was a romantic at heart."
- Turrell at the Guggenheim x 4 (we couldn't resist): Lange says the museum "was built for his work," and the rotunda is "where Turrell meets Wright's mischievousness as this now reflects."
- Wyma warns it is not the "hallucinatory, mind-blowing experience" visitors might expect, but Turrell's "slow-burning phantasmagoria of light and color is good, clean site-specific fun."
- Gopnik, on the other hand, wants to "feel the spirit move me," but what he feels and sees "most clearly are dollar signs, and the troubling social structures that art such as this now reflects."
- Rosenbaum is not much rosier: problem is Turrell's Skyspace isn't a skyspace at all.
- A great Q&A with "Reprogramming the City" curator Burnham about what to expect from Boston's BSA Space show about reuse from cities around the world.
- Blanchfield cheers "Low-Rise High-Density Housing" at NYC's Center for Architecture that looks at what past solutions teach us about solving today's housing crisis: it may be a "small show," but it's "an archival feat."
- "Where If Not Us? Participatory Design and Its Radical Approaches" at Chicago's Graham Foundation is a visual journey of the findings of a multi-year research project focusing on the work of 7 community design architects and planners.
- In London, "Elisabeth Blanchet: Prefabs: Palaces for the people" is "an intensive study of prefabs across the country and some of their oldest residents."
- Keats chez les CCA's "Archaeology of the Digital" that shows how "ambivalence about digital architecture was characteristic of most of the architects who pioneered it."
- With "Creating Green Roadways," Sipes and Sipes "are dedicated to turning our transportation systems to assets, not liabilities, and have written a book to help guide this transformation."
...cannily shows how architects creatively interpreted the new conditions of Southern California's multi-centered suburban metropolis... -- Palmers and Krisel, Edward H. Fickett, Jones and Emmons; John Launet, Armet and Davis, and Edward Killingsworth, to Smith and Williams, Ray Kappe, and Victor Gruen; S. Charles Lee, and then their reverberation through the city and culture in Richard Neutra and Philip Johnson; Armet and Davis; Morphosis; Cesar Pelli and Gruen Associates' Pacific Design Center to the geometrically warped arcades of Edward Durell Stone; Charles Moore; Frank Gehry [images]. - The Architect's Newspaper


The Guggenheim Museum Opens Alan Reign by James Turrell: [His] first museum exhibit in New York since 1980 reveals that the Guggenheim was built for his work: ...manages to defy and celebrate the building all at once...you could be forgiven for never leaving the atrium: That's where Turrell meets Wright's mischiefousness with a twinkle of his own. By Alexandra Lange [images]. - Architect Magazine

Light Entertainment: James Turrell Gives the Gugg a Mellow Makeover: ...visitors expecting a hallucinatory, mind-blowing experience might be mildly disappointed...Stripped of its spiritual trappings, his slow-burning phantasmsmagoria of light and color is good, clean site-specific fun. By Chloe Wyma [slide show] - Artsinfo

James Turrell at the Guggenheim: ...looking up into "Aten Reign": I'm supposed to almost literally see stars, and feel the spirit move me...my soul ought to reach out from Plato's cave to the light of timeless truth. But I'm afraid that what I feel and see most clearly are dollar signs, and the troubling social structures that art such as this now reflects. By Blake Gopnik [slide show] - Architectural Record

Guggenheim's "Aten Reign": Turrell's "Skyspace" Obscures the Sky: I have been eagerly anticipating James Turrell's "reimagining the rotunda of Frank Lloyd Wright's iconic building...The only problem is, it isn't a skyspace at all. By Lee Rosenbaum [images] - ArtsJournal

Reusing Infrastructure to Reprogram the City: In anticipation of his return to Boston for "Reprogramming the City: Opportunities for Urban Infrastructure," we talked with curator Scott Burnham to learn more about what to expect from a show about reuse from cities around the world. [images] - Next City (formerly Next American City)

"Reprogramming the City: Opportunities for Urban Infrastructure": ...a global overview of ways in which the existing infrastructure of cities around the world is being redesigned, repurposed, and reimagined...for urban dwellers and visitors. - BSA Space (Boston)

Looking back at Low-Rise High-Density Housing in NYC: What can past solutions teach us about solving today's housing crisis? ...a small show at the Center for Architecture looks back [at] the moment of its emergence, and its bearing on how we face housing crises today. The show is an archival feat. By Caitlin Blanchfield -- Karen Kubey; Alvaro Siza; Atelier 5; Kenneth Frampton; Institute for Architecture and Urban Studies/IAUS; Craig Hodgetts; Peter Eisenman; Piotak Architects; Jonathan Kirshenfeld; Institute for Public Architecture [images] - Metropolis Magazine

"Where If Not Us? Participatory Design and Its Radical Approaches": A Visual Journey by Mathias Heyden & Ies Schaber: Focusing on the work of 7 U.S.-based community design architects and planners and their projects...the findings of a multi-year research project funded by the Graham Foundation. -- Adams Group Architects; Roberta Feldman/City Design Center; Landon Bone Baker Architects; David Perkes/Gulf Coast Community Design Studio; Michael Rios/UC Davis; Henry Sanoff/Community Development Group; Ron Shiftman/Pratt Center for Community Development-Graham Foundation (Chicago)

"Elisabeth Blanchet: Prefabs: Palaces for the people": A new photography exhibition in London documents the UK's threatened prefabs...an intensive study of prefabs across the country and some of their oldest residents. [images] - BD/Building Design (UK)

Is Your Architect A Computer? A New Exhibit Reveals How Building Went Digital...And Why You Should Care: As "Archeology of the Digital" at the Canadian Centre for Architecture shows, ambivalence about digital architecture was characteristic of most of the architects who pioneered it, including Peter Eisenman, Chuck Hoberman and Shoel Yoh. By Jonathon Keats - Forbes

A Road Can Be More than a Road: "Creating Green Roadways: Integrating Cultural, Natural, and Visual Resources into Transportation" by James L. Sipes and Michael L. Sipes: With common language, thorough research and numerous case studies...The authors are dedicated to turning our transportation systems to assets, not liabilities, and have written a book to help guide this transformation. - The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Review: "False Solution" by Oren Safdie: The third in Safdie's series of plays about architects and architecture makes its world premiere at La MaMa in Manhattan (only a few days left to see it!). By Kristen Richards - ArchNewsNow.com


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..."A Topology of Everyday Constellations" by Georges Teyssot...his latest, brilliant book....

..."Zaha Haddid -- World Architecture" at the Danish Architecture Center, Copenhagen, Denmark

...Oblivion. Henning Larsen, 87: ...the essential link between the old masters from the Golden Age of Danish architecture...and the new, internationally oriented generation

..."Reiulf Ramstad Architects" by Boris Bromann Jensen (editor)