

Today's News - Friday, July 19, 2013

- Bernstein reports that Rem beat Bjarke for the Miami Beach Convention Center redesign: "the designs may have had more similarities than differences," and it "doesn't mean construction will begin anytime soon" (and Ingles described their competition "oedipal").
- The project "may be a hard sell," with a commissioner describing the winning team as "litigious and aggressive, that 'I'm warning you now, is going to be a handful.'"
- Meanwhile, cheers and jeers for Miami Beach considering a temporary halt to demolitions of historic homes: one side, high hopes it will save neighborhoods from out-of-character McMansions; on the other side, it would be "an architectural straightjacket."
- Saffron minces no words about what she thinks of plans for façadectomies for two historic Philly venues, making them "soulless structures" (one would be a parking garage).
- New York's research programs in biomimicry could have "far-reaching impacts on the built environment," and "could serve as a model to other hotbeds of creativity around the country."
- Day delves into the "intriguing parallels" where "art and crime collide - museum and prison design have altered our perceptions of transgression, vision and time, and how architecture can shape those perceptions (fascinating read!)."
- Zara zooms in on prison design as "the architect's dilemma."
- Altabe cheers Piano's teeny tiny Diogene house, "the picture of built-in moderation in excelsis - what the world needs now are clients with a social conscience."
- Cleveland's University Circle is blooming with culture.
- Wainwright sees lessons for London in "Cycle Infrastructure" that looks at "how cycle highways might start to influence the fundamental ways we make our cities."
- O'Sullivan bemoans London's seeming unwillingness to "to push cycling safety" on "a network where people are dying even in the spaces designed to protect them."
- Hadid, Grimshaw/Dattner, and Wilkinson Eyre on the Lubetkin Prize shortlist for the best international building.
- It's a shortlist of three vying to design a memorial to the lost trawlermen of Hull.
- An eyeeful MAD Architects' design for a "floating" art museum that is part of the plan to transform China's quiet Pingtan island into a bustling new city.
- Kleinman parses Corbu's "sense of place."
- Weekend diversions:
- Kennicott cheers MoMA's Corbu show: "it turns out to be both a provocative and productive way to reexamine his career" that "convincingly demonstrates that he was indeed sensitive to place and deplored much of what we would call sprawl."
- Woodman gives (mostly) thumbs-up to Rogers' show at the Royal Academy: "one of his great talents is his ability to choose collaborators - the question of quite how he has directed such a large group of people to such singular ends remains the exhibition's central untapped mystery."
- Turrell's "temple of spirit" at the Guggenheim: "After the flashiness of 'Aten Reign' the subtleties of the other works can be found wanting."
- Sketches take center stage in "Grand Central Sketchbook: Designers Dream" at the New York Transit Museum.
- Sorkin takes on Krier's Speer: "I find myself bored and creeped out - and not only because the lifework of a monster has been given the deluxe treatment. The architecture itself is flat-out bad and stinks of both human and imaginative death."

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[Rem Koolhaas Wins Competition to Redesign Miami Beach Convention Center: ...beat out his onetime employee Bjarke Ingles...for the \\$1 billion-plus project...The selection appeared to hinge less on architecture than on cost and other factors...In the end, the designs may have had more similarities than differences...doesn't mean construction will begin anytime soon.](#) By Fred A. Bernstein -- OMA; Bjarke Ingles Group/BIG [images]- Architectural Record

[Miami Beach commission picks South Beach ACE for convention-center overhaul: ...the most important development deal in the history of Miami Beach...may be a hard sell...Commissioner described the team as litigious and aggressive...that, I'm warning you now, is going to be a handful'...](#) -- Bjarke Ingles Group/BIG; Rem Koolhaas/OMA- Miami Herald

[Miami Beach may call temporary halt to demolitions of historic homes: Dozens of residents, architects, developers and real estate agents spoke for hours...On one side: residents who say the character of their neighborhoods is threatened by out-of-character "McMansions." On the other: those who say property rights are at risk..."an architectural straightjacket."](#) - Miami Herald

[Preservation means saving what's inside, not just the shell: When we think about the role that the Royal Theater and the Legendary Blue Horizon played in the cultural life of black Philadelphia, it's not their facades we remember...now controlled by developers who would gut their innards and insert soulless structures...the equivalent of a cardboard cutout of the once-glamorous venues, perfect for photo-ops but lacking in architectural flesh and blood.](#) By Inga Saffron [images]- Philadelphia Inquirer

[New York Paves the Way for Nature-Inspired Innovation: Local research programs in biomimicry poised to have far-reaching impacts on the built environment...could serve as a model to other hotbeds of creativity around the country.](#) By Namita Kallianpurkar and Chris Garvin/Terrapin Bright Green- Metropolis Magazine

[Corrections and Collections: Joe Day compares the proliferation of American prisons and museums...and finds intriguing parallels in how institutional architectures have responded to cultural movements...Art and crime collide...museum and prison design have altered our perceptions of transgression, vision and time, and how architecture can shape those perceptions.](#) -- Jeremy Bentham; Frank Lloyd Wright; Louis Kahn; KMD Architects; Frank Gehry; Peter Eisenman; Robert Irwin/OpenOffice; Santiago Calatrava; Harry Weese; Peter Zumthor; Mario Botta; Pei Cobb Freed; Daniel Libeskind; Rem Koolhaas; Atelier Bow-Wow; Jeffrey Inaba; Diller Scofidio + Renfro [images, links]- Places Journal

[Prison Design and Its Consequences: The Architect's Dilemma: Architecture has long been an indispensable tool...as a method of exerting psychological control...Norway's Halden Prison...fosters an environment of mutual respect...while the United States suffers from a 43 percent rate of recidivism, only 20 percent of Norwegian inmates return to jail. In light of these facts, Australia has also recently adopted this humane approach to incarceration.](#) By Janelle Zara -- KMD Architects; Architects/Designers/Planners for Social Responsibility (ADPSR); Raphael Sperry; Jeremy Bentham/Panopticon; Erik Møller Arkitekter; TAG; Iredale Pedersen Hook Architect [images]- Artinfo

[Architecture with a social conscience. What a concept! Renzo Piano,...designed a house 8.2 feet wide by 9.8 feet long by 11.5 feet high for Vitra Design Museum...You might call Diogene the picture of built-in moderation in excelsis. Ditto its price: \\$45,000...since architecture clients direct design traffic, what the world needs now are clients with a social conscience.](#) By Joan Altabe [image]- Examiner

[Culture Blooms in Cleveland: Expansions and enhancements at a trio of art institutions is helping power a neighborhood's cultural renaissance...Build it and they will come. This seems to be the mantra of University Circle...The revival, anchored by the refurbished galleries and stunning atrium of the Cleveland Museum of Art, includes the new home of the Museum of Contemporary Art \(MOCA\).](#) - New York Times

Paths of glory: what might a cycle-friendly city look like? From elevated bike lanes to spiralling cycle stands, a new book charts innovative infrastructure from around the world..."Cycle Infrastructure," written by the architects behind Dutch planning practice Artgineering...they ask how cycle highways might start to influence the fundamental ways we make our cities. By Oliver Wainwright [images]- Guardian (UK)

'Blue Paint Is Not Enough': London's bicycle advocates say they're fed up with a city government that promotes cycling but isn't serious about safe bike infrastructure...If the mayor's office is unwilling to push cycling safety, they should stop trying to coax Londoners and visitors onto a network where people are dying even in the spaces designed to protect them. By Feargus O'Sullivan- The Atlantic Cities

Lubetkin Prize shortlist announced: Zaha Hadid, Grimshaw/Dattner Architects and Wilkinson Eyre make the cut...chosen for this year's prize for the best international building. [images]- BD/Building Design (UK)

Shortlist of three unveiled for Hull memorial: £250,000 memorial will be a tribute to the lost trawlermen of Hull -- Colour Urban Design; Dress for the Weather/Factory Architecture; Jacqueline Donachie; Plincke Landscape- BD/Building Design (UK)

MAD Architects Reveal Designs for "Floating" Pingtan Art Museum: ...to be the largest private collection museum in China...has a fluid form of undulating landscape with cave-like interiors...The museum is an integral part of a top-down push to transform Pingtan into a new urban area...the quiet island will soon become a bustling new city. -- Ma Yansong [slide show]- Artinfo Hong Kong

Le Corbusier's Kaleidoscope: Looking at the Architect's Sense of Place: ...[he] turned to history to investigate...how to transform raw materials into not only a space but also an emotive place of belonging...While the Villa Savoye is a rather abstract catalogue of perspectives...Sainte Marie de La Tourette...takes this idea of a superimposed narrative to its full conclusion by uniting procession with an actual iconographic rebus. By Adam Kleinman/Modern Painters [slide show]- Artinfo

Le Corbusier at MoMA: A love/hate relationship: ...surveys [his] career with a curious twist..."Le Corbusier: An Atlas of Modern Landscapes" argues that the architect was also deeply sensitive to landscape and place...it turns out to be both a provocative and productive way to reexamine his career...curators convincingly demonstrate that he was indeed sensitive to place, took cues from the landscape, respected history and deplored much of what we would call sprawl. By Philip Kennicott -- Barry Bergdoll; Jean-Louis Cohen- Washington Post

Man of mystery - the Royal Academy's "Richard Rogers RA: Inside Out": ...casts little light on the collaborations behind his work...The question of authorship is never addressed directly but what can be said with certainty is that one of [his] great talents is his ability to choose collaborators...the question of quite how he has directed such a large group of people to such singular ends remains the exhibition's central untapped mystery. By Ellis Woodman- BD/Building Design (UK)

The Temple of Spirit: The Guggenheim rotunda is transformed into a sublime skyspace in James Turrell's new exhibition...After the flashiness of "Aten Reign" the subtleties of the other works can be found wanting. They are subtle reflections on themes of light and space that require time and effort before revealing themselves to the viewer. By Dora Sapunar [images]- Metropolis Magazine

"Grand Central Sketchbook: Designers Dream": ...Architectural League of New York put out a call for sketches and drawings that capture or re-imagine this gateway to the city...selected winners -- included in a special edition "Grand Central Terminal Moleskine Sketchbook"...exhibited at the New York Transit Museum. [images,links]- Urban Omnibus

Hitler's Classical Architect: Why is Léon Krier defending anew the work of the Third Reich's master builder? "Albert Speer: Architecture, 1932-1942"...I find myself bored and creeped out—and not only because the lifework of a monster has been given the deluxe treatment. The architecture itself is flat-out bad and stinks of both human and imaginative death. By Michael Sorkin- The Nation

A Conversation with Gordon Young, Author of "Teardown: Memoir of a Vanishing City": Place is not always the result of the work of well-intended design professionals. By Kenneth Caldwell [images]- ArchNewsNow

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