

## Today's News - Monday, July 29, 2013

- It's an urban planning kind of day: Q&A with Katz, who "says many American cities show promising signs of renewal" because "local leaders are more likely to take on the nation's big challenges than politicians in Washington."
- Tumlin tells us that while many cities have policies that may sound good on paper, "because of technical design requirements, we still tend to "end up with typical sprawl: it's actually illegal to build anything else."
- Litt reports on the final stretch of a three-year effort to help "fashion a rational vision for the future" for Northeast Ohio, offering alternatives to sprawl (no, it's not Big Brother).
- Hume reports on the latest plan to "renaturalize" Toronto's Don River: the July 8 flooding "wasn't just a wake-up call" (too bad the plan is still "an unfunded priority").
- Turner ponders tech "moving into the urban realm," so "why aren't more trained urban planners moving into tech?"
- Nettler uncovers some important issues "buried beneath the breathless enthusiasm" for Zumthor's remade LACMA: "Who cares whether the building looks like a lake, flower, or inkblot from 500 feet above? How does it look to a family walking along Wilshire Boulevard?" - which should be the focus of discussions.
- Saffron sees "the potential to raise the bar for all waterfront design" in Philly with plans for a new tower: the "profile is svelte enough, and its architect good enough...but the location in a little urban paradise presents problems."
- Lackmeyer x 2 re: the fate of Johanson's Stage Center theater in Oklahoma City: the Downtown Design Review Committee "may face its toughest challenge when they are asked to approve or deny an application" for demolition to make way for a new tower + "This won't be the last demolition sought to make way for a new tower."
- Melbourne's iconic Palace Theatre faces demolition to make way for a luxury hotel and apartment complex - but not without major opposition.
- Wainwright reports that a Shanghai-based company wants to build London an exact replica of Paxton's Crystal Palace.
- Hatherley is none too pleased: "Rebuilding monuments of the past fails to meet the challenge of building for today's London, and today's Londoners. This says something increasingly unnerving about the city."
- Dean is a bit disappointed with MoMA P.S.1's "Party Wall": "being hip and with-it" seems "more like the point of this year's design than most."
- Bullivant gives us a preview of the new FRAC Centre, "easily the most precocious contemporary building in Orléans," and "Naturalizing Architecture," the ArchiLab 9 show that will debut in September.
- Moore seems more than pleased with Hull's new Scale Lane Bridge (a.k.a. "pinball flipper"): it's been called the "Bridge to Nowhere. Yet people are using it, and pausing there, and inhabiting it, as intended."
- Van Alen Institute announces three emerging design team finalists in the Ground/Work Competition to design the Institute's street-level space (no images 'til the fall).
- Strict application of copyright laws "will deny protection to successfully modern buildings," and "pose one of the greatest threats to innovation in architecture" (fascinating/scary read!).
- Zoë Ryan is named curator of the second Istanbul Design Biennial (yay, Zoë!); she'll announce the theme for 2014 in November.

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**A Metro 'Revolution': Cities, Suburbs Do What Washington Can't: Q&A with Bruce Katz/Brookings Institution...**says that many American cities show promising signs of renewal...local leaders are more likely to take on the nation's big challenges than politicians in Washington. [+ link to excerpt from "The Metropolitan Revolution: How Cities and Metros Are Fixing Our Broken Politics and Fragile Economy" by Katz and Jennifer Bradley]- National Public Radio (NPR)

**How Better Urban Design Makes Us Healthier, Happier, and Sexier:** Cities have policies that sound good on paper, calling for mixed-use development and walkable neighborhoods, but they also have detailed technical design requirements that don't let that happen. Instead, we end up with typical sprawl: it's actually illegal to build anything else. By Jeffrey Tumlin/Nelson\Nygaard- GOOD Magazine

**Sustainability consortium seeks public response on alternatives to sprawl in Northeast Ohio:** faces a grim future if it continues sprawling as usual. But it has options...if it channels development back toward cities that are following out today...final six months of a three-year effort to help...fashion a rational vision for the future...abandoning cities and filling new acres with suburban development is simply not smart public policy. By Steven Litt [images]- Cleveland Plain Dealer

**Toronto needs to put its money where the Don's mouth is: ...new plan to "renaturalize" the Don River,** an unfunded priority in the age of climate change...unprecedented storm of July 8...a reminder of why 21st-century infrastructure will look a lot more like the past than the future. There will be no high-tech solutions to problems such as flooding; only the restoration of the natural processes we so assiduously destroyed. By Christopher Hume- Toronto Star

**Letter from San Francisco: On Being an Urban Planner in the Tech World:** Tech is moving into the urban realm. Why aren't more trained urban planners moving into tech? ...tech innovators and planners have much to learn from each other...We're already seeing our profession's adaptation with the emergence of new planning trends like "tactical urbanism"... By Molly Turner- Next City (formerly Next American City)

**Ink Blot or Bird Sh\*\*? Museum Design Tests L.A.'s Urban Psyche:** Buried beneath the breathless enthusiasm that's accompanied the unveiling of Peter Zumthor's design for a remade Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) is one important criteria by which the \$650 million endeavor should be evaluated: how does it contribute to the urban environment? By Jonathan Nettler [images]- PLANetizen

**Challenge on the Schuylkill: Dranoff's proposed 21-story waterfront tower has appeal,** but the location in a little urban paradise presents problems...has the potential to raise the bar for all waterfront design in Philadelphia. Or not. We don't know crucial details...the tower's profile is svelte enough, and its architect good enough...Then again... By Inga Saffron -- Cecil Baker + Partners [images]- Philadelphia Inquirer

**Tower news overshadowed by Stage Center debate: The Downtown Design Review Committee...**may face its toughest challenge when they are asked to approve or deny an application to destroy Stage Center..."Foundation went through an exhaustive process to find a purchaser...only two groups were interested in pursuing, and they were unsuccessful..." By Steve Lackmeyer -- John Johanson (1970)- The Oklahoman

**Oklahoma City's changing skyline often will require loss of older buildings:** The threatened Stage Center theater sits on a block where buildings were leveled decades ago to make room for the theater. Now the architecturally significant building could make way for a new tower ...this won't be the last demolition sought to make way for a new tower. By Steve Lackmeyer -- John Johanson (1970)- The Oklahoman

**Melbourne's iconic Palace Theatre to be demolished for luxury hotel and apartment complex:** The National Trust has raised concerns...Melbourne Heritage Group also plans to oppose the project... -- Bates Smart [images]- Architecture & Design (Australia)

**Raising the glass: Crystal Palace to come back from the dead:** Shanghai-based company to create an exact replica of Joseph Paxton's iron and glass halls in Crystal Palace park: ...might be rebuilt in south London as a complex of exhibition spaces, shops and cafes... By Oliver Wainwright -- Arup- Guardian (UK)

Plans to recreate the Crystal Palace are as jingoistic as a Gove history lesson: Rebuilding monuments of the past fails to meet the challenge of building for today's London, and today's Londoners: ...the most vast – and probably the least likely – of a smaller but still significant series of proposed reconstructions. This says something increasingly unnerving about the city...it will, chances are, enclose a chunk of park and turn it into a private, paying attraction. By Owen Hatherley -- Joseph Paxton (1851)- [Guardian \(UK\)](#)

Block Party: Is 'Party Wall' at MoMA P.S.1 too much party and not enough wall? The goal of the Warm-Up parties is pretty simple, and even noble...being hip and with-it does, after all, seem more like the point of this year's design than most. Last year's... "Wendy," designed by HWKN, at least boasted a structure with an innovative feature... By Michelle Dean -- Caroline O'Donnell/Coda [images]- [Architect Magazine](#)

The new FRAC Centre, Orléans + the 9th ArchiLab exhibition, 'Naturalizing Architecture': ...easily the most precocious contemporary building in Orléans...a place of debate, creation and research...ArchiLab 9 highlights the intriguingly diverse ways in which architects today...are producing speculative projects evolving according to principles similar to those found in nature, simulating its formation and growth. By Lucy Bullivant -- Jakob + Macfarlane; ruedurepos; Junya Ishigami; Gramazio & Kohler; Kokkugia; ecoLogicStudio; Biothing; Matsys; Michael Hansmayer; Plasma Studio; Minimaforms; EZCT; MAD Architects; Neri Oxman; servo; Achim Menges; SJET; Marc Fornes & TheVeryMany; MarcosandMarjan [images]- [Urbanista.org](#)

Scale Lane Bridge: Built to connect Hull city centre with a development across the river that has yet to materialise, the bridge has become a destination in its own right: As well as being a place, it's an event...often compared to a pinball flipper...it has been called the Bridge to Nowhere...Yet people are using it, and pausing there, and inhabiting it, as intended. By Rowan Moore -- McDowell+Benedetti Architects [image]- [Observer \(UK\)](#)

Van Alen Institute Announces Ground/Work Competition Finalists: Three emerging design teams to develop proposals for the Institute's street-level space -- Collective-LOK; EFGH; Of Possible Architectures - [Van Alen Institute](#)

The Architecture Of Copyright: ...as long as design elements are determined by functional considerations, they are not copyrightable...this severability problem is embedded in the same type of architecture that the Pacific Standard Time initiative is celebrating: modern architecture...Strict application...will deny protection to successfully modern buildings...pose one of the greatest threats to innovation in architecture... - [Mondaq \(UK\)](#)

Zoë Ryan appointed curator of the second Istanbul Design Biennial: ...2014 theme will be announced by Ryan, chair and curator of architecture and design at the Art Institute of Chicago, in November. - [Dezeen](#)

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