

Today's News - Wednesday, July 31, 2013

- Kamin pays tribute to de Blois, a pioneering woman architect at SOM who, according to Nathaniel Owings, "deserved credit for projects that typically went to senior male partners."
- Q&A with former Chicago Mayor Richard Daley re: his The Sustainability Exchange to help cities innovate for the future.
- Roudman explains why New York's "greenest" skyscraper "is actually its biggest energy hog: It's not just an embarrassment; it symbolizes a flaw at the heart of the effort to combat climate change - how businesses use their buildings is just as important as how they design them."
- Pedersen picks up the story, saying it "painfully underscores the shortcomings of the LEED process. That must change, otherwise the program risks becoming irrelevant."
- AIA Detroit's Arvan calls on local architects to "imagine better built environments: The market is ready. We are ready."
- Perhaps the city should consider the 20K House: Rural Studio hopes "to have models that can be reproduced on a large scale."
- Green is impressed with Atlantic City's effort to undo "the perception that it's only a place for 'blue-haired old ladies'" with a "fascinating new sculpture park" in a place that had "no roses to stop and smell."
- Melbourne's Royal Botanic Gardens now dons distinctive shelters "that respond to the landscape context, both conceptually and physically" (we want one!).
- Bette Midler's New York Restoration Project invites 8 emerging architecture firms to envision an innovative, flood-resistant pavilion on the on the Harlem River waterfront.
- Edelson ponders whether Gang's "top-of-the-line" new dorm is actually right for UChicago campus.
- Artemel looks at how Dutch architects "have helped the nation become the foremost influence on contemporary design" (great pix!).
- A Madrid-based firm beats out a Swede and an American to win the Bristol Royal Infirmary competition with a "veil" that will "be drawn over the 'ugly' hospital."
- A new 44-story tower set to rise in London's Elephant & Castle (affordable units and a new theater included).
- Goodyear tags along with Schwendinger, who "is leading a community effort to rethink the way neighborhoods look after dark."
- Eyefuls of the winners in the Eye Lines drawings competition (some stunning images!).
- AIA Chicago sets up a pop-up space to show off its Small Firm/Small Project Award winners ("not everyone needs a skyscraper").
- Call for entries: Contract magazine's 35th Annual Interiors Awards.

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Obituary: Natalie de Blois, 92, pioneering architect at Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM): In his 1973 autobiography, Nathaniel Owings...stated explicitly that [she] deserved credit for projects that typically went to senior male partners. By Blair Kamin - Chicago Tribune

Richard M. Daley Wants to Make Your City More Sustainable: The former Chicago mayor is launching The Sustainability Exchange to help cities innovate for the future...Five cities have already signed up...Q&A with Daley and Lori Healey, TSE vice chairwoman, about how their idea is taking shape. - The Atlantic Cities

Bank of America's Toxic Tower: New York's "greenest" skyscraper is actually its biggest energy hog: It's not just an embarrassment; it symbolizes a flaw at the heart of the effort to combat climate change...goes to show that how businesses...use their buildings is just as important as how they design them. By Sam Roudman - The New Republic

Broken Promises: The Bank of America NYC tower's LEED Platinum rating apparently isn't. What's going on? ...painfully underscores the shortcomings of the LEED process...Right now certification...doesn't require its designers and developers to prove their claims. That must change, otherwise the program risks becoming irrelevant. Martin C. Pedersen -- CookFox Architects - Metropolis Magazine

Despite Detroit bankruptcy, architects must imagine better built environment: For so long developers and their architects have planned and designed segregated communities...It was a profitable model...but detrimental to our overall culture and economy...demand for urban living...but the change is slow...the momentum is definitely there...The market is ready. We are ready. Architects are working with developers and the community to help bring this about. By Frank X. Arvan/AIA Detroit - Model D (Detroit)

Well-designed \$20,000 houses for the poor? 20K Houses, a visionary project of the architects at Rural Studio in Alabama: The goal is to have models that can be reproduced on a large scale... -- Marion McElroy; Samuel Mockbee; Andrew Freear - Christian Science Monitor

Atlantic City Re-imagines Itself, Again: key to city's future is undoing the perception that it's only a place for "blue-haired old ladies"...Lance Fung/Fung Collaboratives was given the task of using contemporary art to revitalize two key spaces...The end result is Artlantic, a fascinating new sculpture park...a "place of respite in the loud aesthetic." By Jared Green -- Balmori Associates [images] - The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Australian Garden Shelters: BKK Architects designs a series of distinctive shelters for the Royal Botanic Gardens at Cranbourne in Melbourne that respond to the landscape context, both conceptually and physically. -- Taylor Cullity Lethlean [images] - Australian Design Review

NYRP Launches EDGE/ucation Pavilion Design Competition to Create Storm-Resilient Outdoor Classroom and Boating Facility on Harlem River Waterfront: 8 emerging architecture firms to share vision for innovative, flood-resistant pavilion in Sherman Creek Park. -- Bade Stageberg Cox; Desai/Chia Architecture; HOLLER Architecture; KNE Studio; Lang Architecture; Taylor and Miller Architecture + Design; Urban Data & Design; WORKac - New York Restoration Project (NYRP)

Opinion: Jeanne Gang's New Dormitory May Be Top-of-the-Line But Is It Right For University of Chicago? ...considered by themselves, seem like excellent additions to campus life. Externally, however, its design will have difficulty relating back to the university's architectural heritage and the atmosphere it fosters. By Zachary Edelson - Studio Gang Architects [images] - Architizer

Skin And Bones: Contemporary Dutch Architecture: Perhaps no other nation has had as big an influence on contemporary architecture as the Netherlands. By AJ Artemel -- Rem Koolhaas/OMA; MVRDV; UNstudio; Wiel Arets; JHK Architecten; West 8; Neutelings Riedijk [images] - Architizer

Spanish practice triumphs in Bristol Royal Infirmary competition: Veil to be drawn over 'ugly' hospital: Madrid-based Nieto Sobejano...beat shortlisted entries from Sweden's Tham & Videgård and the US's Solid Objectives-Idenburg Liu (SO-IL). [images] - BD/Building Design (UK)

Mayor announces 'affordable flats' tower at Elephant & Castle: 44 storey tower...will provide 462 units of which 188 will be affordable...will also be space for a new theatre, a café and shops. -- Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners [image] - London SE1 (UK)

[Everything Is Illuminated: The Secret Lights of New York City: Leni Schwendinger is leading a community effort to rethink the way neighborhoods look after dark. By Sarah Goodyear -- Leni Schwendinger Light Projects \[images\]- The Atlantic Cities](#)

[Bull's Eye: The Winners: ...250 people entered our Eye Lines drawings competition and hit the judges with a strikingly high standard. -- Cornelia Parker; Alan Dunlop; Narinder Sagoo/Foster + Partners; Tom Noonan/Hawkins\Brown; Emma Gibb/Scott Sutherland School of Architecture; Jonathan Gibb/Studio B Architects; etc. \[images\]- RIBA Journal \(UK\)](#)

[AIA Chicago Pop-Up Space Exhibit: "Small Projects: Not Everyone Needs a Skyscraper" features Small Firm/Small Project Award winners \[link to images, info\]- AIA Chicago](#)

[Call for entries: 35th Annual Interiors Awards \(international\); deadline: September 18- Contract magazine](#)

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