

Today's News - Thursday, August 1, 2013

EDITOR'S NOTE: We'll be taking Fridays and Mondays off through August. We'll be back Tuesday, August 6. Happy Weekend!

- Levinson continues (most eloquently) the discourse re: women in architecture: "it does matter that we seize the moment...so that a quarter century from now no one need start a petition on behalf of today's women in architecture."
- Dunlap pays eloquent tribute to SOM's Natalie de Blois: "Her buildings survive. Beautifully."
- A New York sort of day: Bloomberg gets serious with an RFP for his dream of a Seaport City on Manhattan's East River, but "critics counter that sea level rise makes it hard to predict how high to build without putting more people in danger in the future."
- Request for Proposals: Seaport City Feasibility Study.
- Four teams vie for the \$2.4 billion project "to build and operate a bigger, better replacement for LaGuardia Airport's aging and much maligned central terminal."
- Hester Street Collaborative's pop-up public space at Pier 42 "creates an asset for the neighborhood while informing and building momentum for the design of a future permanent park."
- Hosey takes on the "healthy materials myth": "until the building industry agrees on what a 'healthy material' is, the language itself could do more harm than good."
- First look at Trahan's Louisiana State Museum and Sports Hall of Fame that brings "contemporary design to a historic context."
- A look at a few famous architects who have designed for McDonalds: "the biggest franchise in the world can afford to take a few risks and have a little fun."
- Bergdoll is leaving his Chief Design Curator post at MoMA to return to Columbia: he "explains the transition is bittersweet."
- FAT, Crimson, and Hatherley win bid for the British Pavilion at the 2014 Venice Architecture Biennale with an exhibition relating to the theme "Absorbing Modernity: 1914 - 2014."
- Southface founder Creech wins the Hanley Award for Vision and Leadership in Sustainable Housing, and its \$50,000 prize.
- Weekend diversions:
 - "Geographies of Detention: From Guantánamo to the Golden Gulag" at the California Museum of Photography, UC Riverside "investigates prison landscapes" (amazing slide show!).
 - Prison Architect is a new, "silly little" video game where you "build and manage your own maximum security prison," but "a few architects are not amused. Prison design is not a game."
 - The Biennial of the Americas has turned Denver into a giant outdoor exhibition space with architecture installations that "are well-conceived and thought-provoking examples of how cities are in a continual state of reinvention."
 - Merrick is only mildly impressed with "Richard Rogers: Inside Out" at the Royal Academy: "If you want a whistle-stop tour of his greatest hits, this show is it. Alas, and rather oddly, there is no real insight about his design process - the grunt behind the architecture."
 - "Insights into Architecture" at the Palm Springs Art Museum explores 1960s Modernism, and "demonstrates that everyday images can tell as much of a story as world landmarks."
 - Lange cheers "A Handbook of California Design, 1930-1965": it's "a must-buy for those interested in mid-century design, and a model of the kind of scholarship and publishing that leads to less forgetting and more knowledge."
 - Pack and Hustwit's "The Olympic City" showcases the afterlife of Olympic architecture (great pix!).
 - An excerpt (and great images) from Della Monica's "Painted Landscapes: Contemporary Views" that presents "the urban form in all its grubby and exalted iterations."
 - "Bay Bridge: History and Design of a New Icon," written by its architect Donald MacDonald, "offers readers a gentle introduction to bridge architecture vocabulary."

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[Beyond the Pritzker: Women, Architecture, and the Politics of Family Leave: ...the full integration of women into architecture...remains a fraught and unfinished business...it does matter that we seize the moment and take up the unfinished business of equalizing the professional and academic opportunities, so that a quarter century from now no one need start a petition on behalf of today's women in architecture. By Nancy Levinson -- Missing 32%; Denise Scott Brown- Places Journal](#)

[An Architect Whose Work Stood Out, Even if She Did Not: Almost invisibly in her own day, Natalie de Blois, of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill \(SOM\), helped guide the design of three of the most important corporate landmarks of the 1950s and '60s...."Natalie and Gordon Bunshaft were a team," Beverly Willis said. "He took all the credit and she did all the work"...Her buildings survive. Beautifully. By David W. Dunlap \[images\]- New York Times](#)

[Bloomberg Takes Next Step on Post-Sandy 'Seaport City': ...put out a request for proposals to study the feasibility...to build a platform over part of the river, or add landfill, and construct apartment or office towers on top...critics counter that sea level rise makes it hard to predict how high to build the development without putting more people in danger in the future. - WNYC.org](#)

[Request for Proposals/RFP: Seaport City Feasibility Study: ...a multi-purpose levee along the eastern edge of Lower Manhattan. Deadline: August 22- New York City Economic Development Corporation \(NYCEDC\)](#)

[Plans for main terminal at LaGuardia Airport advance: Four big groups are named as finalists in the \\$2.4 billion project to build and operate a bigger, better replacement for the airport's aging and much maligned central terminal. -- Hunt Architects/Fentress Architects; Gensler; STV/Arup/Kohn Pedersen Fox \(KPF\)- Crain's New York Business](#)

[Paths to Pier 42: Hester Street Collaborative's Anne Frederick and Dylan House discuss a temporary pop-up public space on the Lower East Side that creates an asset for the neighborhood while informing and building momentum for the design of a future permanent park. -- Mathews Nielsen Landscape Architects \[images\]- Urban Omnibus](#)

[The Healthy Materials Myth: The building industry wrestles with the chemical content of its products: ...efforts are signs of significant progress. But they also raise a big question: Does taking the toxic chemicals out of a material really make it "healthy"? ...until the building industry agrees on what a "healthy material" is, the language itself could do more harm than good. By Lance Hosey/RTKL- Huffington Post](#)

[First Look: Trey Trahan's Louisiana State Museum and Sports Hall of Fame: ...aims to resolve a number of conflicting demands—bringing contemporary design to a historic context and finding a common language for a program that involves both a history museum and a sports hall of fame. By Clifford A. Pearson \[slide show\]- Architectural Record](#)

[Would You Like Arches With That? When Famous Architects Design McDonalds: ...a few notable architects designed some of the franchise's more exceptional establishments...the biggest franchise in the world can afford to take a few risks and have a little fun. -- SITE; Venturi Scott Brown Associates/VSBA \[images\]- Smithsonian magazine](#)

[Barry Bergdoll Steps Down from Chief Design Curator Post at MoMA: ...managed to create an impressive track record for well-received architecture and a design exhibitions...can take credit for raising the profile of the architecture and design department...\[he\] explains the transition is bittersweet. By Suzanne Stephens- Architectural](#)

Record

FAT, Crimson and Owen Hatherley chosen for British Pavilion for 2014 Venice Architecture Biennale under the title 'A Clockwork Jerusalem': ...an exhibition relating to the theme 'Absorbing Modernity: 1914 – 2014'. - BD/Building Design (UK)

Dennis Creech Wins the Hanley Award for Vision and Leadership in Sustainable Housing: An outstanding advocate for high-performance housing, Southface founder is the 2013 winner of the [award] and its \$50,000 prize. - EcoHome magazine

"Geographies of Detention: From Guantánamo to the Golden Gulag": ...the U.S. prison system is in a heightened state of crisis...an exhibition of art and documentary work...that investigates prison landscapes. (at the California Museum of Photography, UC Riverside) By Catherine Gudis and Molly McGarry [slide show] - Places Journal

When architects design death chambers: For only \$29.99, you can "build and manage your own maximum security prison." Really. It's a video game, of course, called Prison Architect...asks initiates to design an execution chamber and plug in their brand-new electric chair to the utility grid. It's a silly little game. But a few architects are not amused...Prison design is not a game. By C.C. Sullivan -- Raphael Sperry/Architects/ Designers/ Planners for Social Responsibility (ADPSR); Ken Underwood; Integrus Architecture; AECOM- SmartPlanet

The Biennial of the Americas: ...has turned Denver into a giant outdoor exhibition space...For "Draft Urbanism"...large-scale installations that respond directly to some of Denver's urban challenges...architecture installations are well-conceived and thought-provoking examples of how cities are in a continual state of reinvention. -- Carson Chan; plan:b arquitectos; Pezo von Ellrichshausen; Meyer-Grohbrügge&Chermayeff; Alex Schweder [images]- Architectural Record

Richard Rogers: Inside the mind of a political visionary: Lord Rogers has never been afraid to bring politics into the design debate..."Architecture mirrors society, its civility and its barbarism." The line between the two is fickle..."Richard Rogers: Inside Out" smoothes over the ethical cracks...Alas, and rather oddly, there is no real insight about his design process – the grunt behind the architecture. By Jay Merrick - Independent (UK)

"Insights into Architecture" exhibit puts design on display: With its '60s modernism vibe and eye for creativity, Palm Springs knows a thing or two about architecture...Palm Springs Art Museum...explores it from every angle...demonstrates that everyday images can tell as much of a story as world landmarks. -- Ezra Stoller; Julius Shulman - The Desert Sun (Palm Springs, CA)

How To Unforget: "A Handbook of California Design, 1930-1965"...offers another means of unforgetting, one which suggests that a group biography...might do just as well as a monograph...a must-buy for those interested in mid-century design, and a model of the kind of scholarship and publishing that leads to less forgetting, and more knowledge... By Alexandra Lange [images]- Design Observer

Jon Pack and Gary Hustwit's New Book of Photography Showcases the Afterlife of Olympic Architecture: When the Olympics draw to a close, the shiny new venues suddenly go quiet. "The Olympic City" chronicles the second lives of these buildings. By Alex Hoyt [images]- Architect Magazine

Urban Views: Our renewed interest in the landscape may be interpreted as a sign of a growing awareness of the natural environment and regional architectural expressions...the urban form in all its grubby and exalted iterations..."Painted Landscapes: Contemporary Views" by Lauren P. Della Monica showcases the work of a variety of artists observing our built environment... [excerpt, images]- Metropolis Magazine

Bay Bridge architect shares concepts behind aesthetics on new span: Bridges speak but they can require translators...Donald MacDonald has set out to explain why the eastern Bay Bridge replacement span looks the way it looks..."Bay Bridge: History and Design of a New Icon" offers readers a gentle introduction to bridge architecture vocabulary. -- MacDonald Architects - Contra Costa Times (California)

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