

Today's News - Wednesday, August 14, 2013

- Hong Kong scraps its West Kowloon park competition, but invites participants to re-apply to WKCD's "alternative approach" - needless to say, original "bidders are unenthused."
- Bwalya bemoans a decline in the quality of Zambia's architecture, possibly because its citizens "are content with the banal."
- AIA and RMI co-publish a report that gives architects a roadmap to the "financial arguments and incentive programs needed to sell deep-energy retrofit designs to clients."
- Shreeve and Lima look at the "winding road to net zero" and the "opportunities and challenges for implementing more projects that balance energy generation with consumption."
- More on the Latrobe Prize report re: "sustaining and increasing the field of public interest design."
- Australian architects team up to help save Myanmar's built heritage.
- McGuigan tells a tale of two Detroits: one is "a cool place for urban pioneers," the other a place of "economic privation and geographic isolation"; saving it will require "the ongoing energy of new arrivals, and the optimistic endurance of those already there."
- Saffron minces no words about what she thinks of a new hotel that is "now the one to beat" in the "heated competition for the worst new architecture in Philadelphia" ("sickly yellow" sounds oh so appealing).
- The Cloisters loses the battle with LG Electronics to save its verdant view of the New Jersey Palisades across the Hudson River.
- Hwang couldn't be happier that his book "The Rainforest" inspired the Atlanta Tech Village's "103,000 gleaming square feet of awesomeness."
- L.A. finally allows urban farmers to plant edible landscapes.
- A Filipino-American architect wants the Philippines as a test bed for her "Living Walls" - an open-air urinal system that could "improve the quality of outdoor air and mitigate pollution in large cities."
- Turns out there are elevator shafts to the top of the InTempo tower in Spain, so there's "nothing to see here folks, move along" (it'll just be a very long wait for an elevator).
- One we couldn't resist: the "world's cutest frog will cure what ails you - if we can get everyone in the world to watch this video over and over, it will cure their rapaciousness and greed, and the desert rain frog will be saved" (we have watched it over and over!).
- Call for entries: Spark>Spaces international competition in Architecture, Interiors, Urban Design and Landscape + Global search for lighting designs for 2014 Vivid Sydney + Shenzhen Design Award for Young Talents + Call for speakers: LIGHTFAIR International 2014 Conference.

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Brits lose out as West Kowloon park competition scrapped: New tenders labelled 'outrageous' by design teams: ...West Kowloon Cultural District Authority (WKCD)..."exploring an alternative approach"...has written to some of the designers involved in the original competition encouraging them to apply...But bidders are unenthused... -- Grimshaw/Dennis Lau & Ng Chun Man/West 8/ACLA; Gustafson Porter/Michel Desvigne Paysagiste/Foster & Partners; Wilkinson Eyre/Grant Associates/WSP - BD/Building Design (UK)

A Look At Post-Uhuru Urban Environment: ...either there has been a significant reduction in the intellectual input required in the production of architecture or society now comprises mainly of citizens who are content with the banal...At one time, Zambia produced architectural products of high aesthetics by any standard. By Dixon Bwalya -- Montgomery, Oldfield and Kirby- Times of Zambia

Deep Retrofits Next Market for Struggling Architects: AIA and Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) lend business advice to architects facing a down economy: start selling deep energy retrofits..." Deep Energy Retrofits: An Emerging Opportunity"...not just a technical design guide...outlines the financial arguments and incentive programs needed to sell retrofit designs to clients. - BuildingGreen.com

The Winding Road to Net Zero: Net zero energy (NZE) projects represent a pinnacle of ambition for green building design, yet certified NZE buildings are still rare...what are the opportunities and challenges for implementing more projects that balance energy generation with consumption? By Elizabeth Shreeve & Sergio Lima/SWA Group -- International Living Future Institute/Living Building Challenge; Studio E Architects; EHDD; FCGA Architecture; AECOM [images]- American Institute of Architects, California Council (AIACC)

Helping Designers Help the World: The Latrobe Prize Report: ...recipients release the report on sustaining and increasing the field of public interest design based on two years of research and decades of firsthand experience. -- MASS Design Group; Sergio Palleroni; Roberta Feldman/University of Illinois at Chicago; David Perkes/Gulf Coast Community Design Studio, Mississippi State University; Bryan Bell/Design Corps; Architects Without Borders; Scale Africa; Public Architecture; Architecture for Humanity; Perkins+Will; HOK; MS&R Architects; SEED Network; David Baker + Partners; Dan Pitera- Architect Magazine

Australian architects help save Myanmar's built heritage: Conrad Gargett Riddel, UniQuest and The University of Queensland are working together to help save Myanmar's historic colonial buildings. [images]- Architecture & Design (Australia)

A Tale of Two Detroits: One is a cool place for urban pioneers, attracting talent and investment to dense parts of the city, and building on a history of innovation. The other Detroit includes those who live in economic privation and geographic isolation...Saving [it] will be a decades-long project...the ongoing energy of new arrivals, and the optimistic endurance of those already there. By Cathleen McGuigan- Architectural Record

Cookie-cutter hotel cheapens Center City: In the heated competition for the worst new architecture in Philadelphia, the sickly yellow, synthetic-covered mid-rise across from the Reading Terminal Market is now the one to beat. If...Home2Suites...seems familiar...chains are coming with their highway designs in tow...just because you're subsidizing economic development doesn't mean you should be subsidizing poor design. By Inga Saffron -- Cope Linder Architects [images]- Philadelphia Inquirer

Un-Cloistered View: LG Electronics wins key battle to build in the New Jersey Palisades. For nearly 75 years, the view from the Cloisters...has remained unmarred by new development. Now the silhouette of...8-story headquarters will likely extend above the tree line and permanently alter the natural landscape. -- HOK [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Atlanta's New Startup Hub Is A Rainforest, Literally: Some lucky authors get their books turned into movies...Or maybe amusement rides. My book is being turned into an entire building...103,000 gleaming square feet of awesomeness..."The Rainforest: The Secret to Building the Next Silicon Valley" had inspired...startup hub, Atlanta Tech Village. By Victor W. Hwang -- Gensler- Forbes

Los Angeles Finally Allows Parkway Farming: ...battle between two urban farmers and the city government, which demanded the gardeners uproot their edible landscapes...they finally got the city council to abandon its outdated approach and stop fining them...city council has just agreed to let the parkways become edible. - The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Filipino-American architect wants the Philippines as a test bed for innovative 'Living Walls': Lira Luis has created the system to improve the quality of outdoor air and mitigate pollution in large cities...designed to serve as open-air urinals that lower carbon dioxide and increase oxygen levels in the environment. -- ALLL (formerly Atelier Lira Luis, LLC)- GMA News (Philippines]

Benidorm InTempo Building "without elevator above 20th floor" actually does: It's not as good a story as saying that they forgot the elevator, (you can see the elevator doors on this drawing...It's true that people are going to have to wait a very, very long time to get an elevator, but that's not the same thing. Nothing to see here folks, move along. [images]- TreeHugger.com

World's cutest frog will cure what ails you: Excuse me. Do you have any troubles in your life? Then you need the desert rain frog...threatened by human activity...if we can get everyone in the world to watch this video over and over, it will cure their rapaciousness and greed...and the frog will be saved. - Crist Magazine

Call for entries: Spark>Spaces competition (international): Architecture, Interiors, Urban Design and Landscape; deadline: September 15- Spark Awards

Call for entries: Global search for lighting designs switches on for 2014 Vivid Sydney; ...the Southern Hemisphere's biggest annual celebration of light, music and ideas; May 23 - June 9, 2014; Expression of Interest/EOI deadline: October 4- Architecture & Design (Australia)

Call for entries: Shenzhen Design Award for Young Talents; must be age 35 or younger; entrants must be natives of or have been living for at least 2 years in one of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network; no fee; registration deadline: October 20 (submission deadline: October 31)- City of Design (Shenzhen)

Call for entries/Call for Speakers: LIGHTFAIR® International 2014 Conference: In celebration of its 25th anniversary, LFI 2014 curriculum will champion integrated design as a central theme; deadline: September 16- LIGHTFAIR International (LFI)

The Blob That Could Eat Los Angeles: The history of our ill-fated Los Angeles County Museum of Art is told in "The Presence of the Past: Peter Zumthor Reconsiders LACMA": I'm a fan of Zumthor, but this building could be cool almost anywhere else. By Julie D. Taylor [images]- ArchNewsNow

Nuts + Bolts #5: Why Mid-Sized Design Firms Should Hire a Director of Operations: Hiring a DOO has the potential to significantly increase revenues while creating an environment where designers design, not manage! By Michael Bernard, AIA, and Mary Breuer- ArchNewsNow

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