

Today's News - Thursday, September 5, 2013

- Exo Adams delves into "the true nature of fear that lies at the core of today's urban project, 'ecological urbanism' - our present moment has become one given over to and over determined by crisis."
- Benfield makes the case that "sprawl is still sprawl" no matter its green intentions: the "most sustainable development in the wrong location will create more environmental problems than it will solve."
- A look at how South Mississippi has fared eight years after Katrina: getting "communities to embrace SmartCode planning and zoning rules that encourage 'walkable,' mixed-use areas has been somewhat difficult" (the recession hasn't helped, either).
- A London suburb that lacks even one park bench comes up with "curious mobile town square" on the back of a bike: "It sounds very twee, but it highlights a larger problem with Britain's public spaces" that "are being aggressively privatized."
- Nobel puts the spotlight on a "crop of projects with green bonafides" and the architects who "know to try to make a public noise when they do."
- Bernstein spotlights a "wave of new cultural buildings" about to wash over L.A.
- Santa Monica city council gives "a resounding, 'Not so fast,'" which sends OMA back to the drawing board for its thought-to-be-the-winner Plaza at Santa Monica design - and puts BIG back in the running.
- Eyefuls of the three finalists in the Van Alen Institute's "Ground/Work" competition to redesign its newly-expanded street-front space.
- It's a very long shortlist vying for Architect of the Year Awards 2013.
- Russell gives two thumbs-ups to the University of Baltimore's new law center by Behnisch, where "balconies and ramps wiggle and prance among crisscrossing stairways in an atrium filled with bright light" - it's "a building that begs to be explored."
- Beha's Shelburne Museum expansion in Vermont is "a modern design that subtly plays off the existing vocabulary of the museum's traditional architecture."
- Norton's new building for Rutgers Business School is "a dramatic sign" of how the campus "continues to morph into one of the university's most desirable places to live and study."
- Goldberger is taken by Zumthor's "mystique": "He is interested less in transcendence than in forcing out of everyday experience a sense of grace" (throw in a touch of Mies and Proust, and "a tiny bit of Bob Dylan").
- Pearman x 2: Birmingham's new library is "a proud new civic building": though the architecture may "quickly become a period piece. That's fine too - it will mark a moment of enlightenment, emerging from dark times."
- His take on London's "Walkie Scorchie" that has kept "us architecture critics fuming" with "snarky comments" as it rises "even shorter and fatter and more graceless than we'd imagined - don't let the heat ray distract you from this: it's a poor piece of architecture for one main reason, simple floorspace greed."
- The developers come up with a temporary solution to the "Walkie Talkie sunburn" problem blamed for starting fires and melting cars as they evaluate "longer-term solutions to ensure the issue cannot recur in the future."
- BD offers up five more "badly behaved buildings that have been up to no good."
- Kamin overnights in Buffalo and is totally taken by a Sullivan masterpiece: "his greatest skyscraper still speaks to us today, its voice a breathtaking blend of clarity and eloquence."
- Brussat waxes almost poetic about parking garages, and an essay that "should be required reading for all planning officials" whose "brains are stuck in park."
- The U.S. State Department names three to curate the U.S. Pavilion at 2014 Venice Architecture Biennale who will focus on 1,000 projects over the last 100 years by Americans building abroad, and five design "fellows" working in situ.
- The Museum of Arts and Design names a new director who once wrote that the museum "has little more than indiscrimination to call its own."
- EDITOR'S NOTE: Apologies for not posting yesterday - we spent most of the day battling the Internet gods - it happens...

To subscribe to the free daily newsletter [click here](#)

[Longing for a greener present: Architect and urban designer, Ross Exo Adams, asks: what is the true nature of fear that lies at the core of today's urban project, 'ecological urbanism'? Bound between an unknowable, unplanned future and a perpetually forgotten past, our present moment has become one given over to and over determined by crisis.](#) - Australian Design Review

[Sprawl Is Still Sprawl, Even If It's 'Green': The most sustainable development in the wrong location will create more environmental problems than it will solve...Of course, that doesn't stop developers' and architects' green puffery. Heck, they may even be well-intentioned...But trying to green a project doesn't make wishes come true.](#) By Kaid Benfield [images]- The Atlantic Cities

[Eight years after Hurricane Katrina, many South Mississippi many recovery visions, plans realized: Getting Coast communities to embrace SmartCode planning and zoning rules that encourage "walkable," mixed-use areas has been somewhat difficult...Affordable housing issues became a major focus...About 2,400 Katrina cottages...were permanently placed...You take the recession out of it, we'd be a lot further along.](#) - SunHerald (Mississippi)

[How to turn Cricklewood into a 'proper' community: A new plan aims to carve out public spaces in a suburb that lacks even one park bench: ...inspired by \[William Whyte's\] 1980 study of New York's urban plazas...curious mobile town square...transported on the back of a bicycle...It sounds very twee, but it highlights a larger problem with Britain's public spaces...Public spaces across the country are being aggressively privatized"...](#) - Spacemakers [image]- Independent (UK)

[Architecture in Tune With the Climate: A Crop of Projects With Green Bonafides: Today, most designers know to build green, when they can. And they know to try to make a public noise when they do.](#) By Philip Nobel -- Annabelle Selldorf/Selldorf Architects; Rebuild by Design; Tod Williams Billie Tsien; WORKac; Herzog & de Meuron; Henry Hobson Richardson; Deborah Berke [images]- New York Times

[Los Angeles to Welcome Wave of New Cultural Buildings.](#) By Fred A. Bernstein -- Kohn Pedersen Fox (KPF); Edwin Chan/EC3; Zoltan Pali/SPF:architects; Renzo Piano; Peter Zumthor; Kulapat Yantrasast/WHY Architecture- Architectural Record

[OMA's Plaza at Santa Monica Scheme Sent Back To The Drawing Board; BIG Back In The Running: ...city council issued a resounding, "Not so fast"...citing concerns over a lack of affordable housing...Adding insult to injury, they've also asked Metropolitan's competitor, Related California...to revise its proposal. So, though it's not over for Rem just yet, it's no longer a sure thing.](#) By Guy Horton -- OMA/Van Tillberg, Banvard & Soderbergh (VTBS)/OLIN; Bjarke Ingels Group/Koning Eizenberg/Rios Clementi Hale [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

[Three Finalists Reveal Designs for an Activated Van Alen Institute: Collective-LOK, EFGH Architectural Design Studio, and Of Possible Architectures \(OPA\) were selected from over 120 respondents to VAI's "Ground/Work" competition... -- David van der Leer \[images, links to details\]- The Architect's Newspaper](#)

[Architect of the Year Awards 2013 shortlist revealed: Refurbishment and housing among most hotly contested categories \[images\]-](#) BD/Building Design (UK)

[Crime and Punishment Get a Bright New Look in Baltimore: Where's the judicial hush...at the John and Frances Angelos Law Center at the University of Baltimore, balconies and ramps wiggle and prance among crisscrossing stairways in an atrium filled with bright light...a building that begs to be explored.](#) By James S. Russell -- Behnisch Architekten; Ayers Saint Gross [images]- Bloomberg News

Old New England New: Ann Beha Architects' Shelburne Museum [Vermont] expansion brings a contemporary expression to its historic setting...Pizzagalli Center for Art and Education...a modern design that subtly plays off the existing vocabulary of the museum's traditional architecture. [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

New building gives Rutgers Business School a dramatic presence on Livingston Campus: ...a dramatic sign of how a decades-old campus, once perceived as an outlier, continues to morph into one of the university's most desirable places to live and study. -- Enrique Norton/TEN Arquitectos [images]- Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Swiss Mystique: Peter Zumthor's Intriguing Work: ...he starts by thinking about the physical, not the intellectual, aspects of architecture and pushes them as far into the realm of sensory experience as they can go...He is interested less in transcendence than in forcing out of everyday experience a sense of grace. By Paul Goldberger- Vanity Fair

The Library of Birmingham: It's all about symbolism, and it puts books first...but what kind of architecture is this? ...this is another example of the New Ornamentalism at work...by no means a skin-deep building...It's a proud new civic building...The architecture will quickly become a period piece. That's fine too, so long as it hangs together: all being well, it will mark a moment of enlightenment, emerging from dark times. By Hugh Pearman -- Mecanoo [images]- HughPearman.com (UK)

The Walkie Scorchie: The new 'Walkie Talkie' tower at 20 Fenchurch Street...has been keeping us architecture critics fuming...Oh, the snarky comments we all made as it actually began to take shape, and seemed even shorter and fatter and more graceless than we'd imagined. But these were as nothing to the storm of bad publicity that has greeted the revelation...that this building can 'melt cars' and fry eggs on the street...But don't let the heat ray distract you from this: it's a poor piece of architecture for one main reason, simple floorspace greed. By Hugh Peaman -- Rafael Vinoly- HughPearman.com (UK)

Screen solution for Walkie Talkie sunburn: Developers act after building blame for starting fires and melting cars..."We are also evaluating longer-term solutions to ensure the issue cannot recur in the future."- BD/Building Design (UK)

Five badly behaved buildings: As Rafael Vinoly's Walkie Talkie hits the headlines for all the wrong reasons, BD looks back at five other buildings that have been up to no good... -- Aedas; IM Pei & Partners; Scott Johnson;CY Lee [images]- BD/Building Design (UK)

A Chicago architect's Buffalo masterpiece: Completed in 1896, Louis Sullivan's Guaranty Building is still inspiring, but Chicago has none of his skyscrapers: ...his greatest skyscraper still speaks to us today, its voice a breathtaking blend of clarity and eloquence. By Blair Kamin -- Adler & Sullivan; Flynn Battaglia Architects; Gensler- Chicago Tribune

Parking decoration is vital for cities: Calder Loth's essay on parking decks should be required reading for all planning officials...their brains are stuck in park, but why? By David Brussat -- Lee, Smith & Van der Voort (1927); Paul Rudolph; Frazier Associates [images, link to essay]- Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

Curators Chosen for American Pavilion at 2014 Venice Architecture Biennale: The State Department has named three curators to focus on the last 100 years of American building abroad...will select 1,000 projects designed by U.S. firms for sites outside the U.S... By Fred A. Bernstein -- Eva Franch Gilabert/Storefront for Art and Architecture; Ana Miljacki/Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT); Ashley Schafer/Praxis; Leong Leong- New York Times

A Critic of a Design Museum Will Lead It: Glenn Adamson, a researcher without the typical executive experience, wrote in 2011 that the Museum of Arts and Design he will soon lead "has little more than indiscrimination to call its own"...was director of research at the Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A) in London...- New York Times



- Fine art architectural photography, by Pygmalion Karatzas
- Jensen & Skodvin Arkitektkontor: Mortensrud Church, Oslo, Norway
- SANAA designs highly aesthetic and experimental buildings...
- Álvaro Siza: Porto School of Architecture, Porto, Portugal

Note: Pages will open in a new browser window.
External news links are not endorsed by ArchNewsNow.com.
Free registration may be required on some sites.
Some pages may expire after a few days.

[Yesterday's News](#)

© 2013 ArchNewsNow.com