

Today's News - Tuesday, September 10, 2013

- It's a New York kind of day (mayoral primary and all that jazz): Davidson delves into the decade-plus of NYC's "Bloombergification": he pushed to create "a magnetic city," so "why did so much terrible stuff get built? ...bad, overpriced buildings are the price of civic ambition" (a great read!).
- Betsky bemoans that "the era of big-thinking, big-city mayors seems to be over" (including Chicago, L.A., and Boston).
- Chaban parses NYC's efforts to bolster its storm defenses by casting a global net for design ideas: "It's going to take more than stilts and sandbags."
- Brooklyn could be the next Silicon Valley with WXY's "smart vision for any city seeking to accommodate innovation."
- Bernheimer and Leven parse Parsons Housing Studio students' post-Sandy designs for resilient public housing.
- In L.A., the Woodbury ACE program connects architecture students "with social- and environmental-justice causes outside the classroom - disadvantaged people like nice buildings, too" (check out what they did with Lowe's sheds!).
- Louv looks at "five ways Houston (or insert your city here) could lead the way" to being "even more ambitious than energy efficiency."
- A new cogeneration plant in Melbourne's "long underprivileged central business district twin" is a new type of public building created by "a state development agency with the vision to embrace the new" (architecture included!).
- An eye for 10 outstanding projects "celebrating the shipping container in architecture."
- Knight has some nice things to say about Zumthor's LACMA design, but offers up a "quick, relatively inexpensive and aesthetically surefire way to construct a first-rate museum building for art: refurbished factories and warehouses - install the extraordinary inside a vernacular building, and everyday experience is galvanized and transformed."
- Heathcote hails the "visionaries aiming to make underwater living a reality: Perhaps the last great pioneering land-rush is yet to come."
- Considering this year's Carbuncle Cup winner, do U.K. student housing standards need an overhaul? Yes, says Michael Chessum/University of London Union; No, says Dav Bansal/Glenn Howells Architects.
- The EU plans a "radical overhaul of public procurement" that "could transform life for small practices."
- Six projects with budgets of less than £1 million are in the running for the 2013 Stephen Lawrence Prize.
- Two we couldn't resist: Seven new phrases for architects, from "architorture" to "vanity height" + Top 11 tips for architecture students, from power napping and when to ignore your tutor, to never use dull blades in model-making (a sharp-blade wound will heal faster).
- Call for entries: 31st Annual IALD International Lighting Design Awards + 2014 Rome Prize.

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Shiny, Alluring, Ugly, Visionary, Inspiring, Incomplete: The physical city, remade: During the Bloomberg era, the skyline was redrawn, industrial wastelands sprouted parks and towers...change pushed the creation of a magnetic city...Why did so much terrible stuff get built? ...bad, overpriced buildings are the price of civic ambition...The Bloombergification of New York isn't complete yet... By Justin Davidson -- Ennead Architects; Alexander Gorlin; Grimshaw/Dattner Architects; Janette Sadik-Khan; Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects; Amanda Burden - *New York Magazine*

Goodbye to the Big Mayors: Tuesday's mayoral primary in New York illustrates that the era of big-thinking, big-city mayors seems to be over: Chicago already lost its second Daley. Los Angeles lost...Antonio Villaraigosa. Boston is saying goodbye to Tom Merino...and New York is about to replace Michael Bloomberg with someone who will not only be poorer, but also have less grand vision...an end to at least a decade of urban-planning dreams. By Aaron Betsky - *Architect Magazine*

Designers from around the world compete to bolster New York City's storm defenses: In the wake of Sandy's devastation, the city has cast its net worldwide in seeking architectural solutions to soften the blow if another superstorm strikes...It's going to take more than stilts and sandbags... By Matt Chaban -- Rem Koolhaas/OMA; Bjarke Ingels Group/BIG; WXY Architecture; HR&A Advisors; Rick Bell/ALANY; Seeding Office; White Arkitektur; Lateral Office; Ennead Architects; Build It Back; Curtis + Ginsberg [images] - *NY Daily News*

Can Urban Planning Turn Brooklyn Into the Next Silicon Valley? WXY Architecture + Urban Design presents a smart vision for any city seeking to accommodate innovation...By encouraging people to linger in the area rather than simply working there...a shared sense of community will emerge--and with it, innovation. -- Brooklyn Tech Triangle; Ken Smith Landscape Architect [images] - *Wired*

Dwelling and Resilience: Parsons Housing Studio...post-Sandy understanding of resilience in the particular context of the city's public housing system and show how students confronted the environmental, social, and municipal, as well as architectural, demands of creating housing in New York City. By Andrew Bernheimer/Bernheimer Architecture and David Leven/LEVENBETTS [images] - *Urban Omnibus*

In Los Angeles, Architects Find That Disadvantaged People Like Nice Buildings, Too: ...Woodbury Architecture + Civic Engagement Center/ACE...seeks to connect architecture students with social- and environmental-justice causes outside the classroom... -- Sonny Ward/June Street Architecture; Rural Studio/Samuel Mockbee [images] - *International Business Times*

Toward a Nature-Rich Urban Future: Five Ways Houston (or insert your city here) Could Lead the Way: What if leaders put their sights on a goal even more ambitious than energy efficiency? ...Such thinking may sound far-fetched -- but Texans like to think big. What about your city? By Richard Louv/Children and Nature Network - *Citiwire*

Precinct Energy Project: Designed by PHTR Architects, this cogeneration plant introduces a new type of public building to Dandenong...Melbourne's long underprivileged central business district twin, being rejuvenated by Places Victoria, a state development agency with, in this instance, the vision to embrace the new. [images] - *Australian Design Review*

Outside the box: Celebrating the shipping container in architecture: ...a nod to 10 of our favorite uses... -- Sebastián Irrázaval; O+A; 4D and A Architects; bof architekten; Studio H.T; Arcagency; Infiniski Arquitectura [images, links] - *Gizmag (Australia)*

Peter Zumthor's LACMA design has potential, but think of the factory model: Lots of people have raised lots of questions about the host of brand-new museum buildings...but museums housed in refurbished factories and warehouses tend not to be among those deemed flops...Install the extraordinary inside a vernacular building, and everyday experience is galvanized and transformed. By Christopher Knight -- Frank Gehry; Rem Koolhaas; William Pereira (1965); Hardy Holzman Pfeiffer Associates (1986) - *Los Angeles Times*

The visionaries aiming to make underwater living a reality: ...50 years after Cousteau's first Conshelf was built...the idea, if not quite the practice, of underwater living is coming back into fashion...next phase of undersea construction, an underwater house, or the "H2Ome"...Perhaps the last great pioneering land rush is yet to come. By Edwin Heathcote -- *Deep Ocean Technology; US Submarines; Michael Schütte [images] - Financial Times (UK)*

Do student housing standards need an overhaul? A hall of residence winning the Carbuncle Cup has sparked a wider debate about what is and is not acceptable in university accommodation: Yes, says Michael Chessum/University of London Union; No, says Dav Bansal/Glenn Howells Architects - *BD/Building Design (UK)*

EU poised to approve radical overhaul of public procurement: ...could transform life for small practices. Turnover requirements will be capped at twice a contract's value, jobs will be broken into smaller lots and practices won't have to provide endless documentation at the PQQ stage. - BD/Building Design (UK)

2013 Stephen Lawrence Prize shortlist: ...celebrates buildings with a construction budget of less than £1 million. -- Dow Jones Architects; Simpson & Brown Architects; David Mikhail/Annalie Riches; Carmody Groarke; AY Architects; Carl Turner Architects [images]- The Architects' Journal (UK)

'Vanity height' and six other new phrases for architects: Architorture; Paramistic; The Zaha Angle; BIM/hole or BIM bum; Hypnotecture; To Vñiole...And an oldie but goldie...Blobitecture- BD/Building Design (UK)

11 Things to know before starting architecture school: Top tips for students of architecture about to begin their course: Tea vs coffee, power napping and when to ignore your tutor: #3 - When making models...don't be tempted to cut your costs by using dull blades...if you cut yourself with a fresh blade the wound will be cleaner, will heal faster and if serious will be easier for a medic to dress. - The Architectural Review/AR (UK)

Call for entries: 31st Annual IALD International Lighting Design Awards; early-bird deadline (save money!): October 11; final deadline: October 25- International Association of Lighting Designers (IALD)

Call for entries/Call for applications: 2014 Rome Prize in Architecture, Design, Historic Preservation and Conservation, Landscape Architecture, etc.; open to U.S citizens; deadline: November 1- American Academy in Rome

Monterey Design Conference: 1 Mile of Beach. 3 Days. 20 Speakers. 50 Hours. 100s of Conversations. 1,000s of Ideas: The Julia Morgan-designed Asilomar Conference Grounds in Pacific Grove, CA, will be abuzz at the biennial event September 27-29, 2013. By Julie D. Taylor, Hon. AIA/LA- ArchNewsNow



-- The Art of the Possible: The pressure was on Saint Petersburg's recently completed Mariinsky Il...managed to work around the leftovers from another architect's half-finished project and still make a building with distinct qualities is in itself an admirable feat. By Jakob Harry Hybel -- Eric Owen Moss; Dominique Perrault; Diamond Schmitt Architects
-- UNStudio: ...led by research and material innovation to remarkable results...

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