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." (a good read).

• 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 low-income students, 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 undervalued 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 eyeful to 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 "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 "architecture" 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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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 PQ 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/Annie 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; BIMhole or BIM bum; Hypnотecture; To V乎..And an oldie but goodie...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 II...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...