

Today's News - Friday, September 13, 2013

- Panero minces no words about what he thinks of the spire now topping 1WTC, "the most expensive new office building in the world" robs the Manhattan skyline of "a promised symbol," leaving it with "a structure that, at its best, resembles a 400-foot umbrella stand."
- Saffron is heartened by a developer's unusual approach to getting a community to buy in to a proposed project: instead of showing up with a PowerPoint of "gauzy architectural renderings," he handed out blank paper and colored markers, and asked, "Tell me what you are for."
- CO Architects' "copper phoenix" for the University of Arizona "illustrates that symbolism and meaning continue to play a role in contemporary architecture."
- Serpentine darling Fujimoto offers three design proposals for an extension to Philip Johnson's 1968 Kunsthalle Bielefeld in Germany.
- Down Under, six make the shortlist in the Royal Adelaide Hospital competition + The Australian Institute of Architects announces 60 projects shortlisted for the 2013 National Architecture Awards.
- An eyeful of the 5 (very cool!) finalists, hailing from Brooklyn to Warsaw, in The City of Dreams 2013-2014 Pavilion Competition on Governors Island.
- Wainwright weighs in with his pick in a competition of three to be "the chair of chairs for the library of libraries" in Oxford's Bodleian Library's "third new chair in 400 years."
- Stephens offers an eyeful of Orléans, France's FRAC Centre expansion: the "quirky, digitally sculpted new extension" is "unexpectedly and oddly in keeping with the historic environs."
- Weekend diversions:
- Speaking of FRAC, opening tomorrow, the "9th ArchiLab: Naturalizing Architecture" and the permanent collections are "a must visit for every architect" + An eyeful of a "fantastical 3D-printed grotto" that is part of "ArchiLab 2013."
- The London Design Festival 2013 launches tomorrow, including dRMM's Escher-like "Endless Stair" outside St. Paul's Cathedral.
- Hess offers a most thoughtful review of Pacific Standard Time Presents' 11 exhibits.
- In Chicago, the Graham Foundation reprises MoMA's 1972 "Italy: The New Domestic Landscape."
- Miami's Coral Gables Museum's "Glass House" includes spectacular photos and a walk-in model of the master's iconic home.
- Bentley weighs in on Katz and Bradley's "The Metropolitan Revolution": it "offers overarching advice for all cities: find an individual or regional strength, and take that 'game changer' to a global market."
- Webb finds "Le Corbusier: An Atlas of Modern Landscapes" to be "a compelling, beautifully produced study that far outshines most books on the architect."
- Cornet's "Facadomy: A Critique on Capitalism and Its Assault on Mid-Century Modern Architecture" examines "the profession's past to determine how modern economic forces may affect today's - and tomorrow's - designs."
- Stead revisits Gollings and Pidgeon's "Judging Architecture: Issues, Divisions, Triumphs" and the role of "then-and-now" photography in architectural critique.
- Q&A with Hawthorne re: his LACMA talk this Sunday, his recent research interests, and his focus on American architecture.
- Happy Friday the 13th!

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A Beacon Diminished: ...One World Trade Center...as construction costs have ballooned to nearly \$4 billion, making this by far the most expensive new office building in the world, its developers...leave it with a structure that, at its best, resembles a 400-foot umbrella stand...have chosen to follow the cheapest and worst of all possible routes. By James Panero/New Criterion -- David Childs/Skidmore Owings & Merrill (SOM); Daniel Libeskind [images] - Wall Street Journal

Including neighbors in planning process: The first time Omar Blaik met with residents of West Philadelphia's Spruce Hill neighborhood...he did something unusual...He showed up without a PowerPoint. There were no gauzy architectural renderings...Instead, he handed out blank sheets of drawing paper and colored markers. "You have nothing to oppose...Tell me what you are for." By Inga Saffron -- Cecil Baker + Partners [images] - Philadelphia Inquirer

Copper Phoenix: CO Architects' new building at the University of Arizona evokes desert earthforms: Architecture in downtown Phoenix has gotten its booster shot thanks to the angular facade, cuts, notches, and skewed floor plan of the new Health Sciences Education Building...illustrates that symbolism and meaning continue to play a role in contemporary architecture. -- Ayers Saint Gross [images] - The Architect's Newspaper

Sou Fujimoto Designs New Wing for Germany's Kunsthalle Bielefeld: ...has unveiled three design proposals for an extension to Philip Johnson's 1968 museum... [images] - ArchDaily

RAH shortlist announced: Six teams -- three local and three international -- are shortlisted in Stage One of the Royal Adelaide Hospital design competition in South Australia. -- Slash; Zuzana & Nicholas; Oculus; Nice Architects; Ysalazam; Bondhag & De Rosa [images, link to details] - Australian Design Review

2013 National Architecture Awards shortlist revealed: The Australian Institute of Architects announces the 60 projects shortlisted... - Australian Design Review

5 Finalists for The City of Dreams 2013-2014 Pavilion Competition on Governors Island. -- IKAR (Warsaw, Poland); Manifold Architecture Studio (Brooklyn, NY); CDR Studio (New York, NY)/with Sustainable Engineering Services; STUDIO V Architecture (New York, NY)/FTL Design Engineering Studio/Plaxall; afoam (New York, NY) [images] - FIGMENT/ENYA/AIANY/SEAoNY

Three designers compete to make 'chair of chairs for the library of libraries': The Bodleian Library in Oxford is commissioning its third new chair in 400 years. Who will take the prestigious prize? ...a prestigious commission that was last awarded to Giles Gilbert Scott in 1936... By Oliver Wainwright -- Barber Osgerby; Amanda Leveté; Matthew Hilton [images] - Guardian (UK)

First Look: Les Turbulences FRAC Centre: La Chose Sauvage: A Paris firm designs a wild form for a historic city: ...features a quirky, digitally sculpted new extension appended to 18th- and 19th-century buildings that were once a military supply depot...its scale unexpectedly and oddly in keeping with the historic environs. By Suzanne Stephens -- Jakob + MacFarlane [slide show] - Architectural Record

9th ArchiLab: Naturalizing Architecture: On September 14th two interesting architecture events will take place in Orléans, Paris: The opening of the new FRAC Centre in Orléans, France, designed by Jakob + MacFarlane, and the ninth edition of ArchiLab...a must visit for every architect. - ArchDaily

Architecture: breaking the mould: A fantastical 3D-printed grotto uses computer algorithms to challenge traditional notions of design...The grotto will be part of the "ArchiLab 2013: Naturalising Architecture" exhibit at the FRAC Centre in Orléans, France... -- Michael Hansmeyer; Benjamin Dillenburger [images] - Financial Times (UK)

Escher-like "Endless Stair" to be installed outside St Paul's Cathedral: ...to mark London Design Festival 2013, 14 to 22 September..."is not only a structural experiment in engineered timber but is testing our visual and physical experience of space and perspective." -- de Rijke Marsh Morgan Architects (dRMM); AHEC; Arup; Seam Design [image] - Wired UK

Connecting the Dots: Alan Hess on "Pacific Standard Time Presents: Modern Architecture in L.A.": "...11 southland exhibits lay to rest the old yarn that LA's only significant contribution to world architecture is the Modern single-family house...Will PSTP's avalanche of new information produce a narrow, orthodox architectural culture, or encourage experiment and diversity? On this question will rest the ultimate judgment of PSTP." - The Architect's Newspaper

Environments and Counter Environments. "Italy: The New Domestic Landscape," MoMA, 1972: "...emphasizes both the dynamic context of radical Italian design and architecture in the 1970s, as well as the innovative exhibition that first presented this work in America. -- Emilio Ambasz; 9999; Archizoom; Gae Aulenti; Mario Bellini; Joe Colombo; Gruppo Strum; Ugo La Pietra; Gaetano Pesce; Alberto Rosselli; Ettore Sottsass Jr.; Superstudio; Zanuso/Sapper [slide show] - Graham Foundation (Chicago)

Glass House exhibit at Coral Gables Museum: "...features over a dozen large photographs...by Miami Beach-based architectural photographer Robin Hill...includes a 448-square-foot walk-in model of the Glass House... -- Philip Johnson [images] - Examiner

The City Will Fix Everything: Chris Bentley weighs in on a new Brookings report that urban economies are driving the country forward: "The Metropolitan Revolution: How Cities and Metros Are Fixing Our Broken Politics and Fragile Economy" by Bruce Katz and Jennifer Bradley...offers overarching advice for all cities: find an individual or regional strength, and take that "game changer" to a global market. - The Architect's Newspaper

A Fresh Look at Le Corbusier: From the seductive images of Richard Pare to the many essays that chart Corbu's travels and his response to landscapes, "Le Corbusier: An Atlas of Modern Landscapes" by Jean-Louis Cohen is a compelling, beautifully produced study that far outshines most books on the architect. By Michael Webb -- Barry Bergdoll - FORM magazine

Architect and Author Examines Why We Build the Way We Do: In "Facadomy: A Critique on Capitalism and Its Assault on Mid-Century Modern Architecture" by James Cornet/Process Architecture...examines the profession's past to determine how modern economic forces may affect today's -- and tomorrow's -- designs...focuses on why architectural movements rise and fall...capitalism shapes design and vice versa. [images] - University of Cincinnati

The Hitherto Present: Ten years on from the publication of John Gollings and David Pidgeon's book, "Judging Architecture: Issues, Divisions, Triumphs"...Naomi Stead examines the role of rephotography (also known as 'then and now' photography) in architectural critique. [images] - Australian Design Review

Q & A with Christopher Hawthorne: In advance of his talk at LACMA on Sunday, September 15...the L.A. Times architecture critic about the topics he'll cover in his lecture, his recent research interests, and his focus on American architecture. - Los Angeles County Museum of Art | LACMA



-- 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...

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