Today's News - Tuesday, September 17, 2013

- Chipperfield and Gormley are among the five 2013 Praemium Imperiale Laureates.
- Davidson mimes no words about most of the stararchitect-designed "1,000-footers" stomping onto Manhattan's 57th Street ("clunky, preening yet graceless" - ouch!): "shouldn't architects who reach for physical heights be extending themselves creatively, too?"
- Grabar reports on "Grand Paris" plans to make a "happier future" for the city: "Paris just wants to be Brooklyn,"
- Kimmelman can give Paris one reason why; plans 4 Pier 6 in Brooklyn Bridge Park that include "a new work of public architecture" described as a "manta ray - or, maybe, a humongous Tostito" (in a good way): "another architectural landmark in the city never hurts."
- King parses the three newly-revealed proposals for the Presidio's Crissy Field, "one of the most potentially memorable sites in San Francisco."
- Hinshaw is a bit hesitant about plans for a new public restroom a developer is giving to Seattle in exchange for a few extra floors - it should be a "proverbial win/win," but is it really?
- Belarusian Union of Architects launches the 10th National Architecture Festival in Minsk next week.
- Portland, Oregon's new federal building is actually a 1970s office building reinvented "as a metaphor for sustainable and transparent government" (and oh so green).
- EPA hands out 39 2013 Environmental Justice Small Grants.
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The recipients of the 25th Praemium Imperiale: 5 new Laureates announced: Each laureate receives an honorarium of 15 million yen [@$151,000] -- David Chipperfield; Antony Gormley [links to images, info] - Japan Art Association

Giant's In Our Midst: The first of the 1,000-footers stomps onto 57th Street: ...we bear the aesthetic cost....One57...a luxury object for people who see the city as their private snow globe. Tall and clunky, preening yet graceless...shouldnt architects who reach for physical heights be extending themselves creatively, too? By Justin Davidson -- Christian de Portzamparc; ShoP Architects; Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill; Rafael Vittolo - New York Magazine

Paris just wants to be Brooklyn: A radical reinvention aims to fix the City of Light: As artists and young people find themselves priced out, or surrounded by chain stores, Paris plans a hip new future: It's not that Paris needs more buildings, it's that buildings need more Paris. The city's frontiers are changing...."Grand Paris"... - By Henry Grabar - Salon

A Step Up for Brooklyn Bridge Park: A viewing platform and landscape designs would add to the allure...And another architectural landmark in the city never hurts...Volla: A new plan:...The meadow and field would add breathing room to Pier 6...also envisons a new work of public architecture...Its architect describes as a manta ray...or, maybe, a humongous Tostito... - By Michael Kimmelman -- Bjarke Ingels Group/BIG; Michael Van Valkenburgh [images] - New York Times

Details emerge on 3 Crissy Field proposals: Three very different proposals were presented for one of the most potentially memorable sites in San Francisco...All three finalists have histories in the Presidio. By John King -- UDG/George Lucas; EHDD/Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy; WRNS Studio/Chora [images] - San Francisco Chronicle

Lisbon Architecture Triennale: strictly no buildings allowed: From sofas that swallow you up to a 3D-printed coral reef, the Triennale explores architecture beyond building. But is it all a bit too irrelevant?...Close. Closer. "It's about a generation of architects that are more interested in big ideas than the details of buildings..."sometimes cities need irreverence." By Oliver Wainwright -- Beatrice Galilee [images] - Guardian (UK)


Roof goof! Art Institute of Chicago Closes Top Floor of Renzo Piano’s Modern Wing: Renovations after four years may involve remedies to insufficient "light harvesting" by architect's flying carpet. - By Lee Rosenbaum - ArtsJournal

A new loo for Seattle? In exchange for a few extra floors, a local developer promises a Portland Loo for Pioneer Square...a public benefit, not on the property for which bonus floor space is being granted, but elsewhere...A proverbial win/win? Maybe. Maybe not. By Mark Hinshaw [images] - Crosscut (Seattle)

Minsk to host National Architecture Festival 26-28 September: The 10th National Architecture Festival Minsk 2013...built around the theme "Belarusian Architecture - from Dream to Reality" and includes four major competitions... - Belarusian Union of Architects (BUA) - BTA / Belarusian Telegraph Agency


EPA Awards 2013 Environmental Justice Small Grants: 39 non-profit and tribal organizations...to develop solutions to local health and environmental issues in low-income, minority and tribal communities overburdened by harmful pollution. - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Cocktail Napkin Sketch Contest - 2013: The competition was stiff... -- Gregory Klosowski/Pappageorge Haymes Partners; Harold Vinnas/RocheBauer Architects; Geoffrey Callison; etc. [images] - Architectural Record

Call for entries: World Habitat Awards: projects that provide practical and innovative solutions to current housing needs and problems; €10,000 to each of the two winners; deadline: November 1 - Building and Social Housing Foundation (BSHF)

Call for entries: International Biennial Zumtobel Group Award - Innovations for Sustainability and Humanity in the Built Environment; €140,000 total purse; no fee; deadline: November 30 - Zumtobel

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Call for entries: SC2013 International Ideas Competition: How do we imagine new urban regeneration in Harbin, China, and Vigo, Spain? open to architecture students or architects under 35 years old; cash prizes; registration deadline: November 15 (submission deadline: November 22)- Future Magazine (Spain/China/Ecuador)

-- Travel guide: London: ...some of the most significant projects in contemporary London architecture, with a wink at some of the city's classics and an exquisite selection of hotel and restaurant tips.
-- Zaha Hadid Architects: ...the uncrowned queen of contemporary iconic architecture. Her buildings practically scream, "I'm a Hadid."
-- Eisenman Architects: Cidade da Cultura de Galicia, Santiago de Compostela, Spain

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