

Today's News - Wednesday, September 18, 2013

- Rykwert named 2014 RIBA Royal Gold Medalist: Pearman offers praise for his 60 years of "fruitful conversation with architecture" + Parry's citation + Murray's Q&A with Rykwert: "I've always thought of myself as an architect working with words."
- Speaking of words, Litman takes issue with the word "issues" (and others): it is "weak" planning language.
- Keith has issues with Auckland's plan for a Te Papa North museum: it needs to be "something greater and more relevant to the whole region, than the cheap, shoddy, political expediency it currently seems determined to be."
- Rosenbaum gets some clarification re: the Art Institute of Chicago Modern Wing's "'updates' - (the museum doesn't like the word 'renovations')." "
- After decades of debate, a plan for Lower Manhattan's 6-acre Seward Park urban renewal area are taking shape (by SHoP, who else?!?!?).
- An in-depth look at Vienna's "fascinating experiment in 'gender mainstreaming'": "nowhere has it had more of an impact than on the field of urban planning" as "a force that is literally reshaping the city."
- Pearman returns exhausted from the Lisbon Architecture Triennale: "It's trying, and full of ideas, but with hardly any architecture" and "too much like hard work"
- There's lots of inspiration (and images) among the 54 finalists in the Innovation by Design competition that illuminate "4 big trends shaping the future of design."
- Metcalfe marvels at what will probably be the world's tallest vertical garden taking root in Sydney (French botanist Patrick Blanc has dyed green hair "(or he naturally photosynthesizes)."
- Clemence cheers Lina Bo Bardi finally gaining recognition: "she did not consider herself a feminist, but with her fearless attitude towards the mostly male-dominated profession, she inspired women everywhere."
- The Architectural History of Pepsi-Cola, Part 1 & 2: it "took a calculated risk with their slogan, their logo, and their architects. And they all paid off."
- A never-built 1947 design by FLW set to rise near Bristol, U.K. (critics abound).
- Meanwhile, FLW's Taliesin West debates how to keep its accreditation "while keeping the spirit of the school's founder."
- OAA's Birdsell has high hopes for the new Laurentian University School of Architecture in Sudbury, Ontario.
- Call for entries: Australian Institute of Architects launches an architect-in-residence program for architects based outside Australia.

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Joseph Rykwert, 2014 RIBA Royal Gold Medal: ...has been in fruitful conversation with architecture for some 60 years...his appreciation of the value of the human and the symbolic is one of his great contributions to architectural discourse...The fact that his nomination was supported by former Royal Gold Medallists David Chipperfield, Frank Gehry and Renzo Piano, tells you a great deal about the man. By Hugh Pearman - RIBA Journal (UK)

Joseph Rykwert awarded 2014 Royal Gold Medal: Critic and writer was nominated by seven past winners of the award + Citation to Joseph Rykwert by Eric Parry - BD/Building Design (UK)

Celebrating a life's work: Christine Murray interviews Joseph Rykwert: "I've always thought of myself as an architect working with words, rather than as a pure writer. So writing has always been a kind of architecture for me." - The Architects' Journal (UK)

I have a Problem With Your "Issues": Good planning requires clear problem and goal statements. Calling a problem an "issue" is ambiguous...it is weak language which implies but fails to clearly state what the process is intended to accomplish...let me mention some other opportunities for clearer planning language. By Todd Litman/Victoria Transport Policy Institute - PLANetizen

Almost, but not far enough for museum: An extension of Te Papa in Manukau seems to offer little of the plan put forward for Auckland's waterfront: We must also do everything we can...to make sure that Te Papa Almost North becomes something greater and more relevant to the whole region, than the cheap, shoddy, political expediency it currently seems determined to be. By Hamish Keith - New Zealand Herald

Roof Goof: More on the Art Institute of Chicago's Skylight Adjustments: ...more details regarding what's behind the museum's unfortunate seven-month shutdown of the top floor of its four-year-old Modern Wing...belated "updates"...to Renzo Piano's complicated roof system seem to be significant revisions (the museum doesn't like the word "renovations")..."this is routine work." By Lee Rosenbaum - ArtsJournal

City Plans Redevelopment for Vacant Area in Lower Manhattan: ...Essex Crossing...long known as the Seward Park urban renewal area [SPURA]...glassy, six-acre complex...has been the subject of disagreement...for decades...the culmination of compromises...would include retail markets, restaurants, office space, a theater, parks, an Andy Warhol Museum and 1,000 apartments. -- SHoP Architects; Beyer Blinder Belle [images] - New York Times

How to Design a City for Women: A fascinating experiment in "gender mainstreaming": ...a project aimed at taking gender into account in public policy [in Vienna, Austria]...so far, officials say it's working...nowhere has it had more of an impact than on the field of urban planning...has become a force that is literally reshaping the city. [images] - The Atlantic Cities

Close, but no cigar: It's trying, and full of ideas, but with hardly any architecture the scattered Lisbon Architecture Triennale is too much like hard work..."Close, Closer"...represents the profession at a moment of self-reflection, even self-doubt..."Architects are becoming less and less architects"...this is either a good or a bad thing. By Hugh Pearman -- Beatrice Galilee - RIBA Journal (UK)

4 Big Trends Shaping The Future Of Design: Innovation by Design competition drew more than 1,200 entries from big firms and tiny studios. The 54 finalists take on audacious challenges--illuminating four key priorities for the next wave of innovation. [images] - Fast Company

The World's Tallest Vertical Garden Is Like a Niagara Falls of Plants: Parasitic vines and weeping shrubs cascade down the facade of a super-green, under-construction highrise in Sydney: Patrick Blanc is a French botanist who loves plants so much he's dyed his hair green (or he naturally photosynthesizes)...545-foot-tall waterfall of flowering vegetation running down the facade of One Central Park... By John Metcalfe -- Jean Nouvel [images] - The Atlantic Cities

Lina Bo Bardi's Personal Modernism; An original body of work gains recognition in the world of architecture: ...she did not consider herself a feminist, but with her fearless attitude towards the mostly male-dominated profession, she inspired women everywhere. Her actions, rather than her rhetoric, spoke for her. By Paul Clemence [images] - Metropolis Magazine

The Architectural History of Pepsi-Cola, Part 1: The 'Mad Men' Years: The soda maker's rebranding included...a striking new modern building in New York City...took a calculated risk with their slogan, their logo, and their architects. And they all paid off. -- Gordon Bunshaft/Natalie de Blois/Skidmore Owings & Merrill (SOM); James Stewart Polshek & Partners (now Ennead Architects) [images] - Smithsonian magazine

The Architectural History of Pepsi-Cola, Part 2: Edward Durell Stone and the Corporate Campus: ..."modernism's populist architect"...in many ways a proto-starchitect...when he got the Pepsi commission in the late 1960s, Stone's star was fading...a surprising reversal of fortune for a man whose face once adorned the cover of Time magazine. [images] -

Smithsonian magazine

Revealed: plans to build Frank Lloyd Wright house near Bristol: ...based on a design drawn up in 1947 for Dr and Mrs Arthur O'Keefe of Santa Barbara, California...objector branded it an unwelcome 'museum piece. A design from the 1940s is not what a contemporary and innovative eco-friendly architect would propose.' [images]- The Architects' Journal (UK)

Changes at Wright architecture school could risk legacy: Leaders at Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin West are debating how to remain relevant while keeping the spirit of the school's founder...comes under pressure to meet changing education standards...Higher Learning Commission's discussions...are ongoing and "a final decision has not yet been reached." - USA Today

Do you like architecture? Let this inspire you: Architectural firms in the North are experiencing difficulty attracting interns and new architects. Birdsell and the OAA are confident the new Laurentian University School of Architecture in Sudbury will fix that. -- Bill Birdsell/Ontario Association of Architects (OAA)- SooToday.com (Canada)

Call for entries: Australian Institute of Architects Launches AIA Droga Architect in Residence Program: ...will be awarded to architects based outside Australia...an exciting opportunity for professionals to engage with the Australian public and architectural community; deadline: October 14 - Australian Institute of Architects/AIA (formerly RAlA)



-- 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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