Today's News - Friday, September 27, 2013

- Witherford Watson Mann's Stirling Prize takes everyone by surprise (and bookies' longest odds): Heathcote: "perhaps the most architecturally rewarding and finely designed victor of the past two decades" + Wainwright: "points an intelligent way forward for breathing new life into redundant structures of all kinds" + Woodman: the "astounding remodeling of Astley Castle is a worthy winner" and "a richly deserved triumph" + Olicayto: "it changes the way we look at, and rework, old buildings - a rule-breaker - and a very welcome winner" + The profession reacts: "I wanted Niall McLaughlin's Bishop Edward King Chapel to win." + Miles of fab photos and a video.

- Hume fumes over proposal to demolish a school and community center for a parking garage so Toronto's Island Airport can expand: "As long as the jets are quiet, they expect Torontonians will be, too.”

- Bennett cheers some architects and students who changed direction or left the field "to venture into other creative industries - but that doesn't mean those hours in the studio were a waste."

- Becker brings us eyefuls Mies’s revamped Crown Hall at IIT: "glass boxes within the ultimate glass box have become a lightning rod for those unenamored of the changes Dean Argets has made both to the building and the curriculum” (just check the comments!).

- Farrell minces no words about what he thinks of post-war architecture ("freak" and "rubbish") that is the star of "Brutal and Beautiful" show in London (don’t miss the amazing photo of 24 of the “living listed?”) + Eyeful of some of the gems highlighted in the show that looks at "the UK’s love/hate relationship with recent architectural history."

- Betsky returns to Yale for a reunion of early 1980s grads "stuck in Postmodernism. Big surprise: it turns out architecture has not changed that much."

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- Weekend diversions:
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Dwell + New York magazine = City Modern: Sept. 27 - Oct. 4...it’s an ambitious week of architecture-driven events. By J. Michael Welton -- David Hotson Architect; Architecture in Formation; Leonie Design Studio; Asfour Guzy Architects; Resolution: 4 Architecture; James Cleary Architecture; Skylab Architects; Christian Hubert Studio; Bergen Street Studio; Ben Hansen Architect; Paola Antonelli; Michael Beirut; Deborah Berke; Justin Davidson; David Rockwell; etc. - Huffington Post

"Brutalism was a freak," says architecture tsar: Today's architecture much better than 'rubbish' post-war era, says Terry Farrell. Speaking at the launch of an English Heritage exhibition..."Brutal and Beautiful: Saving the 20th Century"...showcases the work of more than 60 architects, 24 of whom gathered for a historic photocall of the "living listed." - BD/Building Design (UK)

Warehouse featured in James Bond film, a nuclear bunker and an electricity substation: The brutally modern architectural gems joining the listed building club:...coincide with the opening of an English Heritage exhibition, "Brutal and Beautiful: Saving the 20th Century," looking at the UK's love/hate relationship with recent architectural history, at Wellington Arch, London. -- Norman Foster/Foster + Partners; Bryan Jefferson; Michael Manser [images] - Daily Mail (UK)

Character Development: Renderings infused with humor, fantasy, nostalgia, and even a dead celebrity or two: "Cut 'n' Paste: From Architectural Assemblage to Collage City" at the Museum of Modern Art traces the history of stylized collages and photomontages... [slide show] - Architectural Record

The Giant Rubber Ducky Is Migrating to Pittsburgh: ...it is a "friendly" entity that "has healing properties," according to the Dutch artist Florentijn Hofman. The bloated bird will be lifted by crane into the water below the West End Bridge on September 27: ...marks its first U.S. appearance. By John Metcalfe [image, video] - The Atlantic Cities

"The Memory Palace: A Book of Lost Interiors" by Edward Hollis: ...a fascinating instruction manual for ways of thinking about the past: It's less a descriptive route-march through physical interiors, more a treatise about the mysteries of time and place...some delightfully atmospheric visions of the past [and] a short, sharp take on the future of history...he teasts us, mostly charmingly, to remember the art of remembering. By Jay Merrick - Independent (UK)

"Made in Australia: The Future of Australian Cities" by Richard Weller and Julian Bolleter: ...a refreshingly 'big picture' book that asks the question critical to the next one hundred years in Australia, where do we fit the extra 20 million people currently not planned for? - Australian Design Review

"Sex & Buildings: Modern Architecture and the Sexual Revolution" by Richard J. Williams: ...an offbeat analysis of how 20th-century architecture has liberated our libidos, tickles the fancy of Keith Miller...unrolls a brisk summary of the 20th century's attempts to liberate our dreams and desires through design. - Telegraph (UK)

Musings on a Structure for Heaven: Alexander Gorlin on his new book, "Kabbalah in Art and Architecture": ...how some architects reacted to being called kabbalistic and what he learned from the family astrologer. - New York Times

-- Tham & Videgård Arkitekter: Summerhouse, Lagnö, Sweden: a restrained yet contrast-filled reinterpretation of the Swedish gabled boat houses.
-- Tadao Ando: He spent his early years as a professional boxer and truck driver, until he...taught himself architecture and eventually became one of the Great Fathers of contemporary architecture.

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