

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" + Olcayto: "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."
- Isozaki and Kapoor's Ark Nova inflatable concert hall set to begin touring earthquake- and tsunami-devastated areas of Japan.
- 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 Arets has made both to the building and the curriculum" (just check the comments!).
- 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."
- 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."
- Weekend diversions:
 - Welton is wowed by the line-up for the week-long City Modern fest in NYC, kicking off today.
 - 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"!)
 - Eyefuls of some of the gems highlighted in the show that looks at "the UK's love/hate relationship with recent architectural history."
 - Eyefuls of renderings in MoMA's "Cut 'n' Paste: From Architectural Assemblage to Collage City" that are "infused with humor, fantasy, nostalgia, and even a dead celebrity or two."
 - Hofman's giant rubber ducky makes its U.S. debut landing on a river in Pittsburgh today.
 - Merrick finds merit in Hollis's "The Memory Palace: A Book of Lost Interiors" for being "a fascinating instruction manual for ways of thinking about the past - he tempts us, mostly charmingly, to remember the art of remembering."
 - "Made in Australia: The Future of Australian Cities" is a "refreshingly 'big picture' book that asks the question - where do we fit the extra 20 million people currently not planned for?"
 - "Sex & Buildings" offers "an offbeat analysis of how 20th-century architecture has liberated our libidos...dreams and desires through design."
 - Q&A with Gorlin re: his new book, "Kabbalah in Art and Architecture," and "how some architects reacted to being called kabbalistic and what he learned from the family astrologer."

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[Astley Castle wins UK's most prestigious architecture prize: ...an exquisitely crafted and beautifully wrought intervention...extraordinary sophistication...perhaps the most architecturally rewarding and finely designed victor of the past two decades.](#) By Edwin Heathcote -- Witherford Watson Mann- Financial Times (UK)

[Astley Castle restoration project wins Stirling prize: Judges praise 'beauty and rigour' of restoration of ruins near Nuneaton in Warwickshire: ...deftly intertwined a forcefully modern approach with a strong sense of the original ruin...points an intelligent way forward for breathing new life into redundant structures of all kinds in a way that is neither overly cautious, nor that shouts too loud.](#) By Oliver Wainwright -- Witherford Watson Mann Architects - Guardian (UK)

[Witherford Watson Mann's astounding remodelling of Astley Castle is a worthy winner: A restored medieval manor house has just been announced as the winner of this year's RIBA Stirling Prize – it's a richly deserved triumph.](#) By Ellis Woodman- Telegraph (UK)

[Astley Castle's Stirling Prize victory will appeal to both the public and the profession alike because it changes the way we look at, and rework, old buildings: Witherford Watson Mann's stylish retrofit, a subtle blend of contemporary modernism and picturesque ruin, is a rule-breaker – and a very welcome winner.](#) By Rory Olcayto - The Architects' Journal (UK)

[Stirling Prize 2013: The profession reacts: The industry reacts to last night's victory for Astley Castle by Stirling Prize virgin's Witherford Watson Mann: "This is a prize for great patronage: full marks to the Landmark Trust for having complete confidence in contemporary architecture." "I wanted Niall McLaughlin's Bishop Edward King Chapel to win. The decision is a radical move."](#) - The Architects' Journal (UK)

[A VERY grand design! Holiday home built in shell of ruined 12th century castle wins Riba Stirling Prize: Warwickshire's Astley castle was gutted by fire in 1978 but now hosts an exquisite modern house. -- Witherford Watson Mann Architects \[images, video\]- Daily Mail \(UK\)](#)

[Waterfront School kids are the losers if island airport expands: Porter Airlines' plans to expand Island Airport put school and community centre at risk of demolition: ...some have proposed the school — and the Harbourfront Community Centre...be torn down to make way for a parking garage...As long as the jets are quiet, they expect Torontonians will be, too.](#) By Christopher Hume- Toronto Star

[Japan opens world's first inflatable concert hall to tour flood-hit area: ...designed to tour the northeastern areas devastated in the 2011 earthquake and tsunami will open next week...abstract structure called Ark Nova... -- Anish Kapoor; Arata Isozaki \[image\]- Telegraph \(UK\)](#)

[The redesign of the interior of Mies van der Rohe's Crown Hall: Glass Boxes within the Ultimate Glass Box: The redesign appears to have become a lightning rod for those unenamored of the changes Dean Wiel Arets has made both to the building and the curriculum.](#) By Lynn Becker [images - ArchitectureChicago Plus

[These Yale Architecture Grads are Stuck in Postmodernism: Aaron Betsky describes his reunion with the Yale School of Architecture's classes of the early 1980s: Big surprise: it turns out architecture has not changed that much...a project that is made by people of color or for social programs—we will have turn elsewhere. -- Tom Kligerman/Ike Kligerman Barkley; Michael Burch/Diane Wilk/Michael Burch Architects; Ben Neiman; Cameron Armstrong Architects - Architect Magazine](#)

[Architects Gone Rogue! How To Use Your Skills From Architecture School Anywhere: Practicing architects and students of architecture are notorious for changing direction or leaving the field to venture into other creative industries. But that doesn't mean those hours in the studio were a waste.](#) By Linda Bennett/archi-ninja.com -- Igor Siddiqui/ISSStudio; Evan Sharp/Pinterest; Kim Knollenberg;

[Bruce Rowe Pottery; Dave Galbraith/Yelp \[images, links\]](#)- Architizer

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; Leone 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." [image]- 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 tempts 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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