

Today's News - Monday, October 7, 2013

- ArcSpace revisits OMA's 1997 Educatorium in Utrecht, Perrault's 2010 Fukoku Tower in Osaka, and Alsop "also known as British architecture's enfant terrible."
- Flint visits Nantes, "the French city that's trying to distinguish itself by practically banning cars."
- Friedberg's Peavey Plaza in Minneapolis is saved from the wrecking ball (but not without a battle).
- Moore doesn't share the "outrage" in an "unholy row" brewing over a "well-made, well-considered" nursery school next to Hawksmoor's Christ Church, Spitalfields: "There are greater outrages against the fabric of British cities with which to do battle."
- The Chinese multimillionaire who wants to rebuild Paxton's Crystal Palace as a "culture-led exhibition space" (hotel and conference facilities included) is "motivated by passion rather than greed."
- Anderton analyzes her "animated, fascinating, and candid" discussion with Gehry, Broad, Hawthorne, and others re: the new vision for Grand Avenue's "Parcel Q" (+ audio of the conversation).
- Hopes are high that the University of Tasmania, Australia's new student hub will be "a city heart starter for Hobart."
- Chances are "slim" (more likely none) that Foster will return to the Pushkin Museum project in Moscow.
- Kamin x 2: he is none too pleased with the prospect of digital billboards sticking Chicago "with a supersize swatch of ugliness. The big conflict here is the public purse versus the public realm, and it's national in scope."
- He's much more positive about SOM's design for a new Chicago Public Library branch that will have "a civic presence that its cookie-cutter counterparts conspicuously lack" (if the value engineers keep their paws off).
- Sandy-ravaged Far Rockaway will soon have a light-filled library by Snøhetta "to lift civic spirits."
- Chaban reports on Pitt's Make It Right Foundation heading to the Rockaways to build storm-sturdy houses for \$50,000.
- McAllister minces now words about her adventures trying to grok architectural exhibitions in Auckland: "Their shows look pretty," but "no labels, no explanations. Is this manufactured mystique?"
- Menking and Pearson report from the Monterey Design Conference that is "trying to re-brand itself the "MDC" in hopes of encouraging the general public to attend"; it was "elegant and exuberant."
- Winners (and almost winners) all: Auckland Art Gallery named WAF's World Building of the Year.
- Two winning designs in the 2013 Global Architecture Graduate Awards (a.k.a. GAGAs) are from Chile and Auckland.
- Lubell brings us eyefuls of this year's Solar Decathlon going So. Cal. in the Orange County Great Park: "you can see the results if you're willing to trek to Irvine."
- Eyefuls (but no names) of the finalists in the ONE Prize: Stormproof competition.
- One we couldn't resist: 11 "ingenious" bookshelves: "from the quotidian to the completely outlandish."

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-- OMA: Educatorium (1997), Utrecht, The Netherlands
-- Alsop Architects: founded by William Allen Alsop - also known as British architecture's enfant terrible...dedicated to modernist ideals and a high degree of user engagement.
-- Dominique Perrault: Fukoku Tower (2010), Osaka, Japan

For Second-Tier European Cities, It's a Race to Go Greener, Faster: A visit to Nantes, the French city that's trying to distinguish itself by practically banning cars...The transformation has not been subtle...Drivers who once ruled the realm might not be blamed for feeling like second-class citizens now. By Anthony Flint/Lincoln Institute of Land Policy [images]- The Atlantic Cities

Minneapolis' Peavey Plaza escapes demolition after preservationist lawsuit: ...reached a settlement to preserve the 1975 public space, ending a lawsuit brought by The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF) and the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota... -- M. Paul Friedberg- The Architect's Newspaper

The unholy row over Hawksmoor's London masterpiece: Christ Church, Spitalfields is one of the capital's greatest buildings. Now a dispute over a neighbouring school extension is heading for the courts. Does it really deserve to be torn down? There are greater outrages against the fabric of British cities with which to do battle. By Rowan Moore -- Studio Cullinan And Buck Architects/SCABAL [images]- Observer (UK)

Crystal Palace to be rebuilt by Chinese developer: Multimillionaire Ni Zhaoxing plans replica of Joseph Paxton's famous Great Exhibition building on site it occupied from 1854: He said he was motivated by passion rather than greed...a "culture-led exhibition space" that will include a hotel and conference facilities, studios, galleries and other commercial units. - Guardian (UK)

DnA/Frances Anderton: "OGs" Frank Gehry and Eli Broad Commit to New Vision for Grand Avenue ["Parcel Q"]: ...a panel at the now venerated Walt Disney Concert Hall...turned into an animated discussion...fascinating and candid...its role in the in the multi-decade effort to transform Bunker Hill into a popular cultural and commercial destination. -- Warren Olney; Christopher Hawthorne; Deborah Borda; Gensler; Robert A.M. Stern- KCRW (Los Angeles)

UTAS student hub a city heart starter for Hobart: \$75 million University of Tasmania, Australia accommodation...The move of more than 430 local, interstate and overseas students into the city has been touted by business as crucial to the revitalisation of the city centre and firmly establishing Hobart as a university city. -- Terroir; Fender Katsalidis [image]- The Mercury (Tasmania, Australia)

Chances are 'slim' of getting starchitect back on Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts project: Foster + Partners resigned from project this summer after Moscow's chief architect issues ultimatum- The Art Newspaper (UK)

Digital billboards will be an aesthetic blight: The digital age has given us bite-size beauty like the iPhone. Now...it's about to stick us with a supersize swatch of ugliness...The big conflict here is the public purse versus the public realm, and it's national in scope. With cash-strapped mayors desperately trying to balance budgets...digital billboard operators are waving millions of dollars at them... By Blair Kamin- Chicago Tribune

New Chinatown library lends grace: ...distinctive shape and screenlike facade could endow it with a

civic presence that its cookie-cutter counterparts conspicuously lack...But don't assume that a design revolution is underway at the Chicago Public Library...If we can build a custom-designed library for roughly the same price as a prototype, why should we settle for the cookie cutter? By Blair Kamin -- Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) [image]- Chicago Tribune

Reading Rockaway: Snøhetta unveils a light-filled library to lift civic spirits in Queens: After Hurricane Sandy, the squat, one-story Far Rockaway Branch Library served as a disaster-relief hub for the community. In spite of its civic function, however, the building has always been obscured... [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Brad Pitt charity Make It Right showcases storm-sturdy houses buildable for \$50K: St. Bernard Project...will partner with Friends of the Rockaways to select a family to get the Resilient House...and will raise money for additional homes...a modern riff on the Rockaways' bungalows...other locals said their preferred design was...the Good Neighbor House, which looks like a traditional Cape Cod. By Matt Chaban -- American Institute of Architects/AIA; Architecture for Humanity; SunSustainable.TO [images]- NY Daily News

Architects' cleverness needs to be accessible: Architects in outreach mode. I find them frustrating...their spatial knowledge doesn't stretch to luring laypeople through exhibitions...Their shows look pretty but...No labels, no explanations. Is this manufactured mystique? Are they intriguing only because I don't know any better? Exhibit A: the Triennial "lab" at Auckland Art Gallery...Exhibit B: "Architecture + Women" exhibition... By Janet McAllister - New Zealand Herald

Celebrating Design Monterey Style: ...trying to re-brand itself the "MDC" in hopes of encouraging the general public to attend...the real meat of this conference has always been design-celebrating its masters, introducing young firms, and honoring its elders. By William Menking -- Robert Ivy; Larry Scarpa; Marlon Blackwell; Brian Price; Anne Fougerson; Thomas Phifer; Future Cities Lab; Oyler Wu Collaborative; Jack MacAllister; Odile Decq; Kengo Kuma; Thom Mayne- The Architect's Newspaper

Elegant and Exuberant Architecture: A Report From the Monterey Design Conference: ...a multiple-image portrait of architecture in the early 21st century...Snapshots from Arkansas, Minnesota, and California appeared between reports from France, Japan, and Brazil. By Clifford A. Pearson -- Marlon Blackwell; Anne Fougerson; Jennifer Yoos/ VJAA; Cathleen McGuigan; Thomas Phifer; Odile Decq; Kengo Kuma; Marcio Kogan/Suzana Glogowski/Studio MK27; Richard Koshalek; Robert Ivy; John E. "Jack" MacAllister; Tim Culvahouse; Brian Price/Price Studio; Jason Kelly Johnson/Nataly Gattegno/Future Cities Lab; Dwayne Oyler/Jenny Wu/Oyler Wu Collaborative; David Freeland/Brennan Buck/Freeland Buck- Architectural Record

World Building of the Year: Auckland Art Gallery: ...follows wins in the "Completed Buildings - Culture" category and the "Culture" category win for interior design at the INSIDE Festival - a partner event to the World Architecture Festival (WAF). -- Francis-Jones Morehen Thorp (FJMT); Archimedia- New Zealand Herald

The Architects of Tomorrow: Winners announced for the 2013 Global Architecture Graduate Awards (GAGAs): The two winning schemes -- one a built project in Chile, the other a bombastic speculation from Auckland -- highlight the range of concerns and approaches of this year's leading students. -- Frances Edith Cooper; Christian Allende [images]- Architectural Review (UK)

Solar Decathlon Goes So Cal: With its 11-acre space at the Orange County Great Park the event has significantly expanded...you can see the results if you're willing to trek to Irvine. The winners...will be announced on October 12... By Sam Lubell [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Finalists Announced in ONE Prize: Stormproof Open International Design Competition for Building Resilient Cities [link to images]- Terreform ONE

11 Ingenious Bookshelves Made From Unusual Repurposed Items: ...from the quotidian to the completely outlandish. [images]- Flavorwire

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