

Today's News - Thursday, October 10, 2013

- A Kenyan architect wonders if the design of Nairobi's Westgate mall helped the tragic siege: "Perhaps yes," but there are design concepts that can reduce chances of crime.
- Somers Cocks bemoans that there are "too many cooks" trying to figure out how to save Venice from itself, wondering "how such a precious city could have been allowed to get in such an obvious mess."
- Hatherley is not at all hearted by the U.K.'s "predominantly bland or oppressive" Olympic legacy: it would be "OK if the people of Newham are getting something out of it. Would that they were."
- Farrelly is disheartened by Sydney's failure to appreciate its history: "We delete it at our peril" (never mind the "lost cause" that is Barangaroo - "it should have been brilliant").
- Japanese architects "slam" Hadid's National 2020 Olympics Stadium in Tokyo, saying it's "too big," and "the design could be better."
- On brighter notes: Heathcott explains how "the pioneering repurposing of obsolete urban infrastructure" revived the Parisian neighborhood surrounding the Promenade Plantée and Viaduct des Arts.
- Sample describes how Columbia GSAAP students are studying public health in three cities "to gain a new understanding of stress and wellness at the intersection of urban public health, architecture, and cities."
- Quirk's Q&A with Mostafa, "a pioneer in autism design" re: "the potential of evidence-based design for architecture."
- Q&A with Jencks re: Maggie's Centres: "Architecture can't cure cancer, but good design has the power to heal" (great slide show of the newest by Snøhetta).
- Leveté's AL\_A and Carmody Groarke tapped for the next Maggie's Centres.
- Goldberger gets the skinny on Jonathan Ive and Marc Newson's first collaboration to benefit Bono's Product (Red) (Leibovitz portrait promises "no corporate secrets were harmed in the making of this picture").
- Brussat waxes almost poetic about Providence College's new Ruane Center for the Humanities: "its Gothic detailing is vivid enough to set the heart beating with joy."
- San Francisco's "quadratic super-plaza," a.k.a. Foundry Square, nears completion.
- A youth center in Melton, Australia, owes its wider appeal "to clever design."
- An international shortlist of 8 makes the cut to design two memorials to commemorate the 2011 terror attacks in Oslo and on the island of Utøya.
- An eye-ful of English Heritage's annual "at risk" list of Britain's most endangered historical sites and buildings.
- NYC's Formlessfinder to design the entrance to Design Miami's 2013 pavilion (lots of sand!).
- One we couldn't resist: a parking attendant in Baku, Azerbaijan, "rubs off car dust with his fingers to 'illustrate' cities, landscapes" (amazing!).

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**Op-Ed: Using Architectural Design to Enhance Occupant Safety and Security in Buildings: The terror attack on the Westgate Shopping Mall in Nairobi...is quite fresh in our minds...Did the design of the mall help the siege in whatever way? Perhaps yes...The mall has a fort-like design...Among architectural design concepts that can reduce chances of crime is openness.** By Francis Gichuhi/A4architect - The Star (Kenya)

**Who's in charge of Venice? No one: If the Serenissima is to survive, it needs an overarching authority with real teeth and money: ...considerations are complex and with far-reaching implications...when more and more people are asking themselves how such a precious city could have been allowed to get in such an obvious mess, the underlying reason is, too many cooks.** By Anna Somers Cocks - The Art Newspaper (UK)

**Owen Hatherley on Britain's 'bland' Olympic legacy: Aside from a few swooping sports structures, the architectural legacy of the Olympics is predominantly bland or oppressive. But that's OK if the people of Newham are getting something out of it, isn't it? Would that they were.** -- Studio Egret West; Stock Woolstencroft; Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners - DesignCurial / Blueprint Magazine (UK)

**A fleeting moment, not real bridge to past: I say nothing of the hideous crust of prosthetic-pink precast resorts up and down the coast. Nor of the departure of Danish public-space guru Jan Gehl from Barangaroo...a lost cause. It should have been brilliant...Our wild Caravaggio of cities is thrilling, voluptuous, troubled. This is its magic and its legacy. We delete it at our peril.** By Elizabeth Farrelly - Sydney Morning Herald

**Japanese architects slam Zaha Hadid's National Stadium in Tokyo, claiming the centrepiece of the 2020 Olympics is too big: "I'm not fighting Zaha. The competition for the stadium was very rigorous...But the design could be better."** -- Sou Fujimoto; Fumihiko Maki; Alastair Townsend/Bakoko; Takefumi Kamio/DUCA [images] - The Architects' Journal (UK)

**How a Railway Near the Bastille Revolutionized How We Think About Obsolete Infrastructure: Joseph Heathcott presents a historical narrative of the decline, revitalization, and gentrification of the Parisian neighborhood surrounding the Promenade Plantée and Viaduct des Arts, the pioneering repurposing of obsolete urban infrastructure.** - PLANetizen

**Stress and Wellness in Johannesburg: Columbia GSAAP redefines the relationship between site and studio by studying public health in three cities...part of a new initiative between the school and NBBJ...to gain a new understanding of stress and wellness at the intersection of urban public health, architecture, and cities.** By Hilary Sample -- Studio-X - Metropolis Magazine

**An Interview with Magda Mostafa: Pioneer in Autism Design: ...has positioned herself as one of the world's pre-eminent researchers in autism design...we discuss the Autism ASPECTSS Design Index, the potential of evidence-based design for architecture, and what it's like to break ground...in a country [Egypt] where "black-outs, security threats, water shortages and unbelievable traffic" are everyday occurrences.** By Vanessa Quirk -- Progressive Architects [images] - ArchDaily

**Charles Jencks: Architecture can't cure cancer, but good design has the power to heal. That's the philosophy behind Maggie's Cancer Caring Centres...The latest, by Snøhetta, opened in Aberdeen, Scotland, on September 23..."It looks kind of like an egg that's cracking open..."** -- Richard Murphy Architects; Frank Gehry; Zaha Hadid; Richard Rogers; Rem Koolhaas; Norman Foster [slide show] - Architectural Record

**Amanda Leveté/AL\_A to design Southampton Maggie's Centre + Carmody Groarke to design temporary Liverpool Maggie's** - The Architects' Journal (UK)

**Designing Men: Collaborating for the first time, Apple's Jonathan Ive and his chum, the equally acclaimed Marc Newson, have selected or made more than 40 objects for an auction to benefit Bono's Product (Red)...the shared obsession and philosophy behind everything from iPhones to**

jumbo-jet interiors. By Paul Goldberger [slide show]- Vanity Fair

New Ruane Center for the Humanities sings of the humanities: ...its Gothic detailing is vivid enough to set the heart beating with joy....The humanities...have been under siege for more than half a century. Now they are trying to rise up again and work their way back into the world. I hope and trust that Providence College is proud to be part of this ongoing hard labor. By David Brussat -- S/L/A/M Collaborative; Sullivan and Buckingham Architects [images]- Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

Quadratic super-plaza Foundry Square near completion: ...four-part mixed-use complex in San Francisco's South of Market (SoMa) district, is currently in its final phase with the construction of Foundry III...will be San Francisco's first new ground-up office building since pre-recession in 2007. -- STUDIOS Architecture; SWA Group [images]- Archinect

Youth hub's wide appeal down to clever design: Community input has made for Taylors Hill Youth Community Centre with top facilities: Paul Hede...was given an unusual brief from the City of Melton...what started out as a building solely for youth is now a multi-functional space that draws the broader community. -- Hede Architects [images]- The Age (Australia)

Shortlist announced for July 22 Memorial Sites: Eight international candidates have been selected for the second phase ...to design two national public art memorial sites to commemorate the 2011 terror attacks in Oslo and on the island of Utøya. -- Jonas Dahlberg; Jeremy Deller; Estudio SIC; Goksøyr & Martens/Snøhetta; Olav Christopher Jenssen/LPO architects; Haugen/Zohar architects; Paul Murdoch Architects; NLÉ & Kurlé Adeyemi- Norwegian Ministry of Culture

England's top ten at risk heritage sites: Highlights from English Heritage's annual "at risk" register chronicling Britain's most endangered historical sites and buildings. [images]- BD/Building Design (UK)

Design Miami Welcomes Visitors With a Dune This Year: New York-based Formlessfinder unveiled the scheme for the entrance to Design Miami's 2013 pavilion: an aluminum gabled roof cantilevered over a 500-ton pyramid of sand, appropriately titled "Tent Pile." [images]- Artinfo

Parking Attendant Creates Impressive Artworks With The Dust On Cars: ...in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, Rafael Veyisov rubs off car dust with his fingers to "illustrate" cities, landscapes... [images, video]- DesignTAXI



-- 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

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