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" Hadi'd National 2020 Olympics Stadium in Tokyo, saying it's "too big," and "the design could be better."
- On brighter notes: Heathcote explains how "the pioneering repurposing of obsolete urban infrastructure" revived the Parisian neighborhood surrounding the Promenade Plantee and Viaduct des Arts.
- An international shortlist of 8 makes the cut to design two memorials to commemorate the 2011 terrorist attacks in Oslo and on the island of Utøya.
- An eyeeful of English Heritage's annual "at risk" list of Britain's most endangered historical sites and buildings.
- 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").
- A youth center in Melton, Australia, owes its wider appeal "to clever design."
- San Francisco's "quadratic super-plaza," a.k.a. Foundry Square, nears completion.
- 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).
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 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. -- STUDIO 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 & Kunlé 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

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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