

Today's News - Monday, October 28, 2013

- ArcSpace brings us a residence for architecture students in Barcelona, Siza's swimming pools in Porto, Portugal, and a profile of Ateliers Jean Nouvel.
- Ransford bemoans that a "good planning process is often lost in the process, especially when it becomes more an exercise to appease a few than to consider neighborhood-wide and citywide priorities."
- Saffron is less than sanguine about the latest plan for Philly's Penn's Landing: it "amounts to little more than fancy icing on an existing cake" (free pretzels included).
- Hawthorne visits Dealey Plaza, "a place Dallas has long tried to avoid and forget...an unlovely, architecturally unresolved prick on the Texas city's conscience."
- Heathcote cheers the return of brick "as London's building block" that "has spread beyond housing into the public realm - I hope it is safe to say, brick is back."
- Hosey says scent has the potential to create "a whole new field of design": "Call it medicinal urbanism. A fragrant city is a clean city."
- Bey uncovers a 1960s documentary that uses Chicago to show the benefits of living in cities; the filmmakers were "also pushing for a fairer urban America."
- Dittmar reports on his adventure in Detroit with Duany: "Exciting small-scale projects to breathe new life into the bankrupt city prove that, with urbanism, big is not always best."
- Goodyear reports on big plans for an urban forest in the middle of Detroit that will "turn scores of blighted properties into a lush green space" (some, not all, neighbors are happy).
- Chaban offers a look at the first portion of Calatrava's PATH station at Ground Zero that is ready for its close-up: "New York now has a cathedral of transit to match the Cathedral of Commerce."
- Moore is positively Shakespearean about BIG's Danish National Maritime Museum built beside Hamlet's castle: it "jars and jangles - but there's glorious method in its badness: ...a work of infinite jest and most excellent fancy."
- An amusing take on what Apple could learn from McDonald's when it comes to architecture: 1) Everything gets old. 2) Change is inevitable.
- Loos has a lively conversation with Piano: "The biggest critic of his museum work may be Piano himself. I'm never happy. There's always something missing in a job. The day you are happy, you stop."
- Schumacher and the AA's Steele go head-to-head re: whether parametricism is "the only movement for the digital age," or if we're in an age of "tribalization of culture of all kinds."
- Pallister visits the Lisbon Architecture Triennale: "with exhibits so far off the mainstream, the beautiful installations are bizarre and difficult to grasp. Remind me: why do we need architects?" (and a curious Q&A with Lisbon architect Joana Bastos).
- Education in the spotlight: Lewis reports on a conversation between Davidovici and Bandini re: "the tricky question of who should teach history (the architect or the historian)" - it "is in danger of becoming the study of half-baked ideas."
- The recent LEAP Symposium hopes to shape design education: "How do we create creators who are fundamentally concerned with taking responsibility for the products, services, objects, bits and bobs they release into the world?"
- Guellerin says western industry is "shooting itself in the foot" if it doesn't "reawaken the age-old value of compatibility between the mind and our ability to build, design, assemble" - starting in design schools.
- Call for entries: Arch League/ Socrates Sculpture Park Folly 2014.

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-- HARQUITECTES + dataAE: Residence for Architecture Students, Barcelona, Spain  
-- Alvaro Siza: Leça Swimming Pools, Porto, Portugal  
-- Ateliers Jean Nouvel: ...persistence, insatiable urge for the creative experimental and his resistance against the ordinary...

Good planning means facing reality now, but also in the future: ...good planning process is often lost in the process, especially when [it] becomes more an exercise to appease a few...knee-jerk changes are at the expense of good urban form, efficient land use and good transit-oriented neighbourhood design...It's worth sifting through what has been left on the floor. By Bob Ransford - Vancouver Sun

Little enlightenment on waterfront plan: The agency that oversees Penn's Landing held another major event...to present its latest ideas for the failed entertainment area...All the rituals...were the same. So was the plan...amounts to little more than fancy icing on an existing cake. By Inga Saffron -- Hargreaves Associates; Cooper Robertson; KieranTimberlake; Olin - Philadelphia Inquirer

Dealey Plaza: A place Dallas has long tried to avoid and forget: ...the site of JFK's assassination is a curious hybrid of intersection and accidental monument, an unlovely, architecturally unresolved prick on the Texas city's conscience..."visitors don't understand why it looks the way it does." By Christopher Hawthorne - Los Angeles Times

Architects are readopting brick as London's building block: ...gradual reabsorption of brick into the architectural expression of the city...has spread beyond housing into the public realm...now, I hope it is safe to say, brick is back. By Edwin Heathcote -- Herzog & de Meuron; Caruso St John; Jonathan Woolf Architects; David Chipperfield; Charles Holden; Duggan Morris; Sergison Bates; Maccreeor Lavington; Cottrell & Vermeulen; AOC; Trevor Horne Architects [imgaes] - Financial Times (UK)

Scent and the City: Designers are trained to focus mostly on the visual, but the science of design could significantly expand designers' sensory palette. Call it medicinal urbanism. A fragrant city is a clean city...Smell is the most primal of our senses. This powerful source of pleasure could spawn a whole new field of design. By Lance Hosey/RTKL - New York Times

Set in Chicago, early 1960s documentary seeks a fairer urban America: "The City of Necessity" was a bid to show the benefits of living in cities, using Chicago as an example. There are shots of Chicago's early midcentury skyline...and good footage of old buildings being demolished. But the documentary's framers are also pushing for a more humane and inclusive city. By Lee Bey [video] - WBEZ Chicago Public Radio

Rebuilding Detroit: Why everything's smaller in Michigan: Exciting small-scale projects to breathe new life into the bankrupt city prove that, with urbanism, big is not always best: ...the idea of doing good architecture and urbanism with less red tape and less expense...Remaking Cities Congress, held in Pittsburgh...explored the regeneration of older cities in the UK and USA. By Hank Dittmar -- Andres Duany - BD/Building Design (UK)

A 140-Acre Forest Is About to Materialize in the Middle of Detroit: The city's emergency manager has

approved a deal to turn scores of blighted properties into a lush green space with maple and oak trees: Hantz Farms has already begun mowing about half the property and cleaning up years of trash. By Sarah Goodyear - The Atlantic Cities

Portion of \$4B Santiago Calatrava-designed PATH station is completed: The new 'West Concourse' allows for unhindered travel under the World Trade Center site and West Street...New York now has a cathedral of transit to match the Cathedral of Commerce. By Matt Chaban [images]- NY Daily News

Danish National Maritime Museum: Built beside Hamlet's castle in Helsingør, Denmark's maritime museum jars and jangles – but there's glorious method in its badness: ...a work of infinite jest and most excellent fancy. By Rowan Moore -- Bjarke Ingels Group/BIG [images]- Observer (UK)

What Apple could learn from McDonald's is... architecture? ...McDonald's began a series of redesign efforts. The results have been compared to Starbucks and "prison for kids"...what was once deemed so striking and original about each Apple store's glowing white silhouettes...could soon strike shoppers as sterile and imposing. There is a pair of lessons: 1) Everything gets old. 2) Change is inevitable. -- Stanley Clark Meston (1950s)- Quartz

A Portfolio That Surprises Even Its Creator: Renzo Piano has designed 25 major projects, and his work has become a reference point in the field..."The No. 1 reason he gets these commissions is that he's the best on putting the art first"...The biggest critic of his museum work...may be Piano himself. "One thing is for sure: I'm never happy. There's always something missing in a job. The day you are happy, you stop." By Ted Loos - New York Times

Patrik Schumacher: 'Parametricism the only movement for the digital age': Is Parametricism the defining architectural style of the digital age, or just one of many design movements? ...Zaha Hadid director and Brett Steele, director at the Architectural Association...went head to head..."what we have seen is the tribalisation of culture of all kinds"... "Parametricism is a fundamental rethinking of the primary constituting elements of architecture... It is not just one of many tribes..." - The Architects' Journal (UK)

Close, but not close enough: This year's Lisbon Architecture Triennale wants the public to visit, but with exhibits so far off the mainstream, the beautiful installations are bizarre and difficult to grasp: "Close, Closer," curated by Beatrice Galilee...Remind me: why do we need architects? By James Pallister - The Architects' Journal (UK)

What does history teach architecture? History is in danger of becoming the study of half-baked ideas: The Foundation for Architecture and Education...is concerned that Modernist teachers...and the Postmodernist thinkers that followed them have made history rather 'flat'...when it came to the tricky question of who should teach history (the architect or the historian), Bandini's answer was 'both.' By Penny Lewis -- Irina Davidovici; Micha Bandini - The Architects' Journal (UK)

Shaping Design Education at LEAP Symposium: "How do we create creators who are fundamentally concerned with taking responsibility for the products, services, objects, bits and bobs they release into the world?" - Design Observer

Design Management vs Scientific Management: Reawaken manual labor? Start in design schools: The "productive recovery plan" for industry...means breathing new life into the age-old value of compatibility between the mind and our ability to build, design, assemble, put up and take down...Designers don't just think. They do! By Christian Guellerin/Cumulus - Metropolis Magazine

Call for entries: Folly 2014: proposals for large-scale projects and installations that explore contemporary interpretations of the architectural folly in Socrates Sculpture Park, New York City; deadline: January 7, 2014- Architectural League of New York / Socrates Sculpture Park

Nuts + Bolts #6: Changing Habits: The Secret to Successful Time Management: Some practical steps to make time for business development when you've been avoiding it or aren't sure how to fit it into your day-to-day practice. By Donna Maltzan - ArchNewsNow

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