Today's News - Tuesday, November 5, 2013

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- Eyefuls of the three shortlisted proposals for a cultural space on the Presidio's Crissy Field in San Francisco (see King's recommendation to George Lucas in ANN Yesterday's News).

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- Wainwright's "eyes tune in, magpie-like" on some of London's restored gilded heritage, and cheers its resurgence in the hands of young architects: "there has been an alarming fad for gold-coloured cladding" that makes a building look like it "has been dipped in a vat of metallic mustard," but "there might be renewed hope for the glider's tip yet."

- Davidson takes on the "cranky optimist with an acid wit" that is Robert A.M. Stern: "He's so old-fashioned that he's practically countercultural" (he's "been batting away spitballs for decades, and he seems to enjoy the sport").

- Dooran takes on "wiggly and squiggly, jagged and jutting" iconic architecture that makes "all the original midcentury stuff look like a bunch country cottages" (through the architects are "grumpy and inflexible - like a really annoying bunch of Fountainhead-reading egomaniacal lunatics").

- A new suburban development in Oregon based on "35 Sustainable Goals" sounds veritably utopian!

- A new museum going skinny: The model-thin design 105–111 West 57th Street is the next tallest tower in New York City: Will New York become a city of Skinny Minnies, the fat trunks of eras past surrounded by a fresh field of tall reeds? It could be quite beautiful...new take on terra-cotta...updating of a native American," offering a "brash combination of Space Age glamour, broad-shouldered scale and total climate control."

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Unfashionably Fashionable: Robert A.M. Stern’s buildings seem like they’ve always been there. What’s the crime in that? ...[he] has been batting away spitballs for decades, and he seems to enjoy the sport...a cranky optimist with an acid wit...He’s so old-fashioned that he’s practically countercultural...“It’s nice to do buildings that people like,” Stern says, with an impish smile. “I’m not sure all my colleagues get to enjoy that.” By Justin Davidson - New York Magazine

Architects Are the New Comedians: What makes today’s signature skyscrapers such a laugh riot? Wiggly and squiggly, jagged and jutting...make all the original midcentury stuff look like a bunch country cottages...Though the buildings themselves are very entertaining, the same cannot be said of the architects. Grumpy and inflexible, they seem like a really annoying bunch of Fountainhead-reading egomaniacs. By Simon Doonan -- Renzo Piano; Frank Gehry; Zaha Hadid; Richard Rogers; Antonio Lamela; Santiago Calatrava - Slate

Pringle Creek Community, Salem, Oregon: ...new suburban development “is an experimental model in sustainable living”...part of a former 275-acre mental health care facility for the developmentally disabled...master plan...centered around “35 Sustainable Goals”... -- Opsis Architecture [images] - Build a Better Burb

Office Upgrades: The [Metropolis/Business Interiors by Staples] Workplace of the Future Design Competition revealed a wealth of fresh ideas and a bit of uncertainty about exactly where we’re headed...question of mobility was the elephant in the room...it seems oddly fitting that in a climate-obsessed future, our most pressing wish (and a workplace’s greatest perk) will be simple temperature control. By Andrew Blum -- Joseph Filippelli/Olson Kundig Architects; Eckhart; etc. [images] - Metropolis Magazine

Raymond Loewy: How his designs defined the modern era: The Studebaker Avanti, Shell Oil logo, and Sears Coldspot refrigerator were all the creations of the iconic industrial designer...honored today by a Google Doodle. - Christian Science Monitor