

Today's News - Friday, November 8, 2013

- A big day for winners and shortlists: we finally get to see the three finalists' designs to replace Goldberg's "curvilinear icon" in Chicago + Northwestern University has all the details - and wants your feedback (can't say we're thrilled).
- We're more impressed with the four schemes shortlisted in the Parramatta Square design competition (one is a real doozy!).
- Kamin lets us "skyscraper buffs" know that we're going to have to wait for CTBUH's ruling on whether NYC's 1 WTC or Chicago's Willis Tower will have "bragging rights" as the tallest building in the U.S. (oh that pesky "vanity height" conundrum)
- Meanwhile, CTBUH names Beijing's CCTV HQ, designed by "Rem 'Kill the skyscraper' Koolhaas," as the Best Tall Building Worldwide.
- Eye-fuls of the 55 Australian Institute of Architects 2013 National Architecture Award winners (great presentation!).
- A "surprise" winner of 2013 RIAS Andrew Doolan Best Building in Scotland Award.
- Some interesting proposals win the Astrodome reuse design ideas competition - knowing that the winners "would serve either as a swan song for a doomed architectural icon, or as inspiration for its possible future" (Houston voters sealed the doom scenario this week).
- An interesting mix of a shortlist vying to design the "Russia" Theme Park - slated to be the largest in Europe.
- Also an interesting mix of winners of the UK's Top 10 Best Modern Churches.
- Clemence is taken by Piano's "light catcher" pavilion for the Kimbell Art Museum: "it's a masterful orchestration of sunlight that enters spaces, at once efficient and inspiring...ethereal is indeed a good word...leaving a feeling that the building is just barely there."
- An in-depth look at how public health, urban planning, and architecture "grew up together," then went their own ways, and are now collaborating again, despite "hurdles and challenges" between "urban health and beautification advocates."
- Good news for Venice: it will be free of all cruise ships for the next five months; bad news for Venice: it's only to allow "a lagoon-damaging" channel to be dredged.
- Weekend diversions:
 - Koolhaas, Adjaye, and others and the In-Between Hotel in Gwangju, China (reservations available).
 - Makovsky cheers the Getty's "In Focus: Architecture," a show that "looks at the long and fascinating relationship between architecture and photography."
 - Scarpa's Venetian glass sparkles at the Met Museum: "he redefined the parameters of glassblowing in terms of aesthetics and technical innovation."
 - Moore offers a marvelous profile of British mid-century critic Ian Nairn, and cheers that "his work is now being rediscovered and his life remembered" in a new book and TV show: "The power was in his observation, his courage and his language."

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Northwestern University unveils finalists' designs for Prentice replacement: three finalists vying to design a successor to Bertrand Goldberg's curvilinear icon... -- Goettsch Partners/Ballinger; Perkins+Will; Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture/Payette [images] - The Architect's Newspaper

Northwestern University Biomedical Research Building Design Competition: ...will be located...on the site of the former Prentice Women's Hospital...give us your feedback... -- Goettsch Partners/Ballinger; Perkins+Will; Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture/Payette [images, details] - Northwestern University

Four architectural teams vie to win Parramatta Square design competition: Concepts ranged from contemporary interpretations of the traditional office block, to futuristic and sculptural towers. -- Francis-Jones Morehen Thorp/fjmt; Johnson Pilton Walker; Bates Smart; Mario Cucinella Architects [images] - Architecture & Design (Australia)

Tallest building council decision pushed back to next week: ...skyscraper buffs have awaited a ruling...that will settle whether New York's One World Trade Center or Chicago's Willis Tower has bragging rights as the nation's tallest building. By Blair Kamin -- Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat (CTBUH); David Childs/Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Daniel Libeskind - Chicago Tribune

Rem "Kill the skyscraper" Koolhaas wins tall building award: ..."my campaign was completely unsuccessful"...received the award for Best Tall Building Worldwide from the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat (CTBUH) for CCTV Headquarters in Beijing, China. -- OMA - Dezeen

Australian Institute of Architects announces its 2013 National Architecture Awards: 38 projects were awarded a total of 55 awards and commendations across the 12 categories. -- ARM Architecture/Cameron Chisholm Nicol; Architectus/Guymer Bailey Architects; Sean Godsell Architects /Peddle Thorp Architects; Collins and Turner; Lyons; Wilson Architects/Donovan Hill Architects; TAG Architects/Iredale Pedersen Hook Architects; John Wardle Architects; Mitchell Giurgola/Thorp; Francis-Jones Morehen Thorp/fjmt; BKK/TCL Partnership; Andrew Burns Architect/Atelier Imamu; etc. [links to images, info] - ArchitectureAU (Australia)

NORD scheme named 'surprise' winner of 2013 RIAS Andrew Doolan Best Building in Scotland Award: ...conversion of a former tenement block in Glasgow into a 'superbly attractive' studio space...WASPS South Block scheme...[this] is the only major UK architectural accolade still offering a substantial cash prize -- a £25,000 jackpot. [images] - The Architects' Journal (UK)

Reimagine the Astrodome: ...the results of The Architect's Newspaper and YKK AP's Astrodome reuse design ideas competition are in: ...it was understood that the winning proposals would serve either as a swan song for a doomed architectural icon, or as inspiration for its possible future. -- David Richmond/Adam Wagner; HiWorks/Erica Goranson; Cruz Crawford/Elle Kuan; C_UP [images] - The Architect's Newspaper

Five teams selected for Stage II of "Russia" Theme Park competition: Proposed land plot area: about 1,000 hectares [2,400 acres]. -- BBDB; Balmori + base4+ DBA Proekt; Citymakers; Cushman & Wakefield; HOSPER; Mosproject-5 [images, links] - Bustler

The UK's Top 10 Best Modern Churches: Award ties in with National Churches Trust 60th anniversary: ...only those churches built since 1953 being eligible... -- Robert Maguire & Keith Murray; Jerzy Faczynski/Weightman and Bullen; Gillespie Kidd and Coia; Niall McLaughlin Architects; A R Conlin; George Pace; Inskip & Jenkins; Reiach & Hall; Derrick Humphrys & Hurst; Adrian Gilbert Scott [images]- BD/Building Design (UK)

Light Catcher: New Piano building at Louis Kahn's Kimbell Art Museum is efficient and poetic: ...will be known as the Renzo Piano Pavilion; it's a masterful orchestration of sunlight that enters spaces, at once efficient and inspiring...ethereal is indeed a good word...leaving a feeling that the building is just barely there... By Paul Clemence -- Kendall/Heaton Associates [images]- Metropolis Magazine

A History of Health + Urbanism + Architecture: How public health and urban planning grew up together, became distinct disciplines, and now are collaborating again with the architecture profession to tackle today's health challenges...There were many hurdles and challenges along the way for urban health and beautification advocates. By Jocelyn Pak Drummond/P-REXlab/MIT Center for Advanced Urbanism - AIArchitect / American Institute of Architects

One fifth fewer cruise ships through Venice, but a lagoon-damaging channel to be dredged: The "No to the Big Ships" lobbyists to press for a port outside the lagoon: Venice will be temporarily free of all cruise ships for the next five months...- The Art Newspaper (UK)

How Rem Koolhaas, David Adjaye, and the In-Between Hotel Arrived in Gwangju: Gwangju Folly II officially opens November 10. Reservations available... -- Ai Weiwei; Eyal Weizman; Samaneh Moafi; Do Ho Suh + Suh Architects [image, links]- Artinfo

Soul Mates: "In Focus: Architecture" looks at the long and fascinating relationship between architecture and photography: ...how architectural photography has grown from the documentary-style images of its early days, to the more experimental shots in recent times; at the Getty Center in Los Angeles. By Paul Makovsky [images]- Metropolis Magazine

"Venetian Glass by Carlo Scarpa: The Venini Company, 1932-1947" at the Metropolitan Museum of Art: ...he redefined the parameters of glassblowing in terms of aesthetics and technical innovation. [image]- Metropolitan Museum of Art (NYC)

Why Ian Nairn, outspoken critic of postwar modernism, is as relevant as ever: ...the Observer's architecture critic died aged just 53, but his work is now being rediscovered and his life remembered in "Ian Nairn: Words in Place" by Gillian Darley, David McKie: He crystallised revolt against the misapplication of modernist architecture to postwar reconstruction..."Stop the architects now"...The power...was in his observation, his courage and his language. By Rowan Moore - Observer (UK)



-- Kazuyo Sejima & Associates: Shibaura House, Tokyo, Japan
-- Alvar Aalto: Finlandia Hall, Helsinki, Finland (1971)
-- Diller Scofidio + Renfro: In the world of unorthodox artist-architects, few have made such an impact as New York City-based design studio...

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