

Today's News - Wednesday, November 13, 2013

- AIA and Architecture for Humanity put out a call for immediate help in responding to the devastation in the Philippines.
- Kamin's take on 1 WTC overtaking Willis Tower as the tallest in the land: it's "no big deal" - the ruling "may be a blow to Chicago's collective ego, but it will have zero impact on the city's architectural stature."
- Brussat x 2: he'll have his tallest-tower take tomorrow, but in the meantime he takes CTBUH to task for naming Beijing's CCTV HQ the Best Tall Building Worldwide: "I call it the Stomp the People Building - Rem Koolhaas is the most cynical modern architect since Philip Johnson."
- His take on Doonan's "humorous look at odd buildings" (see ANN Nov. 5): it was "witty enough," but "I found his piece painful in other ways."
- Harding has some very harsh words for what's going on with Sydney's Barangaroo and Darling Harbour and "the vapidty of corporate internationalism: The guardians of the public interest have capitulated," and now "a horde of international and local architects are busy polishing a broken carcass" (an eloquent and stinging read!).
- On a brighter note, Australia's 2020 Vision aims to "turn the concrete tide" in urban areas with more green spaces (including The Goods Line, Sydney's very own High Line).
- Russell has a thoughtful conversation with Orff re: "oystertecture": it may sound "whimsical," but it could save NYC from future superstorms.
- An interesting look at how a number of blighted cities are turning to demolition instead of restoration in efforts to stabilize neighborhoods: "urban planning has often become a form of creative destruction," with vacant lots now home to community gardens and farms.
- Goodyear explains how the downside is playing out in Detroit, where a "garbage-strewn wasteland" has been transformed into "a thriving urban farm" so now an emergency manager wants to sell it to the highest bidder (the community is not going down without a fight!).
- At the opposite of blight is Macedonia's Skopje, "Europe's flailing capital of kitsch" where a mandated style is turning the city "into a neo-baroque architectural nightmare" (with pix to prove it!).
- Allen reflects on the Astrodome's "iconic status, and how it signaled a change not only for modernist stadia but for building architecture around mass experience."
- The now-vacant (except for a peregrine falcon nesting on a window ledge) Art Deco gem known as the "Superman building" that once heralded Providence as "a Gotham of industry, now nags at the city's sense of self-worth."
- Bernstein brings us much brighter news about the renewal of the U.N.'s Delegates' Lounge at the United Nations by a Dutch team, despite an arduous "multiyear process during which one idea after another was shot down."
- Winners and shortlists abound: Eyefuls of DS+R's winning proposal to design Zaryadye Park that could "be one of Moscow's largest and most significant public space development projects in recent decades."
- Snøhetta and DIALOG tapped to design Calgary's new Central Library: the "team will need to creatively address some sizeable design challenges."
- AIASF/PG&E Architecture at Zero Competition winners offer "innovative and affordable housing designs."
- A very interesting mix of 10 teams shortlisted to renovate Mies's Martin Luther King Library in Washington, DC.
- A long, international list makes the 2013 Icon Awards shortlist.
- Another interesting list of emerging talent makes the 2014 MoMA P.S.1 Young Architects Program shortlist.
- One we couldn't resist: Zaha's "little gem" gets the highest bid in charity auction of starchitect-designed dollhouses (not sure we'd want to live in it).

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[Architects & AIA Respond to Devastation in the Philippines, Call for Immediate Help: ...American Institute of Architects and Architecture for Humanity...will be aiding local volunteers to help rebuild in the coming days and weeks. \[links\]- ArchDaily](#)

[Tallest in U.S. title no big deal: Willis Tower loses U.S. honors to One World Trade Center, but Chicago's stature is secure: ...ruling by the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat may be a blow to Chicago's collective ego, but it will have zero impact on the city's architectural stature. By Blair Kamin -- Daniel Libeskind; David Childs/Skidmore, Owings & Merrill \(SOM\)- Chicago Tribune](#)

[It had not occurred to me: ...it turns out that the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat is a bad guy in its own right...decision yesterday to affirm the height of One World Trade Center...just last week chosen as its Best Tall Building Worldwide the Chinese CCTV headquarters in Beijing...I call it the Stomp the People Building...Rem Koolhaas is the most cynical modern architect since Philip Johnson... By David Brussat- Providence Journal \(Rhode Island\)](#)

[The Shard is not a d*Ido: Simon Doonan's...humorous look at the odd buildings that go up under the name of architecture, "Architects Are the New Comedians," is witty enough...I found his piece painful in other ways... By David Brussat- Providence Journal \(Rhode Island\)](#)

[Barangaroo and Darling Harbour are civic failures: ...development in Sydney betrays a lack of knowledge of our city's history. We have traded the opportunity for meaningful architecture for the vapidty of corporate internationalism...The guardians of the public interest...have capitulated...a horde of international and local architects are busy polishing a broken carcass. By Laura Harding- Guardian \(UK\)](#)

[More green spaces in urban areas, says new national initiative: The 2020 Vision aims to get 20% more green spaces in urban areas by 2020 and turn the concrete tide...Already part of the 2020 Vision is The Goods Line project, which will see the disused rail line rejuvenated...touted as similar to the High Line in New York. -- AECOM; McGregor Coxall; Pidcock Architecture; ASPECT Studios \[images\]- Architecture & Design \(Australia\)](#)

[Oysters Could Save New York From More Sandys: Kate Orff wants to grow oysters in New York's Jamaica Bay. Not for you to eat, but to save the shore from mighty storms..."Oystertecture" sounds whimsical but is now taken seriously, thanks to the eye-popping cost of massive flood gates proposed for Jamaica Bay. By James S. Russell -- SCAPE \[images\]- Bloomberg News](#)

[Blighted Cities Prefer Razing to Rebuilding: Baltimore and other postindustrial cities are destroying vacant buildings, rather than restoring them, in hopes of stabilizing neighborhoods...urban planning has often become a form of](#)

creative destruction...shrinkage, also called "ungrowth" and "right sizing"...vacant lots...now home to...community gardens and farms... - New York Times

The Fight to Save a Detroit-Area Urban Farm: An emergency manager wants to sell a beloved community garden to the highest bidder. Can organizers win their land? Hamtown Farms...[transformed] from a garbage-strewn wasteland into a thriving urban farm...it wasn't until [it] had cleaned it up that anyone else started seeing its value. By Sarah Goodyear - The Atlantic Cities

Macedonian Makeover: Europe's Flailing Capital of Kitsch: ...has spent huge sums turning its capital, Skopje, into a neo-baroque architectural nightmare...Buildings are being retrofitted with the dictated sugarcoated new style...architects call "historical kitsch"...after the city was destroyed in a 1963 earthquake..."They were going to build a humane yet utopian city"... -- Boro Gadjovski; Filip Dubrovski; Kenzo Tange - Der Spiegel (Germany)

The Plight of America's Colosseum: Houston voted down a referendum to renovate the Astrodome. Michael R. Allen reflects on its iconic status, what it means in the nation's consciousness and how the structure signaled a change not only for modernist stadia but for building architecture around mass experience. -- Wilson, Morris, Crain & Anderson/Lloyd, Morgan & Jones; Bertrand Goldberg; Edward Durell Stone; Curtis & Davis; Paul Rudolph; Richard Neutra; Hilario Candela [images] - Next City (formerly Next American City)

Storied Providence Skyscraper, Now Empty, Seeks a Future: The Industrial Trust building, which once announced Rhode Island's capital as a Gotham of industry, now nags at the city's sense of self-worth...known as the "Superman building"...outside one window is a birdhouse for a peregrine falcon. "The only tenant we have"... -- Walker & Gillette (1928) [images] - New York Times

Going Dutch: Hella Jongerius, Rem Koolhaas, and Irma Boom redesign the Delegates' Lounge at the renovated United Nations building in New York City: ...she recounted a multiyear process during which one idea after another was shot down. By Fred A. Bernstein [images] - Metropolis Magazine

Tundra, steppe, forest and marsh at once: US designers win Moscow park competition: Diller Scofidio + Renfro...to create...Zaryadye Park has the potential to be one of Moscow's largest and most significant public space development projects in recent decades. [images] - Voice of Russia

Snøhetta and DIALOG selected to design new Central Library in Calgary's East Village: ...team will need to creatively address some sizeable design challenges...location, adjacent to City Hall, will strengthen the fabric of community life by weaving East Village, the original heart of Calgary, back into the story of Centre City. - Canadian Architect

PG&E, AIA SF Announce Winners of Architecture at Zero Competition for Zero Net Energy Building Designs: ...innovative and affordable housing designs... -- Victor Bao; Duane B. Carter/Mike Stopka/Simon Mance/Scott Farbman/Courtney Brower; Herman Coliver Locus Architecture/EBS Consultants/Architectural Lighting Design; Drew Adams/Joseph Yau/Mark Aocijja; Booth Hansen; Rutz Architects [images] - AIA San Francisco / PG&E / Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation

Ten Firms Shortlisted to Renovate Mies van der Rohe's Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library in D.C. -- Cunningham Quill Architects/100 Architects; Ennead Architects/Marshall Moya Architects; Leo A Daly/Richard Bauer; Martinez and Johnson Architects/Mecanoo; OMA/Quinn Evans Architects; Patkau Architects/Ayers Saint Gross; REX/Davis Carter Scott Architects; Shalom Baranes/Davis Brody Bond; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Studios Architecture/The Freelon Group - ArchDaily

The Icon Awards 2013 Shortlist Announced: winners will be celebrated December 5 -- BIG/Bjarke Ingels Group; Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Toyo Ito Associates; Peter Märki; Robbrecht and Daem; Fuseproject; Industrial Facility; Metahaven; NDD; Unfold; Brasil Arquitetura; Hugh Broughton Architects; SANAA; Herzog & de Meuron; Renzo Piano; etc. [images] - Icon magazine (UK)

2014 MoMA P.S.1 Young Architects Program Shortlist: ...emerging architects to design a temporary installation...for annual summer "Warm-Up" series [in Long Island City]. -- Collective-LOK (Jon Lott/PARA-Project, William O'Brien Jr./WOJR, Michael Kubo/over,under), Fake Industries Architectural Agonism (Cristina Goberna & Urtzi Grau), LAMAS (Wei-Han Vivian Lee & James Macgillivray); Pita + Bloom; The Living - ArchDaily

Dolls' house auction: Zaha's little gem sells for £14,000: ...auction for of disabled children's charity KIDS...Lifschutz Davidson Sandilands went for £11,000, just ahead of HLM's musical scheme which made £10,000. Duggan Morris' dolls' house went for £5,500...sale made a total of £90,000 for charity. [images] - The Architects' Journal (UK)



-- Coop Himmel(l)au: Known as the punk rockers of architecture...founded in Vienna in 1968 by Wolf Prix, Helmut Swiczinsky and Michael Holzer.
-- Zaha Hadid Architects: MAXXI: Museum of XXI Century Arts, Rome, Italy
-- Travel blog: Vienna, Austria -- Ortner & Ortner; Adolf Loos; Hans Hollein

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