

Today's News - Friday, November 22, 2013

- Crosbie reflects on an "urban setting seared into the national consciousness": 50 years later, "it is always Friday afternoon in Dealey Plaza."
- Stott offers a very thoughtful take on the Battle of Ideas gathering; "it seems that we in the architecture community are living a certain crisis of confidence" in "a vicious chicken-and-egg cycle."
- Some of our favorite critics gathered in Boston to critique Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway and other sites using ASLA's new Landscape Architect's Guide to Boston.
- Russell cheers H&deM's Perez Art Museum in Miami: "visitors will feel the way it vibrates with the energy of this urban cultural crossroads. It is both majestic and welcoming - a neat trick."
- Lange finds much to like (and not to like) about Turrell's "Twilight Epiphany" at Rice University and the newly renovated Blaffer Art Museum at the University of Houston: "The light installation is sublime and slightly unsettling. The Blaffer definitely got its \$2 million worth."
- Eyefuls of ARM Architecture's winning design in the Gold Coast Cultural Precinct competition, "a spiraling gallery amid sprawling gardens and theaters."
- Stephens sets her sight on Fisher's new pavilion at Colby College Museum of Art in Maine: "The combination of discretion and verve strikes an appropriate note."
- The new Baltimore Design School by Ziger/Snead transforms a former set from "The Wire" in a decrepit factory into "a training ground for tomorrow's designers" (we wanna go back to school!).
- Litt cheers Cooper Carry for listening to public input re: the new Cleveland Convention Center hotel: the design is getting better, and is "becoming a catalyst for a respectful civic debate over downtown architecture."
- Berke's "daring adaptive reuse plan" will turn the disused mental hospital designed by H.H. Richardson into a boutique hotel and Buffalo Architecture Center.
- Auckland plans a "touch of Venice" with a new canal that will "create a metaphorical connection between the large block of reclaimed land and the sea surrounding it."
- Saffron is not at all sanguine about plans for facadectomies of two historic Philly movie palaces: "a historic designation has become just another fungible commodity."
- Taipei is named 2016 World Design Capital with the theme "Adaptive City: Design in Motion."
- Weekend diversions:
 - Marc Newson gets his first solo museum exhibition in the U.S. at The Philadelphia Museum of Art.
 - Landscape notables speak about the legacy of Dan Kiley at the opening of a new photography exhibition at the Boston Architectural College.
 - "Melbourne Now" is a "mammoth and multi-faceted exhibition" at the National Gallery of Victoria putting the spotlight on "the contemporary creatives who have shaped this unique cultural and urban landscape."
 - Architects, artists and designers draw the city of London to raise money for charity Article 25 in "10x10 Drawing the City" exhibition and auction (preliminary bids can also be made online).
 - Eyefuls of star-studded designs (and blueprints) from "Architecture for Dogs" on view in Tokyo (feel free to build your own!).
 - In Toronto, "100 per cent TobeUs: 100 Designers for 100 New Toy Cars" challenged a star-studded group of architects and designers to re-think the iconic wooden toy car.
 - Beltramini's "The Private Palladio" will "delight the bibliophile architect" (once you get past the cover).
 - Conti, in a "contrarian pre-holiday spirit," compiles a must-read list that is far better in most cases than the lavish photo books."

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It is always Friday afternoon in Dealey Plaza: An urban setting seared into the national consciousness. By Michael J. Crosbie - ArchNewsNow

Can We Please Stop Bashing Architects? ...it seems that we in the architecture community are living a certain crisis of confidence...a vicious chicken-and-egg cycle...Architects have backed themselves into a corner from where their ability to propose new ideas is minimal, their fear of anything which doesn't automatically have widespread public support is at a maximum, and to top it all off...the public perception of them as an architect remains that of the esoteric egotist, no matter how hard they have tried to shake it off. By Rory Stott -- Battle of Ideas - ArchDaily

Design Critics Invade Boston: At the 2013 ASLA Annual Meeting, prominent design critics...discussed their travels through the controversial Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway and other sites using ASLA's new Landscape Architect's Guide to Boston. By Jared Green -- Christopher Hume; Steven Litt; Cathleen McGuigan; Christopher Hawthorne; Robert Campbell [images]- The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Perez Art Museum Goes Tropical With \$131 Million Art Oasis in Miami: Herzog & de Meuron went tropical to design an alluring home for a museum long stifled by a bad building in an unfortunate location. The Perez now has a shot at establishing itself as a major destination...visitors will feel the way it vibrates with the energy of this urban cultural crossroads...It is both majestic and welcoming - a neat trick. By James S. Russell -- Patrick Blanc [images]- Bloomberg News

Art On Campus: A Tale of Two Signs: James Turrell's "Twilight Epiphany" [at Rice University] and the newly renovated Blaffer Art Museum at the University of Houston provide two examples of how art can animate and reshape university campuses...The light installation...is sublime and slightly unsettling...The Blaffer definitely got its \$2 million worth... By Alexandra Lange - Thomas Phifer and Partners; WORKac [images]- Design Observer

Sky-high gallery wins Gold Coast Cultural Precinct competition: ARM Architecture's scheme for a spiraling gallery amid sprawling gardens and theatres wins...Entries from both competition stages -- including large-scale models, renderings and animations -- will be showcased in "The Reveal: Designs for a New Cultural Precinct" exhibition at City Gallery. -- Nikken Sekkei; CRAB_Vogt_DBI [images]- ArchitectureAU (Australia)

Alfond-Lunder Family Pavilion, Colby College Museum of Art: A new gallery designed by Frederick Fisher in Waterville, Maine adds onto existing spaces for displaying art, including a 1999 wing designed by the architect himself...The combination of discretion and verve strikes an appropriate note... By Suzanne Stephens [slide show]- Architectural Record

How Architects Turned This Former Set From "The Wire" Into A Training Ground For Tomorrow's Designers: Thanks to a major architectural intervention - plus funding from Adobe - a decrepit factory is now the high-tech public Baltimore Design School...the first of its kind in the city... "We could actually build things." Exactly. -- Ziger/Snead; Adobe Youth Voices [images]- Fast Company

Public input is helping to shape the design of the new Cleveland convention center hotel; The evolving design is encouraging in more ways than one. The latest renderings...show promise and are getting better...What's emerging is an architectural call-and-response that has the potential to improve the final product...the hotel is becoming a catalyst for a respectful civic debate over downtown architecture... By Steven Litt -- Cooper Carry; LAND Studio [images]- Cleveland Plain Dealer

Richardsonian Redux in Buffalo Renewal Project: A daring adaptive reuse plan finds new life for former mental hospital complex: ...plan will turn an old and disused mental hospital designed by H.H. Richardson into a boutique hotel and Buffalo Architecture Center. -- Richardson Olmsted Complex; Deborah Berke Partners; Andropogon [images]- AIArchitect

Canal plan for Auckland waterfront: A touch of Venice is about to hit Auckland as plans progress for a new canal to be dug through the centre of Auckland's Wynyard Quarter...to create a metaphorical connection between the large block of reclaimed land and the sea surrounding it. -- Warren and Mahoney [image]- New Zealand Herald

Theater owners seeking to gut their historical landmarks: The roll of Philadelphia's vanished movie palaces goes on and on, like the credits of a blockbuster film. Soon, two more historic names could join the list of the fallen: the Boyd and the Royal...a historic designation has become just another fungible commodity...No doubt the owners will claim that facadectomies are actually a way of preserving history. By Inga Saffron -- Hoffmann & Henon (1928)- Philadelphia Inquirer

Taipei is 2016 World Design Capital: ..."Adaptive City: Design in Motion", Taipei's bid for WDC has focused on using design to improve the living standards of its citizens, though the embedding of design thinking into the city governance. -- International Council of Societies of Industrial Design (ICSID)- Artinfo

"Marc Newson: At Home" at The Philadelphia Museum of Art: ...his first solo museum exhibition in the United States...will collect furniture, clothing, appliances, and Newson's '021C Ford concept car within a mock, six-room home in the museum's Collab Gallery. [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

"The Landscape Architecture Legacy of Dan Kiley": ...a new photography exhibition at the Boston Architectural College...important to document these landscapes so they don't "die silent deaths." By Jared Green -- Charles Birnbaum/The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF); Alan Ward/Sasaki Associates; Cornelia Oberlander; Gary Hilderbrand/Reed Hilderbrand [images, links]- The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

"Melbourne Now": The largest and most ambitious exhibition ever undertaken by the National Gallery of Victoria is about to throw the spotlight onto the contemporary creatives who have shaped this unique cultural and urban landscape...mammoth and multi-faceted exhibition with over 600 events and exhibits by 25 curators and 200 artists, architects and designers... [images]- ArchitectureAU (Australia)

Architects will draw for charity: Architects, artists and designers draw the city of London to raise money for charity Article 25. "10x10 Drawing the City"...100 pieces of art...bid for selected pieces at a special charity live auction event on the 28 November. Preliminary bids can also be made online...- DesignCurial / Blueprint Magazine (UK)

It's a dog's life, but architects can find ways to improve it: What would our cities look like if they had been built with a different scale in mind? "Architecture for Dogs" explores that idea with an exhibition of 13 architectural works...at Toto's Gallery Ma in Tokyo... -- Kenya Hara; Atelier Bow-Wow; Shigeru Ban; Sou Fujimoto; Konstantin Grcic; Hara Design Institute/Haruka Misawa; Toyo Ito; Kengo Kuma; MVRDV; Hiroshi Naito; Reiser + Umemoto/RUR; Kazuyo Sejima/SANAA; Torafu Architects [link to images, blueprints]- Japan Times

How renowned designers and architects are building a better toy car: Matteo Ragni wants you to stop for a moment and think about toys...Wooden cars aren't new, but every designer who has contributed to the project has put their own stamp on the tradition -- and the results are worthy of an exhibition. "100 per cent TobeUs: 100 Designers for 100 New Toy Cars" ...at the Design Exchange in Toronto. [images]- Globe and Mail (Canada)

Searching for Palladio: "The Private Palladio"...to delight the bibliophile architect...Guido Beltrami's slim biography...is a difficult book to get into at first—not because its subject isn't fascinating (it is), and not because its writing is dry and academic (it isn't). Getting past the book's cover takes some effort simply because that cover, on its own, is so seductive...visual illustrations accompanying the text are equally intense. By Austin Sakong/FXFWLE [images]- Metropolis Magazine

Bigger and glossier doesn't always mean best book: Buildings are often not what they seem in pictures...in a sort of contrarian pre-holiday spirit, I've compiled a list...far better in most cases than the lavish photo books... By John Conti -- Ada Louise Huxtable; Witold Rybczynski; Frank Toker, and "Pittsburgh's Landmark Architecture" by Walter Kidney; Sarah Susanka;

Gerald Lee Morosco/Ed Massery - Pittsburgh Tribune-Review

"THE REVEAL: Designs for a new Gold Coast Cultural Precinct": ...engaging exhibition introducing the winner and other entries in the competition at the Gold Coast City Gallery. -- ARM Architecture; CRAB_Vogt_DB; Nikken Sekkei [links to images, jury reports, etc.] - City of Gold Coast, Australia



-- Álvaro Siza: Bouça Housing Complex (2004), Porto, Portugal
-- Kisho Kurokawa (1934-2007): one of the most radical and productive thinkers in recent Japanese architecture...a founder of the Metabolist Movement
-- Batlle i Roig Arquitectes: Funeral Home, Sant Joan Despí, Barcelona, Spain

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