Today's News - Monday, December 9, 2013

- ArcSpace brings us Meyer's assessment of Ando's Asia Museum of Modern Art in Taiwan, a profile of Souto de Moura, and Seaberg's take on the V&A's "Elmgreen & Dragset: Tomorrow" show.
- The Australian Institute of Architects approves the first Gender Equity Policy that "establishes 10 best practice principles to maximize fair and equitable access to opportunities and participation for women in the industry" (what a concept!).
- O'Sullivan weighs in on Madrid's new General Urban Plan: "Trees, bikes, and walking are in. Cars, historical protection, and new apartments are out" (and why some locals are skeptical).
- Saffron cheers Philly's new zoning code taking on the city's parking war: "The solution isn't increasing supply; it's decreasing demand...owning a car may soon seem like too much trouble. And then, what will we do with all those parking garages?"
- A new Urban Green Council study finds "expansive views are more often than not not blotted out by curtains," proving that "the building of such inherently energy-wasting properties should be rethought."
- It's only taken about 30 years, but (finally) Stonehenge is about to unveil its £27 million makeover in time for the winter solstice (wish we could be there!).
- British Parliament picks the HOK/Deloitte/Aecom team for the £720m-plus Palace of Westminster refurbishment "that might kick off in 2020."
- A Dutch architect's proposal for a cliff-hanging building above Cape Town in the shape of Nelson Mandela's head receives a "brutal" response (well, at least it's green-literally).
- Shah cheers three Indian architects who are venturing "across the obscure boundary that separates art and architecture," and "seamlessly work between the two."
- We are so saddened to hear that another Heidelberg Project house in Detroit has been hit by fire - again; now there's "a reward for information that leads to the arrest and conviction of those involved in the fires."
- Pedersen reports that Maeda is joining the world of venture capitalists in Silicon Valley after six "bumpy and surprisingly contentious" years at RISD's helm.
- Hohenadel has high hopes that Heatherwick's Garden Bridge across the Thames will be London's answer to the High Line - the visionary this time is "Absolutely Fabulous" star (great pix - fingers crossed it actually happens!).
- Hough considers the High Line's legacy as co-founder Hammond prepares to step down: "It will be interesting to see just how transferable the model will be for other cities" that now have "a built example of how groundbreaking and beautiful places can be created out of strong vision, passion and commitment" (it's "really not about the design").
- Shah cheers three Indian architects who are venturing "across the obscure boundary that separates art and architecture," and "seamlessly work between the two."
- Q&A with Maeda re: leaving RISD, his new job in Silicon Valley, and "what he regrets about his tenure."
Every now and then an architect ventures across the obscure boundary that separates art and architecture: it's sometimes tough to break the mould of an architectural practice and even partially identify with art, but there are always individuals who seamlessly work between these two... By Ashiesh Shah -- Vishal K Dar, Martand Khosla, Asim Waqif

John Maeda Set To Leave RISD For Silicon Valley: The Rhode Island School of Design president stepping down at the end of the fall semester, after six years at the helm... former head of the MIT Media Lab... will become Design Partner at the Silicon Valley-based venture capital firm [and] "chair the eBay Design Advisory Board, working with the company to evolve design capabilities." By Martin C. Pedersen -- Metropolis Magazine

John Maeda Set To Leave RISD For Silicon Valley: We talk to Maeda about his new job in Silicon Valley, what he regrets about his tenure at the Rhode Island School of Design, and the school's outlook for the future. By Ashiesh Shah -- Vishal K Dar, Martand Khosla, Asim Waqif

RIBA scraps Lubetkin Prize: No international awards next year: has bowed to pressure and scrapped the prize. It will be replaced by a new International Prize with a wider remit... details of the new prize have yet to be thrashed out but it is likely to be open to any architect. By Tyree Guyton

Pier Carlo Bontempi Named 2014 Driehaus Laureate: The Italian classicist architect re-imagines the traditional city with projects like a master-planned block in Parma and the Quartier du Lac outside Paris... $200,000 prize administered by the school of architecture at the University of Notre Dame... Ruan Yisan, a professor of urban planning and Director of the National Research Center of the Historic City at Tonji University, is this year's $50,000 Henry Hope Reed Laureate.

Changing the Face 2013: Rotunda Warsaw Competition winners announced: revamping the sawtooth-topped Rotunda, a favorite landmark and meeting spot... Gowin-Siuta, whose gorgeous, thoroughly modern reimagining of this historic icon took top prize. By Rodrigo Garcia/Maciej Siuda/Gonzalo del Val; Natalia Wilczak; Dobosz Architekci

Eight Teams Shortlisted for Canakkale Antenna Tower in Turkey: now in its second stage... to develop their schematic designs... -- Sou Fujimoto Architects; Snehetta/Özer/Uğer Architects/Blatte McCarthy; Ian Ritchie Architects/Arup; AL_A; Powerhouse Company/IDIN [Inter.National.Design]; TEGET; OLAF GIPSER/ARUP/Deniz Atan; FR-EE/Fernando Romero Enterprise/OTU+MAPmx Studio/Werner Sobek

INSIGHT: The Place of Architecture as an Art Form in the Changing Cultural Landscape: The fine arts today do not have the shared social purpose they once did. But the built environment is different. Architecture is a collective art form and a collective endeavor. By Peter Gisolfi, AIA, ASLA, LEED AP

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