

Today's News - Thursday, January 23, 2014

- Another grumpy news day: A new report finds "architecture is Australia's second most overrated degree - after psychology."
- Wing wonders (most thoughtfully) if women in architecture gained any ground in 2013.
- Peter Hall minces no words about what's wrong with planning in Britain (building things that are "ugly and alienating"); he is also "a good advert for a not-much-loved profession."
- Piling it on, the U.K. planning minister is on the attack re: the Carbuncle Cup runner-up Castle Mill student flats in Oxford: the university and city council should be "thoroughly ashamed."
- Wainwright reports that Oxford is hoping to change things with "ghost buildings": a "pilot scheme to outline shape of structures with poles before granting of planning permission."
- Some heavy-hitters plan to join a lawsuit against LG Electronics HQ on the Hudson River's Palisades.
- Grand plans for a 30-acre Brooklyn complex, but, as elsewhere, gentrification is forcing out the artists who made it famous (our own Richard Staub among 'em!).
- Depending on who's talking, Foster's new Yale School of Management is either an airplane terminal, a casino, edgy, or "disturbingly sublime."
- Yale students wanted James Gamble Rogers; what they got is "as clean as a semiconductor factory" (or perfect for a James Bond villain); though "the fine detailing, transparency, and abstraction are exhilarating - not everyone agrees."
- Gardner gives (mostly) thumbs-up to Stern's "broad-shouldered building" next to the High Line that makes "a virtue out of the pared-down language of early 20th century functional architecture - with little of the self-conscious refinement" of 15 CPW.
- Hosey takes issue with Konnikova's criticism of open-plan offices: they "are still the smartest solution...dramatically more sustainable" and "economically, environmentally and socially smarter."
- Hume cheers the LANDinc/West 8 plans for Toronto's Ontario Place park: "Surely there's a message here for those who insist there's no room for 'nature' in the 21st-century urban park."
- Eyefuls of Tonkin Liu's winning "poetic" design in the Salford pedestrian bridge competition.
- Richard Rogers handed the keys to Caracas when he visits the site of his new park in honor of Hugo Chavez as he tells reporters that "he is a committed socialist and that architecture is also politics."
- Many impressive projects garner APA 2014 National Planning Excellence and Achievement Awards (Venturi AND Scott Brown included).
- Brussat hands out his World Roses and Raspberries for 2013 "for buildings, people and events that moved the world as we know it closer to or further from the world as we'd like it to be."
- Call for entries: Presentations for Green Roofs for Healthy Cities Grey to Green Conference + 1st mantownhuman Architecture & Design Summer School to be held in five leading architectural offices in London (full disclosure: yours truly is on the Advisory Panel).

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Architecture is Australia's second most overrated degree: ...after psychology...the most underrated degree is surveying...Urban/regional planning...rehabilitation...and electrical engineering are other degrees that have higher rates of graduate employment...while there are more graduates, there is also less work available. - Architecture & Design (Australia)

Reality Check: Did Women in Architecture Really Gain Ground in 2013? The crux of the ongoing debate is that institutions like the AIA and the Pritzker Prize board wield power to institutionalize...certain perceptions about the profession...dictate what emerging architecture professionals should aspire to. And justifiably, many have been worried that these norms exclusively privilege men. By Sherin Wing -- Denise Scott Brown; Julia Morgan; Helene Combs Dreiling - Metropolis Magazine

UK planning expert: there is something wrong with Britain: In the UK we don't build enough and what we do build is often ugly and alienating, according to renowned urbanist Peter Hall -- but we can learn much from our European neighbours...he is a good advert for a not-much-loved profession. By Ben Rogers - Guardian (UK)

Planning minister says Carbuncle Cup runner-up is like Maze Prison: ...launched an outspoken attack on the Castle Mill student flats scheme in Oxford...said Oxford University and city council should be "thoroughly ashamed" of what had been built on the edge of Port Meadow, a local beauty spot. -- Frankham Consultancy Group- BD/Building Design (UK)

'Ghost buildings' to help public envisage impact of developments: Oxford to pilot scheme to outline shape of structures with poles before granting of planning permission: For taller buildings, tethered balloons can be used..."Anything that makes it easier to understand the reality of the proposal should only be encouraged." By Oliver Wainwright- Guardian (UK)

New Forces Join Lawsuit Fighting Palisades Tower: ...challenging the construction of an LG Electronics USA headquarters across the Hudson from the Cloisters..."This is like if somebody tried to build a high-rise next to Yellowstone...it's a national issue." By Robin Pogrebin [image]- New York Times

Industry City, the SoHo of Sunset Park: A 30-acre complex in Brooklyn had been a hub for artists, but...gentrification and high rents is forcing out dozens of them...leasing efforts are so-called maker industries...also working with several local nonprofits...program is modeled after one that Mr. Kimball put in place at the Brooklyn Navy Yard.- New York Times

Is Yale's new School of Management building 'sublime' or an 'airplane terminal'? Some of its neighbors are calling [Edward P. Evans Hall] "the casino" and "Terminal SOM." But it has supporters, who describe it as "edgy" and "disturbingly sublime"...don't expect to see me out there cheering... By Randall Beach -- Norman Foster/Foster + Partners - New Haven Register (Connecticut)

Yale's School of Management's sleek new home: a report and slide show: ... students were polled about their preference for the new building, "they wanted James Gamble Rogers"...It is as monumental as a Lincoln Center, as clean as a semiconductor factory, and up to the aesthetic standards of the most exacting James Bond villain...the fine detailing, transparency, and abstraction are exhilarating. But not everyone agrees... -- Foster + Partners - Yale Alumni Magazine

Related and Robert A.M. Stern take modest look to new extreme at High Line rental: ...he seems to strive to reproduce, and to make a virtue out of, that pared-down language of early 20th century functional architecture...500 West 30th Street...broad-shouldered building, with little of the self-conscious refinement of the Chatham or 15 Central Park West. By James Gardner - The Real Deal (NYC)

The Open-Office Backlash: Despite criticism, open workspaces are still the smartest solution: Maria Konnikova overlooks the greatest value of the open office - it's dramatically more sustainable...at once economically, environmentally and socially smarter...if designed well, the acoustics...can be more comfortable than traditional offices. By Lance Hosey/RTKL - Huffington Post

Ontario Place park a welcome proposal: Now that landscape architects have presented their ideas on how to remake the '70s pleasure complex, its future looks brighter...Surely there's a message here for those who insist there's no room for "nature" in the 21st-century urban park. By Christopher Hume -- LANDinc; West 8- Toronto Star

[Tonkin Liu wins Salford bridge competition: ...praised for 'poetic' design \[for\] a pedestrian bridge across the River Irwell... -- Arup \[images\] - BD/Building Design \(UK\)](#)

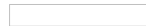
[British architect Richard Rogers designs park in honor of Hugo Chavez: ...handed the keys to Caracas and is visiting the site where he's designed 2,075 acres...told reporters in the Venezuelan capital that he is a committed socialist and that architecture is also politics. - Associated Press \(AP\)](#)

[APA's 2014 National Planning Excellence and Achievement Awards -- Planning Pioneer: Robert Venturi and Denise Scott Brown/Venturi Scott Brown and Associates/VSBA and many, many more \[images, links\] - American Planning Association \(APA\)](#)

[World roses and raspberries for 2013: ...for buildings, people and events that moved the world as we know it closer to or further from the world as we'd like it to be. By David Brussat -- Lisbon/Paulo Mendes da Rocha; Christine Franck; Frank Gehry; SOS Paris; Léon Krier; Driehaus Prize; Pier Carlo Bontempi; Zaha Hadid; Zhou Xi \[images at architecturehereandthere.com\] - Providence Journal \(Rhode Island\)](#)

[Call for entries: Call for Presentations: Green Roofs for Healthy Cities Grey to Green Conference in Toronto, August 25-26; deadline: February 19 - Green Roofs for Healthy Cities](#)

[Call for entries: 1st mantownhuman Architecture & Design Summer School: Critical Subjects: held in five leading architectural offices in London July 13-19; open to university/college students of architecture, engineering, design, urbanism or related subject; application deadline: May 13 - mantownhuman \(UK\)](#)



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