

## Today's News - Monday, January 27, 2014

- Heathcote ponders "cities' love affair with size," and "less might still be more, but bigger is better (just ask Rem).
- Lukacs minces no words about what he thinks of the planned Eko Atlantic city off the coast of Nigeria that "heralds climate apartheid" for the super-rich, but is "an architectural insult to the daily circumstances of ordinary Nigerians (all the while claiming it will protect the coastline from rising seas).
- Florida tackles the "amazing endurance of slums" that are "neither temporary nor a short stop on the way to greater economic opportunity."
- Stunning before-and-after pictures from war-torn Syria showing how its architectural heritage "built over 5,000 years or more is being steadily buried under rubble."
- Hume on the future of Toronto's Gardiner Expressway: "leave it up, tart it up or blow it up?"; consider that its "disappearance might add a minute or two to the daily commute," but "the gains would be huge."
- Hawthorne has high hopes for this year's CicLAvia in April that will open a stretch of Wilshire to cyclists and pedestrians: it's "a chance to rethink L.A.'s future and skewed car-first perspective."
- Wainwright introduces a new Guardian section "devoted to ideas, discussion and predictions" about "our urban past, present and future" in cities around the world (definitely keep an eye on this!).
- Fisher looks to the future of architecture and the "third industrial revolution": "say hello to 3D-printed houses, digicities, and curriculums that teach future architects about far more than just building."
- King cheers USF's new science center that goes "sleekly underground" and proves "the extent to which architectural creativity, no matter the location, can reshape daily life in unexpected ways" (with pix to prove it).
- Saffron gives thumbs-up to UPenn's new rare book library: "Forget that stuffy collegiate style of yore. This is what a rare-book library looks like circa 2014" (also with pix to prove it).
- Sugimoto may not be a licensed architect, but he's opened his own architecture practice and is designing his own museum - with the help of "three young qualified architects to help him execute his vision" (will we ever know their names?!?!?).
- Shipping container architecture: some "ingenious architects" are "thinking outside the box - literally" - with results that are "surprisingly beautiful and sophisticated."
- Q&A with Diller re: "Her," the future of urbanism, and the opera she is producing.
- Meier focuses on New Jersey with an exhibition of about 400 models in Jersey City, and his continued work on Teachers Village in downtown Newark.
- Brussat on the vandalism at Corbu's Rochamp chapel: "How could they tell?" (though it "may be the least objectionable of Le Corbusier's buildings").
- Our heartiest congrats to the 2014 AIA Young Architects Award winners who are shaping "the future of architecture practice, scholarship, and leadership."
- The U.K.'s iconic red phone booths are not "completely obsolete - towns all over the country have pulled phones out so locals can transform them into all sorts of things."
- Call for entries: 2014 RIBA Norman Foster Travelling Scholarship (international).

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Bigger, better, more – cities' love affair with size continues: Scale is the language of the emerging city and it consequently becomes the language of the established cities that are trying to keep pace with the upstarts...less might still be more, but bigger is better. By Edwin Heathcote -- EF Schumacher (1973); Rem Koolhaas - Financial Times (UK)

New, privatized African city heralds climate apartheid: Nigeria's Eko Atlantic augurs how the super-rich will exploit the crisis of climate change to increase inequality and seal themselves off from its impacts...an architectural insult to the daily circumstances of ordinary Nigerians...Nigerian architect Kunle Adeyemi has designed what amounts to a counter-point... By Martin Lukacs [images]- Guardian (UK)

The Amazing Endurance of Slums: Despite major advances, the world's slum population will likely double to 2 billion by 2050: For both slum residents and growing cities as a whole, slums are "neither temporary nor a short stop on the way to greater economic opportunity." By Richard Florida [links]- The Atlantic Cities

Syria's heritage in ruins: before-and-after pictures: The war has claimed more than 130,000 lives and, as these images reveal, it is also laying waste to its historic buildings and Unesco-listed sites...a heritage built over 5,000 years or more is being steadily buried under rubble. By Martin Chulov [images]- Guardian (UK)

Gardiner Expressway at the crossroads: Public meeting about future of the Gardiner will be a defining moment for Toronto: ...leave it up, tart it up or blow it up...".it condemns the most important precinct of the city to permanent disorder, dysfunction and unpleasantness"...Despite the fact its disappearance might add a minute or two to the daily commute, the gains would be huge. By Christopher Hume -- Michael Kirkland - Toronto Star

CicLAvia closes a few streets to cars but can open the city's mind: CicLAvia, which on April 6 will empty a stretch of Wilshire of car traffic for cyclists and pedestrians, is a chance to rethink L.A.'s future and skewed car-first perspective. By Christopher Hawthorne - Los Angeles Times

Guardian Cities: welcome to our urban past, present and future: ...a new section devoted to ideas, discussion and predictions about cities all over the planet...mindboggling figures make impressive headlines for breathless reports on urbanisation...but such statistics are meaningless without asking what these cities will be like, who they are for, and how they are being made. By Oliver Wainwright - Guardian (UK)

Architecture and the Third Industrial Revolution: Ready for the next revolution? The profession changed dramatically thanks to mechanization and mass production, and the next massive shift will be no less disruptive. In this era of small-scale, bottom-up design, say hello to 3D-printed houses, digicities, and curriculums that teach future architects about far more than just building. By Thomas Fisher - Architect Magazine

USF's science center's new digs go sleekly underground: ...University of San Francisco deserves extra credit for undercutting physical constraints - literally...interlocked landscapes...show the extent to which architectural creativity, no matter the location, can reshape daily life in unexpected ways. By John King -- NBBJ; Interstice Architects [images]- San Francisco Chronicle

Illuminating the rare manuscripts at Penn: ...University of Pennsylvania's hallowed rare-book room at the Van Pelt-Dietrich Library...Forget that stuffy collegiate style of yore. This is what a rare-book library looks like circa 2014...renamed the Kislak Center...For digital nomads, it makes a nice alternative to a cafe. By Inga Saffron -- Gensler [images]- Philadelphia Inquirer

Hiroshi Sugimoto Designs Own Museum: ...best known as a photographer...of late, the head of his own architecture practice...Because he doesn't have an architectural license himself—an official permit would require years of training—he hired three young qualified architects to help him execute his vision. -- Odawara Art Foundation [slide show]- Wall Street Journal

Shipping container architecture is like LEGOs for grownups: ...ingenious architects...thinking outside the box — literally —

and building residences and work spaces out of shipping containers...creating usable, sustainable and economical structures...the results can be surprisingly beautiful and sophisticated. -- Peter DeMaria; Adam Kalkin- Coloradoan

Q&A: Elizabeth Diller on Spike Jonze's 'Her': Architect and would-be filmmaker Elizabeth Diller talks about the future of urbanism, the opera she is producing, and why she prefers murder mysteries to science fiction. -- Diller Scofidio + Renfro- Architect Magazine

Architect Goes Home, to Recall and to Work: Richard Meier Is Now Focusing on New Jersey Projects: ...just installed an exhibition in Jersey City with some 400 handmade models of projects he's designed, while helping to redevelop a section of downtown Newark...called Teachers Village.- New York Times

Vandalism at Corbu's Ronchamp: How could they tell? Seriously, the Chapel of Notre-Dame du Haut at Ronchamp, with its rough texture and swoopy lines, may be the least objectionable of Le Corbusier's buildings. By David Brussat- Architecture Here and There

2014 AIA Young Architects Award Winners: 18 architects represent the future of architecture practice, scholarship, and leadership. -- Illya Azaroff/+LAB Architects; Thomas Bradley Benjamin/Radium Architecture; Joshua Flowers/Hnedak Bobo Group; Wyatt Frantom/Mark A. Schwame/Brian Vitale/Gensler; Nathan Kalaher/Plan Architecture; Evelyn Lee/MKthink; Timothy W. Maddox/deMx Architecture; Daniel Overbey/Browning Day Mullins Dierdorf; Mark Pasnik/Over, Under; Michael Pfeffer/Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Jason Dale Pierce/HOK; Matt Slagle/TowerPinkster; Christian B. Sottile/Sottile & Sottile; Lorena Toffer/Corgan; Karen E. Williams/HKS; Jeffrey M. Yrazabal/SRG Partnership [images]- Architect Magazine

Some Brits Not Ready To Say 'Ta-Ra' To Iconic Telephone Box: ...just because they're no longer useful as phones doesn't mean they're completely obsolete...towns all over the country...pulled phones out...so locals can transform them into all sorts of things. -- 20th Century Society; Giles Gilbert Scott [images]- National Public Radio (NPR)

Call for entries: 2014 RIBA Norman Foster Travelling Scholarship; open to architecture students at RIBA/CAA-validated schools around the world; deadline: April 25- RIBA / Royal Institute of British Architects

ANN Feature: What is "Quiet Design" and Why Should It Matter? Some Troubling Queries for Cathleen McGuigan and Sundry Fans of "Architectural Quietism." By Norman Weinstein- ArchNewsNow

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