

Today's News - Friday, February 7, 2014

- ANN Feature: Nuts + Bolts #8: Best Friends Don't Make the Best Partners: For the successful partnership, it's all a matter of balance.
- Another NYC treasure under threat (this time, a jewel within a gem):
- Freeman fumes about the "specious dangers" cited as reason to remove the treasured Picasso stage curtain from the Philip Johnson-designed Four Seasons in the Seagram Building - and he should know: he oversaw the restoration of the restaurant not that long ago.
- Filler adds to the fumes upon finding out that "moving the delicate, unframed, unstretched Picasso painting could be its death sentence" - it could "crack like a potato chip" (never mind the owner calls it a "schmatte," Yiddish for a shabby garment).
- Destruction is not limited to Manhattan: in the U.K. plans are afoot to bulldoze Adjaye's 2008 Wakefield Market Hall to be replaced with a multiplex cinema and restaurant complex (what else?).
- In Egypt, a landmark from Alexandria's 1920s heyday bites the dust, sadly just "one of at least 36 landmark sites to have been destroyed in the past five years. That figure is expected to rise sharply."
- Miami public officials and a big-time developer face a "a major quandary": what to do about a recently-discovered prehistoric village (and remnants of Flagler's 1897 Royal Palm Hotel) on a site slated to be "movie theaters, restaurants and a 34-story hotel" (what else?).
- On a brighter note, the Arch League's Emerging Voices 2014 winners are an impressive mix of "distinct design voices" (great presentation - cheers to all!).
- Eyefuls of "Sochi's architectural bling" (this time with architects named - what a concept!).
- King offers an amazing slide show of an unbuilt San Francisco: "Don't feel guilty if you feel a tinge of regret - or breathe a sigh of relief" (some mind-blowing stuff!).
- Weekend diversions:
- Two good reasons to head to the Left Coast next week: SKYLINE 2014 is a 10-day fete of "unique, hidden spaces within downtown L.A." transformed by architects, designers and artists.
- Modernism Week in Palm Springs puts the "creativity and ingenuity" of stellar mid-century masters in the spotlight.
- Rosenbaum x 2: she lets Bergdoll explain MoMA's "Frank Lloyd Wright and the City: Density vs. Dispersal" + her own take: "the drawings are visually ravishing."
- Heathcote x 2: "In the Making" at London's Design Museum is "a curious, wonderfully engaging show...of rare modesty...a pure celebration of making and the designers' pure pleasure in process shines through."
- He spends some time with Souto de Moura at the Royal Academy's "Sensing Spaces": some "may be spaces conceived by architects but they are somehow inauthentic as architecture"; Eduardo's arches, on the other hand, "stand very much as objects in the gallery."
- Leveté finds some "strange geometries" in "Sensing Spaces": "The ambition is admirable; the difficulty is deciding whether it has succeeded or simply left the visitor bemused."
- The new Miami Center for Architecture's inaugural exhibition "Drawn From Miami" is a "fitting provocation" for the new center.
- The Wolfsonian FIU in Miami Beach offers "three exhibitions on Italian design between the world wars" that "reveal a culture producing great beauty in an era of turbulence" (fab photos!).
- The traveling Murcutt show lands at the UQAM Centre de Design in Montreal.

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ANN Feature: Nuts + Bolts #8: Best Friends Don't Make the Best Partners: For the successful partnership, it's all a matter of balance. By Michael M. Samuelian, AIA, AICP - ArchNewsNow

Commentary: Needless Destruction: Citing specious dangers, the Seagram Building's owner aims to remove a Picasso...this weekend...from the landmarked Four Seasons restaurant...the dubious legitimacy of the stated reasons for doing so make the act all the more egregious. By Belmont Freeman - Architectural Record

Taking Down Picasso: The real estate mogul Aby Rosen is planning to remove a historic Picasso stage curtain from the Seagram Building...moving the delicate, unframed, unstretched Picasso painting could be its death sentence...the work is so brittle and fragile that it could, as one of them put it, 'crack like a potato chip.'" By Martin Filler - New York Review of Books

David Adjaye building facing wrecking ball: ...plans to bulldoze 2008 Wakefield Market Hall: ...first public project is set to be demolished after a cash-strapped local council recommended selling it to a developer who wants to replace it with a multiplex cinema and restaurant complex... [images] - BD/Building Design (UK)

Demolition of Alexandria architectural gem begins: Owner of Villa Aghion, a landmark from city's 1920s heyday, blames foreign governments and groups who declined to help fund restoration...one of the most important examples of Egypt's architectural heritage...modernist villa built in 1928 by Auguste Perret...one of at least 36 landmark sites to have been destroyed in the past five years. That figure is expected to rise sharply... - Guardian (UK)

Prehistoric village found in downtown Miami: The finds, which have not been widely publicized, have placed public officials and a big downtown developer in a major quandary. The Tequesta village site...where the developer...plans to build movie theaters, restaurants and a 34-story hotel...uncovered remnants of Henry Flagler's 1897 Royal Palm Hotel... - Miami Herald

Emerging Voices Awards 2014: spotlights individuals and firms based in the United States, Canada, or Mexico with distinct design voices... -- David Benjamin/The Living; Geoff di Girolamo/James Lord/Roderick Wylie/Surfacedesign; Basar Girit/Aleksey Lukyanov-Cherny/Wes Rozen/Bradley Samuels/SITU Studio; Joyce Hwang/Ants of the Prairie; Salvador Macias Corona/Magui Peredo Arenas/Estudio Macias Peredo; Ronald Rael/Virginia San Fratello/Rael San Fratello; Mauricio Rocha Iturbide/Gabriela Carrillo Valadez/TALLER |MauricioRocha+GabrielaCarrillo|; Betsy Williamson/Shane Williamson/Donald Chong,/Williamson Chong Architects [images] - Architectural League of New York

Know Your Winter Olympic Venues: With the budget-blowing games opening, we take a look at Sochi's architectural bling. -- Populous; Mostovik; Central Research Institute for Industrial Buildings (CNIIPromzdaniy); Stroyproekt/Ural-Expert; Mosproekt-4/Ingeokom; StoryInternational/Cannon Design [slide show] - Architectural Record

Unbuilt city: The San Francisco that could have been: Now that George Lucas has been thwarted in his quest to build a neo-classical museum on Crissy Field — insert Star Wars-themed joke here — one more landmark has been added to San Francisco's shadow landscape...So kick back, put on your rose-colored glasses...Don't feel guilty if you feel a tinge of regret — or breathe a sigh of relief. By John King [slide show] - San Francisco Chronicle

SKYLINE 2014 – Los Angeles' Annual, Free, 10-Day, Architecture, Art, and Technology Event, February 13-22: ...architects, designers and artists transform unique, hidden spaces within downtown L.A. into destination places... -- amphibianArc; Juan Azulay + Benjamin Rice (MTTR MGMT); Natasha Bajc + Samy Kamkar; Heidi Duckler Dance Studio; Behnaz Farahi; Raymond Salvatore Harmon + Heavy; Guvenc Ozel (Ozel Office); Joanna Shaw + Helen Cheuk + Christian Prasch; Peter Tolkin + Yunhee Min; hughesumbanhowar Architects; Felipe Valente and more. - LERATA (Laboratory for Experimentation and Research in Art, Technology and Architecture)

Palm Springs History: Works reflect architects' vision: Palm Springs has probably one of the most well preserved

collections of elegant homes and landmark buildings constructed during the 1940s, '50s and '60s...Modernism Week [Feb. 13-23] will celebrate...prime examples of these architects' creativity and ingenuity. -- Lloyd Wright; John Porter Clark/Van Pelt & Lind.; Albert Frey; Richard Neutra; John Lautner; William F. Cody; E. Stewart Williams; Donald Wexler; A. Quincy Jones; Paul R. Williams; William Krisel [images]- The Desert Sun (Palm Springs)

Barry Bergdoll Explains MoMA's "Frank Lloyd Wright and the City: Density vs. Dispersal": ...pointedly resisted the temptation to do a crowd-pleasing "masterpieces" show...chose to explore an intriguing, sometimes perplexing subset of Wright's work —his eccentric notions of urban (or non-urban) planning, which never gained much traction, but which, for better or worse, have new relevance today. By Lee Rosenbaum [video]- ArtsJournal

Hear Me Now: My WNYC Comments on MoMA's "Frank Lloyd Wright and the City: Density vs. Dispersal": the drawings are visually ravishing. By Lee Rosenbaum [images, audio]- ArtsJournal

"In the Making," Design Museum, London: Edward Barber and Jay Osgerby have curated a curious, wonderfully engaging show: ...exhibition of half-finished objects...look seductively sculptural, abstract, occasionally deceptive and counterintuitive and, occasionally, utterly beautiful...a design show of rare modesty...a pure celebration of making and the designers' pure pleasure in process shines through. By Edwin Heathcote- Financial Times (UK)

Eduardo Souto de Moura at the Royal Academy: Most of the other architects in "Sensing Spaces"...have filled their spaces with massive pieces of work..."I build to solve problems – not to provoke emotions or sensations"...some real problems on display here. These may be spaces conceived by architects but they are somehow inauthentic as architecture...[his] arches stand very much as objects in the gallery. By Edwin Heathcote -- Álvaro Siza; Kengo Kuma; Diébédo Francis Kéré; Li Xiaodong; Pezo von Ellrichshausen; Grafton Architects - Financial Times (UK)

Strange geometries: "Sensing Spaces" at the Royal Academy: Seven...life-sized interventions designed to confront the senses and engage the mind...an unusual and clever move...confronting the thorny issue of communicating architecture to the general public...The ambition is admirable; the difficulty is deciding whether it has succeeded or simply left the visitor bemused. By Amanda Levele/AL_A -- Kengo Kuma; Grafton Architects; Álvaro Siza - New Statesman (UK)

Miami Turns Up the Design Heat: The Miami Center for Architecture opens new space with inaugural exhibition, "Drawn From Miami": ...explores the role of the urban planners and architects who created the fabric of the Magic City...a fitting provocation from the new center. -- Jake Brillhart; Nick Gelpi; Jean-Francois Lajune; Terence Riley; and Allan Shulman [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Troubled Times: Three exhibitions on Italian design between the world wars reveal a culture producing great beauty in an era of turbulence...on view at the Wolfsonian-Florida International University museum in Miami Beach... [images]- Metropolis Magazine

"Architecture for Place: The Work of Glenn Murcutt" at the UQAM Centre de Design in Montreal: ...travelling exhibition, produced by Architecture Foundation Australia, presents a selection of his projects and examines his process...demonstrating that Murcutt's sustainable approach to architecture was well ahead of its time. - Canadian Architect



-- "The Architect's Brain: Neuroscience, Creativity, and Architecture" by Harry Francis Mallgrave...a thought-provoking historical commentary... By Ralph Spencer Steenblik
-- Bjarke Ingels Group/BIG: Danish National Maritime Museum, Helsingør, Denmark...proposal was daring indeed, but also highly sensible.
-- "Hadid - Complete Works 1979-2013" by Philip Jodidio: ...the entire body of work...is very comprehensively presented.

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