

Today's News - Monday, February 17, 2014

- On ArcSpace, Meyer parses OMA's De Rotterdam: "Unintentionally it proves that what works in Manhattan may not automatically work in the Netherland's second city" + a look at how Hadid's Heydar Aliyev Center "will play a leading role in re-sculpting Baku's image and in the wider process of carving out Azerbaijan's cultural future."
- A 2013 AJ Emerging Architecture winner tackles gender in architecture: "until architecture is less eager to revel in its own agony, how can we expect healthy, non-masochistic individuals, male or female, to become architects?" (a great read).
- Teachout tersely parses the possible removal of Picasso's stage curtain from the Four Seasons: Rosen may have the right to do so, and "we'll find out a few weeks from now" how it will play out. "But it shouldn't have to come to that."
- "Ugly building obsessive" Meades has a lively, sometimes snippy/snooty/snappy, chat with "hostile superfan" Fringuello re: "bunkers, Brutalism and bloodymindedness."
- Kennicott sees a tough road for whichever of three teams wins MLK Library re-do in DC: Mies's "original 1972 steel-and-glass box is fighting hard against assaults on its basic purity" (he favors Patkau Architects/Ayers Saint Gross, but we'll know who won tomorrow).
- Lamster lights up at the prospect of a new life for the 1958 butterfly-like Braniff Building at Dallas's Love Field (that would be open to the public, too!): "a city that has so often cannibalized its past to build for its future might just be remaking itself into a beacon of modern preservation."
- Hatherley's heart is heavy about so many covered markets "gradually disappearing from our cities"; losing Adjaye's Wakefield Market Hall "is a sign of what urban priorities actually are," and our "cities will be duller as a result."
- King x 2: even though he's never been a big fan of the 1989 PoMo "kitschy clock tower," he's still troubled that it's going to be "neutered - it has character, a gawky flair that (almost) makes it endearing."
- He reports on an "Avian collision risk/bird safe design assessment" for Foster's Apple on Union Square: "no birds will be harmed in the making of the Apple store. A 'less than significant' number, anyway."
- Broome catches us up on the saga of Gehry's Biomuseo: "the building, with its aggressive form and dazzling color scheme, is quite a sight to behold in the design-challenged landscape of commercial towers that make up Panama City."
- Manaugh, meanwhile, delivers one of the most vitriolic over-the-top rants about an architect that we've ever read, calling Gehry "still the world's worst living architect" and the utterly "god awful" Biomuseo "only the most recent case in point" ("he used to be an interesting architect!").
- Saffron cheers the Philadelphia Art Commission for sending Stern back to the drawing board for the Museum of the American Revolution Center: "its massiveness and modern materials...would make it more cartoon than homage" (cupola, be gone!).
- Menking, meanwhile, meanders around the "City of Designerly Love" to find Philly's local design firms "are transforming this once crumbling metropolis."
- H&deM's Mergenthaler explains how West Kowloon's M+ museum "has versatility down to a 'T': the "shape is deceptively simple, belying the architect's emphasis on full functionality and the museum's demand for versatility" ("It's a mini city - a culture hub").
- Jasmax's Partington talks about "New Zealand's most revolutionary building - built in accordance with the madly stringent North American Living Building Challenge" ("dinosaur breath" included).
- Glancey tackles the Designs of the Year 2014: "the shortlist pits the ingeniously amusing against the admirably inventive," though "some new designs appear to be trying a little too hard."
- Eyefuls of AJ Kiosk models of "six jaw-dropping proposals" by some very big names for new pop-up drinking fountains around London (jaw-dropping, indeed; maybe we're not as thirsty as we thought).
- Eyefuls of the 2013 BSA Design Awards winners (great presentation!).
- ENYA's "Elevating the Public Realm Competition" winning designs could create another High Line - in Queens (though it seems the locals would prefer to bring the trains back).

To subscribe to the free daily newsletter [click here](#)

-- OMA/Rem Koolhaas: De Rotterdam, Rotterdam: ...creates a city-within-a-city...Unintentionally it also proves that what works in Manhattan may not automatically work in the Netherland's second city. By Ulf Meyer  
-- Zaha Hadid Architects: Heydar Aliyev Center, Baku, Azerbaijan: ...will play a leading role in re-sculpting the capital's image and in the wider process of carving out the nation's cultural future.

Why do Women Really Leave Architecture? ...Maria Smith, one of last year's Emerging Architecture winners and shortlisted Emerging Woman Architect of the Year to reflect on the pervasive question of gender in architecture: ...until architecture is less eager to revel in its own agony, how can we expect healthy, non-masochistic individuals, male or female, to become architects? ...the debate will inevitably deteriorate from 'why do women leave?' to 'why do men stay?'...A fresh gender debate is afoot and what's more it's wearing pink and saying 'girl' without blinking. - Architectural Review (UK)

Picasso's Unmovable Feast: It may well be that Aby Rosen is legally empowered to take down "Le Tricorne," and in so doing run the very real risk of destroying it. We'll find out a few weeks from now. But it shouldn't have to come to that. By Terry Teachout - Wall Street Journal

Concrete poetry by Jonathan Meades: Hostile superfan Pola Fringuello talks bunkers, Brutalism and bloodymindedness with ugly building obsessive Meades: So we should support...buildings no longer fit for purpose, we should let them moulder until some clever, clever elitist group of exquisites comes along to pronounce on the hidden qualities of such-and-such an eyesore. "As matter of fact -- yes. Emphatically yes." - The Architects' Journal (UK)

Mies's design for MLK Library will be tough for architectural teams to update: Three teams submit proposals for...Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library in downtown Washington, D.C....One thing became painfully clear after the three presentations: Ludwig Mies van der Rohe's original 1972 steel-and-glass box is fighting hard against assaults on its basic purity. By Philip Kennicott -- Patkau Architects/Ayers Saint Gross; Mecanoo/Martinez and Johnson Architecture; Studios Architecture/The Freelon Group - Washington Post

Braniff Building, reflecting on a future past: A project to redevelop the Love Field site...Dallas, a city that has so often cannibalized its past to build for its future, might just be remaking itself into a beacon of modern preservation...a tentative proposal to remake...aluminum-and-glass butterfly designed to evoke flight, into a mixed-used complex with its most dramatic spaces open to the public... By Mark Lamster -- Pereira and Luckman; Alexander Girard (1958) [images] - Dallas Morning News

Covered markets must be preserved: Redeveloping David Adjaye's Wakefield Market Hall is a sign of what urban priorities are: Something unusual and under-sung is gradually disappearing from our cities -- the civic market...The proposal to redevelop the site into a multiplex as an extension of the identikit shopping mall is telling, and a sign of what urban priorities actually are...Cities will be duller as a result. By Owen Hatherley - BD/Building Design (UK)

Postmodern clock tower a victim of the times: It's hard to imagine a future where people gaze upon...almost kitschy clock tower of 200 California St. and see an architectural gem...But it's still troubling that in a few months, we'll lose the chance once and for all. That's when the six-story office building from 1989 will be neutered...I've never been a fan...But it has character, a gawky flair that (almost) makes it endearing. By John King -- Whisler-Patri Architects (1989); Huntsman Architectural Group [slide show]- San Francisco Chronicle

Union Square's Apple store — and a city study for the birds: Ruth Asawa's fountain will flourish — and no birds will be harmed in the making of the Apple store...A "less than significant" number, anyway...an "Avian collision risk/bird safe design assessment." By John King -- Foster + Partners - San Francisco Chronicle

Frank Gehry's Biomuseo Primps for its Debut: Panama's instant icon has taken shape—and inches toward the finish line...since ground broke in 2005, construction has been on-again, off-again...the building, with its aggressive form and dazzling color scheme, is quite a sight to behold in the design-challenged landscape of commercial towers that make up Panama City. By Beth Broome -- Edwina von Gal; Bruce Mau Design [images]- Architectural Record

Frank Gehry Is Still the World's Worst Living Architect: ...it's not entirely clear why some people — mostly very rich clients — haven't picked up on this yet. The utterly god awful Biomuseo in Panama...is only the most recent case in point...and he used to be an interesting architect! By Geoff Manaugh [images, links]- Gizmodo

Stern rebuke: City tells museum architect to try again: ...Philadelphia Art Commission has taken the unusual - and welcome - step...saying that the faux-colonial home planned for the Museum of the American Revolution Center did not measure up to authentic colonial-era buildings nearby...its massiveness and modern materials...would make it more cartoon than homage. By Inga Saffron -- Robert A.M. Stern Architects [image]- Philadelphia Inquirer

City of Designerly Love: Long considered a somewhat sleepy outpost in the mid-Atlantic, Philadelphia has become a hot spot of innovative architecture and urban design...local design firms...are transforming this once crumbling metropolis. By William Menking -- Louis Kahn; Venturi Scott Brown; Edmund Bacon; DIGSAU; Studio | Bryan Hanes landscape architects; Erdy McHenry Architects; KieranTimberlake; OLIN; Tod Williams Billie Tsien; Weiss/Manfredi; Mixplace Studio; ISA Architecture; etc. [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

West Kowloon's M+ museum's design has versatility down to a 'T': The building's no-frills inverted 'T' shape is deceptively simple, belying the architect's emphasis on full functionality...[and] the museum's demand for versatility... "It's a mini city ... a culture hub." -- Ascan Mergenthaler/Herzog & de Meuron [images]- South China Morning Post

How green is my town? Jerome Partington, one of the people behind New Zealand's most revolutionary building hopes the design will be a greenprint for more of the same...Te Uru Taumataua, Tuhoë's new iwi and civil defence headquarters. Jargon heads might like to call it restorative sustainability...the first project built in accordance with the madly stringent North American Living Building Challenge. -- Jasmax [images]- New Zealand Herald

Designs of the Year 2014: From drones to phones, the shortlist pits the ingeniously amusing against the admirably inventive: It's "Strictly Come Designing" squaring up to "The Design Brain of Britain"...some new designs appear to be trying a little too hard. By Jonathan Glancey -- Deyan Sudjic/Design Museum; Zaha Hadid; NLE Architects; Neri Oxman/MIT Media Lab Mediated Matter Group [images]- Telegraph (UK)

AJ Kiosk models revealed: Six jaw-dropping proposals for new water kiosks earmarked for potential locations in central London...new pop-up drinking fountains...exhibited at The Building Centre from 20 February...until 14 March. -- Zaha Hadid Architects; Studio Weave; Hopkins Architects; Eric Parry Architects; Allford Hall Monaghan Morris/AHMM; Adam Architecture [images]- The Architects' Journal (UK)

2013 BSA Design Awards -- LDa Architecture & Interiors; GUND Partnership; Schwartz/Silver Architects; Leers Weinzapfel Associates; Jonathan Levi Architects/Stantec Architecture; Union Studio Architecture & Community Design; Dattner Architects/Grimshaw; over, under/Harry Gugger Studio/Seis Arquitectos; Perkins+Will; Flansburgh Architects/GLH & Associates; designLAB architects/Austin Architects; Jonathan Levi Architects/Stantec Architecture [images]- Boston Society of Architects/BSA/AIA

5 ENYA QueensWay Connection: Elevating the Public Realm Competition Designs Show Us What a Beautiful Elevated Park the QueensWay Could Be: Community Board 5...voted 36-2 in favor of reactivating the train line...would help ease traffic in the area and make the trip to Brooklyn much faster. -- AIANY Emerging New York Architects; Carrie Wilbert, Paris; Nikolay Martynov, Basel; Song Deng and René Biberstein, Toronto; Jessica Shoemaker, Albuquerque; Hyuntek Yoon, Queens, NY [images]- Inhabitat

Note: Pages will open in a new browser window.  
External news links are not endorsed by ArchNewsNow.com.  
Free registration may be required on some sites.  
Some pages may expire after a few days.

[Yesterday's News](#)

© 2014 ArchNewsNow.com