

Today's News - Friday, February 21, 2014

- Gehry's revisions for the Eisenhower Memorial are considered "disappointing": "They moved a few trees around."
- Saffron cheers "one of the most civic-minded projects" being built in Philly - too bad the "collection of architectural pastiches promises to be one of the weirder ensembles outside of Las Vegas."
- 2014 Olympics design: The best: a visual guide to corruption at Sochi; the worst: the architecture.
- Eyefuls of the AJ Small Projects 2014 shortlist, part two: 5 kilometers of rope, a wooden egg...
- More on the saga of Philip Johnson's 1964 New York State Pavilion and its "dedicated defender."
- Weekend diversions:
- Wish we could spend an all-nighter at tomorrow night's White Night Melbourne 2014 - it's "sure to amaze and delight" (quirky names included).
- The next stop for the documentary "The Vision Of Paolo Soleri: Prophet in The Desert" is Sedona (hi Mom!).
- DoCoMoMo Ireland's O'Toole has a fascinating conversation with the director of the forthcoming film on Eileen Gray, "The Price of Desire."
- Evans-Cowley parses two books that "take on the good, the bad, and the ugly of smart cities."
- Clemence cheers a Chicago show that puts Iannelli, "an overlooked name in American design history," in the spotlight.
- Betsky doesn't usually "care much for architecture that mimics what it frames," but the Calder show at LACMA "benefits from Gehry's design of curved walls that invite you in and lead you on in a way that almost makes you dance to the art's rhythms."
- "Italian Futurism" at the Guggenheim is "a hymn, all'italiana, to human optimism and irrational exuberance, it is fascinating and stylish."
- CCA's "Archaeology of the Digital" lands at Yale.
- Aalto lights up the Grand-Hornu in Belgium (great pix!).
- Wainwright wades through "Exploration Architecture: Designing with Nature" at London's The Architecture Foundation, and ponders: "Will the buildings of the future be grown underwater?" (lessons from a spookfish included).
- Jane Drew exhibition at London's ICA "celebrates the groundbreaking work of an overlooked architect and champion of women in architecture."
- RIBA's "The Brits Who Built the Modern World" celebrates the architects who "led the way; they were sending shock waves around the world."
- "Concrete Spring" celebrates Niemeyer's work in Algeria: "the beginning of the Arab Spring soon after he arrived gave a political aspect to architectural photographer Jason Oddy's work."

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Frank Gehry's Revisions for the Troubled Eisenhower Memorial Met With Disapproval: A key member of Congress calls the new design "disappointing"; another critic cites "tremendous arrogance"... "They moved a few trees around and moved a few pavers." By Carol Ross Joynt- The Washingtonian magazine

Mormon development combines civic-mindedness, awful architecture: It's hard not to wince when you first look at the renderings...The collection of architectural pastiches promises to be one of the weirder ensembles produced in 21st-century America outside of Las Vegas. Weirder still, they could end up as one of the most civic-minded projects now being built in Philadelphia. By Inga Saffron -- Robert A.M. Stern; Perkins+Will [images]- Philadelphia Inquirer

The Best And Worst Design From The 2014 Olympics: BEST: A Visual Guide To Corruption At Sochi. WORST: The Architecture Of The 2014 Winter Olympics [images, links]- Fast Company

Part two: AJ Small Projects 2014 shortlist: 5 kilometres of rope, a wooden egg, a flower stall, a battery charger... -- Fraher Architects; Chris Dyson Architects; Studio 54 Architecture; ZS Architects (now ZCD Architects); Andrew Pilkington Architects & Designers; Synthesis Design + Architecture; MS-DA; NORD architecture; PAD Studio; Buchanan Partnership; Graticule Architecture; Taller Basico de Arquitectura [images]- The Architects' Journal (UK)

New York State Pavilion designed by Philip Johnson: This April marks the 50th anniversary of the 1964 New York World's Fair...While the jury is still out on whether the structures are worth the price of preservation, the Pavilion has a dedicated defender in Matthew Silva...People for the Pavilion... "Modern Ruin" is a love letter to the Pavilion...- Place Matters

A night to remember, again! White Night Melbourne 2014: With more than 80 curated events and some 500 artists involved White Night 2014 is sure to amaze and delight...7pm to 7am extravaganza to be held on 22 February...with some 11 precincts in the city designated a particular theme and quirky name. - Australian Design Review

Documentary Explores Vision of Paolo Soleri: Lisa Scafuro's "The Vision Of Paolo Soleri: Prophet in The Desert" explores the life and work of the Italian-born architect, urban designer, artist, craftsman, and philosopher, who died last April. - UnBeige

"The Price of Desire" director Mary McGuckian talks to DoCoMoMo's Shane O'Toole about her forthcoming film on Eileen Gray. The conversation took place at the Irish Museum of Modern Art. [video]- DOCOMOMO Ireland

For or Against Smart Cities: Where Should Planners Stand? Are we using technology to plan for utopias? Or are we luddites who are ignoring an inevitable future? Should we be for or against smart cities? Two recent books take on this debate. Anthony Townsend's "Smart Cities: Big Data, Civic Hackers, and the Quest for a New Utopia" and Adam Greenfield's "Against the Smart City" take on the good, the bad, and the ugly of smart cities. By Jennifer Evans-Cowley- PLANetizen

Alfonso Iannelli: 20th-Century Renaissance Man: A new exhibit at Architech Gallery in Chicago celebrates the work of an overlooked name in American design history...highlights the broad range of a prolific career...Belated or not, the careful archiving of the materials...assure Iannelli's legacy, thanks to David Jameson's passionate dedication. By Paul Clemence [images]- Metropolis Magazine

Exhibit in Equipose: "Calder and Abstraction: From Avant-Garde to Iconic" at LACMA...benefits from Frank Gehry's design of curved walls that invite you in...and lead you on in a way that almost makes you dance to the art's rhythms. Normally I do not care much for architecture that mimics what it frames, but here the walls work beautifully... By Aaron Betsky [images]- Architect Magazine

Forza Italia: "Italian Futurism, 1909-1944: Reconstructing the Universe" at the Guggenheim brings futurism out from the shadows...With a century of hindsight, it is easy to point out futurism's failings—its fascination with fascism and its belief in modernisation as a cure-all—but as a hymn, all'italiana, to human optimism and irrational exuberance, it is fascinating and stylish. - The Economist (UK)

Yale exhibition highlights pioneers of digital architecture: "Archaeology of the Digital" a look at the foundations of digital architecture in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Organized by the Canadian Centre for Architecture in Montreal, the exhibition...looks at four pivotal projects... -- Frank Gehry; Peter Eisenman; Chuck Hoberman; Shoji Yoh- Yale News

Alvar Aalto "Lightings" exhibition at Grand-Hornu in Belgium: Aalto's luminaires stand the test of time...The solutions that he developed aspired to a general sense of well being by promoting the social and even therapeutic benefits of light. [images]- designboom

Will the buildings of the future be grown underwater? "Exploration Architecture: Designing with Nature": Michael Pawlyn lays out his vision for architecture inspired by the natural world – including biorock buildings grown entirely underwater and whole office blocks being lit by learning from the blind sea star; at the The Architecture Foundation, London. By Oliver Wainwright [images]- Guardian (UK)

The pioneering Jane Drew: A new exhibition at the Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA) celebrates the groundbreaking work of an overlooked architect and champion of women in architecture..."Jane Drew (1911-1996): An Introduction" also introduces her links to colonial Africa and Chandigarh in northern India where she worked with Le Corbusier. By Laura Mark [images]- The Architects' Journal (UK)

High and mighty: "The Brits Who Built the Modern World, 1950 – 2012"..."These architects led the way; they were sending shock waves around the world"...Also on view..."New British Works – Today and Tomorrow" which charts UK architectural designs currently being exported around the world; at RIBA London – Norman Foster; Richard Rogers; Nicholas Grimshaw; Terry Farrell; Michael and Patty Hopkins [images]- Independent (UK)

"Concrete Spring": Oscar Niemeyer's work in Algeria: ...the focus of an exhibition of works by architectural photographer Jason Oddy at Smiths Row, Bury St Edmonds...the beginning of the Arab Spring soon after he arrived gave a political aspect to Oddy's work...- The Architects' Journal (UK)

ANN Feature: Informed by Learning: Interview with Joe Valerio and Randy Mattheis about education for the future at the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools: "We wanted to dive deeply into the culture of the school...so one of the first things we did was to participate in its daily life." -- Valerio Dewalt Train Associates - ArchNewsNow



-- 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.

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