

Today's News - Tuesday, February 25, 2014

- ArcSpace brings us a Q&A with photographer Massaia (and eye-fuls of his amazing images) + Kiser on why Hotel Le Corbusier is "a 'must' for architecture aficionados."
- Duany explains his community-building Project for Lean Urbanism and what it will mean for Detroit: the city is "a goldmine for...people who have the energy to work for themselves and who become rebellious when confronted with an institutionalized lack of common sense."
- Badger ponders the question "now what" for Sochi, Russia, "with no post-Olympic plan" and "with zero demand in sight" for its new roads, trains, and shopping malls (with links to others' takes as well).
- Simpson puts the spotlight on "some inspired projects making a real difference" by architects and designers who have "put caution - and fees - aside and tackle a project for the sheer love of seeing good design being put to the best possible use."
- Eye-fuls of Johannesburg's newest student housing where "brightly-colored shipping containers meet decrepit-looking grain silos" (we love this - so sad that there's nary a mention of who designed it).
- Eye-fuls of Lacaton & Vassal's FRAC Dunkerque art center that is "a stroke of genius" and "offers the thrill that comes with the sheer audacity of its design."
- A "stellar" shortlist of six in the running to design London's new Crystal Palace (we look forward to seeing what the Hadid/Kapoor mash-up looks like!).
- In honor of Rykwert getting his RIBA Gold Medal today: Pallister's great Q&A: do you think that architects should make the world a better place? "That's what it's about! If it's not about that it's not about anything" (and theory as a discipline is "really rather boring").
- Heathcote cheers Rykwert's Gold: the award going to the first writer/critic in almost 20 years "is all the more welcome as it recognizes the importance of thinking and writing to a profession that may have seemed to drift more recently into image-making."
- A round-up of houses without windows: are they "meditative respites or architectural straightjackets?" (we'll take windows, please).
- One we couldn't resist: news that Harold Ramis passed away (much too soon!) made us so sad - so how could we resist Manaugh's take on why "Ghostbusters" is "such an awesome architectural film": "I, for one, never really looked at buildings the same way again."
- Cheers to all: Docomomo US announces the winners in its inaugural Modernism in America Awards (a most interesting group!) + Urban Design Group (UK) National Urban Design Awards 2014 (an extra yay! to our friend Lucy Bullivant!).
- Call for entries: Architect magazine's 8th Annual R+D Awards + Registration deadline looms for the ASLA 2014 Professional Awards.

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-- Q&A with Michael Massaia: he explains how severe insomnia, photo realistic paintings, self-taught discipline and seeing what is right in front of him...made him into the very talented photographer he is.
-- Hotel Le Corbusier: Unite d'Habitation, Le Corbusier's first large scale project, is one of his most important. Hotel Le Corbusier is a 'must' for architecture aficionados. By Kirsten Kiser

Andres Duany: Community building through 'Lean Urbanism': Detroit is a fragment of the virgin continent of the 19th century...a goldmine for the young, the immigrant, the maker, the small business owner - people who have the energy to work for themselves and who become rebellious when confronted with an institutionalized lack of common sense. -- Project for Lean Urbanism - Model D (Detroit)

Sochi's Sobering Day After: Now What? What on earth will become of this \$51 billion national investment...with no post-Olympic plan...with zero demand in sight? ...Sochi faces an unusually painful reckoning: The gulf between what the city erected from scratch for this one event and what could plausibly exist here in the coming years is simply enormous. By Emily Badger [links]- The Atlantic Cities

Veronica Simpson on community design projects: Every so often architects and designers put caution - and fees - aside and tackle a project for the sheer love of seeing good design being put to the best possible use...some inspired projects making a real difference. -- Architecture for Humanity; Architecture Sans Frontieres/Architecture Without Frontiers; Feilden Clegg Bradley; Architype; Farrow Partnership Architects/Clark Nexsen/Ngonyama Okpanum & Associates; Jim Archer/Planning Systems Services; Practice Architecture [images]- FX Magazine / DesignCurial

Container City: Johannesburg has a new rainbow-colored high-rise that's an unlikely pastiche of architectural types. Brightly-colored shipping containers meet decrepit-looking grain silos at Mill Junction, an innovative development that realizes a 370-bed student dormitory... [images]- Metropolis Magazine

Two of a Kind: a new home for France's FRAC Dunkerque art centre: Quel surprise! ...a wild proposition from Paris-based Lacaton & Vassal - a doppelganger volume of a former shipyard hangar in the docklands of Dunkirk...such a stroke of genius...offers the thrill that comes with the sheer audacity of its design. [images]- DesignCurial / Blueprint Magazine (UK)

Zaha, Rogers and Chippro on 'stellar' Crystal Palace shortlist: A line-up of half a dozen of the UK's biggest hitters... -- David Chipperfield Architects; Grimshaw; Haworth Tompkins Architects; Marks Barfield Architects; Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners; Zaha Hadid Architects with Anish Kapoor- The Architects' Journal (UK)

Property prices are "castrating the whole notion of city life": Q&A with Joseph Rykwert: ...do you think that architects should make the world a better place? "That's what it's about! If it's not about that it's not about anything." Why do you think architectural theory matters? "Well at the moment there's much too much of it! It only really matters if it affects practice. As an independent discipline, I think it's really rather boring...Theoreticians who don't look at real buildings are of no interest to me." By James Pallister- Dezeen

Joseph Rykwert: RIBA Gold Medal 2014: It's not that writers and critics haven't won the RIBA's Gold Medal before...but it hasn't happened for almost two decades. That makes Rykwert's receipt of this year's award all the more welcome as it recognises the importance of thinking and writing to a profession that may have seemed to drift more recently into image-making. By Edwin Heathcote- Financial Times (UK)

Houses without Windows: Meditative Respite or Architectural Straightjackets? A look at the architectural trend of windowless homes...Vertical Glass House is one of the several architectural oddities that radically explores the notion of public and private space, and often ends up turning them on their heads. -- Atelier FCJZ; Toyo Ito; Tadao Ando; Uno Tomoaki; Alastair Townsend; Aires Mateus [images]- Metropolis Magazine

Why Ghostbusters Is Such An Awesome Architectural Film: ...inadvertently becomes one of the most interesting

architectural films of the last few decades...I, for one, never really looked at buildings the same way again - and, looking back today...I owe a heart-felt architectural thanks to Harold Ramis. By Geoff Manaugh - Gizmodo

Docomomo US Announces the Inaugural Modernism in America Awards: Furnace Creek Visitor Center at Death Valley National Park; Cecil Doty/National Park Service; Welton Becket & Associates; Architectural Resources Group; Curating the City: Modern Architecture in L.A. Website: Architectural Resources Group; Alan Hess; Peavey Plaza: M. Paul Friedberg + Partners; Preservation Alliance of Minnesota; The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF); Docomomo US/Minnesota; etc. [images]- DOCOMOMO US

National Urban Design Awards 2014 -- Urban Initiatives Studio; Barratt London - Maple Quays; Bristol City Council - Know Your Place; "Masterplanning Futures" by Lucy Bullivant- Urban Design Group (UK)

Call for entries: ARCHITECT's 8th Annual R+D Awards: Put your game-changing design solutions, concepts, and innovations before your peers. Enter. Win. Get published. Enjoy acclaim; deadline: April 18- Architect Magazine

Call for entries deadline reminder: ASLA 2014 Professional Awards; registration deadline: March 7 (submissions due March 21)- American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

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

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