• An international list of 79 projects take home the 2014 Civic Trust Award.
• Meanwhile, MAS bestows NYT’s Kimmelman the 2014 Brendan Gill Prize for “challenging New Yorkers and their regional neighbors to no longer settle for anything less than planning and design excellence.”
• Heathcote x 2 (both excellent reads!): he takes on the “global property trend for architecture as logo”... even though designed by starchitects, many new buildings “are very far from architectural masterpieces - the new generation of skyscrapers has been conceived as objects rather than engaged architecture.”
• That said, he is hopeful as planners, architects and developers seem to be at least trying to get their mojo back with mixed-use projects: The WTC site “is a blend of the emerging trends in city center development... its success - or its failure - will determine the model of city center commercial architecture for years to come.”
• Heathcote describes the competition to move from the height to the iconic value” (includes a great round-up of other round buildings).
• A more depressing report says that “nearly one-fifth of the planet’s 720 world heritage sites will be affected” by rising tides (even more depressing is the estimated number “is likely to be underestimated”).
• A look at the uphill battle facing the planned cultural center at Ground Zero: lots of skeptics (and “ Gehry's involvement in the project is now unclear”).
• Corner presents his vision for a stretch of Seattle's waterfront once the Alaskan Way Viaduct is demolished (skeptics abound).
• Ban “blasts architects ‘too busy’ to help the needy” - he’s not “against building monuments but I’m thinking we can work more for the public.”
• Zeiger cheers MRY’s “vibrant” affordable housing project in Santa Monica, CA: “small decisions” (and lots of color) “account for the project’s success.”
• A Pereira 1970s tower on LA’s Sunset Boulevard is getting its new close-up as an upscale apartment building: “It’s a gem in need of a good polish” that will “be a catalyst for the entire neighborhood.”
• Eyefuls of Ferratt’s DC Tower 1 on De Danube in Vienna (talk about “urban logo”).
• Eyefuls of Fujiwatar’s White Tree tower in Montpellier, France: “Whether it will serve as a cultural magnet as planned remains to be seen, but it certainly will fit in with the city’s ‘boldly modern’ agenda wonderfully” (ditto “urban logo”).
• Eyefuls of Adjaye's Colgate University Center for Art and Culture in upstate New York hopes to reinforce “connections between the village, the university and the wider population.”
• An international list of 79 projects take home the 2014 Civic Trust Award.
• Sign up for the NEA's upcoming webinar series on International Design Initiatives.
• One we couldn’t resist: “If 27 Famous Artists Designed Buildings” (very fun).
Reasonable Dream: A vibrant housing development in Santa Monica offers the good life at a surprising price...2802 Pico Housing—a recently opened 100% affordable housing project...small decisions account for the project's success. By Mimi Zeiger -- Moore Ruble Yudell Architects [images]- Metropolis Magazine

Vacant offices designed by William Pereira to become apartments: ...a complex on Sunset Boulevard designed decades ago...is being transformed into an upscale 96-unit apartment building...the Elysian..."It's a gem in need of a good polish...will be a catalyst for the entire neighborhood." -- David Lawrence Gray Architects - Los Angeles Times

First Look: Dominique Perrault's DC Tower 1 in Vienna: The newly completed tower along the Danube is the tallest in Austria...the final section of the new district, overlooking the river...the first of two towers Perrault has designed for the site. [slide show]- Architectural Record

A Tower Inspired By Trees, Complete With Balconies For Leaves: Called White Tree, the new building will add a modern twist to the skyline of Montpellier, France...an ongoing architectural initiative called the 21st-Century Folies...Whether it will serve as a cultural magnet as planned remains to be seen, but it certainly will fit in with the city's "boutique modern" agenda wonderfully. -- Sou Fujimoto; Nicholas Laisne Associates; Manal Rachdi Oxo Architects [images]- Fast Company / Co. Design

Colgate University Center for Art and Culture by David Adjaye: ...in Hamilton, NY...the scheme brings together the region's anthropological and fine art collections...the cultural complex sits in the region's growing commercial district reinforcing connections between the village, the university and the wider population. [images]- designboom

2014 Civic Trust Award winners revealed: ...79 national and international projects were rewarded... -- Hopkins Architects; Stanton Williams; Heneghan Peng; Duggan Morris; Niall McLaughlin; etc. [images]- The Architects' Journal (UK)

NEA to Host Webinar Series on International Design Initiatives: Learning from Abroad: Jason Schupbach will convene panels of leading practitioners to present case studies and provide insights on successful design models and an opportunity for Q&A; March 19, May 7, and June 18- National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)

If 27 Famous Artists Designed Buildings: What if Picasso had designed a jagged cubist fortress? Federico Babina explores this and more artist-architecture mashups in a new illustration series. [images]- Fast Company

-- Travel guide: Helsinki: ...known as a 'city of architecture.' By Ulf Meyer
-- Morphosis: Emerson College, Los Angeles: sustainable facility features a host of innovative amenities...defines the College's identity in the center of the entertainment industry. By Kirsten Kiser

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