

Today's News - Thursday, March 13, 2014

- ANN's Q&A with Magnusson Architecture and Planning looks back at the firm's last 30 years and the changing trends in affordable housing.
- Across the Big Pond, New London Architecture releases a surprising report on London's skyscraper boom that is prompting a fierce debate about whether they're "monuments to 'corporate greed'" or a sign that the city is "getting its mojo back."
- Woodman, meanwhile, gives his verdict on a number of new London skyscrapers "that are set to dominate the views for years to come."
- Olcayto cheers the Serpentine pavilion's seeming trend to steer away from starchitects, "but it would be more rewarding for young British talent to get the job."
- Wainwright weighs in on Koolhaas's plans for this year's Venice Architecture Biennale, for which the "provocative Dutch practitioner" says he will "sever all connections with contemporary architecture - which is not in particularly good health": "It could be a brilliant fusion of architecture and performance - or an obscure and baffling muddle."
- Meanwhile, Hatherley withdraws from the UK Pavilion curating team "because of differences of opinion over content"; FAT's Jacob said it was an "amicable" split (what else).
- On a happier note, Obrist and H&deM are teaming up for the Swiss Pavilion that will pair Burckhardt and Price for "A stroll through a fun place."
- Pert offers a very thoughtful take on architecture and emotions: architecture has become "a kind of background hum, to be noticed only when it is exceptionally big, exceptionally ugly, or exceptionally beautiful" - it can/should do/be more.
- Hinshaw parses Corner's Seattle waterfront plan: "There are things to love, but also plenty of room for editing. Occasionally, there were flashes of brilliance. At other times, just a big collective shrug."
- Flener parses three proposals for the Trinity River Corridor in Dallas by OMA/Lehrer, Bofill, and Stoss/SHoP: for a city always looking for "bigger and better," it "definitely got what it was looking for, and there is now much to discuss."
- ZGF's new LEED Platinum HQ for the Hilton Foundation focused on "environmental stewardship and a simple, peaceful, healthy, productive, and energy-efficient working environment that would last for at least 100 years."
- Volner delves into how SOM Chicago's engineering team keeps its "disparate parts working in concert" - younger studios "looking to establish durable, collaborative practices...could do worse than to look to one of the biggest and best-known brands of them all."
- A new report finds that while architectural work is on the rise in Australia, "the industry has been facing growing competition from vertically integrated firms," and needs "to adapt with new service models to compete."
- AIA and AIAS get behind the bipartisan National Design Services Act that would "give architecture students the same relief from crushing student loan debt - already granted young lawyers, doctors and others - in return for community service" (sign the petition!).
- Winners announced in the Chicago Architectural Club/Graham Foundation/AIA Chicago Emerging Visions 2014 portfolio competition.
- Call for entries: Green Square Design Competition: Gunyama Park and Aquatic Centre, Sydney + RFP: 2014-2015 Citizens' Institute on Rural Design workshops + Call for outside experts for advisory groups in the development of Cradle to Cradle Certified Product Standard v. 4.0 + CANactions 2014: User-Generated Kyiv (Kiev) Ideas Competition.

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Magnusson Architecture and Planning: Looking back at the last 30 years and toward the future: MAP has worked hard to create affordable communities that people actually want to live in – not just containers for living. Q&A with the senior leadership...- ArchNewsNow

London's on the up as boom sees skyscraper total double: At least 236 buildings of 20 storeys or more are currently in the pipeline, according to detailed analysis by New London Architecture...prompted a fierce debate about whether there has been enough London-wide scrutiny of the high-rise boom...Stephen Bayley said the crop of tall buildings were monuments to "corporate greed"...Piers Gough said: "Towers are about London realising it is insanely popular and getting its mojo back." - London Evening Standard (UK)

London's new skyline: the verdict: Ellis Woodman gives his verdict on the Shard and other buildings that are set to dominate the views for years to come. -- Renzo Piano; Ian Simpson; Rafael Vinoly; Foster + Partners; Cesar Pelli; Rogers Stirk Harbour; Allies and Morrison; Squire and Partners; Kohn Pedersen Fox (KPF) [slide show essay]- Telegraph (UK)

Time for Serpentine Pavilion to back Brits: Awarding the Serpentine Pavilion commission to an unknown star is great but it would be more rewarding for young British talent to get the job. By Rory Olcayto -- Smiljan Radic; Sou Fujimoto- The Architects' Journal (UK)

Rem Koolhaas's Venice Biennale will 'be about architecture, not architects': ...declaring it will 'sever all connections with contemporary architecture'..."Fundamentals"...a radical departure from the usual survey of the current architectural scene...conceiving the project "more as a vehicle for research than an exhibition"...It could be a brilliant fusion of architecture and performance – or an obscure and baffling muddle. By Oliver Wainwright- Guardian (UK)

Owen Hatherley walks off team curating the UK Pavilion at this year's Venice Biennale: ...was working in collaboration with FAT Architecture and Crimson Architectural Historians on A Clockwork Jerusalem..."because of differences of opinion over content"...FAT's Sam Jacob said the split was "amicable"... [images]- The Architects' Journal (UK)

Hans Ulrich Obrist and Herzog & de Meuron Join Forces for Venice Architecture Biennale Pavilion of Switzerland: ..."Lucius Burckhardt and Cedric Price: A stroll through a fun place"...Jacques Herzog and Pierre de Meuron were the first architects I met when I was a teenager growing up in Switzerland"...- Artinfo

Build me up: how architecture can affect emotions: Aesthetics have been stretched to encapsulate so many uses that we...find it hard to distinguish one building's use from its neighbour's...architecture becomes a kind of background hum, to be noticed only when it is exceptionally big, exceptionally ugly, or exceptionally beautiful...We know architecture can...change the way we experience spaces. Now we need to keep talking about the kinds of emotions we want to create. By Alan Pert, University of Melbourne -- Northern Office for Research and Design (NORD) [images]- Architecture & Design (Australia)

The waxing and waning of Seattle's waterfront plan: There are things to love in James Corner Field Operations' latest, but also plenty of room for editing...rolled out the latest thinking for Seattle's urban waterfront. Occasionally, there were flashes of brilliance. At other times, just a big collective shrug. By Mark Hinshaw [images]- Crosscut (Seattle)

Crit> Connected City Design Challenge: ...three proposals for the Trinity River Corridor in Dallas: For a city that consistently looks for bigger and better ideas, Dallas definitely got what it was looking for, and there is now much to discuss. By Ryan Flener/Good Fulton & Farrell Architects -- OMA/AMO/Mia Lehrer & Associates; Ricardo Bofill; Stoss + SHoP Architects [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

An Unconventional Look at an Unconventional Building: Accounting for High-Performance Value at the Hilton Foundation's New Headquarters: ...primary goals were environmental stewardship and crafting a simple, peaceful, healthy, productive, and energy-efficient working environment that would last for at least 100 years. -- ZGF Architects- Rocky Mountain Institute

Well-Oiled Machine: Led by Bill Baker, the engineering team at SOM Chicago is reshaping the form and function of buildings: ...what keeps the office's disparate parts working in concert comes down to three terms..."Simplicity. Structural Clarity. Sustainability." By Ian Volner -- Skidmore, Owings & Merrill - Metropolis Magazine

Architectural work on the rise in Australia but firms need to adapt with new service models: ...an updated report from industry research firm IBISWorld...the industry has been facing growing competition from vertically integrated firms..."architecture firms have to improve links with construction firms or even offer their own range of services to compete." [link to report] - Architecture & Design (Australia)

Architects Laud Introduction of Bipartisan National Design Services Act As Way to Cut Spiraling Student Loan Debt: AIA and AIAS Commit to Making Bill Reality; Enlist Help of Architecture Student Community Nationwide: ... will give architecture students the same relief from crushing student loan debt, which is already granted young lawyers, doctors and others – in return for community service. - American Institute of Architects (AIA) / American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS)

Chicago Architectural Club in partnership with the Graham Foundation and AIA Chicago announce Emerging Visions 2014 portfolio competition winners. -- Christopher Marcinkoski/Andrew Moddrell/PORT Architecture + Urbanism; Grant Gibson/CAMES/gibson - Chicago Architectural Club

Call for entries: Green Square Design Competition: Gunyama Park and Aquatic Centre, Sydney; deadline: April 30- City of Sydney (Australia)

Call for entries/Request for Proposals/RFP: 2014-2015 Citizens' Institute on Rural Design workshops; \$7,000 cash award for planning and hosting a two-and-a-half day community design workshop and in-kind technical assistance and services in support of the workshop, valued at \$35,000; deadline: May 6- National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)

Call for entries: Call for Applicants/Outside Experts to Serve on Advisory Groups for Revision of the Cradle to Cradle Certified Product Standard; Development of Version 4.0 Underway; application deadline: April 18- Cradle to Cradle Products Innovation Institute

Call for entries: CANactions 2014: User-Generated Kyiv Ideas Competition: convert the maximum energy generated by the revolutionary wave into urban ideas and new functions of public space; registration deadline (extended): April 14 (submissions due April 17) - CANactions (Kyiv, Ukraine)



-- 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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