

Today's News - Tuesday, March 25, 2014

EDITOR'S NOTE: It's a Pritzker kind of day - and we couldn't be more pleased that Shigeru Ban is this year's Laureate! We've sifted through miles of regurgitations of the press release to round up some of our faves (in no particular order) who actually talked the man and/or have serious things to say about the architect - and what the jury's pick may signify. All well worth reading!

- Iovine: "it would be hard to imagine another architect more perfectly embodying the current mood in architecture."
- Kimmelman: "The jury sent a clear message: Good design and good works can both be rewarded" (that it didn't choose a woman "suggests that change in architecture remains glacial and needs a shove. But it is happening").
- Hawthorne: "a clear attempt by the jury to address the longstanding (and recently deepening) rift between architecture's humanitarian and high-design wings. There aren't many architects who try to bridge the divide" (that rift "may be bigger than it realizes").
- Goldhagen: "Empowered by the Pritzker, he is positioned to have a profound influence on the profession and in the world. He has the drive. He has the intellect, the moral, and the social vision...to make this promise a reality."
- Heathcote: Ban "is both an unexpected and a good choice. His ingenious and inventive architecture is a rare blend of the sustainable, the recyclable and the beautiful."
- Medina/Makovsky: "he is surprisingly ambiguous about the inspiration for his social-oriented work."
- Ferro: "He appears more worried than delighted by the prospect of resting on his laurels, deserved as that might be. 'I want to be very careful,' he repeats whenever I hint at the notion that this award might be A Big Deal."
- Just the facts: the Pritzker Prize package with links to selected works, bio, citation, etc.
- In other news (yes, there is other news): Three former New Jersey governors pen an op-ed re: plans for LG Electronics new HQ: it "would take for its own private benefit the Palisades' natural beauty and unspoiled views - which belong to the public...we remain hopeful that LG will do the right thing. The building can be redesigned. The Palisades and the Hudson River cannot."
- van der Heijden questions there really is a "green building revolution" going on in Australia - other than in high-end office buildings: "If the vast majority of buildings are not hitting the highest sustainability standards, then are we really witnessing a revolution?"
- Goldberger is totally taken by Rockwell's "gorgeous" temporary TED Theater inside the Vancouver Convention Center: "Serious architects don't usually design temporary buildings, so that alone makes this noteworthy. And it's even more unusual when a temporary building is worth talking about as a piece of architecture."
- Mackenzie has a fascinating Q&A with Koolhaas re: the Venice Biennale, working in China, and much, much more ("Frampton is smart, but...").
- A great Q&A with Iwan Baan re: his new show "52 Cities, 52 Weeks" opening in Herford, Germany, and his "fascination with ordinary people's extraordinary use of space" (fab photos, of course!).
- A good reason to head to Denmark on Thursday: the Copenhagen Architecture Festival X Film takes a bow.
- A most excellent presentation of the AJ Small Projects 2014 winners.
- Tyler Sharp takes home the RAIC 2014 Young Architect Award: "His success demonstrates that individual creativity and talent can be exercised within a larger firm context."
- Call for entries: Reinventing the African Mud Hut International Design Competition.

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Julie V. Iovine: Cardboard Standout: Shigeru Ban Named the Winner of the 2014 Pritzker Prize: ...known for building refugee shelters at almost every cataclysmic natural disaster for the past 20 years...it would be hard to imagine another architect more perfectly embodying the current mood in architecture, which favors broad social relevance over iconic forms while still managing to excel at designs that are exquisitely beautiful. - Wall Street Journal

Michael Kimmelman : With Paper Tubes, Building Social Change: The jury for this year's Pritzker Prize sent a clear message by recognizing Shigeru Ban and his socially conscious architecture: Good design and good works can both be rewarded...That the jury did not choose a woman — after much justified protest about its historic indifference to women...suggests that change in architecture remains glacial and needs a shove. But it is happening. [slide show]- New York Times

Christopher Hawthorne: Shigeru Ban, known for disaster relief, wins Pritzker Prize: ...a clear attempt by the jury to address the longstanding (and recently deepening) rift between architecture's humanitarian and high-design wings...There aren't many architects who try to bridge the divide...Michael Maltzan is one...Giancarlo Mazzanti is another. Ban is a third...I have seen a wide variety of Ban's work...The experience has left me with a nagging sense that the gap the Pritzker jury wants to close may be bigger than it realizes. - Los Angeles Times

Sarah Williams Goldhagen: The 2014 Winner of the Pritzker Prize is Revolutionizing Architecture: Shigeru Ban...about a decade older than most architects in this activist generation, was there first...measurably improved the lives of people in forsaken places...Empowered by the Pritzker...he is positioned to have a profound influence on the profession and in the world. He has the drive. He has the intellect, the moral, and the social vision...to make this promise a reality. - The New Republic

Edwin Heathcote: Pritzker Prize 2014: Shigeru Ban: Feted for his innovative use of cardboard, the Japanese architect is both an unexpected and a good choice...has made his name using cardboard rather than concrete, paper rather than glass, and through building for the afflicted rather than the affluent. His ingenious and inventive architecture is a rare blend of the sustainable, the recyclable and the beautiful. [images]- Financial Times (UK)

Samuel Medina and Paul Makovsky: Exclusive: Meet The 2014 Pritzker Prize Winner, Shigeru Ban: The interview was occasioned by this year's Pritzker rollout, whose top-secret protocol even precluded the architect from revealing the news to his studio (but not to his mother)...he is surprisingly ambiguous about the inspiration for his social-oriented work...He admits culpability with his fellow architects for "mainly working for privileged people who have money and power"...who "need architects to visualize that power." [images]- Metropolis Magazine

Shaunacy Ferro: Shigeru Ban Wins Architecture's Top Award: Co.Design sat down with the 2014 Pritzker Prize Laureate...renown for his humanitarian work and inventive use of recycled materials...He appears more worried than delighted by the prospect of resting on his laurels, deserved as that might be. "I want to be very careful," he repeats whenever I hint at the notion that this award might be A Big Deal. - Fast Company / Co. Design

Shigeru Ban of Japan is the 2014 Pritzker Architecture Prize Laureate [links to selected works, bio, citation, etc.] - The Hyatt Foundation

Op-Ed: The Threat to the Palisades: LG Electronics USA plans to construct a building that would rise high above the tree line...would take for its own private benefit the Palisades' natural beauty and unspoiled views — which belong to the public...we remain hopeful that LG will do the right thing...The building can be redesigned. The Palisades and the Hudson River cannot. By Brendan T. Byrne, James J. Florio and Christine Todd Whitman, former governors of New Jersey - New York Times

Green building revolution? Only in high-end new CBD offices: Everywhere else, the pace of progress is much slower...If the vast majority of buildings are not hitting the highest sustainability standards, then are we really witnessing a revolution? ...in Australia, other market segments need their own tools like Green Star. This will require more leadership in the industry, in figuring out how to tempt the developers and owners of other building types to join in. By Jeroen van der Heijden- [The Conversation](#)

See David Rockwell's Gorgeous TED Theater Get Constructed in Less Than a Week: ...in Vancouver, he's just finished something that is just as over-the-top in one way, and just as basic, sensible, and temporary in another way...Serious architects don't usually design temporary buildings, so that alone makes this noteworthy. And it's even more unusual when a temporary building is worth talking about as a piece of architecture. By Paul Goldberger [image, video]- [Vanity Fair](#)

Rem Koolhaas: National identity in architecture: The 2014 Venice Architecture Biennale...will examine "the evolution of national architectures in the last [sic] 100 years...Q&A re: this trade-off between regionalism and globalism in architecture, his studio's work..."I want to make a statement about how much history our profession still contains...a history that we are barely aware of." By Andrew Mackenzie/Architects Without Frontiers, Australia [images]- [ArchitectureAU \(Australia\)](#)

Interview with Iwan Baan: As his new show "52 Cities, 52 Weeks" opens in Herford, Germany, he speaks to Simon Esterson about his photography and fascination with ordinary people's extraordinary use of space. [images]- [Architectural Review \(UK\)](#)

Copenhagen Architecture Festival X Film, March 27-30: new festival combines film screenings, debates, symposia, lectures, walks, in-situ views and much more.- [Copenhagen Architecture Festival](#)

AJ Small Projects 2014: The UK's best architecture for under £250,000: Rory Olcayto and some of the country's most exciting, emerging talent talk about this year's awards + Chris Dyson Architects' 13 Wapping Pierhead two-storey extension to a grade-II listed terrace + Gillespie Yunnie wins Sustainability Award for Royal William Yard staircase in Plymouth. [images, video]- [The Architects' Journal \(UK\)](#)

RAIC announces 2014 Young Architect Award: Royal Architectural Institute of Canada announces Tyler Sharp, of Toronto, as the recipient... "His success demonstrates that individual creativity and talent can be exercised within a larger firm context as an option to developing a career as an individual practitioner." -- Battersby Howat; Kuwabara Payne McKenna Blumberg/KPMB; RDH Architects [images]- [Royal Architectural Institute of Canada \(RAIC\)](#)

Call for entries: Reinventing the African Mud Hut International Design Competition: design a single-family unit to be built by maximum use of earth and local labor in the Ashanti Region of Ghana; registration deadline: August 15 (submissions due August 31)- [Nka Foundation](#)



-- Chateau La Coste, Le Puy Ste Réparate, France: a place of wine, art and architecture that will continue to evolve as new projects and installations are developed. By Kirsten Kiser -- Tadao Ando; Jean Nouvel; Gehry Partners; Jean Prouvé; Sou Fujimoto

-- Q&A with Juergen Nogai, German architecture, art and documentary photographer: his decade long collaboration with Julius Shulman...and more

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