

Today's News - Friday, April 4, 2014

- Davidson parses the 10 Rebuild by Design proposals for a post-Sandy world: "The result is a series of designs by committee - not a single camel, but a whole herd of options...not spending a fortune now means spending a huge one later."
- Eyefuls of the Rebuild by Design teams' proposals (great presentation).
- King explains why San Francisco was right to reject George Lucas's generous offer to build a museum in the Presidio that presents "a basic truth that other cities would do well to note" (it was also "an elevator pitch gone astray...There was an implicit hubris to all this").
- Philly gives thumbs-up to revised plans for the Museum of the American Revolution: "They were told to make it better," and Stern "delivered. The changes that won over the commission were not minor."
- Madrigal continues to be astounded by the scale of "massive, vertical company towns reshaping the Philippines' cities."
- The powers-that-be claim plans to demolish Glasgow's iconic tower blocks as part of the 2014 Commonwealth Games opening ceremony is "a bold and dramatic statement of intent" - others have a very different take: "It just seems like a bizarre PR stunt which has the potential to go very wrong."
- Hume cheers the slew of public sector projects winning OAA Awards of Excellence, "but it's only a matter of time" before condo towers will be joining the list: "there's no doubt that condo architecture can be interesting these days."
- Bentley Mays cheers an affordable housing project in Toronto that abandons "traditional social housing's warehouse-like aesthetic in favor of architectural styling that is fresh and contemporary...artistically well-considered and svelte."
- Giovannini takes a look at Hadid's first U.S. tower in Miami: "The project is no less Zaha at this unprecedented scale."
- Bernstein finds out why "the Indiana Jones of architecture photography" Iwan Baan became "the architecture world's most sought-after lensman."
- Weekend diversions:
 - Goldhagen has a fascinating take on MoMA's Frank Lloyd Wright show: "one can practically hear the curators flogging themselves, trying to come up with something new to say. They fail, but that doesn't mean that the show should be missed."
 - Filler is thrilled with MCNY's "fascinating" Guastavino show where the "long overlooked inventor" finally gets his due: "Were it not for George Collins - and now the work of a young generation of enthusiasts - these glorious achievements might still be forgotten."
 - The Art Institute of Chicago's "Chicagisms" explores "contemporary approaches to key historical principles that have powered the city's distinctive evolution."
 - NLA's "London's Growing Up!" is a "timely exhibition - informative as well as inspiring, and is a worthy contribution to the current and hotly debated subject of high-rise building in the capital" (great slide show!).
 - Bose's Q&A with a co-curator of Tate Britain's "Ruin Lust": "Ruins are never wholly prurient or nostalgic, horrific or mournful; it's always this complicated mix" (great pix!).
 - Foster + Partners takes center stage at the Bangkok Art and Culture Centre with the first survey of the practice's work in Thailand.
 - RMIT Design Hub in Melbourne offers two shows that explore the "relationship between architecture, Las Vegas, and Surfers Paradise."
 - Kruger cheers a Tokyo show that offers "a glimpse into the life of a trailblazing couple who dared to travel abroad in the early part of the 20th century" and brought "back to Japan profound influences from some of modernism's biggest heavyweights."
 - de Monchaux digs into Mertins' "monumental monograph" (528 pages!) on Mies that "sheds new light on the godfather of modernism" (great pix!).

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10 Design Ideas to Prepare Us for the Next Sandy: Rebuild by Design...offers its winners a slice of the federal government's \$4 billion disaster-recovery pie...a drop in the rising ocean of needs...The result is a series of designs by committee — not a single camel, but a whole herd of options...not spending a fortune now means spending a huge one later. By Justin Davidson -- Henk Ovink; Cooper Robertson & Partners; Bjarke Ingels Group/BIG; Interboro Partners; MIT CAU + ZUS + URBANISTEN; Rem Koolhaas/OMA; PennDesign/OLIN; Sasaki/Rutgers/Arup; SCAPE/LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE; WB Unabridged/Yale ARCADIS; WXY/West 8 - New York Magazine

Rebuild by Design: Teams Innovating Together to Create a Resilient Region -- Cooper Robertson & Partners; Bjarke Ingels Group/BIG; Interboro Partners; MIT CAU + ZUS + URBANISTEN; Rem Koolhaas/OMA; PennDesign/OLIN; Sasaki/Rutgers/Arup; SCAPE/LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE; WB Unabridged/Yale ARCADIS; WXY/West 8 [link to images, info] - U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

Saying "No Thanks" to George: The famous filmmaker fails to sell San Francisco on a deal seemingly too good to be true: ...a basic truth that other cities would do well to note: Big, easy answers aren't nearly as persuasive as the underlying logic of place...The Lucas Cultural Arts Museum...was an elevator pitch gone astray...There was an implicit hubris to all this... By John King -- Urban Design Group; WRNS Studio/Presidio Trust; EHDD Architecture - Metropolis Magazine

Key approval for Museum of the American Revolution: They were told to make it better...Robert A.M. Stern Architects delivered. And they were rewarded with unanimous approval of revised designs...The firm went back to the drawing board after the commission...found fault...The changes that won over the commission were not minor... - Philadelphia Inquirer

Outsourcing Is Reshaping the Philippines' Cities: The ability to outsource all kinds of business processes is creating massive, vertical company towns in the suburbs...the scale of the phenomenon continues to astound me. Mega...is investing \$5 billion into creating 10 "townships" for these corporations and their workers. By Alexis Madrigal - The Atlantic

'Bizarre' plans to demolish Glasgow towers slammed: Plans to demolish five of Glasgow's iconic Red Road tower blocks as part of the 2014 Commonwealth Games opening ceremony have been slammed: ...has described as "a bold and dramatic statement of intent"... "It just seems like a bizarre PR stunt which has the potential to go very wrong." -- Alan Dunlop; Gordon Duffy/Studio DuB; Paul Stellan/Stellan-Brand; Jonathan Meades - The Architects' Journal (UK)

Architects' awards celebrate public design: There are no condos on this year's Ontario Association of Architects Awards of Excellence list, but it's only a matter of time: Alas, the marketplace has only lately come to the pleasures of architecture. That's why the public sector...is so much better represented. Still, there's no doubt that condo architecture can be interesting these days. By Christopher Hume -- Frank Gehry; Daniel Libeskind; architectsAlliance; KPMB; Diamond Schmitt; HDR; Stantec; Montgomery Sisam - Toronto Star

Toronto Community Housing Corp. goes high style for low-cost homes: It has abandoned...traditional social housing's warehouse-like aesthetic in favour of architectural styling that is fresh and contemporary, and as urbane as that of any market-rate condominium stack. Case in point: Block 32...as artistically well-considered and svelte as anything at CityPlace, if not more so. By John Bentley Mays -- KPMB Architects; Page + Steele/IBI Group Architects [image] - Globe and Mail (Canada)

1000 Museum Tower: Zaha Hadid's first tower in the U.S. is a break-through in high-rise construction...a 62-story super-luxury condominium tower...in Miami...The project is no less Zaha at this unprecedented scale...appears as if it were eroded from a solid—reads from top to bottom as one continuous liquid frame. By Joseph Giovannini -- O'Donnell Dannwolf Partners Architects [images] - Architect Magazine

How Iwan Baan Became the Most Wanted Photographer in Architecture: He photographs the world's buildings as they are made, used and abused by people — an approach that's made him the architecture world's most sought-after lensman...called the Indiana Jones of architecture photography. By Fred A. Bernstein [images]- Wall Street Journal

Frank Lloyd Wright Was a Genius at Building Houses, But His Ideas for Cities Were Terrible: ...behind the walls of "Frank Lloyd Wright and the City: Density vs. Dispersal"...one can practically hear the curators at MoMA and Columbia flogging themselves, trying to come up with something new to say. They fail, but that doesn't mean that the show should be missed. By Sarah Williams Goldhagen [images]- The New Republic

The Master of Fireproof Modernism: This long overlooked inventor...now the subject of "Palaces for the People: Guastavino and the Art of Structural Tile," a fascinating exhibition at the Museum of the City of New York...The firm weathered the Great Depression, yet could not withstand the rise of the corporate-phase International Style in the 1950s...Were it not for George Collins...and now the work of a young generation of enthusiasts - these glorious achievements might still be forgotten. By Martin Filler [images]- New York Review of Books

"Chicagoisms": ...exhibition surveys Chicago's rich urban history and explores contemporary approaches to five Chicagoisms—key historical principles that have powered the city's distinctive evolution.- Art Institute of Chicago

"London's Growing Up!": a new exhibition at New London Architecture/NLA charts the city's changing skyline: ...timely exhibition is informative as well as inspiring, and is a worthy contribution to the current and hotly debated subject of high-rise building in the capital. [slide show]- Wallpaper*

"Ruin Lust" at Tate Britain: ...offers a trans-historical guide to the mournful, heroic and even perverse appreciation of the ruin in art from the 17th century to present day. Q&A with Brian Dillon, co-curator with Emma Chambers and Amy Concannon..."Ruins are never wholly prurient or nostalgic, horrific or mournful; it's always this complicated mix." By Shumi Bose [images]- DesignCurial / Blueprint Magazine (UK)

"Foster + Partners: The Art of Architecture" at the Bangkok Art and Culture Centre (BACC) April 4 - June 29: The touring exhibition is the first survey of the practice's work in Thailand and follows critically acclaimed shows in China and Malaysia. [images]- Bangkok Art and Culture Centre (BACC)

Image exhibitions at RMIT Design Hub, Melbourne, explores relationship between architecture and Las Vegas, Surfers Paradise: "Las Vegas Studio: Images from the Archives of Robert Venturi and Denise Scott Brown"... "John Gollings: Learning From Surfers Paradise (1973-2013)" was inspired by "Learning from Las Vegas"... [images]- Architecture & Design (Australia)

A Modern Marriage: "A Dream of Modern Architecture: The Work of Kameki and Nobuko Tsuchiura": a glimpse into the life of...trailblazing couple who dared to travel abroad in the early part of the 20th century and bring back to Japan profound influences from some of modernism's biggest heavyweights; Edo-Tokyo Open Air Architectural Museum. By Nicolai Kruger [images]- Artscape (Japan)

Mies Reconsidered: Dettlef Mertins's A monumental monograph on the legendary architect sheds new light on the godfather of modernism. By Thomas de Monchaux [images]- Metropolis Magazine

ANN Feature: Drawing an Elegant Conclusion: Menil Drawing Institute by Johnston Marklee: Houston: In the somewhat arbitrary hierarchy of fine art media, where painting is king, drawing is often considered less valuable. The new MDI elevates the medium by providing a distinguished, respectful home. By Julie D. Taylor, Hon. AIA/LA [images]- ArchNewsNow



-- MAD Architects: China Wood Sculpture Museum, Harbin, China: ...signals that even China's frozen northern periphery is beginning to be reshaped...behind the thunderbolt-hued building is China's leading experimental architect, Ma Yansong... By Kevin Holden Platt

-- Exhibition: Film and Architecture as the act of framing: Q&A with Morten Melgaard, who has been researching the relationship between architecture and film for several years.

-- Rafael Viñoly: Today he is a household name and ranks among the greatest living architects. Recently however, his star status has been a little burnt...

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