Today's News - Tuesday, April 15, 2014

- We just have to kick off the news day with the good news that our colleague and friend Inga Saffron is taking home this year's Pulitzer Prize for Criticism for blending "expertise, civic passion, and sheer readability into arguments that consistently stimulate and surprise" (we couldn't agree more!).
- An in-depth look at how architects and architecture students are helping to reclaim the public realm in Brazil's third largest city (nods not included).
- NYC's Hudson Yards developers and NYU team up on a smart-city project to collect big data to "help it run more efficiently and make it a better place to live and work."
- Palm Beach's Town Council warns the city's Architectural Commission that it better change its attitude, "antagonistic atmosphere," and "the rudeness of members' feedback to applicants."
- Brake's thoughtful take on the MoMA/AFAM debate: the demolition (now underway) "resonates with so many in the architecture community because it underscores how little appreciated architecture is by the public, and how even enlightened institutions see buildings as disposable."
- Hawthorne doesn't have much hope that "design tweaks" will fix some "dramatic flaws" in the Piano/Pali design for L.A.'s new film museum: that Piano's desire to redeem himself in Los Angeles after his LACMA misadventure is understandable. But it's driven him to produce a misguided attempt at tourist-friendly architecture and one of the more strained designs of his long career. By Christopher Hawthorne -- Renzo Piano; Zoltan Pali
- A double-dose of bad news for Chipperfield: heritage campaigners decry the firm's winning Nobel Centre proposal as a "monument to themselves, at our expense" - and Stockholm's + Wright & Wright tapped to take over what was his Geffrye Museum project (dang those heritage harrpies - again).
- Sacramento's planned downtown arena "looks less large" with a re-design making it "more compact, shorter, and, according to its architect, better."
- A Northeastern Illinois University satellite campus is getting a "traffic-stopping, color-changing" building - "conventional never was the goal."
- LSU picks a team to design the HQ for the Water Institute of the Gulf.
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- SCADpad x 2: eyefuls of SCAD students' parking space-sized micro-residence prototypes in an Atlanta parking garage + a first-hand account of actually staying in one (detail photos are amazing!).
- Q&A with Libeskind re: drawing, risks, advice to aspiring architects, and crafting entire skylines.
- Advice to Hadid on her dive into designing swimwear: don't quite your day job - she's already been named "one of Britain's best dressers - so why not just leave it at that?"
- Eyefuls of inspiring winners and honorable mentions in Building Trust International Moved to Care competition for a mobile healthcare facility.
- Two we couldn't resist: Six of Russia's strangest museums (the word "creepy" also comes to mind).
- MakeShapeChange, a new Dublin-based initiative, kicks off with a "charming animation and engaging site" to show kids why design matters (us big kids loved it, too).
A SCADpad of one's own: Inside a parking space-sized micro-dwelling: Savannah College of Art and Design have worked on an underused campus parking structure...an exploration of how redundant parking garages in urban areas — and there are many of them — can be repurposed into affordable, sustainable micro-home enclaves. - Mother Nature Network

Q&A: Daniel Libeskind on Drawing, Risks, and Living Michelangelo's Legacy: took a moment to reflect on his career, offer advice to aspiring architects, and illuminate the processes of designing iconic cultural buildings and crafting entire skylines. - Architizer

In at the deep end: Zaha Hadid takes the plunge into swimwear: As the award winning creator of the London Aquatics Centre dips her toe into the fashion pool, Albert Hill asks whether architects should stick to the day job...She is well known for her ability to pick out an outfit...so why not just leave it at that? ...other architects who have recently turned their hand to fashion. - Richard Meier; Frank Gehry [images] - Telegraph (UK)

Moved to Care international competition for mobile healthcare facility in Southeast Asia winners + Honourable Mentions from around the world. -- Patrick Morgan/Jhanéa Williams/Simon Morgan; Christopher Knitt (University of Wisconsin) [images] - Building Trust International (UK)

Cult of the weird: six of Russia's strangest museums: Russia may be home to some of the world’s most pre-eminent museums...but it also has its fair share of weird and wonderful gems...From death to delinquency, and sex to sin, these are some of Russia’s darkest museums. - The Calvert Journal (UK)

Delightfully Simple Animation Shows Kids Why Design Matters: A new Dublin-based initiative called MakeShapeChange aims to get young people interested in design - but this charming animation and engaging site appeals to all ages. - Fast Company

ANN Feature: Crowdsourcing Design: The End of Architecture, or a New Beginning? Why the criticism that crowdsourcing design sites like Arcbazar are taking jobs away from architects doesn't wash. By Michael J. Crosbie - ArchNewsNow

-- Gehry Partners: Biomuseo, Panama City, Panama:...a new and architecturally spectacular museum...conceived...like a piece of "California funk art" from the 1960s, in which "form does not follow function." By Ulf Meyer -- Bruce Mau Design -- "Our House in the City: New Urban Homes and Architecture" by Sofia Borges, Sven Ehrmann, Robert Klanten: an explosion of stories, dreams and strategies that showcase the best and brightest designs for contemporary city living...