

Today's News - Monday, April 28, 2014

- Russell reviews two Rebuild by Design proposals that "tiptoe into the fraught territory of what's called Managed Retreat - as neighborhoods look at flood maps that take into account data on sea level rise and more violent storms, that desire to rebuild begins to look like folly, not heroism."
- Storr heads to Holland to find out what "flooded Britain" can learn: "Sadly, it's the pragmatic, rational Dutch mindset that might prove the hardest thing for the rest of the world to emulate."
- Stamp offers a fascinating tale of how Rouse built a city in Maryland as a "garden for the growing of people" in the 1960s (and you thought new urbanism was new); its lessons for today: "the true innovation: the development of social planning alongside urban planning" (and "malls taught him that innovative architecture is not good for business").
- Kamin reports on plans that could lift Mies's Farnsworth House above flood waters and "out of harm's way - the options are not cheap."
- Last-ditch effort launched to save a Modernist gem in Raleigh, NC, from the wrecking ball - all it needs is a tenant - but soon (pix of proposed replacement is pretty depressing).
- Saffron is saddened by proposed conference center to be added to a historic Philly church that "looks like another unfortunate Broad Street convenience store," but "looks are only a small part of what's wrong."
- Litt, on a brighter note, cheers the upcoming chandelier lighting on Cleveland's Playhouse Square, a "symbolic centerpiece of a theater district praised nationally as an example of the regenerative power of the arts," and a symbol of "a rising civic movement" throughout the city.
- Sustainability is a star at Sudbury's fledgling Laurentian School of Architecture in Canada, with high hopes it will be a demonstration project that will "lead to the use of more wood in construction and kickstart the North's forestry industry."
- An in-depth look at how Portugal's star and rising-star architects are leading new hotel trends ("size is one"; nature another).
- Weder explains why Ron Thom's Trent University "remains his magnum opus: his unique artistic approach set him apart from his Canadian peers - and hasn't been topped since" (great pix!).
- BWAf's Stratigakos pens a history of women in architecture in the U.S. for the National Women's History Museum.
- Anderson delves into how women in architecture are managing (or not managing) to climb the career ladder: "mentors tend to favor disciples who remind them of themselves. And if 83% of the leadership is male, well, Barbie was right: math is hard."
- New numbers show there's an "outrageous" 25% pay gap for British women architects.
- Troubling trends in a new survey from Down Under that show "fees have stalled, incomes have shrunk, but the supply of Australian designers has risen."
- Another Calatrava saga: the Port Authority of NY and NJ "quietly paid" him \$500,000 "for bridge designs that the agency didn't request and can't use" (Bridgegate Part Deux?).
- Hanley reports on the U.S. pavilion's plan to install design practitioners in an ad hoc firm inside the pavilion for the duration of the Venice Biennale.
- Call for entries: OfficeUS at the Biennale seeks 90 architects worldwide to participate from their local bases.
- Call for entries: HYP Cup 2014 International Student Competition: "Architecture in Transformation: Unexpected City."

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Post-Sandy, Designers Are Forced to Imagine Asking People to Move: Two proposals unveiled...by Rebuild by Design tiptoe into the fraught territory of what's called Managed Retreat...Those who are shellshocked yet determined to rebuild make a redemptive story. Yet as neighborhoods look at flood maps that take into account data on sea level rise and more violent storms, that desire to rebuild...begins to look like folly, not heroism. By James S. Russell -- Interboro Partners; Sasaki Associates/Rutgers University/Arup [images]- The Atlantic Cities

Flooded Britain: how can Holland help? The Dutch are experts at holding back flooding with dikes, muskrat traps, and now an elaborate surf-flattening 'sand engine'. Sadly, it's the pragmatic, rational Dutch mindset...that might prove the hardest thing for the rest of the world to emulate. By Will Storr -- Room for the River; Huib de Vriend; Marcel Stive; Robert Barker/BACA- Telegraph (UK)

James W. Rouse's Legacy of Better Living Through Design: There are still lessons to be learned from the visionary businessman who built a city...a "garden for the growing of people"...the true innovation at Columbia, Maryland: the development of social planning alongside urban planning...Though initially a proponent of modernist architecture, his experience with malls taught him that innovative architecture is not good for business...the key to success was high-quality traditional design. By Jimmy Stamp [images]- Smithsonian magazine

Plan would lift Farnsworth House out of harm's way: Preservationists consider pricey hydraulics to protect Mies van der Rohe masterpiece from floodwaters...The options are not cheap. By Blair Kamin -- National Trust for Historic Preservation- Chicago Tribune

Raleigh architecture fans work to save Glenwood Avenue modernist office building: ...launched a campaign to save the structure...faces demolition if a new tenant isn't found soon...If [the owner] doesn't get a viable offer on the current building, Raleigh would lose another example of modernist architecture. -- G. Milton Small (1962); George Smart/N.C. Modernist Houses; Frank Harmon [images]- News & Observer (North Carolina)

St. Rita's stirs up conflict on a S. Phila. corner: ...proposed conference center looks like another unfortunate Broad Street convenience store...Our need for a building is greater than what neighbors think about the look of the building"...The problem is that looks are only a small part of what's wrong with the design. The real issue is land use. By Inga Saffron -- Strada Architecture (formerly UJMN) [images]- Philadelphia Inquirer

Chandelier lighting on May 2 will signal completion of outdoor amenities at Playhouse Square: ...symbolic centerpiece of a theater district praised nationally as an example of the regenerative power of the arts...coincide with a rising civic movement aimed at connecting the city's anchors and attractions with pedestrian-friendly parks, streetscapes, bike paths and other amenities. + The miracle of Cleveland's Playhouse Square. By Steven Litt -- Danny Barnycz [images]- Cleveland Plain Dealer

Sustainability key feature of architecture school: As Sudbury's fledgling Laurentian School of Architecture enters the second phase...Using the school as a demonstration structure will ideally lead to the use of more wood in construction and kickstart the North's forestry industry. -- LGA Architectural Partners [image]- Northern Ontario Business (Canada)

Portugal's architects lead new hotel trend: Certain threads are common to all. Size is one...Most are in rural locations and have a strong link with the landscape and nature...many of the projects use unconventional and distinctly humble materials, from raw cement, to cork, to recycled wood. -- Manuel Aires Mateus; Jorge Sousa Santos; Eduardo Souto de Moura; Jordi Fornells; José Carlo Cruz; Luis Rebelo de Andrade; Álvaro Siza Vieira [images]- Financial Times (UK)

Campus visionary: When Ron Thom was commissioned to design a university in Peterborough 50 years ago, his unique artistic approach set him apart from his Canadian peers -- and hasn't been topped since...Trent University remains his magnum opus; "Ron Thom and the Allied Arts" curated by Adele Weder heading to Trent [slide show]- Monocle magazine

Building on the Past: A History of Women in Architecture: BWAf was contacted...by The National Women's History Museum

to contribute a feature story on the history of women in architecture in the United States. By Despina Stratigakos -- Louise Bethune; Julia Morgan; Mary Jane Colter; Alice Hands and Mary Gannon; Marion Mahony Griffin; Hilde Reiss; Elsa Gidoni; Deryl McKissack; Maya Lin; etc. - Beverly Willis Architecture Foundation (BAAF)

How Women Are Climbing Architecture's Career Ladder: ...mentors tend to favor disciples who remind them of themselves. And if 83% of the leadership is male, well, Barbie was right: math is hard. By Lamar Anderson - Curbed

Women architects condemn 'outrageous' 25% pay gap: The "extraordinary" gender gap runs all the way to the top of the profession. - BD/Building Design (UK)

Australian designers earn less than national average salary: DIA's latest survey reveals troubling trends: The Design Institute of Australia's latest Fees & Salary Survey show that fees have stalled, incomes have shrunk, but the supply of designers have risen. - Architecture & Design (Australia)

Unsolicited proposal earns architect \$500,000 from Port Authority: ...quietly paid Santiago Calatrava for bridge designs that the agency didn't request and can't use, records show...engineers and lawyers quickly rejected the designs for the Goethals and Bayonne bridges as unworkable and unneeded. - The Record (New Jersey)

Office Space: The organizers of the U.S. pavilion at this year's Venice Architecture Biennale plan to reckon with the legacy of modernism by putting it into practice: ...eight design practitioners...to serve as partners in an ad hoc firm...inside the pavilion...for the five-month duration of the show...will collaborate with a group of 90 satellite offices around the world... By William Hanley -- Storefront for Art and Architecture; Praxis; MIT; Leong Leong - Architectural Record

Call for entries/Call for applications: OfficeUS is seeking 90 full or part-time architects worldwide to become members of a global architectural office...will participate from their local base in the development and implementation of 25 projects in collaboration with the 6 OfficeUS Partners in residence at the U.S. Pavilion at the 2014 Biennale Architettura. Applications accepted on a rolling basis until all positions are filled. - OfficeUS / U.S. Pavilion

Call for entries: HYP Cup 2014 International Student Competition: "Architecture in Transformation: Unexpected City"; cash prizes; registration deadline: June 30 (submission deadline: August 31) - Urban Environment Design (UED) Magazine (China) / International Union of Architects (UIA)

-- Zaha Hadid Architects: Dongdaemun Design Plaza, Seoul, South Korea: Critics and the general public are currently discussing whether [it] is an architectural marvel or an "urban pimple"...As much as it was political ambition that caused the DDP to come into existence rather than actual need, it is political envy that blurs its appreciation now. By Ulf Meyer
-- Akira Takaue: ...a structural & consulting engineer from Japan...travels around the world producing fine art architectural images rooted in his approach of structural mechanics and material engineering. - ArcSpace

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