Today’s News - Wednesday, May 7, 2014

EDITOR’S NOTE: Apologies for late posting - we were without Internet until noon (yikes!).

• Michael Lehrer pens one of the best job descriptions of an architect we’ve ever come across: “Elevating the everyday, finding the creative or sacred spark in the quotidian is the work.”

• Marshall Brown calls for a broadening of perspectives when it comes to considering an architect for an Obama Presidential Library (with all due respect to Adjaye): instead of considering race, “how appropriate would it be to consider some youthful, lesser-known, yet extremely talented designers who could deliver a great project” (“Full disclosure: I’m black.”).

• Ransford calls for a post-mortem on Vancouver’s 2010 Olympic Village project: “There are many lessons yet to be learned from the debacle.”

• Goodyear chronicles her experience as a human experiment in the Van Alen Institute’s “quest to measure the brain’s response to urban design.”

• Fishman finds out from the architect why Wal-Mart gave him “more creative license” to “move away from the blandness of Big Box in favor of place-based design” in Washington, DC (with, “wonder of wonders - windows”).

• Ferro finds fabulousness in Boston’s new District Hall, a “beautiful new building meant to spark innovation” that “offers a gorgeous civic space centered around collaboration.”

• After “a firestorm of criticism,” it seems Shields is back on the job for the Milwaukee Art Museum addition (with new renderings, too!).

• It’s taken five years to near completion of the two-year renovation of the Picasso Museum in Paris, now slated to open in September - though the architect says it is ready for the previously announced June opening (politics included).

• Wrecking ball now at the ready to flatten Foster + Partners’ never-opened Harmon Hotel in Las Vegas.

• The 21 cities on the 2014 Mayors Challenge shortlist include “lesser known cities pushing big ideas.”

• Christopher Mount surmounts curatorial challenges by launching eponymous galleries in L.A. and NYC.

• An impressive shortlist in the Montreal Space for Life architecture competition.

• The 21 cities on the 2014 Mayors Challenge shortlist include “lesser known cities pushing big ideas.”

• Gehry is the sixth architect to take home Spain’s Prince of Asturias Award for the Arts.

• Voting gets underway for Toronto’s Pug Awards with “a whopping 44 competing buildings” seeking “like,” “love,” and “hate” votes.
Award For the Arts...the sixth architect to claim the [€50,000/$70,000] prize... - The Local (Spain)

Finalists in the Montreal Space for Life architecture competition announced: Eight teams were chosen to take part in the next stage:... - Atelier Ville Architecture Paysage + MARC MINRAM; Lacaton & Vassal, architects; Équipe Kuehn Malvezzi; Atelier Ville Architecture Paysage + MARC MINRAM; AZPML Ltée + KANVA; ARCOP architecture/BNIM/LOEUF/ARCOP; Col-leclerc arquitectos/Cloud 9/N.F.O.E. Architctes; Saucier Perrolette, architectes [links]- Canadian Architect

Tell the Pugs all about that building you hate — or love: ...voting gets underway for the eighth annual Pug Awards. This year, voters can pick among a whopping 44 competing buildings...Whether the public’s ability to comment on the city’s rapidly changing architectural landscape is having a real impact or not is difficult to measure distinctly... [images]- National Post (Canada)

Interview: Patrik Schumacher: Zaha Hadid Architects’ director talks about the global rise of parametric design, the advent of robotics in architecture, and the influence of ‘The Matrix’ on creating intelligent buildings. By Kevin Holden Platt [images]

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