

Today's News - Tuesday, May 13, 2014

- ArcSpace brings us Meyer's most excellent take (and his own most excellent photos) re: Holl's Reid Building, "a new, shiny piece of Glas(s)gow."
- Zandberg weighs in on the RIBA/IAUA/UJA controversy: "Trying to be apolitical, Israeli architects wall themselves into boycott" and "opened a door to turmoil."
- It's now official: Pali no longer on Piano's Academy of Motion Picture Arts Museum: "There is nothing unexpected or untoward about the transition," says the academy.
- Bozikovic offers brighter museum news: the winning team to design Canada's National Holocaust Monument includes Libeskind, and promises to be "a significant piece of architecture and urban design."
- Hosey takes on architects, buzzwords like "resiliency," and the end of the world: "The irony is that architects are partly responsible for global warming. Could resilient design be a pretext to atone for bad karma?"
- Rybczynski tells us "what contemporary architects have forgotten about building tall - earlier architects understood that the essence of a skyscraper was uplift. Today's skyscrapers make us feel puny rather than uplifted - the architecture of inhumanism" (a great read!).
- Lubell reports on two reports, and warns: "If Los Angeles does not face the future and embrace change it will squander a golden opportunity; it will be just another good city that could have been a great one."
- Meanwhile Sydney's Urban Taskforce (consisting of developers and financiers) calls for more - and taller - skyscrapers, but not all agree: "Getting good design outcomes is much more important than building taller skyscrapers."
- Meanwhile, Sydney issues its first-ever cultural policy, "calling on businesses, retailers and property developers to make more than 1.6 million square meters of empty commercial and residential space available to artists for creative activities" (cool!).
- Betsy x 2: Tschumi's re-do of "Paris's beloved but crumbling 1934 zoo" is now "a full urban zoo" that should make people - and the animals - happy.
- He ruminates on the "retail corpses" of dead malls that "elicit a sexiness oddly found in the ruins."
- Saffron welcomes a new plan for Philly's Fairmount Park, but its "lack of ambition is frustrating."
- Design aficionados have high hopes Canada's Mad Men era Gander International Airport can be saved; the "airport authority agreed that it's a gem of a space, but it's running a business - not a museum."
- Darley visits Hadid's BMW plant near Leipzig, and finds it "a lesson for its timid British counterparts."
- A new crowdfunding site hopes "to draw funds from a worldwide audience without compromising on design freedom."
- TCLF is offering a series of garden tours across the country with actual landscape architects explaining how they achieved their goals.
- One we couldn't resist: Bats "have finally imparted their revenge" on Ozzy Osbourne by taking a bite out of his building plans.

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Steven Holl Architects: Reid Building, Glasgow School of Art, Glasgow, Scotland, UK: Holl is not hiding behind Mackintosh, but lets his work supplement it self-confidently and in a clearly contemporary style...a new, shiny piece of Glas(s)gow. By Ulf Meyer

Trying to be apolitical, Israeli architects wall themselves into boycott: The threat, albeit unrealized, to ban local professionals from the International Union of Architects is another link in the chain of moves to isolate Israel from the family of nations...It is doubtful whether IAUA's officials will relax now that the RIBA's proposal was rejected. The affair has already opened a door to turmoil...By Esther Zandberg -- UJA; Royal Institute of British Architects/RIBA; Israel Association of United Architects- Ha'aretz (Israel)

Museum architect Zoltan Pali no longer on the project, academy says: ...coughed the move as standard procedure on a large architectural project..."There is nothing unexpected or untoward about the transition...we are engaging an executive architecture firm to realize the vision created by the primary architects, Renzo Piano and Zoltan Pali"...The academy has not named the executive design firm it plans to hire. - Los Angeles Times

National Holocaust Monument design unveiled: Daniel Libeskind has won a design competition for the Ottawa project, in combination with photographer Edward Burtynsky, landscape architect Claude Cormier and museum planners Lord Cultural Resources..."Landscape of Loss, Memory and Survival"...will be a significant piece of architecture and urban design... By Alex Bozikovic [images]- Globe and Mail (Canada)

Architecture at the End of the World: Not to worry: Architects are on it...designers have become infatuated with the architectural implications of rising seas and severe storms, and resilience has become the "latest buzz word"..."Resilience is the new green." (What happened to the old green?)...The irony...is that architects are partly responsible for global warming...Could resilient design be a pretext to atone for bad karma? By Lance Hosey/RTKL- Huffington Post

The Art of the Aerie: As a spate of towers rise in New York and elsewhere, many are less than convincing in their vertical uplift. Here's what contemporary architects have forgotten about building tall...earlier architects understood that the essence of a skyscraper was uplift...Today's skyscrapers can amaze, surprise, shock, and sometimes even frighten...They make us feel puny rather than uplifted...the architecture of inhumanism. By Witold Rybczynski -- Christian de Portzamparc; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Foster + Partners; Robert A.M. Stern; Renzo Piano/FXFowle Architects; Philip Johnson/John Burgee; Jean Nouvel; Mies van der Rohe; William Van Alen; John Mead Howells/Raymond Hood; Eiel Saarinen; etc. [images]- Architect Magazine

Editorial> Working Toward Greatness in Los Angeles: Sam Lubell asks L.A. not to take the easy way when it comes to urban design: ...two reports...A Time For Truth, which addresses specific shortcomings, and A Time For Action, which proposes solutions...If LA does not face the future and embrace change it will squander a golden opportunity; it will be just another good city that could have been a great one. - The Architect's Newspaper

Sydney needs more skyscrapers to remain a global hub, says Urban Taskforce: "For Sydney to remain as Australia's number one city we need to plan for doubling the height of our skyscrapers by 2050"... But whether high-rise development is the answer...is up for debate..."Getting good design outcomes is much more important than building taller skyscrapers...we don't have to prove ourselves by building taller buildings." -- Francis-Jones Morehen Thorp (fjmt); Fitzpatrick + Partners; Bates Smart [images]- Architecture & Design (Australia)

Sydney gets creative with first-ever cultural policy: ...calling on businesses, retailers and property developers to make more than 1.6 million square metres of empty commercial and residential space across the city available to artists for creative activities...Cultural Policy and Action Plan will now go on public exhibition, giving the community another chance to have its

say... - City of Sydney (Australia)

Zoological Park of Paris: Bernard Tschumi has reimagined Paris's beloved but crumbling 1934 zoo in a way that improves the experience for both the visitors and the animals...it's a full urban zoo. It's a zoo where you hear sirens and garbage trucks. It's quite big still. By Aaron Betsky - Architect Magazine

Retail in Ruins: Archives of retail corpses evoke memories of the once-thriving shopping centers and elicit a sexiness oddly found in the ruins...The generic mall is dying, and, of course, my rational self says that is a good thing...Yet I, like apparently millions of others, can't keep my eyes off of the remains of the places where America's answer to community was created. By Aaron Betsky [images] - Architect Magazine

Fairmount Park plan is welcome, but it falls short: ...plans are useful mainly for establishing priorities...At the same time, the lack of ambition is frustrating...does endorse one big idea: creation of a public boathouse...But endorsing an idea is not the same as making it a reality, so the proposal comes across as a token gesture. By Inga Saffron - Philadelphia Inquirer

The Mad Men appeal of Gander's aging airport: The authority operating Gander International Airport may no longer be able to afford operating the central Newfoundland terminal, but design aficionados hope [it] can be preserved...a showcase of furniture, art and architecture of an era when travel was glamorous + Gander airport to be traded-in for new terminal...airport authority agreed that it's a gem of a space, but it's running a business — not a museum. [videos] - CBC (Canada)

Learning from the Germans: Zaha Hadid's BMW plant near Leipzig is an expression of its ambition - and a lesson for its timid British counterparts: BMW has worked hard and with consummate skill to present and mediate modern industry alongside contemporary society. How many UK companies know as much or even dare to try? By Gillian Darley [images] - BD/Building Design (UK)

A New Way to 'Make Architecture Happen': ...crowdfunding websites have taken the world by storm...a new site...providing a way to draw funds from a worldwide audience without compromising on design freedom. [images] - ArchDaily

Not Just Flowers, but How They Got There: A series of garden tours shows you how the landscape architects achieved their goals...A few professionals are offering to share their secrets through Garden Dialogues, a national series of garden tours hosted by The Cultural Landscape Foundation. Running now through Oct. 5. -- Renée Byers; Marcel Breuer; Dan Kiley; Ian Tyndall; Garden Design Studio; Lake Flato Architects - New York Times

Bats take a bite out of Ozzy Osbourne's building plans: The Black Sabbath singer, who once bit the head off a bat, sees his plans to convert a barn on his Buckinghamshire estate quashed after council finds evidence of his winged nemeses...it appears the winged species have finally imparted their revenge on the rock singer. - Guardian (UK)

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