

Today's News - Thursday, June 19, 2014

- Goldhagen is less than smitten with Rem's Venice Biennale: "Let's hope most people either ignore or reject Koolhaas's anachronistic, contemptuous agenda, and that architects go back to the fundamental, elemental task of design."
- 2014 RIBA Award winners now make up the shortlist for the Stirling Prize (great presentation!) + Booth parses the pitting of projects like Piano's Shard against Hadid's Olympic Aquatics Centre.
- Menking muses about Brooklyn being on a roll in the 2014 Municipal Art Society MASTERworks Awards.
- A look at how Kenya has "lost the plot in architecture. Local architects are being accused of drawing building designs that have little or no consideration of the climate - aesthetics are increasingly being given a more significant consideration."
- Katz and Bradley explain how Detroit "has gone far in following the new rules for urban and regional success. The region still has a way to go, but it has come farther, faster, than anyone would have expected."
- A "miracle on shoestring" rises from the dust in a farm workers' trailer park outside of Palm Springs, and "exemplifies a new phase for the field of public-interest design.
- Plans for Libeskind's Holocaust memorial in Amsterdam are being reconsidered: "The last thing you want to do is put a Holocaust monument in a place where people are opposed to having it."
- Maki and the V&A team up to create China's first major museum of design in Shenzhen.
- The Cooper Hewitt will re-open in December with a new name and star-studded designed spaces (great sneak-peek at some of the spaces!).
- Machado and Silvetti and landscape architects Grant Associates win an international competition to design the Vietnamese-German University campus in Binh Duong Province.
- Brook takes in-depth, unvarnished look at Hafeez Contractor, India's "slumdog millionaire architect": His "wildly prolific (and flamboyant) architecture has come to define Mumbai. But have his projects helped improve life in the city's slums?" (a fascinating read!).
- Q&A with Chilean architect Radic, this year's Serpentine Pavilion designer: "do you hope to do more work abroad? 'Not really.'"
- The Green Building Initiative launches Green Globes for Sustainable Interiors.
- Call for entries: EPA 2015 National Award for Smart Growth Achievement + Inaugural Danish Agency for Culture/schmidt hammer lassen architects Public Library of the Year Award (international) + Architect Magazine's 2014 Annual Design Review.

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Rem's Rules: At the Venice Biennale, Rem Koolhaas urges visitors to look at architecture's fundamentals, but exactly what is he asking us to consider? What is he trying to say? Should we listen? ...what of the directions the Biennale suggests for contemporary practice? Let's hope most people either ignore or reject Koolhaas's anachronistic, contemptuous agenda, and that architects go back to the fundamental, elemental task of design. By Sarah Williams Goldhagen slide show]- *Architectural Record*

2014 RIBA Award winners announced: ...44 national and 12 EU winners...will now be considered for the Stirling Prize - the biggest prize in UK architecture...Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios claimed three Awards to make them the most successful practice of the past five years, with Wilkinson Eyre, Allies and Morrison and Hopkins each claiming two awards. [links to images, info]- *The Architects' Journal (UK)*

Stirling prize longlist pits the Shard against Olympic Aquatics Centre: List of 56 buildings vying for title of best British architecture of 2014 includes Library of Birmingham and Mary Rose Museum. By Robert Booth -- Renzo Piano; Zaha Hadid; Mecanoo; Wilkinson Eyre Architects; Adam Khan Architects; Hopkins Architects; Haworth Tompkins; RCKA- Guardian (UK)

Brooklyn Dominates 2014 Municipal Art Society MASTERworks Awards: ...of the nine buildings selected this year as honorees, six are in Brooklyn, confirming that borough's continuing upgrading evolution. By William Menking -- Caples Jefferson Architects; Scott Henson Architect; LEESER Architecture; Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects; Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates; Grimshaw Architects; Smith-Miller Hawkinson Architects; WORKac; SiteWorks Landscape Architecture [images]- *The Architect's Newspaper*

Where we lost the plot in architecture: With its unique skyline, Nairobi stands out as a magnificent "concrete beauty"...A city cluttered with glass architectural imprints...unsuitable for the local climate. Local architects are being accused of drawing building designs that have little or no consideration of the climate...aesthetics are increasingly being given a more significant consideration...Some of best-designed buildings in Nairobi, Mombasa and Kisumu were erected between 1960 and mid 1980s. -- Architectural Association of Kenya; Janfrans van der Eerden; Aref Adamali- Standard Digital (Kenya)

Detroit Adapting to New Realities of Metropolitan: In the past year, the city has gone far in following the new rules for urban and regional success...The region still has a way to go, but it has come farther, faster, than anyone would have expected. By Bruce Katz and Jennifer Bradley- Brookings Institution

Out of Desert Dust, a Miracle on a Shoestring: A farmworkers' trailer park east of Palm Springs celebrates a precious amenity, a community focal point and public space: St. Anthony's Park...exemplifies a new phase for...the field of public-interest design, which tries to put design tools into the hands of neighbors who can create local change...a well-designed public space "can do a lot for a community's social cohesion"... -- Chelina Odbert/Arthur Adeya/Kounkuey Design Initiative (KDI); Architecture for Humanity; Rural Studio; Maurice Cox; Andres Lepik; Public Architecture- New York Times

Complaints halt plans for Dutch Holocaust monument: Amsterdam leaders will reconsider location as residents plead "not in my garden": ... politicians will reconsider whether to place the monument in the Wertheim Park or find an alternative location..."The last thing you want to do is put a Holocaust monument in a place where people are opposed to having it"- Ha'aretz (Israel)

Victoria & Albert Museum and Fumihiko Maki to create China's first major museum of design in Shenzhen: ...Shekou Museum will house a gallery dedicated to displays from the V&A's collections....has a wider remit to promote Chinese design to an international audience and bring the best international design to the country. [images]- *The Architects' Journal (UK)*

Cooper Hewitt Museum Reopening in December: The renovation of the museum - renamed Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum - will add an additional 7,000 square feet of gallery space. -- Gluckman Mayner Architects; Beyer Blinder Belle Architects & Planners; Hood Design; Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Thinc Design; Local Projects; Ideum; Goppion [images]- *Architect Magazine*

Grant Associates to design landscape at Vietnamese-German University: ...working with Boston architects Machado and Silvetti Associates have won an international competition to design a university campus in Binh Duong Province, Vietnam.- *Horticulture Week*

The Slumdog Millionaire Architect: Hafeez Contractor's wildly prolific (and flamboyant) architecture has come to define Mumbai. But have his projects helped improve life in the city's slums? ...helping to create the face of 21st-century India...projects constitute...an archipelago of green zones...insulated from the chaos...To call him Bollywood's starchitect

would not do justice to his fame. He is more like a luxury brand...Instead of a style, what most unifies Contractor's projects is that they actually get built. By Daniel Brook- New York Times Magazine

Newsmaker: Smiljan Radic: This year's Serpentine Pavilion designer may not be as well-known as some of his pavilion-designer predecessors, but, according to the curators, "Radic is a key protagonist of an amazing architectural explosion in Chile"...do you hope to do more work abroad? "Not really." [slide show]- Architectural Record

Green Globes for Sustainable Interiors Is Launched: ...focuses exclusively on the sustainable design and construction of interior spaces in non-residential buildings... --Jerry Yudelson/Green Building Initiative (GBI)- retrofit magazine

Call for entries: 2015 National Award for Smart Growth Achievement; all entries must include a public-sector partner; deadline: September 5- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Call for entries: schmidt hammer lassen architects – Public Library of the Year Award 2014- library and architecture award: open to Danish or foreign public libraries that opened in January 2012 or later; DKK 25,000 prize to the winning municipality; deadline: August 3- Danish Agency for Culture / schmidt hammer lassen architects

Call for entries: 2014 Annual Design Review; projects must have been completed after June 30, 2013, and must have been built in the U.S. or designed by a U.S. firm; projects completed by non-U.S. firms are eligible only if located in the U.S.; deadline: September 5- Architect Magazine



7 Architecture Books to Fill Up Your Suitcase: Bike Town Tokyo by Yoshiharu Tsukamoto & René Kural; The Images of Architects by Valerio Olgiati; Atmosphere by Peter Zumthor; A Topology of Everyday Constellations by Georges Teyssot; Vitruvius: Writing the Body of Architecture by Indra Kagis McEwen; Content by OMA/Rem Koolhaas; Behind the Green Door by Rotor

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