Today's News - Monday, June 23, 2014

- ArcSpace brings us Meyer's take on the Venice Biennale: "The overall effect is impressive, but it is also bordering on the banal - or even depressing - as it seems to illustrate the diminishing influence of the architect." By Ulf Meyer [images]: ArcSpace

The new Cheesegrater building is ready for use: ...Leadenhall Building rivals Gherkin and Shard...has turned out to be one of the world's best skyscrapers — the only thing is, it's in the wrong place. ...Such daring, graceful simplicity has been hard-won...Whatever its architectural merit, one can't help think that a Faustian bargain has taken place...a thing of beauty in the wrong place. By Robert Bevan -- Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners [images]: Evening Standard (UK)

"People care about services, not ideologies": As a former mayor of New York City, Michael Bloomberg knows what challenges cities have to face today and how to respond to them. He told Max Tholl what states should learn from cities and how the mayor of even a small rural town could save the world. - The European magazine

Atlanta Shows What a Senior-Friendly Neighborhood Looks Like: Regional planners showcased a neighborhood with easy access to transportation, health services and entertainment. But it only lasted two days...the Atlanta Regional Commission teamed up with Mike Lydon, a leader in the tactical urbanism movement. - Governing Magazine

Destabilizing Urban Planning: How can the contemporary concepts in ecology studies—adaptability, resiliency, and flexibility—advance urban planning practices? ...the modern notions of stability and certainty are a fallacy...As research advances in how cities might evolve, is planning and developing keeping pace? By Steven Snell - PLANetizen

Self- Starter Urbanism: Small Firms Tackle Big Projects on Their Own Terms: Development and research projects allow small firms entry into large-scale design...as design-builders, developers, or independent researchers. By Anna Bergren Miller -- Peter Tolkin Architecture [images]: PLANetizen

Olmsted the Hero, Moses the Villain: History views master planners Frederick Law Olmsted and Robert Moses very differently. No one would ever talk about dismantling any aspect of Olmsted's work. With Moses, it's all about undoing a legacy...When it comes to Olmsted, it's a lovefest. Moses, meanwhile, can't catch much of a break. His reputation had begun to be rehabilitated...but a trope dies hard. By Anthony Flint - CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

Regent Park's new park destined for success: Opening of new multi-use facility reveals it to be a practical, flexible space for daily use by complex urban community...It's not fancy, but it looks as though it will get the job done. In other words, people will want to spend time here...already the neighbourhood feels connected to the city in ways that would have been unimaginable. By Christopher Hume -- PMA Landscape Architects - Toronto Star

Yale's Urban Design Workshop building bridges to the first peace park in the Middle East: A team of architects from the YUJDW and Jerusalem's Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design is set to move forward on part of the proposed Israeli-Jordanian Jordan River Peace Park...looking to develop the Old Geshar bridge compound...-- Friends of the Earth Middle East (FoEME); Alain Plattus; Andrei Harwell [images]: Yale News

Seeing empty homes as an asset, not a liability: The UK can learn some lessons from Detroit's struggle to recover from bankruptcy. From being an unloved tragedy, Detroit is becoming a crucible for testing new ideas about revitalisation...programmes which seek to encourage sweat equity, self-rebuilding and regeneration through business start-up should be preferred to top-down schemes. By Hank Dittmar - BD/Building Design (UK)

Make It Right's Next Move: The non-profit plans to set up 20 LEED-Platinum homes on Fort Peck Indian Reservation in...
Montana: ...solar-powered homes for members of the Sioux and Assiniboine tribes...Unlike MIR's New Orleans template, no star architects were called in for the new venture. -- Graft; Architecture for Humanity; Joseph Kunkel/Sustainable Native Communities Collaborative; Living Homes; Method Homes [images]; Metropolis Magazine

Cross-Border Collaboration: In Kigutu, a remote village in southern Burundi, an American architect joins forces with the local community to build a simple and sensitive dormitory for health-care staff...Her goal was to create "architecture of conscience." By James S. Russell -- Louise Braverman, Architect [slide show]; Architectural Record

New Holland Island To Update Renovation Plan: ...to shelve the development plan drafted by WORKac, who were chosen for the project as a result of a public contest held in 2011...The new general plan for the island is being developed by West 8... - St. Petersburg Times (Russia)

Five projects shortlisted for Green Square Aquatic Centre and Gunyama Park redevelopment: ...include a moonlight cinema, an urban beach and artificial and natural wetlands... -- Andrew Burns Architect; Cullinan Ivanov Partnership; CHROFI & McGregor Coxall; Andrew Burges Architects; TYP-TOP Studio (Andrew Daly and Kevin Liu) [links to images, info]; Architecture & Design (Australia)

Berlin House of One: The first church-mosque-synagogue? Berlin thinks it is making religious history as Muslims, Jews and Christians join hands to build a place where they can all worship: An architecture competition has been held and the winner chosen...Can they get on? "We can." -- Wilfried Kuehn/Kuehn Malvezzi [images]; BBC Magazine

Cesar Pelli: The man behind the design of Crescent's new Uptown tower : With Dallas' business-centric nature, Pelli says he's a bit surprised it's taken so long for his designs to be sketched on the city's skyline...The 87-year-old architect won't have to wait much longer..."This is a very sexy" addition to the Uptown neighborhood that will give the community a new feature anchored deeply in the Dallas Arts District... -- Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects [video]; Dallas Business Journal

"The shape is not important": As the 2014 Serpentine pavilion prepares to open, its architect, the Chilean Smiljan Radic, talks stones and stories: His architecture does not aim to be instantly likable, graspable or accessible...He is fond of the concept of refuge and his world has space for incompleteness and melancholy. By Rowan Moore [slide show]; Observer (UK)

RIBA Drops Israel Motion, Sets Up Global Ethics Group in Response to Controversy: ...a new working group will "consider the institute's role in engaging with communities facing civil conflict and natural disaster." -- Royal Institute of British Architects; Israeli Association of United Architects (IAUA); International Union of Architects (UIA) - ArchDaily

AEC Cares projectChicago is underway! ...renovating a tired, worn, 30-year-old former public school building that offers heavily subsidized daycare and early learning to children...On June 25...we are bringing together as many as 150 volunteers from the AEC community for a one-day "blitz build"...to turn the facility into a bright, cheerful, fun place for the children to learn and play; -- AEC Cares / Reed Construction Data / AIA / Hanley Wood

A+D Architecture and Design Museum > Los Angeles Annual Gala Fundraiser 'CELEBRATE: GROUNDSWELL' embraces surf-inspired design...will feature custom surfboards, boogie boards, and skateboards created by local and international architects...June 28. -- Karim Rashid; Richard Meier & Partners; Steven Ehrlich; David Hertz; Neil Denari; KMNelson Design; Minarc; Gesler; Arquitectonica; SPF:a; Michael Maltzan; Sorensen Architects; Rios Clementi Hale Studios; etc.- A+D Architecture and Design Museum (Los Angeles)

Call for entries: Healthcare Environment Awards 2014: to recognize innovative, life-enhancing interior design that contributes to the quality of healthcare; deadline: July 3- Contract / The Center for Health Design / Vendome Group

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